

# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

January, 1996

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## General Church Conference October 1995

This past conference was the annual business conference of The Church of Jesus Christ. For those that attended the Sunday service, it was far from a business conference. It was a beautiful spiritual event.

The congregation heard a beautiful sermon by Apostle V. J. Lovalvo. The congregation also witnessed the ordination of Brother Tom Liberto into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. It was a wonderful Sabbath Day.

Apostle V. J. Lovalvo opened the service. Because his eyesight gives him difficulty in reading small text, there was no Scripture, Bible or Book of Mormon, on the pulpit for him to reference or use. He did not need them. The Spirit of God was evident in his sermon. It was a powerful sermon. His theme was "persistence."

He paraphrased Luke 9:62 which states, *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

Apostle V. J. Lovalvo defined persistence as, "determination to accomplish something; to go after a goal." He said, "in spite of adversity, study the Scriptures, reach out for the goal." There is no accom-

plishment unless you persist, unless you are persistent in reaching out for the goal. Anything you want to accomplish in life requires persistence. Anything you want to accomplish requires a certain amount of sacrifice but a greater amount of persistence is needed to gain the goal.

We were encouraged and instructed to keep knocking, keep persisting "until" God opens the door, until God answers our prayers. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo asked, "How many times has He answered your prayers? How many times has He lightened your cares?" When the people of God concentrate their efforts, something has to happen, something does happen.

The congregation was told, "Don't look back once you are in the service of God." If we look back, we are not worthy of the Kingdom of God. Don't look back! Set your goals high! Apostle V. J. Lovalvo said, "Remember Lot's wife!" The Lord commanded His disciples to go out and preach the Gospel. In effect the Lord told them, "Don't look back!"

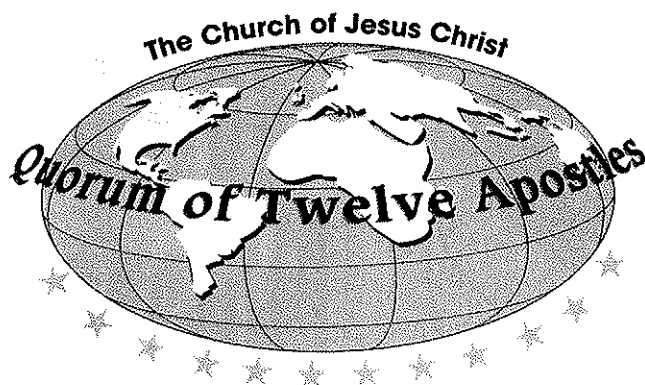
Apostle V. J. Lovalvo described Elisha's persistence in wanting a double portion of the

spirit that was upon Elijah. Be persistent. God will answer your prayers. Try fasting, try prayer. Be persistent. God wants to see how persistent we are to achieve that goal. Be alert. Watch and pray. God's delay in answering our prayers is not a denial! Don't look back, be persistent. Don't turn back. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay! We must be persistent and not take our hand off of the plough.

Let Jesus come into your heart today. The Ministry was instructed to be persistent. They were reminded that they had the *authority of God*. The Ministry was reminded to be *shepherds to the flock*. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo continued to address the Ministry and concluded by saying, "Be humble and firm. Don't look back. Pray until God answers your prayer. Keep your hand on the plough. This Church will grow. They will come from the North, the South, the East and the West."

The meeting was turned over to Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. He took charge of the ordination of Brother Tom Liberto into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Apostle Joseph Lovalvo described the office of an Apostle. He told the congregation that the Apostles witnessed His life and resurrection. Apostles were

(Continued on Page 3)



## The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART I

Can you describe "The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham?" What is "The Work Among the Seed of Joseph?" "Who are the Seed of Joseph?" "Why should The Church of Jesus Christ work so diligently with the Native Americans?" Is it a social project created to alleviate economic depression? Or is it an attempt to soothe the pangs of an outraged American conscience



Apostle Robert A. Watson

brought about by observing a people who have suffered through years of stolen lands, broken treaties, and unbearable persecution?

Much discussion has taken place since the Europeans arrived in

the Americas concerning their identity and the appropriate approaches to civilizing and Christianizing the Native Americans. The Church of Jesus Christ also debated this issue since the inception of the Restoration. Priorities and strategies, presumably all based upon the Word of God, have been implemented in various locations, debated formally and around the kitchen table, and written about for over one hundred forty years. Where do we stand today in our understanding of this work and our efforts to fulfill this "Divine Commission."

As of 1970, there were more than 2000 regulations, 389 treaties, 5000 statutes, 2000 federal court decisions and 500 opinions of the United States Attorney General which state, interpret, apply or clarify some aspect of Indian law (Edgar J. Cahn, *Our Brother's Keeper*). The Indian has long fought isolation, loneliness and the constant threat of extinction and termination.

The meaning of termination in the sense of bringing to an end the special status of the Indian and with it a disavowal of his trusteeship and protection arrangement with the United States government. But to the Native American, termination is expressed by Earl Old Person, Chairman of the Blackfoot Tribe, "In our Indian language, the only translation for termination is to wipe out or to kill off. We have no

Indian words for termination (Testimony before Indian Leaders Conference, October, 1966)."

The work of The Church of Jesus Christ among the Native American is not a social program, nor is it merely a modern denominational attempt to reach the Native American people with the message of the Gospel. It is, rather, the outgrowth and the direct result of an awareness and understanding of a covenant executed by God through Abraham a few thousand years ago.

Let me draw your attention to this covenant. God said to Abraham when he was ninety years old, "*I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee*" (Genesis 17:1-7). God further spoke to Abraham saying, "*And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice*" (Genesis 22:18)

The covenant concept in the Old Testament comes from the word *berith*. While this word may mean to have a union between two persons, in main, it indicates a relationship between God and man.

The covenant made to Abraham had two very important ingredients—first, that it was to be an everlasting covenant and second, that through it all the nations of the world would be blessed. If it was to be everlasting in nature, it then had to have the capacity to reach far beyond to the days of Abraham. We see the credibility of this as it begins to

weave its message into the fabric of many other wonderful men who succeeded Abraham.

Let us look at Abraham's son, Isaac. God speaking to him said, *"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 26:3-4).

The everlastingness of this covenant is expressed by the Psalmist David when he says, *"O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant"* (Psalm 105:6-10).

This scripture not only includes Abraham and Isaac under the covenant but Isaac's son, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel and whose sons later became the patriarchs of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. As Jacob now comes under the covenant, how does it reach out and affect the lives of those we know today to be the Native Americans?

Jesus speaking to their ancestors many years ago on this land of America said, *"And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you"* (3 Nephi 20:22).

Also, Jacob in blessing his sons which later became the Twelve Tribes of Israel pronounces a special blessing on his son, Joseph. In this blessing he prophesies that the seed of his son, Joseph, would be "a

*fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall"* (Genesis 49:22).

In the interest of brevity let it be said that Joseph's seed (descendants) did become a very fruitful people in the course of time. When Jerusalem was about to be destroyed around the year 600 B.C., a man by the name of Lehi who was a descendant of Joseph, therefore being under the covenant, was moved upon to leave Jerusalem and journey across the great waters to the land we now know as North and South America.

Many years before the discovery of America, it was thought that the world dropped off at the edge of the ocean, therefore, in essence it was a wall that could not be crossed. Joseph's descendants, however, in the form of Lehi and his family finding themselves by the wall or the great waters were moved upon by God's spirit to cross over the wall and entered into what was to be to them the promised land. *"And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands"* (1 Nephi 2:20).

(To Be Continued)

#### CONFERENCE continued . . .

and are overseers of The Church of Jesus Christ. They were and are responsible to see that the commandments of Jesus Christ are kept. The Apostles were and are responsible to insure that the Word of God is not altered.

Several experiences were read by Apostle Joseph Loyalvo confirming the calling of Brother Tom Liberto to the office of an Apostle.

Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, washed Brother Tom Liberto's feet. Apostle Joseph Loyalvo led the Apostles in prayer

that God would choose one of them to offer the prayer of ordination; that one brother would be inspired to lay hands and anoint Brother Tom Liberto. The Spirit of God directed Apostle Paul Palmieri to step forward and ordain Brother Tom Liberto as an Apostle. It was a beautiful prayer. It was a powerful prayer asking God's anointing, His power and His blessing upon Brother Tom Liberto an an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Tom Liberto humbly expressed himself and asked for the prayers of all the brothers and sisters that God will direct him, bless him and use him for His honor and glory.

What a day! What a Church! Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Note of Thanks

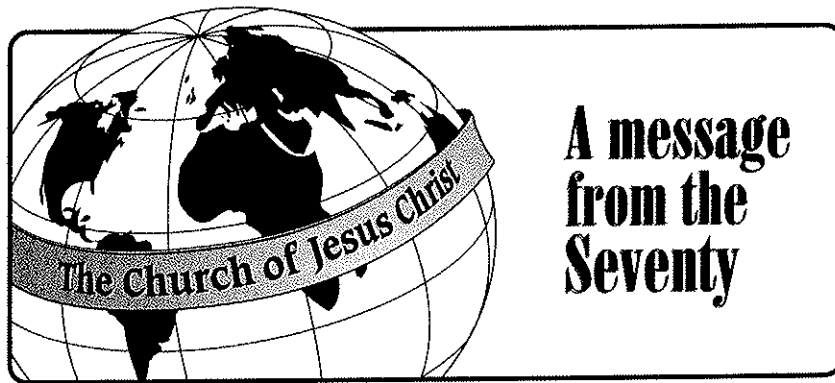
I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers, phone calls and baskets of cards for the recent passing of my husband, Brother Thomas J. Ross. Your kindness, love and generosity will never be forgotten. I love you all very much. Please remember me in your prayers. God bless you all.

Sister Josephine Ross

\* \* \* \* \*

We would like to thank all our brothers, sisters and friends for their love, prayers, cards and calls during our time of need. Sister Shirley's operation was a success. The healing process will take some time. Please continue to remember us when you go before the Lord. We love you all.

Brother Milford and  
Sister Shirley Eutsey



## Domestic Branches, Missions Focused Upon at Conference

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

The General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists focused on how it can help The Church of Jesus Christ's branches and missions when it met at its semi-annual conference at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on October 12. This emphasis on the domestic locations was in addition to reviewing the Church's total missionary program and in tracking the developments of the prior six months during the day.

The agenda was concluded after the brothers broke into groups with their own region's Evangelists to analyze how they can best aid and work with their bases and after they reconvened and each sector gave its suggestions. The hope is to develop a uniform program which can be used throughout the Church, as ideas are shared and applied universally.

The basic intent is to combine the many abilities in each region to help to further strengthen and seek to help draw more people into the fold. The priorities are to be placed on working with the local Ministries as they feel would be best for them and to also draw upon their resources in this cooperative approach.

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach activities are not new. They have been pursued by some branches and missions within their

communities in the past. What has been learned from these efforts and from other similar projects around the Church can thus be implemented to enhance the teamwork approach.

The General Missionary Benevolent Association's "Youth in Action" program was mentioned as being a fairly recent innovation. It has been very successful in working with smaller locations. In operation for two years, the GMBA utilizes the talents and enthusiasm of young people who spend a predetermined period of time at these places. Besides giving their assistance, the participants have learned about missionary work and how to present the Church.

Various regions (formerly called Districts) have also begun their own somewhat similar ventures. In the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, for example, the "Pennsylvania Youth Summit," as it is known, has four teams totaling about 40 young people who are accompanied by an Elder or Evangelist as they visit the sector's branches and missions and offer preaching, singing, and testimonies.

In the Pacific Region, the domestic committee has drafted volunteers to give mini-seminars on the Restoration and to present musical selections. Other people have also been enlisted to accompany the team to help support smaller branches and missions.

The GMBA and regional visitations have been highly regarded by those who have received them. The participants have also been richly blessed by being with and fellowshipping with some other members of the Church.

In preparing plans, the Quorum is interested in asking the young people to be involved. They can be used in many ways to give the solid team approach and augment other endeavors.

From holding special Evangelistic services to establishing support programs, the movement could be extremely beneficial for all concerned. As the regions explore the possibilities and review the needs, the primary goal to be focused upon is to ultimately bring more souls into the Gospel.

### MISSIONARY REPORTS

Reports were given at the conference by leaders of missionary groups. Brother John Griffith, Chairman of the Missions Operating Committee, gave an overview of the work going on around the world, and he highlighted many efforts being expended in the fields. He also announced that the New Works Committee has been placed within the MOC. It will evaluate and act upon the recommendations on expansion from both the Foreign Missions Operating Committee and the Americas Missions Operating Committee.

Brother Philip Jackson, Chairman of the FMOC, reviewed the trips which had been taken to foreign fields during the past six months. In documenting the events, he said that much information had been accumulated which can be incorporated for further growth as the Lord permits. He said there was a gain of over 300 new members in foreign places during this period.

Brother Richard Christman, Chairman of the AMOC, reported there are many labors among the Native Americans as there have been in the past. He disclosed that there is some interest in the country of

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"Don't turn back. Don't look back." That is what Apostle V. J. Lovalvo stated in his sermon at the General Church Conference this past October.

A new year is here. We cannot go back, we cannot look back. We must go forward. It is imperative that we go forward, press forward for our spiritual welfare and for the welfare of the Church.

The dictionary describes forward as, "belonging to the front; located in advance." It is not always easy to press forward. Many obstacles are placed in our path to detract us or throw us off course. They can be overcome. They must be overcome. There is no reason we cannot prevail and persevere.

How is it possible? By putting on the whole armour of God, not just part of it. We read in Ephesians 6:14-17, *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

Please notice that the front of the body is completely covered and protected. Why the front? Because when soldiers go to battle, they go forward not backward! Their goal is forward, not backward. Their goal is in front of them, not behind them.

Have you ever tried to walk backward? It is awkward, uncomfortable and unnatural. Have you ever tried to run backward? It is almost impossible.

Our commitment to Jesus Christ is to go forward, not backward. Do you remember the question you were asked at the water's edge the day of your baptism? It was, "Do you promise before God and these witnesses to serve God all the days of your life?" The response was yes! Your response was a commitment to go forward, not backward! Nephi confirms this commitment is to go forward. In II Nephi 31:20, he states, *"Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."*

Consider the story of David when he met the challenge of Goliath. Saul armed David with his armour. David said to Saul in I Samuel 17:39, *"I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them."* David was familiar with the whole armour of God and it fit! David had proved the whole armour of God. He had it on when he met Goliath. The whole armour of God made David invincible against a giant and proven warrior. David took his sling and five stones. All he needed was one! That one stone was the stone of the Lord!

Samuel the Lamanite was untouchable. Arrows were shot at him. Stones were thrown at him. In spite of their excellent marksmanship, no stones or arrows hit him or found their intended target. Why? The Book of Mormon in the sixteenth chapter of Helaman tells us the Spirit of the Lord was with him. He had on the whole armour of God!

David and Samuel were used by God for His honor and glory. We can be used by God for His honor and glory. We can be, should be and must be that forward motion for The Church of Jesus Christ. We can and should be a positive influence in The Church of Jesus Christ. We need the Church. The Church needs us. The world needs us. The world needs The Church of Jesus Christ and it needs it now, not later! Look around you. The world is in turmoil. The world is in darkness and sin. We have the key to overcome the world, the condition of the world. We have The Church of Jesus Christ.

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "Peter's Big Mistake"

(Luke 22:54)

Dear friends,

Have you ever been so scared that you would get into trouble or that someone would hurt you that you lied about who you are? Has there ever been a time when you pretended you didn't know someone that you really did know and love very well because you were embarrassed what people would say about them?

This is called being afraid of what the "world" thinks of us. The "world" means those people who don't love and serve Jesus as we do.

Jesus told us that the "world" would know us by the love we show. His apostle, Peter, said we will be known as a "peculiar" people. Peculiar means different and even strange, a special kind of people.

Peculiar is what people will call us when we forgive others who hurt us. Peculiar is what we are when we return good for evil, and when we pray to God instead of getting revenge or even talking mean.

It's hard sometimes to follow Jesus' example. Our "flesh," human side of us, wants to fight. We want to win. We want to see bad people get punished. We also want others in the world to like us and to be on our side. We are often weak.

The night before the soldiers arrested Him, Jesus told His disciple Peter that He knew Peter would soon pretend he didn't know Jesus. Peter was shocked. He said, "Lord, I will

lay down my life for you."

Jesus answered him saying, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truthfully I say unto you that before the rooster crows [with sunrise] you will deny [knowing me] three times."

And later that night, the traitor, Judas brought the soldiers to take Jesus for trial. Peter followed behind them and waited in a crowd to see what was happening to Jesus. A servant woman recognized him and asked, "Aren't you one of His disciples?"

He said, "I am not." And he went by the fire outside to be warmed. Another person noticed him and also asked if he was Jesus' disciple. Peter said, "no" and swore.

Then a third person asked him, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Him [Jesus]?" Again Peter said it was not so. Immediately the rooster crowed.

"And Jesus turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me three times. And Peter went out and wept bitterly."

Jesus had known His friend would do this. Jesus had known Peter's fears would cause him to make a terrible mistake. Jesus loved him anyway. Jesus also forgave him for being human, for making a terrible mistake and for being afraid.

This is the same Jesus we serve today. One that knows our every weakness but loves us anyway. He is a Lord that helps people change.



Later Peter changed. He led the new Church; he brought hundreds and hundreds of souls to know Jesus.

Let Jesus change you. Tell Him your fears, your anxieties. Tell Him when you're scared and angry. He cares for you. He understands.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

JESUS	TIMES	WHEN
CARES	THE	COCK
FOR	LORD	CROWED
YOU	LOOKED	HE
PETER	AT	HAD
DENIED	HIM	FELT
BEING	HE	SCARED
HIS	WEPT	WAS
DISCIPLE	BITTERLY	FORGIVEN

N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	J
D	E	K	O	O	L	O	R	D
B	I	T	T	E	R	L	Y	E
W	E	S	C	A	R	E	D	S
W	H	E	N	J	E	E	T	D
H	I	M	T	R	I	L	L	E
R	E	I	H	N	P	P	E	W
E	C	T	E	S	V	I	F	O
T	A	D	U	C	O	C	K	R
E	R	S	O	W	A	S	U	C
P	E	O	Y	G	N	I	E	B
J	S	H	F	S	W	D	A	H

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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Youth in Action Comes to Homestead, Mission

FOUR SOULS COME TO THE LORD

By Sister Eileen Katsaras

The Lord did not stop His blessings with the presence of the GMBA's Youth in Action, but added four new souls to His fold in Homestead, Florida. On August 12, 1995, the young adults of the Youth in Action Program and saints from other branches of Florida gathered at the Homestead Mission House waiting for the arrival of the two candidates for baptism, Raul Bicelis and Lilliana Penaranda. Eventually we all gathered by the small lake to witness the two baptisms performed by Brother Miguel Bicelis, Brother Raul's cousin. After the baptism, Brother Miguel, feeling the Spirit of God, asked if there was anyone else who wanted to repent and be baptized. At that time, Sister Victoria Lopez's niece, Margarita Vasquez, stepped forward and asked to be baptized. Then, surprising everyone, Brother Miguel's mother, Sister Vistalia stepped forward and asked to be baptized.

The glory of heaven came down as a brother saw three doves fly over the baptisms. Just prior to Sister Vistalia's request, a young brother heard a voice that said, "I call one more." A sister then related an experience she had earlier where she heard the Lord say, "knock and it shall be opened," and then she heard four knocks. All those present felt the Spirit and Power of God during the baptisms and we left the waters rejoicing.

Gathering back at the mission house, a confirmation meeting was held under a large tent. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., who has

been working in the Homestead area with his wife, Sister Viola for seven years, along with Brother Miguel and others from the Miami and Hollywood branches. The four newly-baptized members were brought forward. After prayer, each one was confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost was pronounced upon them. Again, a brother saw the three doves over the new members.

After the confirmations, an elder spoke a few words of encouragement from 1 Peter 5:8, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* He then said that "the devil doesn't want to bump you or trip you, but devour your soul and he was not happy at the baptismal site." The brother noted that "we have to be ready to battle. We know the promise made to us that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. The devil is in the world, he is not in us, not in the Church, not in heaven, he's only in the world where he can devour souls." He continued by stating that those recently baptized should "know that the power of God is with you, as are the prayers of the saints. And this big family of God is talented in dealing with the devil. We will hold firm to the Rod of Iron, we have a vision of the Peaceful Reign, Zion, the New Jerusalem, we have a vision of Israel coming back to The Church of Jesus Christ, and because of that vision, we will not let anything stop us. Through our righteousness, we will be like dentists, we will put the devil's teeth out!"

The meeting was then turned over to the Area MBA officers. Brother Paul DiNardo related an experience about how God prepared him for this day. He said he had a dream the night before. He was shown the four baptisms and even recognized Sisters Vistalia and Margarita. He then went on to say that, "Sister Vistalia means very much to me and my family, as many years ago, the Lord touched her and used her to bring our son back to

life." He then added that the Lord spoke to him in his dream and said, "Today she is starting a new life."

A group of the GMBA Youth in Action, called the Travelers, sang three songs and then the children from the Homestead Mission sang *Jesus on the Inside, Working on the Outside, Oh What a Change in My Life*. It was so beautiful to see the smiling faces of the Seed of Joseph singing.

Brother Ike Smith, Jr., introduced the GMBA Youth in Action representative, Brother Mario Zacchanini. He said he felt honored to be here and wants to give the honor to the Lord. He then commented that the Youth in Action for the GMBA in Florida has done a fabulous job. He said, "After being here for only six hours, witnessing the baptisms and the Spirit of God at the water, I am so blessed, I could go home right now with enough." He added, "Who said the Lord isn't working with The Church of Jesus Christ; who said the Lord isn't working with the Seed of Joseph; who said the Lord isn't working with the young people of the Church? That's what this program is all about, to train young people to spread the Gospel and to understand how to be missionaries."

Brother Mario then related the theme of the recent campout in Michigan. He said, "When you talk to people at this important time, think what the cause is, think of the effect you can have on their lives, even the effect the Church has had on all of our lives." He concluded with the words, "Take a stand, don't be ashamed of The Church of Jesus Christ." Brother Miguel Bicelis was asked to sing and he invited the four newly-baptized members to sing with him the song, *He's Changed My Life Completely*.

What a blessed weekend! Thank God for the young people and the GMBA! Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ!



## Our Women Today

### Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

*By Sister Judy Coppa*

The Area Ladies' Uplift Circle of Michigan and Ontario held three activities in the months of May, June and July 1995. Each was uniquely enjoyed and spiritually refreshing.

On May 15, 1995, our Area Circle held a Mother and Daughter Banquet. The evening was a night of both natural and spiritual food. Sisters from the Saline and Sterling Heights Circles presented a program that touched the hearts of everyone at the banquet. The cycle of growing from infant to motherhood was presented through the use of short skits, narratives and songs. The program was very heartwarming as it showed a daughter's need for her mother as she passes through the stages of her life. It then ended by illustrating how the mother in later life begins to need her daughter. The words "She still needs me" were repeated to emphasize how each felt blessed by being needed. All the mothers and daughters present were reminded of the beautiful bond that God has created between them. This bond is precious and should always be nurtured with love and respect. The evening afforded many circle sisters the opportunity to introduce our unbaptized friends and family to the love of God we feel in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Mother and Daughter Banquet in May was followed in June by our annual Area Circle Spiritual Meeting. We gathered together at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan and began the evening with community singing. Sister Joann Cotellesse, the Area Circle Vice President, said that after much prayer and thought about this evening, she felt directed to call upon certain

sisters who had gone through or were now going through some very difficult trials in their lives.

Seven sisters shared their experiences and testimonies with us. The first began with Sister Michelle Elzby who was attending college away from her natural family. She told us how she had found much support and love from all the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. This was followed by Sister Diane Behr's experience. She testified about losing her job. She spoke of being fearful of not finding another. God proved Himself in the matter and Sister Diane's fears were taken away with the gift of new and better employment. Sister Lynne Nieves spoke to us about her situation. She spoke of finding herself out of the Church. She explained to us how the Lord blessed and helped her to find her way back. She praised God for her husband and infant son. We then heard from Sister Joann Cotellesse whose son Mark had been shot in the leg by a neighborhood friend. She related how dangerous the world has become for our children, no matter what age they may be. Our trust in God and our prayers for our children must be constant. Sister Joann thanked God for helping her son and family survive such a traumatic experience.

Sister Judy Coppa was next to relate the recent and ongoing situation with her husband, Brother Gary, having skin cancer. She told of how this was a very trying experience for the whole family, but through all the pain came many wonderful blessings. One of the things she shared was how the doctor decided not to give Brother Gary radiation treatments after having him prepare to do so. Upon hearing the doctor's decision, Brother Gary returned the paperwork, parking passes and medical forms while praising God aloud. The receptionist at the Cancer Center who had originally given him all these items began to exclaim, "Thank You Jesus!" and "Praise God!" As Brother Gary and Sister Judy left the office they could still hear the woman exclaiming loudly, "God Bless You,

Praise God!" Brother Gary and Sister Judy exclaimed, "God has blessed us through all this and we do praise His name." The last sisters to give their testimonies to the goodness and strength of God were Judy Lambert and Carolyn Parravano. Sister Judy has been given words and melodies from the Lord for many beautiful songs. Sister Carolyn has been helping her write these words and melodies into sheet music form. Each expressed their feeling of unworthiness for these gifts but thanked God for what He has given them to share with the people of the Church. They then proceeded to sing one of the songs and all who were present were blessed by such beautiful words.

Several experiences were had throughout the evening. Sister Connie Leopoldo and Sister Linda Snake both saw a white glow around the sisters while they were speaking to us. Sister Connie also saw the personage of Christ standing on the pulpit dressed in white with the area of His heart all in red. She heard the words, "The blood of Jesus." Sister Linda also saw the same vision of Christ. Following the relating of this experience, Sister Salina Carlini told us that upon entering the Church auditorium, she saw the sacrament table with the words, "Do This in Remembrance of Me" carved into its front all in red. She wondered why the words were stained in red and not white like the color of the rest of the table. After the seven sisters finished speaking, Sister Salina saw that the words upon the sacrament table had now returned to their original white color. The Lord truly blessed our Circle meeting with His presence.

With the blessings of God fresh in our hearts and minds, the Area Circle set off to visit the Six Nations Mission on July 23rd. Each sister was presented with a paper corsage as they arrived for the Sunday service. An ensemble of visiting brothers and sisters gave a narrative on the First Americans following with a medley from the *Songs of Zion*. Brother Anthony Scolaro spoke on the history

**(Continued on Page 11)**



## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism in Branch 1 Chesterfield, MI

By Sister Stephanie Rado

It was a beautiful, warm and sunny morning on June 4, 1995, as brothers, sisters, and friends gathered to witness the baptism of Brother Chris Alderson. Brother Richard Thomas baptized Brother Chris in Lake St. Clair, and as Brother Chris walked out of the water, a glorious peace was on his face. As we sang, *I Surrender All*, it sounded simply glorious.

Our morning meeting began with a beautiful duet by Sisters Marilyn Scolaro and Tracy Francione. They sang, *Come to the Water*. Brother Chris was then confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

Brother Richard Thomas opened our service with John 5:1-8 for his scripture. In this portion of scripture, a certain man lays on his bed by a pool of water for thirty-eight years. He was waiting for the angel to trouble the waters which would cure the infirmities of the first who stepped in. When Jesus came to him, He said, *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* The impotent man answered him, *"Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."* Jesus said unto him, *"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."*

Brother Richard was inspired to compare the spiritual obstacle of man and the natural fear of baptism. Sins and transgressions are afflictions, just as the man at the pool of water was afflicted physically. This man waited for the miracle of the angel. When Jesus came, his waiting to be made whole came to an end. He was cleansed of his afflictions. When Jesus knocks on the door of your heart, you can be cleansed of your

afflictions which are sins and transgressions. You can be made whole today. Don't wait like the man at the pool of water.

Brother Peter Scolaro then spoke, going on to say that men love the darkness. As in the scripture of the man who waited by the pool of water, the Jews dismissed the miracle that Jesus had performed. They only saw that the man carried his bed on the Sabbath. They did not see that Jesus overcame darkness, overcame physical and spiritual afflictions.

We thank God for another baptism. We thank God for a wonderful day in His service.

### Baptism in Spartanburg

By Sister Connie Rossi

Another joyous occasion occurred at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on Sunday, September 3, 1995 as our new sister, Sally Looney, rendered obedience to the Gospel and was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn. The Lord blessed us with blue skies, singing birds and warm breezes as our sister was led down into the waters of regeneration. Afterwards, we returned to the church where the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon our sister by Brother Darrell Rossi after which we sang the song, *Love Lifted Me*.

Sister Sally recently moved here from California and has encountered many trials and tribulations. But she always had a desire and sincere heart to serve the Lord. She has testified how she continually sought the truth and looked for the true Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord then moved on her behalf and caused her to befriend our Sister Jesse Hall and after only attending two meetings, she knew she had found God's Church and anxiously asked for her baptism.

As the heavens rejoice, we thank God for sending our new sister to our Mission and I ask that we all pray for the Lord to sustain her and keep her in His care always.

### A Wonderful Experience

By Sister Kathy Vinsick

I had not been feeling well for a long time. I did not know what was wrong. I prayed and asked God to help me. Thank God my prayer was answered. He gave me a sign that something was wrong. I made an appointment with my doctor for the next day. I explained the pain I was having and that it was very hard for me to breathe. After examining me, he scheduled tests. The test results showed two very large tumors in my stomach. The doctor said surgery would have to be done very soon.

I was very troubled because my daughter Renee was coming in from New Jersey to have her surgery on June 23 and mine was to be on June 15. I agreed to have it done as soon as possible. The morning of my surgery, my husband Paul and I prayed and asked God to be with me. I had also prayed and asked God to let this surgery be like a dream; that God would spare me the severe post surgery pain that I expected to experience and suffer. My prayer

(Continued on Page 10)

### Announcement

For January, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.35%
2 years	5.45%
3 years	5.55%
4 years	5.65%
5 years	6.00%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

## EXPERIENCE continued . . .

was that God would spare me this potential pain and bless me to give Him the honor and glory for His name.

While the doctors were operating, they ran into some complications. They found more than what the test showed they would confront. I was filled with scar tissue that had wrapped around everything throughout my body and was cutting off my breathing. The scar tissue was stopping and preventing my body from functioning the right way. The doctors had to remove two very large tumors and extensive scar tissue. After surgery, I was taken to the recovery room. I expected to be in the recovery room for approximately three hours or more.

I was awake and did not feel any pain. My family came into the recovery room to see me. When Paul walked into the room, he saw a light that shone all over me. He said I had such a beautiful smile on my face and there was such a beautiful, peaceful feeling. The doctors said to me that I was doing so well that they were taking me to my room. This was only after twenty minutes that I was in the recovery room! I was up and out of bed, walking up and down the hallway within a couple of hours. The nurses came by my door and saw me up. They asked, "Are you the one that had surgery this morning?" I replied, "Yes, thank God I am fine."

I was released the next morning to go home. My neighbors marveled how well I was doing and could not believe how fast and wonderful this operation turned out for me. The Lord blessed me to recover quickly and by the time Renee arrived, I was able to help my daughter and enjoy my granddaughter Rachel's company. This was only eight days after my surgery that Renee had her surgery. I thank God my prayer was answered. It did seem like a dream.

I believe all things are possible with God. Renee's surgery turned out fine also. We are both doing fine. I am so thankful to God for everything.

## Deaconess Ordained in Erie, PA

By Sister Elaine Sechez

On July 2, 1995, we were privileged to witness the ordination of Sister Ruth Gehly into the office of deaconess. The congregation sang many beautiful hymns before the opening of our Sunday service.

A group of talented sisters and friends sang *Blessed Assurance* and *Revive Us Again*. Brothers Art Gehly, Sr., Brother Art Gehly, Jr. along with Sisters Iva Fedorka and Cathy Natoli honored us with several hymns. The children that were attending also sang for the congregation.

At our meeting, there were brothers, sisters and friends from San Diego and Anaheim, California; Detroit Branch #1 and Inner City Branch of Michigan; Lockport and Rochester Branches from New York; Niles, Ohio; Fredonia and Glassport, Pennsylvania; Herndon, Virginia; and Gastonia, North Carolina. Sister Ruth Gehly's parents also attended the service and we were especially happy to have them at our meeting.

The theme of the Elders, Brothers John DiBattista, Stacey Light and Russ Martorana, was "The righteous

shall flourish like the palm tree. We water, we nurture, but God gives the increase." Many inspiring words were spoken by the ministry.

Brother Joel Gehly, Sister Ruth's husband, read the responsibilities of a deaconess. Sister Florence LaRosa of the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission washed Sister Ruth's feet. The Elders formed a circle around Sister Ruth and Brother Jim Hufnagle offered a special prayer. Sister Ruth was confirmed by Brother Art Gehly, Sr.

The day, the meeting was enjoyed by all. After the meeting, we gathered at Brother Joel and Sister Ruth's home for wonderful fellowship. Praise God for another worker for the Lord in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Saugeen Mission Dedication

By Brother Matt Collison

On the morning of August 6, 1995, the saints began to gather at the Mission House on the Saugeen Reserve in Ontario, Canada to dedicate their building to our precious Lord, Jesus Christ. As we began to gather, an excitement within



Brothers, sisters, children and friends at the dedication of the Saugeen Mission in Ontario, Canada.



our hearts began to grow.

The meeting was held outside because there were too many people to fit inside the building. The saints gathered from Windsor, Muncey, Willard, and Six Nations. It was to be a rejoiceful day.

Hymns were sung. Scripture was read by Brothers Don Collison and Dick Lobzun. What a sight to see the saints praising and rejoicing in a beautiful outdoor setting with trees and bushes everywhere. There was nothing between us and God. The sky was the limit!

Beautiful testimonies were expressed, hymns were sung, plenty of food was prepared, and just sharing in the love of Jesus Christ will all of our brothers and sisters made the dedication and the day complete. Truly, a wonderful blessing was felt by all.

God bless all those who worked so hard to make the day beautiful and rewarding for all who attended. A special thanks to Brother Jim and Sister Bernice Ritchie for providing

the building in which we can praise our Heavenly Father. Also, thanks to all those who helped and worked on the Mission House. May God bless each and every one of you.

### WOMEN TODAY continued . . .

of the Six Nations Mission and how a sister from Muncey desired to tell her family about the Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ. As she was walking to Grand River, a man stopped to offer a ride. At her destination, she wanted to thank the man, but he and the vehicle had vanished. Brothers Larry Henderson and Tom Everett spoke and they were followed by a season of testimony. The members of the mission provided the visitors with lunch, giving everyone a chance to socialize before returning home. Our Area Circle has had a very active and spiritual three months. We all thank God for the abundance of His mercy and His blessings.

### MESSAGE continued . . .

Venezuela. This has been generated through the Homestead, Florida Mission. People have been baptized in Homestead and then returned home to Venezuela, giving their testimonies and leading to inquiries about the Church. He also said that the missions in Mexico continue to grow and that throughout the Church, the Regional MOC members are active in missionary fields and in their own domestic areas. He mentioned that the GMBA's "Youth in Action" program has had a positive affect wherever it has been used.

Reports were also given by the General Church Correspondent, the Media Committee, and the Research & Development Committee. Correspondence and inquiries continue to be received from different parts of the world, notably Europe. The Media Committee is evaluating publicity possibilities, and the R&D Committee is readying some necessary Church literature.

## GMBA Student Support Committee Enrollment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. or Street Number

City

State

Zip

Home Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College, University, Trade School or High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address at School (if different from home): \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. or Street Number

Selected Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Enrollment Status: (Circle) Fr So Ju Sen

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The information above will be used to send monthly letters to all students enrolled and to advise students of various GMBA and Area MBA sponsored activities. If you would like to enroll, please complete this form and mail to:

Joseph Giannetti  
705 Division Street  
Aliquippa, PA 15001  
Tel. 412-375-7670

\* WEDDING \*

Michelle Lynn Mazzeo and Steven Phillip Brown were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on June 24, 1995.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### THOMAS J. ROSS

Brother Thomas J. Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to his eternal reward on October 20, 1995. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Tom is survived by his wife, Sister Josephine; one sister, Mary Vucinich; two daughters, Sisters Janet Gibson and Sharon Staley; one son, Brother Donald Ross; and seven grandchildren.

### SALLIE MAE HOWARD

Sister Sallie Mae Howard of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on September 30, 1995. Sister Sallie is survived by two daughters, Mary Duckenfield and Clearice Lucinda Howard; five sons, Dr. Clifford Howard, Elder James Howard, Walter Lee Howard, Rudolph Howard and Freddie Lee Howard; three brothers, Evangelist Cleveland Baldwin, Frank Baldwin and Robert Baldwin; twenty-three grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Children Blessed

Madelyn Nichole Cornell, daughter of Brother David and Sister Kelly Cornell, was blessed on September 22, 1995 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sarah Elizabeth Wintersgill, daughter of Sister Joanne and John Wintersgill, was blessed on September 24, 1995 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Mary Elizabeth Counts, daughter of Gregory and Liz Counts, was blessed on June 4, 1995 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Christopher John Hewitt, son of Brother Chris and Sister Angie Hewitt, was blessed on October 8, 1995 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Jeffrey Michael Van Beuhler, son of Jeff Van Beuhler and Susan DiFalco, was blessed on October 1, 1995 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Nathaniel Schyler and Ryan Dennis Vowell, sons of Kirk Vowell and Jennifer Haley, were blessed on October 1, 1995 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

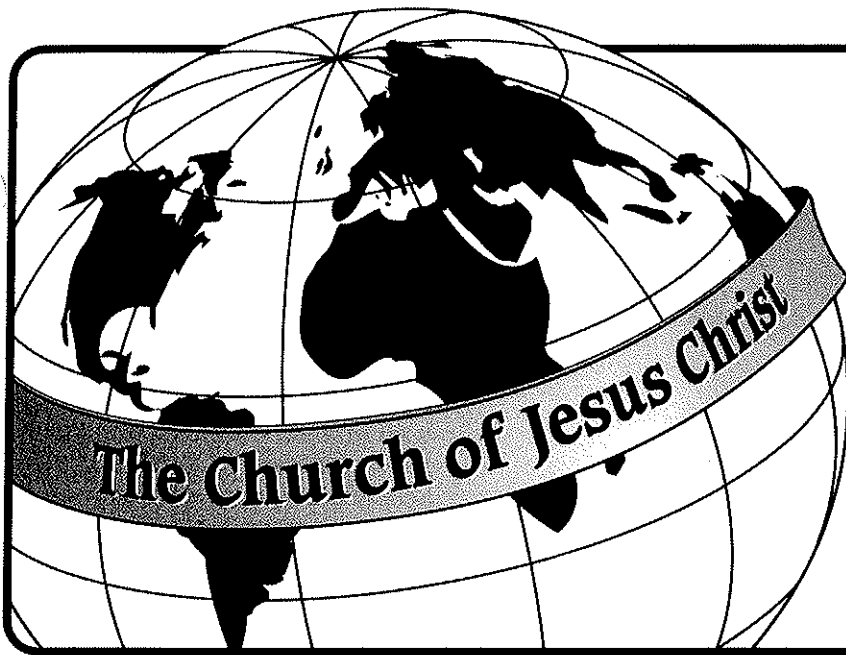
We cannot change 1995, it is past and gone. It will never return. We can influence our future, we can influence and change the direction of the world. We can make 1996 the greatest year in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ. Through our diligence, our persistence, our perseverance, we can make the world a better place.

By the love we show towards one another, the whole world will know that we are His disciples. By the love we show to our neighbors, our friends, the world, everyone will know that we are His disciples. By serving God in total spirit and truth, we can make a difference. We are different and we can make a difference.

Be bold but not overbearing. When people ask you what church you belong to, be forward, step forward and tell them you belong to The Church of Jesus Christ. Tell them what it means to you. Humbly tell them what it can mean to them. Humbly tell them what it can do for them. Invite them to your meetings. Tell them to come and see! Tell them how God moves in mysterious ways. Tell them of the gifts in The Church of Jesus Christ. Tell them of the miracles in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Church of Jesus Christ is not a stagnant organization. It is not a passive organization. The Church of Jesus Christ is constant and sure in its beliefs. The Church of Jesus Christ is dynamic. The Church of Jesus Christ is exciting. The Church of Jesus Christ is moving forward. We must help it move forward. We must press forward for the prize is in view for us and for The Church of Jesus Christ. The prize is in view for the whole world. That prize is The Church of Jesus Christ.

Let us be soldiers for The Church of Jesus Christ. Let us be warriors for The Church of Jesus Christ. Let us put on the whole armour of God. It is invincible!



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 1996

Volume 52, No. 2

## Apostle Thomas Mark Liberto

Brother Thomas Mark Liberto was born on May 19, 1934, in Glassport, Pennsylvania. He was the first of three children born to Brother Nick and Sister Lena Liberto and was named after his paternal grandfather, Brother Mark Thomas. His grandmother, Sister Bernadina Thomas, was the first member of his family to join The Church of Jesus Christ and was a spiritual role model to Brother Tom throughout his life. Shortly after he was born, Apostle Charles Ashton visited the Liberto home and took baby Tom in his arms and prayed for him. After the prayer, he told Sister Lena that the Lord let him feel that Tom would one day be a leader in the Church. A short time later, he was taken to Church for the first time, where he was blessed by Apostle Isaac Smith. Brother Tom has fond memories of growing up in Glassport and remembers being carried in his father's arms across the Clairton bridge to the home of Brother Charles Ashton in Coal Valley, Pennsylvania where the saints often gathered to fellowship. He attended Sunday School at the Glassport Branch and learned to love Jesus Christ and the Church at an early age. He attended elementary school in Glassport at the 2nd

and 3rd Wards.

In 1945, the family moved to San Diego, California. Brother Tom and his family joined together with a few other families who became the charter members of the San Diego Branch of the Church. In San Diego, Brother Tom continued his spiritual development as he grew to manhood. He attended all of the Church services, including Sunday School and MBA, on a regular basis throughout his school years. He also developed his lifelong work ethic during this time as he entered the work force as a paper boy. He also worked as a dishwasher, a cook, a shoe repairman and whatever else he could find. Brother Tom attended Dana Junior High School and Point Loma High School where he sang in the choir, played shortstop on the baseball team and developed his manual skills in various shop classes. It was in high school that he met his future wife, Marcia Pettit. Brother Tom began courting Sister Marcia in March 1951 and they became engaged in March 1953. Brother Tom graduated from high school in June 1952, on a Thursday, and began working as an apprentice carpenter at the North Island Naval Air Station on the following Monday. Thus began

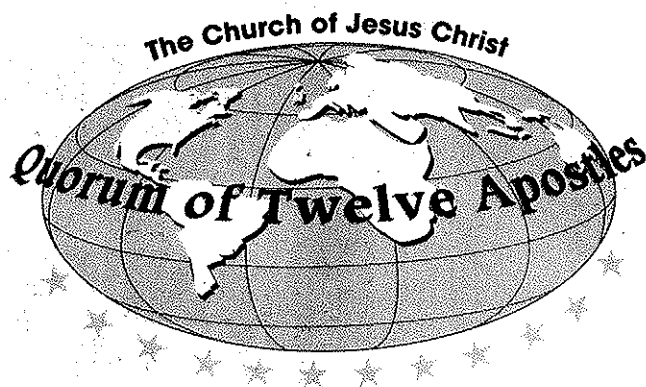
his thirty-eight year career as a U.S. Government Civil Service employee.

Brother Tom enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1953. He went through basic training at Parks Air Force Base near San Francisco, California. He continued to work as a carpenter while in the service. He and Sister Marcia were married in San Diego on January 30, 1954 and lived in Pleasanton, California until he was assigned to duty in Alaska.

Shortly before he was sent overseas, Brother Tom was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. He received several experiences prior to his baptism and answered the call of Jesus Christ on October 24, 1954. He was baptized in San Diego by Brother Felix Buccellato.

Brother Tom spent thirteen months near Nome, Alaska at an Air Force facility called Tin City. He worked as a carpenter. It was during this tour of duty that Brother Tom became a champion ping pong player, a skill which he retains to this day. It was there that he also honed his musical skill on the harmonica. While he was in Alaska, his first daughter, Debra Ann, was born on March 11, 1955. She was nine months old when he saw her for the first time. Upon his return home, he

(Continued on Page 10)



## The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART II

The Bible and the Book of Mormon testify that Joseph's seed through the covenant is in direct line for the benefits of the Abrahamic Covenant that through them all the nations of the world would be blessed. *"And I will show unto them that fight against my word and against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and*



Apostle Robert A. Watson

*that I covenanted with Abraham that I would remember his seed forever"* (2 Nephi 29:14).

Let me also draw your attention to the words of Nephi who speaks of the covenant and its impact upon

Israel and the whole world. *"And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles; and not only unto the Gentiles but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations. Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his Gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel"* (1 Nephi 22:9-11).

The importance of God's covenant to His people and of its everlasting component through Abraham is very vividly portrayed in the words of Moses as he tells Israel, *"Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"* (Deuteronomy 9:5). God was close to destroying Israel and making of Moses a greater nation than they. (See Deuteronomy 9:14.) Moses pleaded with God because of the covenant made to Abraham and he says, *"Remember thy servants,*

*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin: Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say, Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath brought them out to slay them in the wilderness. Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm"* (Deuteronomy 9:27-29).

We have reviewed briefly how the covenant to Abraham has through its everlastingness reached the Native American on this land and when the record of this people, the record now known as the Book of Mormon, was brought forth through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, he was told that this record was to be taken to the remnant of the Seed of Joseph or the Native American, *"Which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL God, manifesting himself unto all nations . . ."* (Preface of the Book of Mormon).

This record of the ancient inhabitants of this land, including the covenants made to them, was the very same people that was discovered by Christopher Columbus. Let us now see how God worked through this great explorer and how he was moved by God's spirit to make this perilous journey. *"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land"* (1 Nephi 13:12).

History records that Columbus was a devout Bible scholar who spent many hours each day pouring over the Scripture. It seems that

Columbus discovered America more by prophecy than through astronomy. He wrote to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain in the year 1502 saying "neither reason nor mathematics nor maps were any use to me." He quoted Isaiah 11:10-12, *"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign to the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."*

Columbus wrote a book in Spanish in the 15th century entitled *Book of Prophecies*. In it he stated the prophets predicted many things concerning the end of the world.

Columbus also saw the success of his valiant voyage as a direct confirmation of God's will for his life. He saw this discovery as opening up new lands and tribes to the Gospel.

The words of Columbus, a Gentile, speaking as he did of his inspiration in coming to America and, as such, became the instrument of introducing the mighty Gentile nations to the Seed of Joseph. With the introduction of the mighty Gentile nations upon this land of America, the scene was set for the eventual fulfillment of the covenants to Israel.

Another major step in this fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant transpired in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. In this we find a record of God's promises to Israel verifying His many promises to Israel in the Bible.

We, in The Church of Jesus Christ, have attempted since our inception in the year 1862 to take this record to the Seed of Joseph.

We must, however, now face the facts that the work has been slow and at times very discouraging. Having now reached the decade of the 1990's, we must now accelerate this great work with greater intensity and dedication. This endeavor must reach into every segment of the Church and tap every resource at our command. We need the expertise of women and men within our ranks, who are educators, doctors, tradesmen and representatives of every facet of skill that can be employed to the Seed of Joseph at every level of life and communication.

The American Indian Committee established by the Church on October 17, 1975 was commissioned with the awesome task of directing this great work. The Church has accepted the work of the restoration of Israel commencing with the Seed of Joseph as the highest priority of the missionary outreach program of the Church.

This is in compliance with the wisdom of God that we as Gentiles having been established upon this land of America as a free people through the power of God that these things (record of the Seed of Joseph) might go from us to a remnant of the seed (Seed of Joseph) that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which the Father hath covenanted with His people, O House of Israel (3 Nephi 21:4).

We must concede that with the coming forth of this record, the Book of Mormon, that the work of the Father had already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He had made unto the people who are of the House of Israel. (3 Nephi 21:7) It is important that we as Gentiles exercise and implement this avowed priority to Israel beginning with Joseph in order that we might come underneath the covenant.

*"I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;"* (3 Nephi 21:22).

*"And then shall the work of the*

*Father commence at that day, even when this Gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name. Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance"* (3 Nephi 21:26-28).

(To be continued)

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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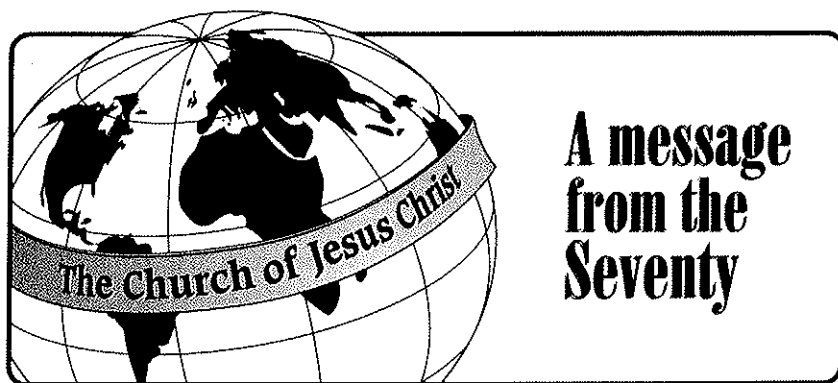
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## Is My Face to Face Testimony Outdated?

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

With the fast and vast growth of technology today, there seems to be less attention given to personal face-to-face contact. Computers can talk to computers, and automation has replaced many people in performing tasks and activities. Many other innovations have created an explosion of technical knowledge and usage, leaving individuals invisible and almost uninvolved in certain organizations.

Is this true when it comes to the Church? Can computers and machines actually replace people in doing God's work? Can transmissions over telephone lines and over interconnected machines deeply touch people when communicating with them about the Lord? We may even ask, "Is my face-to-face testimony outdated?"

While it is important to get the Word out in any practical manner possible and we should take advantage of all the resources available, we must remember that people cannot be replaced because ultimately human involvement is necessary in bringing souls into the Gospel.

We are feeling, caring, and grateful creatures of God who know we are subjected to Him in all things and have a need to disclose this. Our responses are not programmed. We are not automated. We all react to the Spirit of God in our own way, and we have the ability to let people feel our warmth as we tell them about God, Christ, and salvation. This will allow us to answer, "No" to the

question, "Is my face-to-face testimony outdated?"

Realistically our testimonies will never be outdated because they are not fashion-prone. They will not be superseded by faster models, will not be subjected to obsolescence, and will not lose their value over time. God is the same today, as He was yesterday, and as He will be tomorrow. Consequently, people will still react in human ways as they are told of His love and the hope He offers.

### SINCERITY FELT

The true impact of a testimony is the believability of how our lives have been changed. The sincerity that is felt by someone receiving the beautiful message of the Gospel is what helps to convince a person to come and hear what God can offer. There is no spreadsheet, intricate drawing, or categorized summary involved. Instead the simplicity of God's workings is what stands out.

No one knows how far a testimony will go. Will it stop being effective after the first person hears it, or will it go on to the next? Is there a chance that it can continue on to any number of people? Only God knows, but the important thing is that it be given.

Jesus said, "*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth*

*light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:14-16).

Our testimony shines our light, and it can illuminate the lives of those who receive it. An important factor about our telling others is that there is no knowing when it will bear fruit in the lives of the recipients. While they are being given our message, persons may appear to be unaffected. But is this really so? Is it possible they are not showing what they are feeling?

### IMPORTANT NOW

As the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists embarks on programs to help branches and missions, it becomes additionally important for all individuals to help. Offering our testimonies is a good start; and it does not require a group effort. Furthermore, giving an invitation to attend our services is a logical and appropriate follow-through when interest is shown.

Testimonies can be given anytime, anyplace, and under any circumstances. The only thing that is needed is for a person or persons to be willing to listen. The duty of witnessing is ours.

Perhaps, if we recall the statement by the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16, we can gain some insight into the importance of our personal missionary outreach. He said, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . .*" Also, as he identified, we, like he was, are ambassadors for Christ.

The Media Committee is exploring ways of reaching the public. While this is being pursued, we can all resolve how we can extend ourselves to our families, friends, and acquaintances.

People may be invited to Church generally, but one of the most effective means is our personal account. It has substance as well as fact. It means something beyond words. It will never be outdated!



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Church of Jesus Christ has the key to "unspeakable joy." It is a spiritual joy that is difficult if not impossible to describe. We read in I Peter 1:8, ". . . ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

It is fair to say that the joy we experience in The Church of Jesus Christ is "indescribably delicious." It has to be experienced to appreciate it. It has to be experienced to understand it. It is not found elsewhere! It is not found in any other organization!

What is joy? In a recent Sunday School class, it was described as "Jesus first, others second, yourself last." The dictionary describes it as "a condition or feeling of great pleasure or happiness; delight." This is the feeling when someone is baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. Remember how you felt the day of your baptism? Hopefully, you feel the same today as you did the day you were baptized into His Church.

We did not join The Church of Jesus Christ to exist in a state of sadness. We did not join His Church to be a sad people. We joined that we would be a joyful people, a people liberated by the joy of the Lord, a people full of happiness and spiritual delight.

Joy is promised to those who love and serve the Lord. It was promised by the Lord. He said in John 17:13, "*And now come I unto thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*" In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 14:17, "*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*"

What are some of the affects of this joy? There is a feeling of liberty from one's past. This liberty comes from the joy of serving the Lord.

Years ago, the brothers and sisters in New Jersey experienced severe harassment as they "walked" to Church. Please notice, "they walked," and they were always on time! As the brothers and sisters walked to Church, the people who lived along the route would greet them by banging on garbage can lids and chanting, "Here come the saints, Here come the saints!" Did the brothers and sisters eventually take a different route? The answer is no! Did they hang their heads and have frowns on their faces? The answer is no! Were they sad? The answer is no! Did they turn around and return home? The answer is no! The reason they were able to stand up to this type of pressure and harassment is that their hearts were joyful, their hearts were full of joy!

There is a wonderful and powerful story in the 5th chapter of John about a crippled man. This man was crippled and lame for thirty-eight years. He could not walk at all! He simply lay there, at poolside, hoping someone would help him into the waters so he would be healed and made whole. No one helped him. No one took the time to help. Then came the Lord who healed him on site! No water, no pool was necessary! The man was immediately made whole, took up his bed and walked! No physical therapy, no exercise for muscle building and toning was required! Evangelist, Nathan Peterkin, Sr. (deceased), said in a sermon on this very chapter and subject, that after the Lord healed him "the man went a hoppin', and a skippin', and a jumpin'!" The man experienced the joy of Jesus Christ.

Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac. He was at total peace with God. His joy was in the Lord. Paul and Silas sang praises to God while they were in prison. They would not be denied, they would not be deterred in their service and joy.

Lehi, in a vision, beheld a tree whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. Lehi states in I Nephi 8:12, "*And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceeding great*

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Great Joy

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever wonder why people were created by God? The Book of Mormon tells us that man (all people) is, that he might have joy. Joy! Joy is that wonderful feeling of happiness you have when you feel loved and so happy and close with God and others. That is how we are supposed to feel.

A long time ago, one of God's special angels decided to go against God. His name was Lucifer, and he became Satan. God was too smart and wonderful to make someone or something stronger than Himself; He was stronger than that old devil. So, God made the devil leave Him, and that mean old devil has been trying to make people be mean and unhappy, like he is, ever since that day.

Now the Scriptures tell us that God will protect His children. We who love and serve God are His children. But Satan is always trying to get us away from serving God and feeling joy. Satan is called the father of lies. He always tries to trick us, but God is stronger.

Jesus talked with the devil several times in the Bible. He told us, "Resist [stand up to] the devil and he will flee [run away] from you." This goes for people of every age.

So the first time that Satan puts bad thoughts in your mind, or the first time you think them, you need to stop those thoughts. Maybe you are angry, or coveting. Coveting means wishing something that doesn't belong to you was yours. Even

grown-ups have to watch their thoughts so they don't start to covet their friend's house, or pretty car, or nice family, or the way someone sings or can think real well. Each one of us is supposed to be thankful to God for what He has given us. It wastes our lives and our time for joy if we're sitting around mad or jealous about other people's blessings.

Today at work I had to stay late; everybody was gone but me. I had to be there alone, walk out alone through big dark rooms, go down the elevator alone. I became scared. In my thoughts I imagined, "What if someone is in here who is mean?" Then I realized that this was just the old devil trying to scare me. God does not want us to fear. I said out loud, "Satan, in the name of Jesus, leave me alone," and I thought again, "What if someone sneaked in here?"

But this time I was not afraid. I told myself, "If someone is in here, I'll just act surprised and pleased and ask them to go with me awhile, and we'll walk out of the building together." God and Jesus had taken away my big fear.

Fear doesn't come from God. Joy, and bravery and courage and love come from God. We are supposed to love and cherish each other, not fear people or the things that a new day brings. Our job is to love one another and love our wonderful Lord.

When you're afraid, tell Jesus. Talk to Him out loud, or in your mind and heart. He already knows your every thought, so tell Him about



those mean feelings, or scary worries. Ask Him to help you change, or be willing to change. Talk to the Lord the same way you talk to anyone. He will hear you. He loves you already; He wants you to feel great joy, too.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## Let Us Not Be Enticed

By Evangelist Jim Moore, Jr.

Could we be losing our IDENTITY when we ask a minister from another church on our rostrum and they speak to our people? Are we bidding them God speed? Apostle Paul instructs us in Galatians 1:8, *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."* Are we sending our brothers and sisters a mixed message?

I ask you, could this be some of those barnacles that attach themselves to the sides of the ship slowing it down? The Church of Jesus Christ is second to none. The Lord was very precise in III Nephi 27:8 when He said, *"If a church be called in Moses' name; then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church."*

We read in Galatians 5:1, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free."* Yes, we can be entangled again with

the yoke of bondage. If we are not careful, we can bring the Holy Ghost and Spirit of Truth under suffering. Let us not be otherwise minded and use the liberty that we have through Jesus Christ to error against the Spirit of God. Other ministers, religions, and singers do not represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have the responsibility to tell them of The Church of Jesus Christ and pray for their conversion.

My brothers and sisters, the word of God says, *"one Lord, one faith, and one baptism."* It is so easy to turn on the television and listen to the ministers of this world. They sound good, the singing does too. When we do this, we are eating from other tables, we are drinking from other wells. It is like a tree that looks so good from a distance but when you touch it, it's artificial. The Scriptures tell us that in the last days, Satan will deceive the very elect if possible.

Let us put on the whole armor of God. Let us be wise to the enticing of the evil one. We have to be an example to the world. We have to set a standard. We have a sister in the Imperial Branch that said before she was baptized that she did not fit

in with the worldly friends. Her mother said, "Thank God you don't fit in."

There are people doing the best that they can with the knowledge that they have. They need to be converted unto the Lord. They need to repent of their sins and be baptized and have hands laid on for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This is the way, this is the truth. This is a time to stand out. As the hymn says, "It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country. It's time for young women who love the Lord to stand. A battle is waging, our colors now have to be lifted."

We have the freedom through Christ to do what we ought to do, not to do what we want to do. Let us that have been called to work have an eye single to His glory that we may see the latter day glory shine forth out of darkness. The Lord hath shown great and marvelous things which must shortly come to pass. Let us run a good race.

One day, before the angel Moroni flew, the Gospel was not on the face of the earth. Yes, one day made the difference! A nation in a day and a kingdom at once! Blessed be the name of God.



## Area MBA Pennsylvania Retreat

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

September 15-17, 1995 found almost two hundred brothers, sisters and friends meeting together at Antiochian Village for a weekend of blessings. The Spirit of God was felt from the moment we walked into camp. At orientation, we were told that our theme was "Be the One," and in order to do this we must be united and work together as one.

At chapel on Saturday morning,

we heard many beautiful words. We were told that we are like tools. We must be used in order to be effective. We each have our own purpose, but together, through Jesus Christ, we can do the work. If we are going to "Be the One," we must put on the armor of God and raise our title of liberty. United together we are The Church of Jesus Christ.

In our seminars, we read the scriptures and discussed ways we could "Be the One." During the morning, two sisters in separate incidences had conversations with a man whom they felt was one of the Nephites. The spirit, as they told of their experiences, witnessed that it was true.

A large crowd gathered together Saturday evening to hear more inspired words. The children sang a few songs and Brother Tony Ricci

was our first speaker. He stated, "We in the Church are the redeemed of Jesus Christ. God wants us to step forward and "Be the One." He read from Ezra about how Israel had to rebuild the temple. He asked who among us was willing to step forward and work to help build the Kingdom of God? We have to stand up for Jesus Christ. We must be excited about the Gospel and let the Bible and Book of Mormon be our "life lines."

A quartet of young men sang the theme song, *Be the One*. Our camp director, Brother Jim Draskovich, testified that he had heard this song a few years ago and thought it would make a good theme for campout. Little did he suspect that when he asked his committee members to fast

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### General Church Building Fund Presents First Branch Building Assistance Check

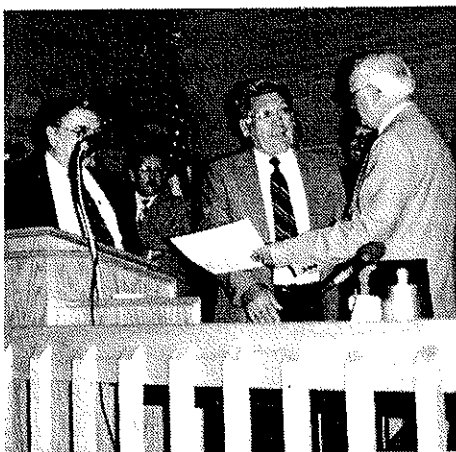
*By Brother Samuel Risola, Jr.*

During the Saturday session of the October 1995 General Church Conference, Brother Dominic Thomas, The General Church President, presented a check for \$2500 to Brother Frank Rogolino, of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch. The Ft. Pierce Branch is in the final stage of construction and they submitted an application for financial assistance.

The Conference had approved the program sometime ago; but this was the first allocation made by the program.

A summary of the program is as follows:

1. A branch could receive up to 10% of the construction project, a maximum of \$5000.
2. The proper request form, completed and mailed to the secretary of the building fund—Brother Samuel Risola, Jr., 57 Central Court, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.



Bro. Dominic Thomas presents check to Bro. Frank Rogolino as Finance Committee Members look on.

The General Church Presidency, Finance Committee, and Trustees look forward to the success of this program and pray that God will allow us to build many buildings dedicated to His service.

### Baptism in Simi Valley, CA

You know Joe. There are probably some in your branch, a dozen in your district, several hundred throughout the Church.

He's the unbaptized spouse, the spiritual holdout, the "almost" member who has one foot in, the other out. The not so bad fellow who everybody prays for, whose wife testifies tearfully about, the first one holding the table down at the July 4th picnic and the first one to leave for the restroom when the Spirit gets a bit too close for comfort at Church. You know the type. You know people like Joe Soto.

Raised in Tijuana, Mexico, Joe Soto started attending Church when he was twelve years old but stopped coming around the time he was fifteen. He got married and started a family. Even when his wife, Sister Angelina was baptized in 1982, he did not seem fazed. It took Joe another three years before he started attending services again and then not very steadily. Relocated to the northern Los Angeles area, we would see him in the Simi Valley Branch once in a while. He was always polite but a little distant.

Sometimes, Brother Frank Verardo, an Elder in the branch, would kid Joe. "When will I be able to baptize you, Joe?," Brother Frank would ask. "Soon" Joe would say. "You've got nothing to lose if you decide to get baptized," Brother Frank would counter.

Joe wanted to be sure. Some wait for a sign, some for a feeling. Joe was stalling for something much simpler—the confidence that God would indeed, forgive his sins if he made his commitment to Christ. Okay, so that promise is one of the

most emphatic and cherished in the Scriptures. Still, Joe just had to find out for himself, you understand.

It took time. On occasion, Joe asked the elders to pray on him for guidance. Then, he would disappear for several weeks. No one asked questions; we just showed him love.

Unfortunately, Brother Frank Verardo never had the opportunity to take Joe into the waters of regeneration. After a long and courageous fight with cancer, Brother Frank died this summer.

But, here is the blessing. Joe never forgot Brother Frank's words. And the jarring reality that Brother Frank didn't live long enough to baptize Joe served as a catalyst in and of itself. The next Sunday, Joe once again asked the elders to lay hands on him. Then, in a very low keyed way, he asked for his baptism.

It was so low keyed, in fact, that everyone thought Joe was, like before, asking for prayers so that he might one day get baptized. Two weeks later, after he attended the Mexican conference, Joe returned to the Simi Valley Branch and set us straight, he really did want to get baptized now, not later!

We happily obliged. On August 20, 1995, Brother Tony Picciuto, an Evangelist, performed this beautiful ordinance in the Pacific Ocean, off the shore of Ventura, California. Back at the Simi Valley church building, Brother Tony also prayed on Brother Joe for the gift of the Holy Ghost to be bestowed on our new brother.

While God's grace was certainly evident in Brother Joe's face on the day of his baptism, the Lord seemed to send a special portion of His Spirit on his wife, Sister Angelina. She wept with joy, seeing the culmination of years of steadfast prayer on her husband's behalf.

"I've been coming to Church often, ten years, but I wasn't sure yet," Brother Joe said later, reflecting on his conversion. "I should have done this before because when you open the Bible and read it, God makes promises. I regret I didn't do it before," he said. "Now, I feel

more comfortable. I have a place. Now my sins are forgiven, that was my doubt. When I get in my car and I know I'm coming to Church, there's victory," he said.

Brother Joe Soto, forty-three, said he is depending on the Lord now to help raise his family of four sons, ranging in age from seven to sixteen. And he's hungry to learn more about the Gospel.

He doesn't doubt his calling or commitment. The night after he called for his baptism, he had a dream. He saw two roads, one crooked, one straight. Along the crooked road, there appeared a long dead friend of his, a man given to devil worship. Brother Joe said his former friend, who appeared as a figure of fire, tried to force him on the crooked road, but Brother Joe insisted on taking the straight way. A fight ensued but when the man tried to hit Brother Joe in the stomach, he discovered that Brother Joe was a figure of water. With new power, Brother Joe extinguished the figure of fire and shouted, "Victory!" before waking up.

We know that if Brother Joe keeps on this straight way, there will be another victory as well. One day, he will have a joyous reunion with Brother Frank Verardo. We can imagine that when the two embrace, Brother Frank will say something like, "Joe, didn't I tell you that you'd have nothing to lose?" Now, Joe Soto knows.

## Memorable Weekend in Saline, MI

By Pete Oestreich

The weekend of August 26 and 27, 1995, was a memorable weekend for the Saline, Michigan Branch. Saturday morning, members and friends gathered at the Church to begin a Bike-A-Thon to raise money for an addition to their building. Nineteen participants rode four hundred and forty-four miles and raised more than \$1,700 for this

worthwhile endeavor. Brother Ralph Cartino Sr., visiting from Warren, Ohio walked four miles as well as riding a bicycle.

While this five hour spirited event was in progress, members, friends and visitors from Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, began arriving to participate in Saline's "Corn Roast," a well known tradition. Even though one had not been hosted for several years, its popularity was well known and eagerly awaited.

There was plenty of food as well as fresh roasted corn for the more than one hundred men, women and children who attended. There were volleyball games, basketball games, hay rides, dune buggy rides, children's games and many enjoyed just fellowshiping with one another.

There were many blessings the following day at the Saline Branch's morning worship service. All participated in the gleeful singing led by Jim Cotellessee, after which the Communion Table was set to *He Changed My Life Completely*. The meeting was opened with the hymn, *Soaring Over Canaan*, after which Brother Kerry Carlini, Presiding Elder, welcomed everyone, including visitors from Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Michigan-Ontario Districts. Sister Lynette Buffa was presented a Bible from Sunday School, and Alison Cotellessee discussed her recent experiences in Homestead, Florida with the Youth in Action, GMB Missionary Program.

Brother Kerry discussed the activities of the previous day and asked the question, "Were the Corn Roast and Bike-A-Thon spiritual events?" All riders were then called to the front of the auditorium to sing *Victory in Jesus*, after which all others who participated sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. Brother Kerry talked about Jesus and talents, and the meeting was left open for testimony. One message which emerged was that natural activities may become spiritual, if they are in the service of the Lord.

A prayer was then offered for the children returning to school. One

of the members had the experience, "When you give small things, I will bless you with great things," based on the testimony of Sister Tonia Davis. Brother John Buffa, in his message stated that even though we do not know who had the experience, we do know the Lord spoke to this person. Another experience was then related. Sister Salina Carlini testified that immediately before the prayer for the children was called, Stephen Buffa was overheard saying that the Ministry should pray for the students returning to school.

It was truly a memorable weekend in Saline, Michigan, filled with athletic events, fundraising, fellowship, and worship, all in the service of the Lord.

## News from Cape Coral, FL

By Sister Colleena Eutsey

On Sunday, April 30, 1995, we again felt the Lord's presence. We had Brother Sam and Sister Arlene Risola with us from the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch. We also had visiting us from the Hollywood, Florida Branch, Brother Dennis and Sister Susan Moraco and their sons, Brother Tony and Christopher.

Brother James Sheffler opened our meeting with prayer. Brother Dennis used scripture from Acts and Revelation. Christ set the example of how we should live. Sometimes the evil one gets in and tells us we do not need to do all these things exactly as Christ set them up. If we were given the job of keeping a record of our service to God for others to read in the future, would we have written that we did things exactly as Christ instructed us to do them? We need to realize that we will make mistakes in the flesh. We need to look past that and focus on how we can continue to serve God and bring others to the knowledge of God. He told us some of the experiences he heard as a

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**CAPE CORAL continued . . .**

youth in the Gospel. One experience his family had was when they had a need, a brother and sister moved into their home and helped them through their difficulties. Thirty years later, his family had a need and the saints helped them once again. The Lord is the same. We are the ones that change. We are to do a work for the Lord, to encourage one another and to set the example for our children. We need to recognize our responsibilities before the Lord and to look at our service for the Lord.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., then told us we need to stay rooted and grounded in the Gospel in order to make it to heaven.

Our testimony service followed. Sister Arlene Risola stood and told us we need to go forward because the Gospel is going forward and we need to move with it or step out of the way. When she was saying this in her testimony, Brother Ken Staley heard the voice of the Lord say to him, "Keep it," which meant for us to keep the Gospel. Our meeting ended with everyone filled with the blessings of God. We felt His Spirit in our presence.

May we as brothers and sisters continue to go forward in the Gospel and always "Keep it!" Please pray that the Lord may continue to be in all matters as we endeavor to build His house here in Cape Coral. We will continue to pray for all of you.

## Baptism in Lake Worth, FL

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

A beautiful spirit prevailed from the very moment we gathered on Sunday, September 10, 1995 at Lake Osborne, for the baptism of our new sister, Heather Rose Davis, a fifth generation of a family steadfast in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Her great grandmother, Sister Carmela Sirangelo Mazzeo (sixty-nine years in the Gospel) was there to witness the

event as Brother John D'Orazio brought Heather into the waters of regeneration. Then as we gathered at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch, Heather was confirmed by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost.

There were many visitors with us during the day. They came from Hollywood and Ft. Pierce, Florida, New Jersey and Ohio. Brother Matthew Rogolino from Brooklyn, New York addressed us with words of life. Brother Matthew stressed the importance of serving the Lord and read from the Book of Mormon, concerning the doctrine of Christ.

Our day was made complete as we each testified of the Lord's goodness in our lives and we partook of communion in remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

**APOSTLE continued . . .**

was assigned to Las Vegas, Nevada, where his second daughter, Lynn Marisa, was born on December 22, 1956.

Upon his discharge from the Air Force in April 1957, Brother Tom and Sister Marcia returned to San Diego where he continued his civil service career. He worked as a carpenter during the day, attended college at night, and saved enough money to purchase their home. It was at this period that he began his life of service to the Church. He was ordained a Deacon soon after he returned to San Diego and served as Sunday School Superintendent, MBA President and Trustee. His third daughter, Nancy Jean, was born on January 28, 1959. He was ordained a Teacher in 1963. He was ordained an Elder on May 2, 1965 by Apostle Joseph Lovalvo and was privileged to bless his son, Thomas Philip, who was born on June 30, 1965. He was ordained an Evangelist on May 17, 1970 by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

Brother Tom has been a faithful servant to the Church from the time of his baptism until the present. He has served on the Pacific Coast

District Mission Board for over thirty years and most recently had responsibility for the Church in Mexico. He served the District as a Trustee, Second Counselor, First Counselor, and as President for two terms. He also served as Chairman of the District Evangelists and was active in evangelistic work throughout the District. Brother Tom served on various General Church committees over the years, including the General Church Development Committee and the President's Planning Task Force. He was active in the evangelistic outreach at Independence, Missouri.

After thirty-eight years of civil and military service, Brother Tom retired from his natural labors in 1990. Although he retired from his natural work, his work for the Church intensified. He was elected Vice President of the General Church Quorum of Seventy Evangelists and served five years in that position. He was instrumental in the reorganization of the General Church Mission Board and served as Chairman for five years. He was elected President of the Quorum of Seventy in February 1994, an office he held until his calling as an Apostle. He has visited branches and missions of the Church throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Italy. He is planning to accompany the brothers on their second missionary trip to Poland in December 1995. Brother Tom is very dedicated to the work of the Church but he is also devoted to his family. One of his greatest delights is to get together with his children and grandchildren. He has been blessed with seven grandsons and two granddaughters, ranging in age from ten months to nineteen years. His home has always been filled with singing, laughter, and praises to God.

Brother Tom was ordained an Apostle at the General Church Conference held in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, at the World Conference Center on October 15, 1995. Prior to the ordination, Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, related several experiences concerning



Brother Tom's calling as an Apostle. One experience occurred during the Apostles' meeting in June 1995 that was conducted in Modesto, California. At this meeting, the Spirit of God fell upon Apostle Paul Palmieri. He was directed by the Spirit of God to nominate Brother Tom Liberto as an Apostle in The Church of Jesus Christ. A few months prior to Brother Tom's recommendation and ordination, a sister had a vision where she saw a crown of twelve stars on Brother Tom's head as he sat on the rostrum during a Church service.

Apostle Dominic Thomas set Brother Tom apart by washing his feet. He was then ordained by Apostle Paul Palmieri. A powerful outpouring of the Spirit was evidenced as Brother Tom was ordained. After the prayer, he was so overcome with the Spirit that he was unable to rise from his chair for quite some time. It was very moving to see him welcomed to the Quorum of Twelve by his fellow Apostles. May God bless and guide Apostle Thomas Mark Liberto as he continues to serve the Church.

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

joy." You will notice the joy was not a little, rather it was great joy.

There is great joy in serving the Lord. Captives are made free. Life takes on a different and profound dimension. One feels as though they can overcome all things. Indeed one can overcome all things through the Lord and by the Lord.

Nothing is impossible with God! He feeds the hungry soul. He makes the wounded whole. He makes the blinded eyes to see. He changes lives in an instant and not just for an instant. His change is permanent and forever!

His promises are not shallow, they are not empty. They are as true as His word. They are as sure as the Lord Himself. Remember, He promised us joy!

II Nephi 2:25 states, "*Adam fell*

*that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.*" There is joy in heaven when one sinner repents. The Kingdom of God is joy. The fruit of the Spirit is joy. The Church of Jesus Christ is joy, great joy!

There was joy at the Creation. There was great joy at the birth of Christ, at the resurrection of Christ and at the ascension of Christ. During His lifetime, Jesus Christ turned despair into hope, gloom into happiness, sadness into great and unspeakable joy.

Do you delight in the Lord? Are you happy in the Lord? Are you joyful in the Lord? Does your heart dance at the sound of His name? Is there joy in you, in your branches, in your missions the way there was in the city of Samaria after Philip preached to them? Acts 8:8 states, "*And there was great joy in that city.*" Does this same joy, this great joy exist in you today? It should because it is the same joy given by the same God.

### MBA HIGHLIGHTS continued...

and pray with him for this camp that this theme would be given to them.

Brother Paul Ciotti advised us that Jesus reigns supreme and if anyone should praise the Lord, it should be us. He said it is wonderful to see the young people desiring to "Be the One" for the Lord. Brother Paul reminded us how David stepped forward to "Be the One." We must prepare ourselves for the battle with the armor of God; linking ourselves together! We have a cause and must be about our Father's business.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri felt that the spirit was calling someone to repentance. He asked Brother Panfilo DiCenzo to sing, *It Is Well With My Soul*, after which he bore a touching testimony. Those between the ages of thirteen years and twenty-five years sang a few songs and bore their testimonies as well. Many had hands laid on them. All the elders encircled the young people and offered a special prayer for them. At one point

during the meeting, a little boy was choking on a piece of candy. Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., tried to dislodge the candy but the child continued to choke. As Brother Bob reached for the holy oil, the candy miraculously broke into pieces and shot out of the boy's mouth. We all felt the hand of God in the incident.

At the close of our meeting, Jonathan Nath asked for his baptism. It was a beautiful sight to see this young man stand before the congregation and to hear him testify of feeling the Spirit of God calling him to repentance and baptism.

We met again on the Sabbath to hear more of the wonderful words of life. I wish I could write all the words that were spoken, but I will try to reiterate a few. Brother Art Gehly, Sr., told us how he gloried in the congregation and in Jesus Christ. He thanked God for the Restored Gospel. He asked, "Is The Church of Jesus Christ united?" When the saints gather together with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, with one purpose, and with the same thoughts, they are united. If we are like minded and are yoked together by the bond of Christ, then we can "Be the One."

Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., expressed that without the blood of Jesus Christ, we cannot "Be the One." Two things will unite people. They are a common enemy and a common cause. We have both; the enemy of our souls and the cause of Jesus Christ. We need to stand up for the cause of Christ. Do we believe that "God is able?" We have nothing to offer of ourselves but a broken heart and a contrite spirit. With this, God is able to make us the one. We should be the one to plant seeds, as God is able to make them grow.

Brother Alan Metzler said we only need the desire to "Be the One" and God will do the rest. He testified of how he felt a great unity and strength as the brothers joined hands and prayed for the young people the previous evening.

There were several testimonies and thanks was given to all those who worked so hard to make the weekend a tremendous success.

## Children Blessed

David Cameron, son of David and Sister Robyn Yencsik, was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on October 29, 1995.

Alessandra Hernandez, daughter of Maria Guadalupe Barajas, was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on October 8, 1995.

Hailey Nicole Lovalvo, daughter of Tim and Tami Lovalvo, was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on October 29, 1995.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

Brother Ray Andruccioli, a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on June 23, 1995.

Sister Lucy Hemp, a member of the Anaheim, California Branch, celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on August 19, 1995.

## Baptisms

Andrea Beth Kopitz was baptized on May 28, 1995 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Canon Ciccatti of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was baptized on June 29, 1995 at Ligonier, Pennsylvania. He was baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich and confirmed by Brother Kenneth Lombardo.

Joshua Joseph Conger of the Sterling Heights,

Michigan Branch was baptized at Ligonier, Pennsylvania on June 29, 1995. He was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother John Buffa.

Maria Denise McLennan was baptized on July 16, 1995 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto.

Holly Erin Thompson was baptized on July 16, 1995 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Briditte Boccomino was baptized on July 23, 1995 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Sam DiFalco and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### IAN SIMON VELTMAN

Jan Simon Veltman of the Cottageville, South Carolina Mission, passed on to his eternal reward on October 7, 1995 at the age of seventy-nine. Left to mourn are his daughter, Juanita Frances Riley; step-daughters Leverne, Grace, Ruth and Marion; a brother Ferdy; and two sisters, Lois and Thea in The Netherlands; forty-four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### JOSEPH SHUPENKO

Joseph Shupenko of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on November 5, 1995 at the age of seventy-five. He is survived by his wife, Georgeanna Hannen; two daughters, Donna Koslasky and Anna Timko; and one son, Joseph F. Shupenko.

### LORETTA (POLLY) DEVORE

Loretta (Polly) Devore of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on November 5, 1995 at the age of seventy-one. She is survived by two daughters, Shirley Devore and Nancy Bradshaw, and one son, Elmer Devore.

### MARY KARELLI

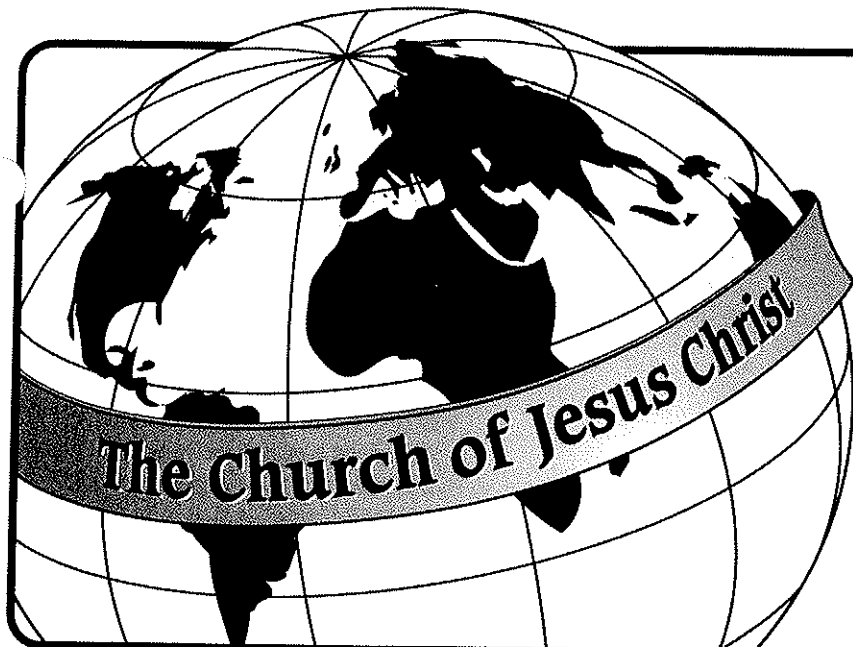
Sister Mary Karelli of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on October 3, 1995 at the age of sixty-seven. Sister Mary is survived by her husband, Brother Guy Karelli; a son, Guy Karelli, Jr.; and a grandson, Jason Karelli.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 1996

Volume 52, No. 3

## GMBA Single's Retreat 1995

*By Brother Patrick Monaghan*

On October 20-22, 1995, a group of singles gathered together in Big Prairie, Ohio for a weekend of fellowship and blessings. The retreat's theme focused on Unity, taken from Psalm 133:1 which states, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."*

Saturday morning was dedicated to seminars in which we enjoyed discussing the importance of unity. Other discussions included, how easily unity can be broken, how hard times bring people closer together (unity), the importance of trusting one another, and God's concern over the simplest details of our lives.

Later on, special seminars were held for both the young men and young women. These seminars allowed for personal, yet important discussions on issues facing singles in today's society.

During our Saturday evening service, the GMBA officers felt directed that we should have sacrament. What else could possibly give us a greater sense of unity than together partaking of the body and blood of Christ! The following is a testimony of a sister who was

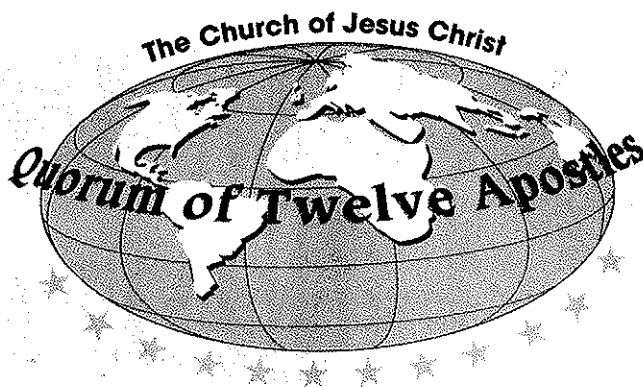
incredibly blessed during this communion service.

"During the meeting, the officers felt that we should partake in the Lord's Supper together. The table used was a squeaky, metal rolling cart. We had two plates, two unmatched tumbler glasses, a bottle of wine, some bread, and a paper towel to be shared between the Ministry. The sight was very humble, yet so beautiful. Brother Doug Obradovich asked us to remember what Christ went through for us . . . all the pain and suffering. As we knelt to pray, I began feeling God's wonderful spirit. I felt as if I were kneeling before His throne. The spirit I felt was so enveloping that my physical body was losing its strength. I was thinking, I'm so weak, how will I get up from my knees? My head stayed lowered and my arms felt so heavy. I continued to cry and feel God's love. When I saw Brother Chuck Maddox's feet, I knew I had to lift my head and reach for the bread, but I sat there and could not move. Finally, I lifted my head and saw two hands holding the communion plate. I became overwhelmed with God's spirit, and I felt as if Christ was standing before me

giving me the bread. I reached for the bread, but could not move my hand from the plate as I continued to cry. I found the strength to move my hand and eat the bread. As the wine was administered, God's spirit was still surrounding me, but it was different. I was becoming very calm and peaceful . . . very serene. It was a wonderful feeling and the tears fell softly off my face. After the meeting, a sister expressed to me it was as if Christ was standing before me, giving me the bread. This confirmed my feelings. Brother Chuck likewise said he felt a strong power come over him when he stood before me, something he had never felt before."

On Sunday, as I testified of this experience, a brother stood and said he was asking to see Jesus the night before, but if not him, then someone. Another confirmation. We again enjoyed the Lord's Supper together and Brother Chuck happened to pass me the bread again. When he stood before me, I saw his hands holding the plate. Something was odd. When he passed, the story of the Brother of Jared came to my mind; how he saw the Lord. That night I was relating my experience to someone. When I came to the part where I saw the hands holding the plate, I realized why I felt odd earlier that day. The hands I saw on Saturday

(Continued on Page 11)



## The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART III

We, as Gentiles must assume our role as the catalyst of this great work, that of bringing God's people, the house of Israel, home. It is conceivable then that if the work has already commenced, as has already been pointed out through the Scriptures, that we could possibly be found guilty of neglect of duty and as such we could come under the



Apostle Robert A. Watson

wrath of God.

This has been told to the Church on different occasions, one of which was as follows: "resolve that we do not con-

sider ourselves safe in not making more efforts than we have in the past in the spreading of the Gospel. And, that each elder put forth greater efforts in the future. It was further resolved that we should not consider it safe if greater efforts are not put forth in carrying the Gospel to the Indians." (Communications from the Lucyville Branch, July 1900, to the General Church).

Therefore, the current American Missions Operating Committee is presently working on ways and means to reach all Native American people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Much has been done in reaching urban Native Americans located in almost every large city in the United States. Much more must be done in this area. We have work presently being done on Native American reservations with missionaries working at Muncey and the Six Nations Reserves in Canada. In the United States, we have missionaries serving at San Carlos and Pine Top (White Mountain Apache) in Arizona as well as at Tse Bonito, New Mexico within the lands of the Navajo Nation which is the largest of all Tribes in the United States. The Church also has a very productive work in Mexico. The need remains, however, to place missionaries on more reservations hoping in

time to cover every known Indian (Native American) Nation.

Along with the need to send out missionaries, the need exists to educate ourselves to become culturally aware of the Native American with respect to their history, customs, languages and many other aspects which make them unique and different yet not deficient. The Book of Mormon is a beginning point. Many references are available which help us to develop a complete picture of the Native American today.

Possibly the greatest error now recognized by many among this nation, especially churches, was to categorize everything about the Native American as heathen and of satanic influence and origin. We should know that a perspective of finding great truth and value within the Native American cultures is more accurate since it will be from this basis that they will identify "a familiar spirit" in the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must encourage the Native American youth, especially, to seek to understand their culture and language by interacting with those who have the knowledge of the beliefs of each Indian Nation.

During the twenty years that members of The Church of Jesus Christ have been among the Navajo Nation, they have learned selected insights from many different Navajos concerning the association of traditional Navajo history and the events of the Bible. The Navajo history speaks of the following examples of events we would closely relate to the unique History of Israel: Creation of heavens, earth, plants and animals followed by First Man and First Woman; the salvation of a family with pairs of all of the animals from a great flood due to a failure of the people to follow the laws of the dieties; the conquest of a great giant by a brave young man who slays the giant and cuts off his head; the virgin birth of a boy; the bondage of their people thousands of years ago; specific vocabulary and practices similar to those found in the Law of Moses and Israel; and finally, a great

time of peace to come following the collapse of this epoch of time due to the erosion of the family and society. These are but a few of the striking examples of the richness of the culture which have been ignored at best, and suppressed as heathen, at worst. Other Indian nations have similar examples as cited above which have been documented. We should join with them to search their knowledge to find evidences which will bring to fulfillment "the familiar spirit."

Analysis of efforts to bring Christianity to the Native American by many churches reveals that possibly ten percent now may be attending a church that is "Christian." Most Christian churches, including those pastored by Native American ministers, continue an attempt to not only promote the "washing of sin" but also the cleansing of their cultures. This is a major objection of many Native Americans. Another major objection by the ninety percent not embracing Christianity centers upon the notion that this is a White Man's Religion. The Book of Mormon

now becomes of inestimable value to inform the Native American that this was their "Native Religion" long before the Europeans were blessed with the Gospel in the Apostolic Church of the first century. The Church of Jesus Christ has a unique opportunity to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner not utilized by any others. The focus of the message to the Native American as to all peoples throughout this world, however, remains a message articulated clearly by Nephi over 2,600 years ago: "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do. And, notwithstanding we believe in Christ, we keep the law of Moses, and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ, until the law shall be fulfilled. For, for this end was the law given; wherefore the law hath become dead unto us, and we are **made alive in Christ because of our faith . . .**" (2 Nephi 25:23-25) (emphasis added).

I urge every person who intends

to seek more information about this great challenge to do so with fervent prayer that God will fit you into this great work. Yes, we do need many more missionaries and for those of you who do not feel this calling, please stand firmly behind this work in your support and prayers.

Remember, the gathering of Israel is the forerunner to peace for this whole world. Sir Isaac Newton said, "About the time of the end in all probability a body of men will rise up, who will turn their attention to the prophecies and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition." (Totten-Our Race News Leaflet #90)

A modern Indian leader advised our church of the following: "When you are ready, I will take you to Indians that you don't know exist."

The waiting period is over. The time to act is now. I place this burden to act upon the conscience of everyone who has embraced the concept of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Support this mission to God's covenant people, the Native American, today.



## Southeast Area MBA Marriage Enrichment Weekend

On Friday, September 1, 1995, couples from all over Florida gathered at the Holiday Inn in Winter Park, Florida anticipating a wonderful weekend of relaxation, of renewal and most of all, a weekend of fellowship with other couples as well as our spouses.

Our seminar was led by Brother Ron Genaro and his wife Sister Cathy from Ohio. In our seminar, we talked about the basic principles for a good marriage. What it takes

to help you to succeed by communicating effectively, differences between men and women, intimacy, expectations, submission on both parts, and four essential elements every relationship needs to succeed and grow. So put all that together with the Word of God and you have the beginning of a wonderful weekend. After spending our day in seminar, everyone came together in the meeting room for a candlelight dinner. Afterwards we enjoyed playing the Newly and Not so Newly Wed Game. Needless to say, every couple was a winner!

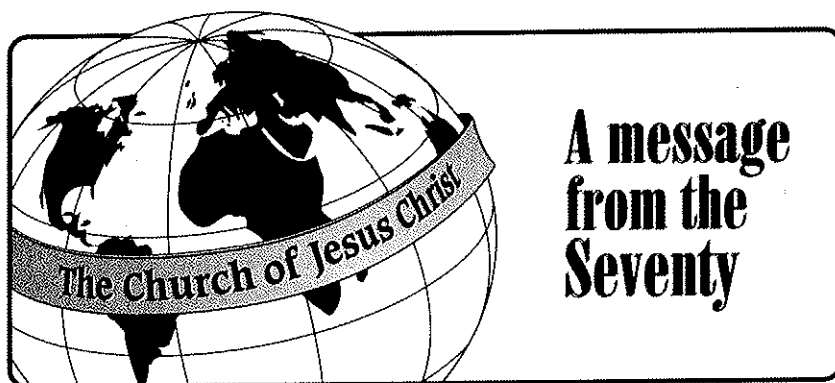
Our Sunday Service was opened with a beautiful spirit of singing. We sang, *It Is Well With My Soul* while our deaconess set the table. Many scriptures were brought forth by Brothers Phil Benyola, Ron Genaro, John Gray and Ike Smith regarding the union of marriage, faith, hope and charity; charity being

the greatest gift of all. It is love that brought us together, love that keeps us together and in the end, saves our souls. So let us ready our vessels as husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Let us allow ourselves to be the clay in the Master's hand, to be shaped and molded into worthy servants, and to maintain that which our Heavenly Father has given us.

The greatest love story of all is found in the human family. He gave His Only Begotten Son so that we may have life. Like a builder of a house, prepare, do not spare the cost or cut corners and maintain both naturally and spiritually. The closer we draw nigh unto God, the more is added unto us.

We had a season of testimony and sacrament was passed. Brother Paul DiNardo, our Area MBA

(Continued on Page 6)



## 1995 Last Quarter Trips

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Following are summaries of reported trips taken the last quarter of 1995. Three were to established missionary fields in Guatemala, Mexico and Italy and two were to potentially new areas in Peru and Poland. The Lord protected the travelers and manifested Himself during these visits.

### PERU

The journey to Peru was made the latter part of October by Brother Richard and Sister Pat Christman and Brother Luis Marroquin. They renewed all acquaintances that had been made on an introductory trip taken in January 1995 by the Christmans, along with Brother William and Sister Cindy Prentice and Brother Miquel Bicelis. They were also able to introduce the Gospel to some additional people this time.

The cities visited were Lima and Arequipa. Sincere inquiries were received about the Church's becoming established in that nation. As a result, organizational requirements and possibilities are being analyzed.

There is also an opportunity to visit the Puno-Santa Rosa area as the guests of a landowner who has been very interested in talking to our people. Plans are being made to go there the next time.

Brother Marroquin, who is the missionary in charge of Guatemala, served as the interpreter. Interestingly, the majority of the young

people who were met were in the 20-30 age group and were also English speaking.

### GUATEMALA

Brothers Dennis Moraco and Ken Staley and Sisters Cindy Prentice and Judy Salerno (Guatemala committee members) traveled there in mid-November. The Brothers were in Guatemala November 16-20 and the Sisters visited from November 17-25.

They reported that the Spirit of God was felt and that the gifts were manifested. Also, some candidates asked to be baptized.

Singing of praises to and the

relating of God's blessings were very edifying, as the saints expressed their enthusiasm for the Gospel in music and in testimony.

### SAN ISIDRO CHURCH DEDICATION

The trip to Mexico was made because of the dedication of the new church building in San Isidro, the weekend of December 2-3.

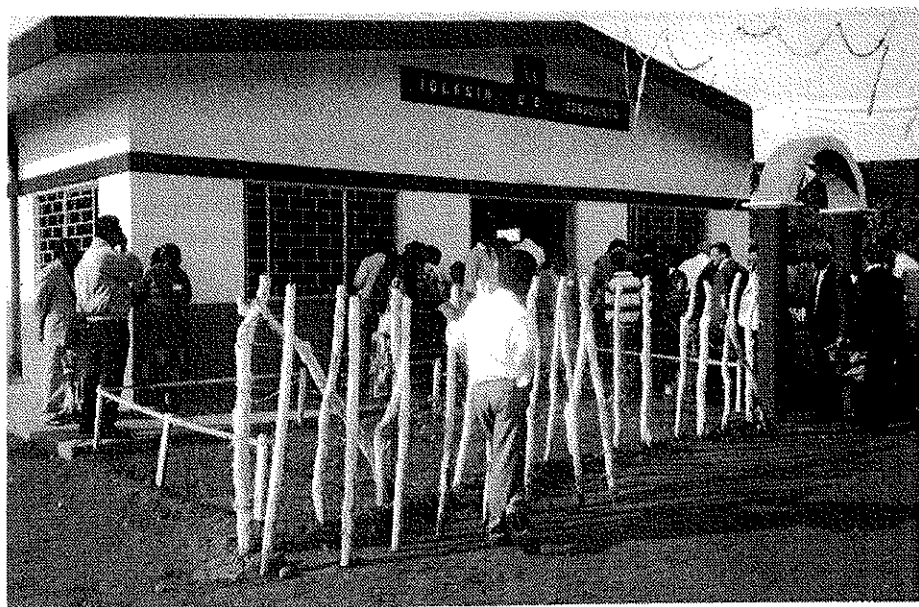
Some extremely uplifting services were reported. Approximately two hundred people were in attendance for meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

A wide variety of songs were sung by the Mexican missions, bringing a wonderful spirit into the services. Children and adults participated.

Many of the other Mexican missions were represented, as were locations from the parent Church, who were introduced on Saturday. Among them were members of the General Church and Pacific Coast Boards of Trustee, various Regional Operating Committees and other visitors from other places.

The dedicatory prayer was offered by Brother Thomas Liberto. A new Bible was presented to the mission by the General Church

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**The new church building in San Isidro, Mexico.**



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Would you like to live forever? Would you like to live in a mansion? Would you like a place that is out of this world? This is not impossible. It is possible, it is very real.

What you have to do is render obedience to Jesus Christ, His commandments and doctrine. This is what was said and taught by Jesus Christ. He is the truth. He cannot lie!

Can serving the Lord be a struggle? Yes. Can serving the Lord be difficult at times? Yes. Is it worth the struggle, the difficulties to serve the Lord? Does it have any rewards? Absolutely yes!

Once you die, is it over? Absolutely not! If we live a righteous life, our passing is not in vain, it is not eternal death. It is exactly the opposite. It is a sleep, a time of waiting for the resurrection as promised by our Lord. Our passing, our sickness is not unto death but unto eternal happiness, eternal life for the glory of God and Jesus Christ.

In John 11:25-26, Jesus told Martha, Lazarus' sister, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*

When Lazarus died, Jesus said he was "sleeping." The Lord did not say he was dead forever, with no hope to overcome the grave. Jesus Christ told His disciples that he was going to wake him out of his "sleep."

Jesus Christ overcame every manner of sickness. There was no illness He could not heal or overcome. He was the Creator, the Great Physician. Surely, He could overcome the power of the grave.

Did He overcome the grave? The Holy Scriptures teach us He resurrected on the third day. He overpowered the sting and power of the grave. He overcame death that had no end.

There were hundreds of witnesses that the Lord did resurrect. In 1 Corinthians 15, we read that the Lord was seen by five hundred brethren at once. He was seen by Cephas, by James, by Paul, by the disciples. He was seen by all the Apostles. With all these witnesses, how can anyone deny the power, the resurrection and very being of Jesus Christ?

His mercy and compassion gives everyone an opportunity to do the same thing. There are requirements to obtain an endless life of happiness, eternal life with Jesus Christ. We must do what the Lord taught. We must have faith, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. We must keep His commandments and doctrine. We must endure to the end. There are no exceptions! There is no other way, there is no other truth, there is no other life! Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

When you do these things, consider the reward. Kindly remember when the Lord overcame the grave, others resurrected with Him. Matthew 27:52-53 states, *"And the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."*

Can you imagine the scene in Jerusalem as these resurrected people walked the streets? Can you imagine the reaction of their friends, their neighbors and families? Can you imagine the conversations, the tears of joy, the shock that those that were dead were now alive? What a reunion! What a homecoming! What a blessing! Unbelievable? No, very believable!

The Scriptures teach us that when we resurrect, not even a hair from our head will be

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed someone in charge of something at school and felt jealous? Did you ever listen to a friend sing, or act in a play, or work as a crossing guard and wish it was you getting the attention and praise? Have you ever wished everyone would sit up and notice you and listen with admiration only to you?

This is our human nature, the part of us that comes from the spirit of man. But Jesus taught a better way. He actually told His followers to serve others instead of having them serve you. He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." He said, "If someone requires you [forces you] to walk one mile to carry their burdens, walk two miles."

In the days when Rome ruled the world, Roman citizens had more privileges and power over other people. A Roman soldier could force anyone to carry his heavy metal armour, shield, backpack or helmet anytime he chose. In those days there were no cars, it was hot, many people had very little rights. If you didn't pay your bills, you could be sold as a slave.

When a husband died, if there were a lot of debts (bills) left owing, the law stated that your children could also be sold as slaves and that money could be given to pay back debts. There were many families torn apart in this way.

Jesus taught the people a new



your "treasure box." You'll never regret it.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

LAY	HE
UP	SEES
YOUR	ALL
TREASURES	WE
IN	DO
HEAVEN	GOD
WHERE	WILL
MOTH	REWARD
NOR	YOU
RUST	OPENLY
DOTH	HELP
CORRUPT	OTHERS
RUIN	CARE

L	P	A	O	T	H	E	R	S
L	L	L	W	G	O	D	E	E
I	E	L	Y	O	U	R	W	E
W	H	E	R	E	U	U	A	S
Y	T	E	P	S	P	I	R	Y
O	O	L	A	Y	O	N	D	L
U	M	E	G	V	D	R	E	N
R	R	U	S	T	E	O	R	E
T	D	O	T	H	W	N	A	P
C	O	R	R	U	P	T	C	O

way. He taught them in the Lord's Prayer to ask God for Him to forgive us our debts (mistakes) as we forgive others for theirs. This is still the way God works.

Whatever kindness or goodness you show counts. It changes you and strengthens you. When you do it in secret, God knows. Inside of you, you know too. A generous action on your part begins to change who you are.

In some miraculous way, a sinner can be forgiven, a hard heart can be touched, and a treasure can be stored in heaven. Every good thing, especially those you do without being praised or noticed, is counted for you and laid up in heaven like a treasure. Jesus said, "Whatever [good] you do, do it in secret and it shall be counted for you because God will reward you openly." If everybody already knows and has praised you, then you already have your reward.

So, when someone else is doing that flashy thing and looking important, don't feel left out. Quietly look around and ask God where you can help. He will show you. You can be His hands and feet. You can reach out with love to pat the arm of someone suffering, or to stick up for someone getting criticized. You can carry someone's burdens and not tell anyone.

You can be noticed where it counts, in the eyes of the Lord. You are never too young or too old to start filling your heavenly treasure box. These "good deeds" done in secret are powerful ways to let the love of Jesus flow through you. Think of some way today to add to

### MBA continued . . .

President spoke a few words prior to closing our meeting and weekend. Thanks were extended to all the officers, their wives and to the many others who made the weekend possible.

In closing, it is very difficult to put into words just how beautiful this weekend was for all who attended. The depth of our seminar and fellowship with each other, both naturally and spiritually, cannot compare to the bits and pieces that this world has to offer. May God bless you all.



## Our Women Today

### General Conference Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Karen L. Progar

The October 14, 1995 General Circle Conference was begun by singing, *He Keeps Me Singing*. Sister Cheryl Lavella opened our meeting with prayer and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President, chose Luke 12:48 as her scripture reading. President Arline Whitton then reminded us that we are all able to do more for the Lord and that there is much excitement in serving Him. She stated that people should note that there is something different about us and that we all have our own special way of serving Him.

After Sister Arline's rousing address, Sister Mary Perri told of her service to the Lord in foreign missionary fields. She gave a riveting account of her travels, stressing that the blessings greatly outweighed the hardships.

A report of the Dallas General Circle Retreat was the next order of business. Anyone wishing to purchase video tapes of the retreat, at a price of \$35.00 should see their local

secretary for order blanks. The possibility of another such retreat is being discussed for 1998.

The Circle Card Sender, Sister Pierina DiFalco, reported sending out seventy-three cards in the past year. What a blessing it is to those who are ill or who have suffered a loss to receive such an outpouring of love from the sisters.

The Circle, through its fund-raising efforts was able to donate \$541.00 to each of the following works: India, Italy, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and the General Church Missionary Foundation. In addition, \$1,758.22 was donated to the General Church Indian Mission Fund. The new special project will go toward raising money for motor bikes in Kenya.

All officers were re-elected, with the exception of secretary. Sister Dana Buffington was chosen as the new Circle Secretary. The General Circle wishes to acknowledge the many years of service by Sister Lucetta Scaglione who gave up the office at this conference. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless her and reward her for all her efforts.

Sister Lynette Huttenberger gave an inspiring lecture in our afternoon service on the subject of fear and how the Circle and the sisters of the Circle can help us overcome our fears and enable us to grow spiritually. Sister Iva Fedorka sang, *In This Very Room*, which was the theme song of

the General Circle Retreat. The balance of the afternoon was spent in testimony, glorifying God.

### General Ladies' Uplift Circle FYI Update

SUBJECT:  
General Ladies' Uplift  
Circle Conference

DATE:  
Saturday, April 27, 1996

TIME:  
10:00 a.m.

PLACE:  
Detroit Branch #3  
12500 Plumbrook  
Sterling Heights, MI  
Phone (810) 264-1990

Anyone needing accommodations please contact the following sisters

Lydia Furnari  
2615 Skylark  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Phone (810) 853-5694

Judy Coppa  
13126 Beresford  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
Phone (810) 739-1579



## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism in Monongahela, PA

By Sister LuAnn Carson

On September 16, 1995, at the Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout, a young man stood in front of a crowd of people to proclaim his desire to

"Be the One." Brother Jonathan Nath was baptized the next day in the Monongahela River by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr.

Immediately following the baptism, we convened at the Monongahela Branch for an outpouring of God's wonderful spirit. The meeting was opened by Brother Richard Scaglione, who read from II Nephi, chapter 31. He exhorted us that if the Lamb of God had need of baptism, how much more we need to be baptized. After baptism, "Ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ . . . and endure to the

end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life . . . This is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine."

Brother Rich spoke concerning the Holy Ghost which the Priesthood has been given authority to bestow upon any convert. To Jonathan, Brother Scaglione advised to always remember the spirit felt this day. Never forget the commitment of this special calling.

Brother Alexander Cherry laid hands on Brother Jonathan for the

(Continued on Page 8)

**MONONGAHELA continued . . .**

bestowal of the Holy Ghost, after which our new brother bore his testimony.

The meeting was then opened for a beautiful season of testimonies during which God's spirit was felt by all in attendance. We praise God for the blessings we felt throughout the weekend and pray that the Lord will bless our young brother in his service to God.

## Excitement in Hollywood, FL

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

Sunday, August 20, 1995, began with God's blessings. We were full of anticipation as our wonderful friend, Kowsil (Katie) Cintron was to be baptized. Tears of love, joy and excitement filled Katie's eyes as she was asked, "Do you promise to serve God all the days of your life?" Baptism is such a beautiful ordinance!

Brother Dennis Moraco took Katie into the water and raised his right hand and spoke these words, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." Then he immersed her into the waters of life. From the mouth of babes was said, "Gone, gone, gone, all her sins are gone!" This was said by one of our little children that was attending the baptism. Praise God for the tears of joy that flowed from all of our eyes. We then returned to God's house for our service.

Sister Linda D'Orazio set the Lord's table as we sang, *For Those Tears*. The Spirit of God gives such a great feeling. How can people say there is no God?

Brother Paul DiNardo opened our meeting with prayer. Brother Dennis Moraco spoke on the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Sister Barbara DiNardo then sang, *A New Name in Glory*.

Our brothers knelt, and

Brother John D'Orazio asked for God to direct the one who was to confirm Sister Katie. Brother Paul DiNardo confirmed our new sister.

The Spirit of God filled us all as we sang, *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place*. Sister Pam Benyola sang, *We Believe in God*. Brother John D'Orazio then spoke, "What does God want from us? Jesus was even baptized by John the Baptist. How much more should we be baptized? What results from baptism? According to II Corinthians 5:17, the remission of sins. Romans, 6th chapter tells us that God can even change a heart that is hard. He can soften any heart. What is our responsibility as a brother or sister? To never go back to our old life, be a light wherever we are. We should strive to be as Christlike as possible." We then sang, *No One Ever Cared for Me, Like Jesus*.

Brother Paul spoke about how we should testify to others how much we need Jesus to carry us through our trials and our lives. Those who have not been baptized need to get serious, think, pray and be fervent in seeking after Jesus Christ. We all need to say, "I Do" and want to serve Jesus Christ for the remaining days of our lives.

We had a wonderful, uplifting testimony service and enjoyed the communion of the Lord. Our service was closed with prayer by Brother John Catone.

## PA District and Elkins WV Mission Third Annual Fellowship Weekend

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

Many brothers, sisters and friends gathered together on Saturday, August 27, 1995 at the Elkins Park for a day of festivities. During the afternoon, both the adults and the children played games and especially enjoyed receiving the prizes. After a delicious dinner, everyone assembled around the electric piano that was

provided by the Pennsylvania MBA. We can truly say that the entire park resounded with the beautiful hymns sung by the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ. Intermingled with the music were testimonies that made our hearts rejoice! As dusk settled in, it was with reluctance that we gathered our belongings and headed for our motels.

On Sunday morning, everyone met at the Days Inn for our Sabbath worship service. Several special selections were sung and Brother Rich Lowther opened the meeting with prayer. Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sang, *How Great Thou Art*.

Brother Allan Metzler from Ohio was our first speaker. He read several scriptures and advised us that we must have a vision. God has a great work for us, but we need to ask our Lord what He wants us to do. He will make it happen. All we need is the desire and to let Him use us.

After the McKees Rocks group sang *Just For Me*, Brother Alex Cherry spoke to us. He said it was important that we understand what God has done for us, that we might pay Him back a small portion. We must labor for Him. We are His children called to serve Him. What we do with our lives shows God how much we love Him.

Apostle Joseph Bittinger asked, "How many of us can say it is well with my soul?" Brother Joe testified that he felt it was well with his soul. We should all be concerned about our souls. Satan can buffet us but if it is well with our souls, we can still sing praises to God. God will not force us. If we are going to save our souls, it will be because of our desire.

Brother Matthew Rogolino, from the Atlantic Coast, advised us that if we desire to know the truth, we must search for it. We need to have the heart of God, then He will use us. Grab hold of the Church and we will have it all.

Brother Joe Giannetti sang, *Blessed Assurance* and Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri asked us if we have this "Blessed Assurance?" Brother Paul felt the spirit of repentance in

our midst. This is the vision the Lord has for us. He read in III Nephi that the Lord wants a broken heart and a contrite spirit from those who are not baptized. That whosoever comes as a little child, He will save from their sins. Filled with the Spirit of God, Brother Paul exhorted those who had not made a covenant that they must repent! This Church will bring people home, back to Jesus Christ, if we come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Brother Paul pleaded, "Repent for God is here!"

Brother Bill Colangelo said there are those who need to repent because their souls are in great trouble. Those who are not serving Jesus Christ are in bondage. Let God put you on a higher plain of righteousness.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. told us that we need a starting point because nothing can take effect in our lives until then. This starting point is faith, repentance and baptism.

We sang, *Because He Lives* and Brother Ralph Ciotti closed with prayer. Our brothers spoke many more words that cannot be contained in this article. If it were only possible to capture the spirit that prevailed in our meeting on paper, how wonderful that would be!

## Good News from Sterling Heights, MI

*By Sister Anita Znory*

Sunday, October 1, 1995, had many blessings for all of us. We started out with an early morning prayer meeting. We prayed not only for Brother David Haley's ordination into the office of deacon but also for the many visitors we would have that day. We also prayed for the three children to be blessed in the Church. The Lord answered our prayers that day with more than we could contain.

We had a lively discussion in our Sunday School about the belief in Jesus' Church. We concluded that all we need is a particle of faith and a

desire to believe and we shall come to the belief that The Church of Jesus Christ is His Church.

Brother Sam DiFalco opened our meeting that morning expounding on the importance of blessing and dedicating our children to the Lord, not baptizing them. He was then able to pray for his newest nephew, Jeffery Michael Van Beuhler. Brother Dave Haley's two nephews, Nathaniel and Ryan Vowell were also blessed by the ministry.

Brother John Straccia then took over the meeting using Acts 6:1-8. He spoke about the deacons being charged with the care of the physical comfort of the congregation and care of the church building. In I Timothy 3:8 it tells us a "deacon must be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre." The word deacon comes from the Greek word "diaconus" meaning an attendant, waiter or a servant of the Church. They must do more than care for the physical needs of the Church. He must visit the sick, help care for the poor and needy, pray for those in need and work in conjunction with the ministry.

Brother Dave had his feet washed by Brother Frank DiDonato who testified of his joy in having a new deacon to help with the work in the branch. Brother Dave spoke in the gift of tongues afterwards. Brother Lou Vitto ordained him and he also spoke in tongues during his prayer. Brother John had the interpretation. He said the building got very quiet and he heard a voice say to him, "I have called my servant even before he was born and the cloud of my glory shall be upon him." Brother John was given an understanding that the glory of God was as it was in His temple.

There were several sisters who got up and testified to confirm the spirit of the Lord. They knew that Brother Frank was going to wash Brother Dave's feet and that Brother Lou was going to ordain him. One sister stated that she saw a light going around the Elders as they stood around our brother. The light

traveled around the circle and stopped above Brother Lou Vitto.

We had some visitors who were there for the first time and Brother Sam DiFalco felt compelled by God to get up while the bread was being broken. He told them that those who did not understand what happened today should go to God in mighty prayer to ask for an explanation.

We had many blessings on this day and throughout the summer of 1995. We have six new names to put into the Lamb's Book of Life. This helps make us stronger. God bless you all.

## Apostles Meeting in Modesto, CA

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

The blessings we received when the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ visited our branch during Father's Day weekend were many. Because Brother Joseph Lovalvo was unable to travel for their meeting after his heart attack, the Apostles came here to meet together. After preparing dinner for the Apostles, a group of us found ourselves in a spontaneous prayer and testimony meeting on Saturday night. The Spirit of God guided Brother Dominic Thomas as he asked a few of the brothers and sisters to express themselves. God's sweet spirit filled the room, as many testified and asked for anointing. One brother who had been very discouraged for a very long time even received a release from the heavy burden he had carried. He received his release that very night.

The following morning was Father's Day, and the Modesto Ladies' Uplift Circle prepared a delicious buffet breakfast in honor of our branch's fathers and the Apostles of the Church. Afterwards, we began our Church service. There was such a blessing in our hearts as we prepared to begin the meeting.

Brother Dominic Thomas prayed

**(Continued on Page 10)**

**MODESTO, CA continued . . .**

for Brother Joe Lovalvo since he was scheduled for a test on his heart the following week. Brother Dominic reflected on the great loss it would be spiritually, if anything were to happen to Brother Joe. He also acknowledged the tremendous contributions made by Brother Joe throughout all of his years in the Church. He asked us for prayers for all of the Apostles. As outlined in the Scriptures, the responsibilities of the Twelve are: to give themselves continually to prayer for the welfare of every member, missionary, and auxiliary of the Church; and to be full of love and patience towards all. He also reminded us that the strength of the Church is in the branches and that the Church is under attack by Satan. We must be vigilant to resist the temptations whereby Satan seeks to destroy us in our branches. The Apostles are our spiritual fathers and we can receive spiritual comfort from them. There was a beautiful glow around Brother Dominic which was seen by some of our members. A beautiful spirit was felt as Brother Dominic exhorted us to love our children, get hungry for the blessings of God, defend our Church and pray for the Apostles.

A sister, Christina Vinsick, had been praying on the previous Tuesday because she had such a desire to set the sacrament table for the Sunday meeting with the Apostles. She asked the Lord for an experience. She requested that Sister Jean Ciarolla, our Presiding Deaconess, would call her and ask her to set the table, if it was God's will. On Thursday, Sister Jean called Christina to tell her that she had felt all week to ask Christina to set the sacrament table on Sunday. This was the first confirmation.

Sister Christina set the table for our Lord's Supper. As she was setting it, Brother Russell Cadman whispered to Brother Joseph Lovalvo. Later Brother Russell related to us as a branch what he had told Brother Joe. Brother Russell stated that, in all the years he had

witnessed the setting of the Lord's Supper, he had never felt such a beautiful spirit and that the Lord was present in our midst. It was overwhelming to our brother! This was a certain confirmation of the experience our sister had during the week. We praise God for His goodness.

This was truly an historic weekend at the Modesto, California Branch to have such a large group of Apostles in our midst and one in which the blessings never stopped pouring over us. We appreciate the rare opportunity to be present with so many of God's Apostles at one time and welcome them to visit us again soon!

**Baptisms in Metuchen, NJ**

Since the 1995 GMBA Campout, the Metuchen Branch has been blessed with two new members. On July 2, 1995, Alyssa Joy Davey was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by her grandfather, Brother Anthony J. Vadasz and confirmed by Brother Sam Risola, who was visiting us from the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch. Sister Alyssa asked for her baptism at the GMBA Campout during her seminar group in which six other young people from around the Church gave their lives to Christ. We met at the waters edge that morning at 9:00 a.m. with many brothers and sisters from the surrounding branches, to witness Alyssa's baptism. From the river we gathered at the Metuchen Branch in order for our newly-baptized sister to receive the Holy Ghost. Our meeting was richly blessed and from that day on we watched the Lord work with another young person in our branch.

Thomas Goode, the husband of Sister Terry Goode (formerly Vadasz), gave his life over to the Lord on October 8, 1995. He was baptized by his father-in-law, Brother Anthony J. Vadasz and confirmed by Brother Phillip Arcuri. At GMBA Campout, Sister Terry expressed in her seminar group to have prayer in order for her to be an example to her husband and to be able to share this

beautiful Gospel with him. From that day on the Lord began His work giving Brother Tom many experiences before he asked for his baptism. Here is a portion of one of his experiences that took place on July 1, 1995, the night before Sister Alyssa's baptism. Brother Tom had a dream where he was reliving a scene that had taken place earlier in the day. During this dream, he was having a disagreement with his wife about driving his car after a little accident had occurred, and when he went to get into his car, someone stopped him and said these words, "Don't you think it's about time you let me do the driving?" From then on we knew that it was just a matter of time before the Lord would call him. On September 28, 1995, the Lord gave him another experience to finally give Tom enough strength to ask for his baptism. The Lord touched his heart on that day and he realized that all things can be accomplished as long as the Lord is in the matter.

On October 8, 1995, we met at the waters edge and once again we were blessed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since that day, Sister Terry and Brother Tom's lives have been changed knowing that now they serve the Lord together as one. We thank the Lord for all He has done for us and we look forward to His blessings every day. May the Lord continue to bless all of us as we strive to serve the Lord to the best of our abilities in order for the Gospel to move forward and to strive for our eternal reward.

**An Experience in Ft. Pierce, FL**

*By Sister Marilyn Carradi*

Sunday, October 22, 1995, was a beautiful day in Fort Pierce, Florida. We enjoyed a wonderful day in the Spirit of the Lord.

Our meeting was led by the Holy Spirit, right from Sunday School until the end of our Sunday Service. Brother Ron Carradi was



truly inspired to speak on a beautiful passage from the Gospel of John, chapter 12:24. He spoke about likening the "corn of wheat" to ourselves, our flesh has to die so that we can bear fruit as Christ had to die so The Church of Jesus Christ could be born.

As I listened, the Lord was kind enough to show me a Personage standing by our brothers, dressed in pure gold. This Personage appeared five different times throughout the entire service. During the anointing of Sister Mary Cason's natural sister, I saw angels encircling the Elders and another Personage in pure white standing between Brothers Frank Rogolino (who was praying) and Ron Carradi. I know this Personage was the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Ross, Donald and Joyce  
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Vancik, Sara  
1104 Lawton St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063  
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## SINGLE'S RETREAT continued...

night were pure and unblemished. Sunday morning, I noticed Brother Chuck's hands had freckles on them. I knew I had seen the hands of Christ. Why me, I asked? It's truly not because I'm worthy. The Lord is overly gracious, and I cannot thank Him enough for such love.

As this wonderful testimony portrays, we had a remarkable weekend together in Unity. *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another . . . and above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness"* (Colossians 4:12-14).

## MESSAGE continued . . .

Trustees and a new Book of Mormon was given by the Pacific Coast Region's District Missionary Operating Committee.

Everyone was satisfied with the completed building, which should provide the saints in San Isidro with much comfort for years to come.

## ITALY-POLAND

The Italy-Poland visit took place in mid-December as Brothers Thomas Liberto and John DiBattista went to Italy initially and joined Brothers Paul Palmieri and Philip Jackson who had traveled directly to Poland.

In Italy, the Brothers spent time with Brother Rosario Scragliari, the Italian Minister in charge. They went over the Italian work and made provisions for him to travel there by helping him to procure a vehicle. They also planned the agenda for when he comes to America later this year.

In Poland, the Brothers met with

individuals who have been very desirous of knowing more about the Church and of eventually becoming members. They spent valuable time with them in fellowship and in explaining the Church's beliefs, faith, and doctrine. Amazingly, everyone in the group is under 30 years of age, following the trend of some younger people being more interested in the Church. As in Peru, direction is being sought through prayer.

Brother Detlev Bucks, recently baptized, journeyed from Germany to be with the Brothers in Poland also.

## EDITORIAL continued . . .

missing. There will be no scars, no broken bones, no missing limbs, no evidence of any illness. We will be perfect!

Abinadi's incorruption showed no evidence that he was burned at the stake. Others that were sawn asunder did not resurrect in pieces, they were whole! Those that were stoned had no bruises or marks on their bodies. Those that were slain by the sword had no scars. Everyone who resurrected at the time of Jesus Christ, the prophets of old and saints, had no blemishes or signs of their sufferings. They were spotless!

The resurrection is so important to the saints of God. The Lord had to admonish Nephi because he did not originally include the resurrection in his writings. At the Lord's encouragement, Nephi included them in his writings.

What is the resurrection of the dead? What is the resurrection of those that are "sleeping." The resurrection of the dead; it is sown in corruption but raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor but raised in glory. It is sown in weakness but raised in power. It is sown a natural body but raised a spiritual body.

Our natural bodies eventually succumb to diseases and afflictions of the flesh. The beauty is our souls never die! Our souls live forever, for all eternity! There is no end, just the beginning.

(Continued on Page 12)

\* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Floyd Rossi and Maureen Philips were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November 28, 1995 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Beth Kaylin Carneval and Timothy Roy Eckhardt were united in holy matrimony in Fresno, California on May 20, 1995.

Sister Darlene Benyola and Brother David Lovalvo of Branch #2 in Allen Park, Michigan were united in marriage on August 12, 1995.

Children Blessed

Melinda Sue Rossetti, daughter of Christina and Kevin Rowley, was blessed on August 10, 1995 in the home of her grandmother, Sister Goldie Hixon of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Anna Raffaella Carlini, daughter of Kerry and Isolina Carlini, was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on November 26, 1995.

Christian Alexander Hoffer, son of Fran and Rich Hoffer, was recently blessed in Branch #4, Detroit, Michigan.

Regina Jennie Burns, daughter of Michele and Jim Burns, was blessed in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch on November 12, 1995.

Emma Francis Parravano, daughter of Andrew and Tanya Parravano, was blessed in Branch #2, Allen Park, Michigan on September 3, 1995.

Baptism

Kerri Beth King was baptized on August 27, 1995 at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Robert Nicklow and confirmed by Apostle Joseph Bittinger.

OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

NORMAN SENECA

Brother Norman Seneca of the Inner City Branch in Detroit, Michigan passed on to his eternal reward on November 7, 1995. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by two brothers, two children, and three grandchildren.

JULIUS KOVACS

Brother Julius Kovacs of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, passed away to his heavenly reward on October 15, 1995. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Julius is survived by his wife, Sister Helen; one son, James; one daughter, Ruth; and one brother, John Kovacs.

ANSEL (SAM) D'AMICO

Brother Ansel (Sam) D'Amico of the Rochester, New York Branch passed away to his eternal reward on December 20, 1995. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Sam is survived by his wife, Sister Carmella; one brother, Brother John D'Amico; two sisters, Sister Erma Rossi and Sister Loretta Maggio; and several nieces and nephews.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

If we die righteous, serving the Lord to our last breath, we do not die. We will "sleep," waiting for the first resurrection.

Think about it. We will see the faithful brothers and sisters, our faithful family members who preceded us in death. We will meet individuals like Ruth, Naomi, Isaiah, Paul, Alma and countless others we read and spoke about for years. We will live and reign forever with God and Jesus Christ.

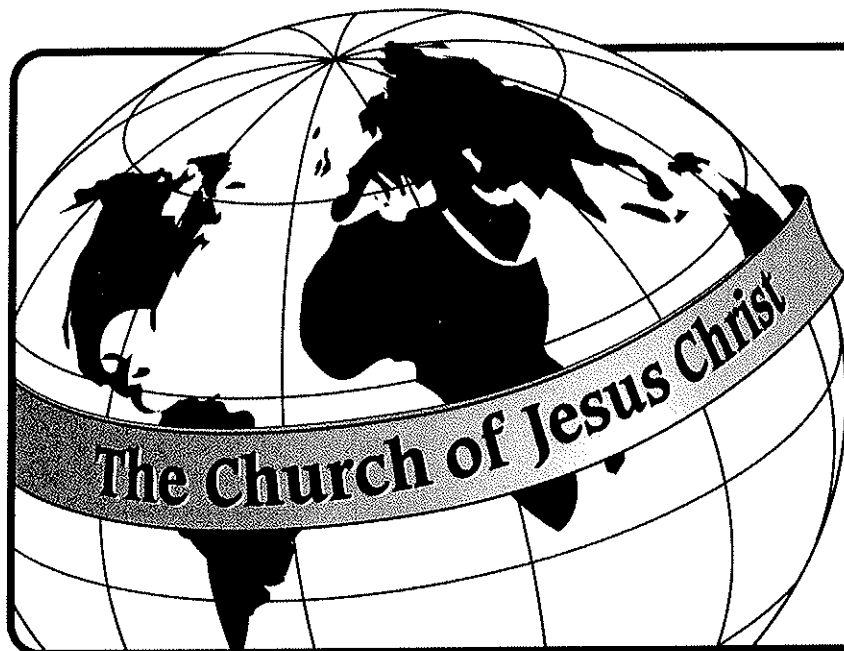
What a hope! What a reward! What a life!

Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 1996

Volume 52, No. 4

## The Reality of the Resurrection

By Brother Jeffrey Giannetti

As you know, Easter is the season when the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated. We recognize our Saviour's suffering and triumphant conquering of sin for all of us.

Yet, even as we celebrate this holiday, today, perhaps more than ever before, each of us must be clear in our appreciation, belief and understanding of the reality of the resurrection. Though it may have occurred thousands of years ago and though many seek to prove the resurrection a fallacy or myth, we must be fully convinced of its reality and affect upon our lives.

Being so convinced is not a difficult task if we simply recognize the impact Jesus Christ has on our lives. Consider the example of Christ's appearing on this land. Jesus Christ extended the invitation to those present to come forward and be convinced of the reality of the resurrection. *"Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands in my side and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that you may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the*

*sins of the world"* (III Nephi 11:14). The people did as Jesus commanded and for them, on that day, the resurrection became real and their lives were changed forever. *"And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying: Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus Christ and did worship him"* (III Nephi 11:16,17).

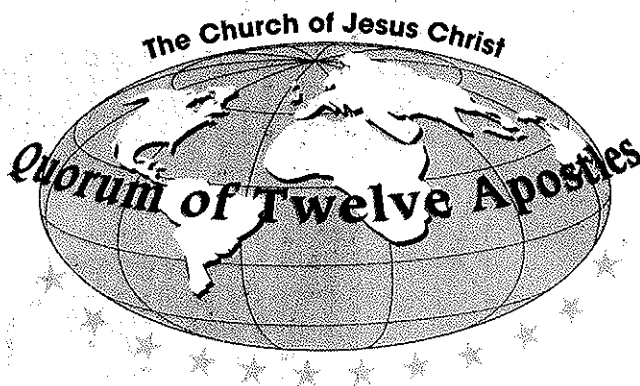
One could certainly argue it was easy for those present at the appearing of Jesus to believe in His resurrection. They were eye witnesses to His wounds and to His resurrected state. We were never invited to examine His wounds and have no first hand proof He is living. This may be true in a literal sense. Spiritually however, each of us has received the same invitation as the Nephites present at Christ's appearing.

The Apostle John recorded one of the many invitations made by Christ. Jesus said, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also*

*overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne"* (Rev. 3:20, 21). This invitation in practical terms is offered in a variety of forms. These may include preaching, testimony, singing, prayer and countless others. The results of an invitation when extended are very visible. The heart begins to pound, the palms begin to sweat, the soul is touched. In short, though a person may not actually see the wounds of Christ as the Nephites did, the effects of Christ's invitation are undeniably real.

This invitation when accepted is further proof of the reality of Jesus Christ's resurrection. A person who accepts this invitation, much like the Nephites, will never be the same again! The very vilest of sinners are changed instantly. Testimonies are abound of alcoholics who after accepting Christ's invitation stopped drinking immediately. Many have testified of being healed of physical illnesses as they left the waters of baptism. The Lord described the change resulting from an accepted invitation to serve Christ in the following manner, *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* (Isaiah 1:18). The

(Continued on Page 11)



## The Yoke of Christ

By Apostle Joseph Bittinger

Jesus knew and understood the burden of sin that people were struggling under in His era of time. He had spent more than thirty years of His life, here as a common citizen among the people. During His young life, He appears to have blended with the other young people as one of them. We can be certain that He was very conscious of the fact as to who He was and to what His mission entailed. From what we read, His family was poor, His father Joseph was a carpenter by trade.

Jesus, being both the Son of



Apostle Joseph Bittinger

man and the Son of God, He saw and heard the crying, suffering, fear and heavy burdens that the poor and down cast people were suffering under the yoke of sin and death. They were captives of Satan, sin and destruction and they were without

hope. Jesus, overflowing with love and compassion for mankind said in Matthew 11:28-30, *"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

This is an invitation given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to come unto Him and obtain salvation and rest for your soul. This is a clarion call loud and clear to all nations, tongues and people to come join with Him, for His yoke is easy, and it is the more excellent way to live in this world of sin, violence, corruption, fear and death.

There is a similarity of man and the ox. They both need the yoke to be able to work. The ox cannot be used to do any kind of pulling or hauling. It takes the yoke as a medium (harness). Fitted upon his neck and shoulders so he is able to use his great strength and power, this makes him useful and very valuable to his owner. The Lord Jesus cannot use any of us, no man or woman can be used by Him, except they will take upon themselves His yoke first. This is what it takes to qualify (the harness).

We as members of The Church of Jesus Christ come under the yoke of Christ. When we stood at the water's edge and made that covenant with Him, we promised to serve, honor, and obey Him all the days of our lives with His help and blessing. We submitted ourselves to the Minister in charge being baptized by immersion for the remission of our

sins by the Restored Priesthood Authority of The Church of Jesus Christ. We were thus yoked with Him, in a new spiritual life of service to spread the Restored Gospel of love, salvation and hope to all the world.

This yoke represents teamwork, two or more working together in harmony at all times, each one pulling their fair share of the load or burden. This must be done willingly, gracefully, with enthusiasm and gladness of heart, for this is a lifetime commitment to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His voice, laws and commands must be obeyed and followed with diligence if we expect to receive spiritual strength and grow in righteousness in return for our services.

The wild and sinful nature of man must be subdued and brought into subjection to work in perfect harmony with the will of God. Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:2-3, *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."*

Jesus and the people of that era of time were well acquainted with the yoke. It is a curved wooden bar with which a team of draft oxen is hitched together. The yoke of Christ, epitomizes the everlasting covenant we make with Him—a very sacred and holy binding together. It is not something that we can see with our natural eyes or feel with our hands. But, it is the yoke that He offers to all those that are willing to accept His loving and merciful invitation. He wants your heart and your heavy load of sin that is breaking down, destroying your life and soul eternally. He wants to exchange your heavy burden of sin for a better, more excellent way of life

(Continued on Page 11)

## Is Baptism Necessary?

By Brother Carl D. Romano

The reason I am writing this article is because so many people say that baptism is symbolic. We in The Church of Jesus Christ accept it as a commandment of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

In Matthew 28:19 He says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." If you have ever been to one of our baptisms, when the Elder brother raises his hand and says, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen," you will understand too what baptism does for us.

Romans 6:4 and Colossians 12:2 state that we are buried with Christ and we rise with Him in His likeness. In 1 Peter 3:21 we read, "... baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, to do the will of the Father. If we then are also the children of God, shouldn't we do the will of the Father to fulfill His righteousness on earth? Aren't we that chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people that we should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness unto His marvelous light? (1 Peter 2:9).

In Mormon's address 9:29 it states, "See that ye are not baptized unworthily; see that ye partake not of the sacrament of Christ unworthily." In Matthew 28:20 we read, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." These verses (19,20) not only command that baptism is essential, but they have a promise associated with them, (and Jesus said, "and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end

of the world.")

We believe in the everlasting covenant as spoken of in the 23rd chapter of Isaiah. In Moroni 6:2 we read, "Neither did they receive any unto baptism save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins." Faith, repentance, baptism, and laying on of hands for the Holy Ghost are the essential steps. What about your baptism? What does it mean to you? How important is it to you? Is the joy in your heart that you had when you were baptized still there? In Luke 15:10 it states, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." God allows His angels this joy. What about us? I guess that in other churches it is symbolic, but it is an ordinance of Jesus Christ that we all hope to fulfill when we make our promise at the water's edge.

In conclusion, be excited for your baptism. Be excited for the Church. Whatever the Church gives us to do, be excited, whether it is to tell a neighbor or a friend, or give money to the General Church to send missionary people out to spread the Gospel. As Simeon said, "for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Above all, be thankful for the Gospel Restored, for baptism is the beginning, not the end.

## The Crucifixion

It was outside the city wall of proud Jerusalem,  
That Roman soldiers crucified  
whom Pilate dared condemn,  
But from the suffering Nazarene  
no word of murmur came,  
Patience appeared through keenest wrong, and dignity through shame.

Only this kind and earnest plea  
their malice from Him drew,  
Father I pray forgive them now  
they know not what they do.

Sister Sadie B. Cadman (deceased)

## Note of Thanks

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish to express my humble and sincere thanks for your prayers, cards, phone calls and loving support during my wife Harriet's illness and recent passing. Your thoughtfulness and love will always be remembered. We will never forget your kindness. May God bless you and reward you all for your goodness. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Brother Nick Francione

\* \* \* \* \*

My family and I wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all my brothers and sisters throughout the Church, for your prayers, love, cards and phone calls, for the recent passing of my dear wife and wonderful partner for almost fifty-three years, Sister Belle Rose. Your love and kindness will always live with me. God bless you all. I love you all. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,  
Brother Dominick Rose

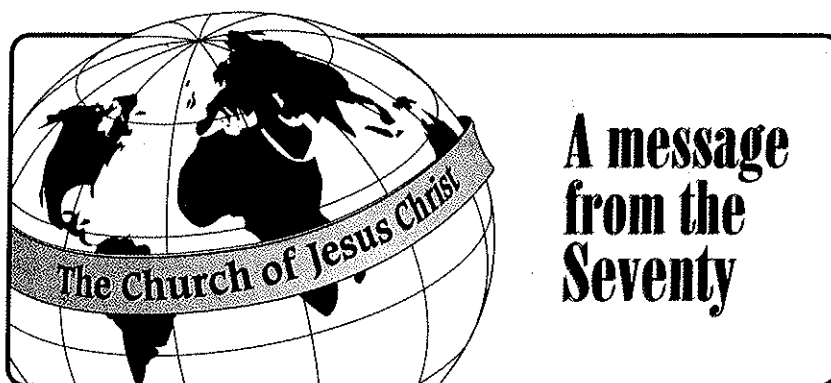
## Announcement

For April, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.1%
2 years	5.2%
3 years	5.3%
4 years	5.4%
5 years	5.5%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 814-227-2421.



## What is the Value of My Testimony?

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Two months ago in this column, the question, "Is My Face-to-Face Testimony Outdated?" was asked and discussed. The conclusion to the article was that our personal account is never outdated and that it has substance and can have real meaning for people who will listen.

In looking further into the importance of our witnessing, we might then ask, "What is the value of my testimony? Does it have some kind of measurable worth?" A companion question might be, as it pertains to the recipient, "Can we put a price on a soul?"

The person who receives our testimony cannot affix any monetary figure on its worth, but he or she would probably state that it is priceless if it gives them the incentive to seek eternal salvation through the Gospel of Christ. Furthermore, we cannot compare the joy and incalculable riches experienced by someone who actually comes into the fold after we have talked to them.

If our testimony is accepted and interest is shown, what happens next? Does the person want to know more? We would hope that they would indicate they do. If they do not outwardly express a desire for us to proceed, we may try, as practical, to go beyond our personal summary and tell them more about the things of God and what they mean to us.

### TRUST IN GOD

It is essential to remember that we are speaking for God, Christ, and the Church, as well as for ourselves. Under these conditions, it is important that we ask God to give us the words to speak. We are ambassadors for Christ and thus we want to proceed with His guidance. Trusting in Him and reaching out to Him in faith, makes us much better prepared and more confident. Furthermore, we can also pray that the person or persons to whom we give our testimony will be touched by the Holy Spirit and will have an "open heart."

No one but God knows where this is leading us, but we can rely on His help. In many instances, the next step is to invite the person or persons to church. If there is a tendency to be rather timid about this, we can remember the Lord's in the matter.

If the person wants to know other things about the Church, it is incumbent to answer their questions. This may become an ongoing dialogue, as one subject or thought can lead to another. Obviously, each individual is at a different point of interest. Cultivating a friendship makes it much easier in the discussion. If a member feels it is better to have an Elder of the Church present the information, it is very reasonable to tell the prospect that one of our Ministers would be happy to talk to them.

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Much information is available in official church literature. Giving the publications to the interested party permits them to read and analyze things for themselves. Branch and Mission Librarians can furnish whatever writings are required.

The "Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ" card (the publication which usually has the picture of the location on the front) is an excellent resource to give out, possibly after appropriate rapport is established. The scriptural references substantiating our articles of faith are also given.

Inviting people to Sunday School, Ladies' Circle (if they are women), and Missionary Benevolent Association classes will allow them to study the scriptures in greater depth and get further corresponding insights into our tenets of faith.

Perhaps, it may be beneficial to include the testimonies of other brothers and sisters. This may even be more particularly relevant if mutual friends of other members are involved.

Any discussion can be ended with a request that they ask God themselves whether what we tell them has value for them and that they ponder the matters in their heart.

Our testimony is a starting point in bringing people into The Church of Jesus Christ and can emphasize how much God and the Gospel mean to us. This can be very uplifting to someone who is hearing about how our lives have been changed and how we look forward to greater things. Whether they accept it or not, we have at least done what we could as His workers and can aid in the overall missionary efforts of the Church.

The value of a testimony cannot be measured, but it is certainly a matchless treasure to whoever receives it, accepts it, and acts upon it. There is no earthly price that can be placed on a soul. Its true worth is beyond human calculation!



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Lord brought a beautiful spirit into the world. He taught the kind of spirit that His saints must carry in their daily lives. This beautiful spirit is described in the Lord's Sermon on the Mount, also known as the Beatitudes. It is rich in blessings. It is rich in instruction. It is devoted to an explanation of what constitutes genuine blessedness.

This sermon is found in the Bible, Matthew 5:3-12 and III Nephi 12:3-12 in the Book of Mormon. We read in III Nephi 12:3-12, "*Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. And blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost. And blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. And blessed are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God. And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake; For ye shall have great joy and be exceeding glad, for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.*"

The Book of Mormon is quoted because there are some noteworthy differences. Please compare the two scriptures. In the Book of Mormon, one difference is they appear to be connected and related. It appears each one is part of the whole. There are other differences. Please study the two texts.

Those that are poor in spirit shall be made rich by inheriting the Kingdom of God. They are the heirs to the kingdom of heaven. They recognize their sin and destitution of their soul which causes humility. Without humility, unless you become as a little child, you cannot enter heaven.

Those that mourn shall see and understand the divine purpose of their grief. They will understand that a saint of God rests in the paradise of God and eventually lives with the Lord for eternity. They will understand why the angels rejoice in heaven over the death of one saint. Those that mourn shall again associate with faithful loved ones who preceded them in death.

The meek suffer despoiling or plundering rather than jeopardize their souls. The meek do not plant contention. They do just the opposite. They plant meekness and the love of God and eventually inherit the earth.

Those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, after the truth, feel the soul's need for spiritual food like the body feels the need for natural food. They shall be fed in rich abundance.

Those that are merciful, those that show mercy, are judged mercifully. Those that show and extend mercy feel compassion for all men and women; not just for some; not just for family and friends.

The pure in heart with their cleansed minds and hearts see God in all things. They are admitted to the very presence of God and Jesus Christ. The pure in heart carry a broken heart and a contrite spirit. That is what the Lord requires of all men and women.

The peacemakers try to save themselves and their neighbors from strife by planting and cultivating peace and love. They are the sons and daughters of God. They are the children of God.

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "Starting Over"

Dear friends,

Did you know that one of the best things about serving God is that we are able to start over? When is the last time you made an embarrassing mistake? When is the last time you even lied about making the mistake? And then after telling that first lie we have to lie again about that lie. Then one lie grows into another and we have to remember the version of the story we are telling others.

The lie grows to become a big spiderweb, with little lies to support it . . . and then we have to keep alert to guard the lie. Sometimes we even trick ourselves into believing our own lies.

Now Jesus knows all about being human. When He went to heaven, He sent a Comforter to lead, guide and direct every baptized person. This Comforter, called the Holy Ghost is the mind of the Father (God) and the Son (Jesus). When the Elders lay their hands on the newly baptized person, they have the power to give that person the Holy Ghost.

We just have to pray and ask direction and hold still long enough to feel or hear that quiet little voice inside of us. The next step is to step out on faith and do what the little voice is urging us to.

Many times I'll pray for God's will and a thought about some special person will come to mind. Then I pray for them and call them or try to help them. It feels so beautiful when they tell me that I'm just in time to

help them.

Other times I'll lie to myself when I hear that little voice. I'll tell myself, "Oh, I'm too busy, or too tired, or maybe I'm being nosey and shouldn't say anything." Later I'll find out that someone I was thinking about over and over needed me. Later I'll often find out that they suffered alone or God sent someone else. It feels so terrible when I don't pray and follow the Holy Ghost.

I'll tell them I was thinking about them, but really they needed my prayers, my visit, my kind words or my card. It makes my heart sick. I feel my mistake. I pray and ask Jesus to forgive me and help me to start over again.

I tell Jesus to help me learn to listen to that little voice. He is a forgiving Saviour. He wants us to be hands and feet for Him. It feels so amazingly good when we are.

So, when you make a mistake, when you start that lie to yourself and others, stop! Start over. Ask for forgiveness and a loving heart, so you can feel beautiful and clean inside. Practice listening to that little voice that will lead, guide and direct you. Tell your friends what amazing things the Lord has shown you. Love one another.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

LISTEN  
TO  
THE  
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## Notice

### DALLAS BRANCH CAMPOUT

The Dallas Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ will be holding its first annual branch retreat May 10-12, 1996 at the Texas Lutheran Camp on beautiful Lake Texoma in Pottsboro, Texas. We would like to invite all of you to join us for what will surely be a spirit-filled weekend and the start of a wonderful tradition for our branch.

If you would like to attend and need more information or would like to register, please call Sister Pam Benyola at 214-562-4873. We hope to see you there. May God bless you.



## Branch and Mission News

### Ordination in Kent, Ohio

By Sister Susan Ford

The Spirit of the Lord was with us in the Kent, Ohio Mission as Brother John Ford was ordained into the office of teacher on November 5, 1995. There were visitors from many branches, including Kinsman, Perry, Niles, Warren and Youngstown, Ohio and McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

We began the day in Sunday School with the theme taken from Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Each member who had been ordained a teacher was asked to share a hymn and how it had guided him in his office. Many wonderful thoughts were brought out as we sang praises to God.

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Following this inspirational Sunday School, we went into our morning service. Our first speaker was Brother Mario Milano, his theme being "Give of Your Best to the Master, Give of the Strength of Your Youth." The scripture was taken from John 15:14-16, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

Brother Mario concluded with I Chronicles 29:5, "And who then is willing to consecrate his service this

day unto the Lord?"

Our next speaker, Brother Paul Ciotti, spoke of Jacob wrestling with the angel. Jacob would not let the angel go until he had blessed him. After the angel had blessed him, he touched his hip and Jacob had a limp from that time on. Brother Paul stated that Jacob never took a step without remembering who he was and where his strength came from. There was an added blessing in the topic Brother Paul chose, as he did not know that Brother John's middle name is Jacob!

At this time, Brother Adam Costerella read the duties of the office of teacher and a prayer was offered by Brother Don Pandone. Brother John's feet were washed by Brother Marty Klein and he was ordained by Brother Mario Milano.

(Continued on Page 8)

### Notice

A reminder to all those interested in doing missionary work for The Church of Jesus Christ, the Youth in Action Summer Tour—1996 is only a few months away. If you're interested in participating in one of the five tours scheduled for this summer, please begin making plans now.

The tours for summer, 1996 are as follows:

Meaford Mission, Ontario, Canada  
Maine Mission, Brunswick, ME  
San Carlos Mission, San Carlos, AZ (Includes a week at the Tse Bonito Branch in Gallup, NM)  
California location (Branch site to be determined)  
South Bend Mission, South Bend, IN

As you can see, we have some exciting tours scheduled for this summer with many offering the opportunity to labor among the Seed of Joseph. We hope to announce the specific dates for each tour at the May 1996 GMBA Conference. These tours have been the source of many blessings both to the mission visited and to those participating. We expect another outpouring of God's Spirit this year.

If you are interested in participating, please call one of the following committee members to register, or for more information:

Brother Jerry Valenti, Chairperson, 215-672-0601  
Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, Vice Chairperson, 817-261-2604  
Brother Jerry Morle, Secretary, 313-483-2656

We need over forty (40) participants for this year's tours, so we are looking for your help. May God bless you as you consider participating in this exciting event.

**KENT, OH continued . . .**

A wonderful spirit prevailed as we were blessed with many testimonies to the glory of God, followed by the administration of the Lord's Supper.

After the service we enjoyed lunch and fellowship together with our many brothers and sisters. We thank all who visited Kent on this special day. The weather was cold but our hearts were warmed by the support of our brothers and sisters and the Spirit of the Lord. We welcome you to visit the Kent Mission.

**An Ordination in Cape Coral, FL**

*By Sister Colleena Eutsey*

On July 30, 1995, we were blessed with the Lord's presence as we witnessed the ordination of Sister Linda Darr into the office of Deaconess. Brother John and Sister Leona Buffa and their children, Steven and Mary Ann were visiting from the Saline, Michigan Branch. The meeting began by singing many songs to the honor and glory of God. Brother John Buffa opened our meeting in prayer. Presiding Elder, Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., spoke to us on the office of a Deaconess. Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., then spoke on Phebe's service to God and the things we must do to prepare ourselves to be servants of God. Brother John Buffa followed and spoke of the duties that will now be a part of Sister Linda's life and office. He spoke of Solomon and explained that because he prayed for wisdom to help God's people that God gave him wisdom. Brother Ken Staley then spoke of the peaceful spirit we all felt in the meeting. He related the experience he had confirming that Sister Linda Darr should be ordained a Deaconess. He told of times when a Deaconess has asked the Priesthood for fasting and prayer on a concern they have had and the Lord heard their prayers.

Our Presiding Deaconess, Sister

Hope Eutsey, washed Sister Linda's feet. Brother James Sheffler went before God in prayer that He might be with Sister Linda. Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., then ordained Sister Linda into the office of Deaconess.

Everyone walked up front to greet Sister Linda. Sacrament was served and was followed by a wonderful season of testimony. There were other experiences told that confirmed the calling of Sister Linda Darr. Brother Ken Staley offered the closing prayer. It was truly a wonderful and beautiful day in the Lord.

**Pacific Coast DMOC Visits Lindsay, CA**

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

In 1995, the Pacific Coast Domestic Missionary Operating Committee began a program of visiting each individual branch and mission throughout the region with the purpose of uplifting and fellowshiping with members. So far, the program has been met with a very positive response, with members from various branches joining the officers who are from several branches in traveling to each of the churches in California for an evening of singspiration, testimony or review of the missionary efforts of our Church.

On this Saturday evening, we traveled to Lindsay, California where the brothers and sisters from this branch hosted a song service, testimony meeting and we heard from the officers, Brothers John DiBattista, Bob McDonnell and Sal Azzinaro. All of us enjoyed great fellowship afterwards.

On Sunday, Brother John spoke first during our morning service, telling of the many letters coming in to the Church from literally all corners of the world, asking for our Gospel and the points of our doctrine. He explained, to our wonder and amazement, that through revelation of God these people are being

led to The Church of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God urged the people in Poland to call us, after their having searched the list of American churches under Restored Gospel churches. The Spirit then spoke to them and said, "These are my people," as their eyes fell on the listing of The Church of Jesus Christ headquartered in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. From Ireland, Germany, France, Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary there is a growing desire for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dreams have come forward to send our Gospel into China as well. The theme of his sermon was the 21st chapter of John, casting your net on the right side in faith believing. He also quoted "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things will be added unto you." The question Brother John repeated to us several times was, "Do you have any meat?" How many times have we attempted to do something without success because we are doing it our way, instead of with God? We do not catch any "meat."

Brother John urged us to become involved with the Domestic Missionary Committee if we have a desire to uplift branches or venture into missionary work ourselves.

Brother Bob McDonnell followed, speaking on the crossroads in this "race" the Apostle Paul referred to, which we run in this life. We all have crossroads. Christ declared to His disciples, "Go ye out and preach my Gospel." Tell the people about Christ. His Spirit will convict them. We have the same ability as the Apostles to give our testimony to bring others to Christ. We sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. It was a call to action, to make the spiritual decisions in our lives to work for The Church of Jesus Christ, to push His beautiful Gospel forward.

Brother Matthew Picciuto spoke next. He urged us to consume the Word of God. This should be the food of our lives, rather than snacking on the treats of the world. Our focus should be on Christ's presence in our lives, not only on removing

problems in our lives.

Brother Sal Azzinaro read from the Book of Mormon. At the waters of Mormon, Alma asked the people about the desires of their heart, if they wished to serve God with all their hearts. Our brother told us that God is now asking us to partake of that meat and bring it forward to others. He related an experience he had. While wondering about what it must have been like to be living in the times of the Apostles, he was carried away in a vision. Brother Sal saw footprints, then he stood in them. They were the footprints of Christ. An urgency came upon him to walk forward in those footsteps to see and experience the things Christ had experienced. Our brother then walked out onto the water that was before him with faith. After arriving on the shore, he began to walk a path towards salvation. He explained that we must put Christ first and live our lives for Him. The Church will go forward and bring salvation to the world. Will we let small or large discouragements stop us from partaking of the meat which God has for His people, or will we allow Him to use us in this life?

A wonderful season of testimony followed. Sister Caryle DiBattista told us of the glow she had seen around our brothers who had spoken to us, as well as a glow on the arch behind them and on the sacrament table. This vision was confirmed by Brother Mike Pepe. Sister Donna Pepe saw a vision of a glowing figure behind Sister Martha Picciuto as she sang, *Is There Anyone Willing to Let Jesus In?*, and she confirmed the glow around the arch.

Brother Jim Lovalvo summarized our brothers' sermons and added that when we trust only in ourselves, our own talents and intelligence, we are like the Apostles who could not catch any meat. When Christ becomes part of our efforts, we will succeed. Without His Spirit and His assistance, we are nothing. Our hearts were so filled with the Spirit which had flowed from vessel to vessel during this beautiful meeting. Afterward, we had lunch which

the Lindsay membership had graciously prepared for us. The DMOC enthusiasm and spirit were felt by all who attended this event. We in the Pacific Coast Region appreciate the efforts and hard work that these brothers do for the branches and we thank God for their dedication unto His Church.

## Rejoice My House; My Son's Alive

### "For Whom I Mourned As Dead"

"For whom I mourned as dead . . ."  
Away from the Father's House for  
seven years.  
Away from the joy and fellowship of  
the saints of God.  
Away from the beautiful ordinances  
of The Church of Jesus  
Christ . . . seven years.

When Brother Cleveland Baldwin heard it noised about that a brother who had been away from the Church for seven years had returned home, he immediately gathered some of the saints and went to pay this brother a visit.

Of course, there were some feelings not knowing the brother's intentions, for there had been no type of communication from this brother to the Church all this time. Nevertheless, love pushes one forward and duty is performed.

When Brother Cleveland visited, no one was home. A note was left and he planned to return again in about an hour. When he returned the second time, he found our fallen brother and sister. What a reunion! He was received with open arms! Words cannot express the emotions of the heart as we listened to this brother tell of his plight for seven years. One could clearly see the love, mercy and astonishing works of God. After sharing his experiences, humbly and broken, the brother said, "Brother Cleve, I'm coming home where I belong. I'll be in Church Sunday."

Sunday morning, September 3, 1995, as the saints assembled awaiting the Lord's visitation, the door opened. Entering into our midst was a gift from God for only God can bring the wayward prodigal home again. One could see the hearts from the Ministry throughout the Church begin to freely melt in love. There were several visitors from the world present. They were unable to capture the love expressed in this great event. The Elders came down from the rostrum. A line was automatically formed from the rostrum to the door. There were sobs of joy, expressions of love, warmth and tenderness. Love came down and filled the house. One by one the saints threw their arms around the prodigal and wept for joy.

When the prodigal stood face to face with Brother Cleveland, he fell on his neck and they both began to weep. The prodigal cried out, "Brother Cleve, I'm coming home where I belong. Please receive me back into the Church."

Our brother, for whom the saints mourned seven long years, that load which entered our hearts the day he announced he was leaving, has been lifted and turned into the joy that only the saints of God can acclaim. Brother Horace Huggins had hands laid upon him by Brother Cleveland Baldwin and was renewed back into The Church of Jesus Christ. What a blessing!

Sister Meredieth M. Martin  
Quincy, Florida Mission

## Ordination in Glassport, PA

By Donna L. Prizner

Our afternoon Sunday Service on September 24, 1995, began with several hymns, including *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Brother John Ali opened our meeting, speaking on the office of a Teacher. When God restored His Church, He also restored the ordained offices. He read

(Continued on Page 10)

**GLASSPORT continued . . .**

from chapter 4, the Epistle of the Ephesians.

Brother Ed Donkin read the duties of a Teacher. Brother David Nolfi spoke on the 3rd chapter of Moroni. He read a dream concerning the calling of Brother Ernie Geracitano as a teacher. We sang, *I Will Follow Thee*. Brother Alma Nolfi washed the feet of Brother Ernie. A prayer was offered and Brother Ernie was ordained by Brother Ed Donkin. Sister Anna May Geracitano told of a vision of the Lord smiling as Brother Ernie's feet were being washed. We had a wonderful day and our prayers are that the Lord will bless Brother Ernie Geracitano in his office of Teacher.

**Growing in Dallas, TX**

*By Sister Donna Eskut*

The Church in Dallas, Texas is growing! For many years a small group of brothers and sisters in Dallas held on to the blessings of God in the hope that the Church would grow in this part of the vineyard. The time has now come.

Last year, God inspired two of our brothers to produce a survey that questioned the saints on how the mission was doing. The survey covered the natural, everyday duties in Church as well as how we were doing spiritually. Just filling out the survey was a true blessing. Since then, the surveys have been used to develop a plan of action to improve our mission.

We have had perfect unity in spreading the word of God in our communities through flyers, knocking on doors, and working on fund raisers. We are having fasting and prayer services that are directed by the Spirit. Class lessons are inspired as they teach us to serve God and do His will in order to show what we have to others. Our Sunday meetings are filled with peace and joy as we treasure the presence of God. Our songs and testimonies are filled with

praise. We know God is pleased as we follow through with our detailed plan to improve.

In the last several months, God has brought many new families here to Dallas. Brother Frank and Sister Kathy Natoli have recently moved within minutes of the church building and have brought a special spirit of evangelism with them. Brother Jeffrey and Sister Kathy Giannetti have joined us to bring a spirit of song and excitement. Brother Brian Miller and his new wife, Julie, have brought the strength of their youth to help the mission. Never before has the Dallas Mission had four ministers on the rostrum to teach the congregation.

And never before have we had so many children to grow in our mission. The children are anxious to call hymns, sing in our children's choir, and tell about what they have learned in Sunday School. The children even wrote their own program for Christmas.

Many saints have had experiences about the growth of the Church in Dallas. We know that we must be ready and willing to accept all those who enter our doors. We also know that God has blessed us and is making the final preparations for bringing other people in. Thank God for teaching us and unifying us as we wait for more blessings that are just around the corner. The groundwork has been set. We are ready to work for the Lord!

**News from Youngstown, OH**

*By Sister Betty Gennaro*

On December 10, 1995, we were blessed to hear the gifted voice of Brother Panfilo Dicenso. Singing in Italian, *Benedizioni Abbondanti*, the beautiful words, "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings" touched our hearts, even those not understanding the language.

Brother DiCenso spoke humbly of being called at the age of fourteen. Neglecting to follow through, he was

on his own for thirty years. His testimony was beautiful. "The Lord gave me everything, fame, fortune, prestige, and then took it all away. Through the love of the brothers and sisters, I returned to The Church of Jesus Christ. God has now given me a spiritual life. I will love and praise Him forever."

Our meeting continued in song and praise to the Lord. A trio sang *The Longer I Serve Him*.

Brother Ron Genaro expressed himself stating, "We're having a slice of heaven today. It's all joy! We cannot produce the Spirit of God. He is the Giver. How sweet it is! The Gospel of Jesus Christ will someday cover the earth. The pearl becomes more precious to us each day." The Genaro family sang *My Lord Can*.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Don Pandone read portions of Psalm 51 and stated, "Wouldn't it be nice to use all this holiday energy praising the Lord in word and song?"

Brother DiCenso sang, *Make Me A Blessing* after which Brother Joe Genaro spoke in the Spirit, "Your Ministry is music!"

Our meeting was closed with the song *Worthy Is the Lamb*, sung by the Youngstown, Ohio Branch quartet.

**Baptisms at the Detroit, Inner City Branch**

*By Sister Dona Baez*

It was warm and drizzly on July 9, 1995, but there was great rejoicing upon the baptizing of two young souls that morning. Two weeks prior to this date, Sarah Champine, age 16, and Alissa Champine, age 15, had asked for their baptisms at the GMBA Campout. Both later related that these two weeks had been the longest in their lives in anticipation of their baptism. On that morning many of the saints from the Inner City and other branches met at the Detroit River to witness the baptisms. Brother Steve Champine baptized his daughter, Alissa; and Brother Larry Champine baptized his niece, Sarah.



When we returned to the branch, there were many more visitors, especially young people who wanted to be there for Sarah and Alissa. We sang several songs from the *Songs of Zion* and the opening prayer was offered by Brother Eugene Amormino. Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine sang, *He Held His Arms and I Ran In* and *The Most Important Thing*.

Brother Flip Palacios opened the service from Alma 10:5 which is about the conversion of Amulek. We are bound by the vow we make to God. If we do not keep that vow, it would be better if we never made it. We must not look back, but go forward. The body of the Church must be marching in one direction.

Brother Eugene Amormino related a story, "If you knew what I was when you picked me up." All the young people who were in attendance sang, *The Sea So Great Lord*.

All the Elders who were in attendance made a circle around Sisters Sarah and Alissa. Brother Gary Champine laid hands on Sister Alissa and Brother Flip Palacios laid hands on Sister Sarah for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brothers Claude, Gary, Steve and Larry Champine sang, *It's My Desire*. Sacrament was passed. Our new young sisters were asked to give their testimony. Sister Sarah told about a dream she had that she was dressed in white clothes and standing by the water with Sister Alissa. Sister Alissa related that this dream was a confirmation about her baptism. The meeting was closed by the congregation singing, *It's My Desire*.

## RESURRECTION continued . . .

Apostle Paul describes this changed person as a new creature. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things become new" (II Cor 5:17). We can only attribute the changes witnessed in those who repent and decide to accept the invitation, to our risen Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ who died that

each of us may be reconciled to God. Nothing and no one else can account for such changes. Only the redeeming power of Jesus Christ is responsible. This fact, and the changes made in our own lives can serve as a constant reminder to the reality of the resurrection.

I am reminded of an experience I had several years ago shortly after being ordained a Teacher. The devil began to fill my mind with all manner of doubt regarding everything I held true about Jesus Christ and His Church. I was tormented night and day about whether all that we believe is true. Finally, one evening after retiring to bed and asking for God's help, my mind was directed to the day of my baptism. I remembered the overwhelming Spirit I felt on that day. I remembered how only the prior evening I was so far from Christ. Yet, on that morning, I felt His Spirit as never before. As I lie there remembering my calling, I heard a voice speak to me and ask, "Who called you into My Church?" As I heard these words, I realized nothing on this earth caused those feelings. Only Jesus could have caused my heart to swell as it did that day. All doubt was gone. All fear was gone. Praise God, Jesus was again real to me and will be forever.

When doubts and fears assail, let us each remember the invitation extended by Christ. And how after accepting this invitation, our lives were changed forever. Praise God for Jesus Christ and may we always remember the impact He has had upon our lives. May our testimony be as we've sung many times, "Jesus is real to me, Yes, Jesus is real to me; I never will doubt Him, Nor journey without Him, For He is so real to me."

## TWELVE APOSTLES continued...

that any person can know or obtain in the world.

Take on the yoke of Jesus Christ our Savior, and become a partner with Him in the great Latter Days Restoration work.

## EDITORIAL continued . . .

Those that are persecuted realize it is a privilege to suffer for Jesus Christ. They suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness. Individuals who suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness shall inherit eternal life and its spiritual riches.

The Lord outlined specific blessings and happiness that are fully realized beyond the grave. It is also apparent that He instructed mankind about righteous living which brings joy and many rich returns in this life. Jesus Christ was not talking about pleasure. He was talking about spiritual happiness, a truly blessed state, in this life and the life to come.

The Lord in this wonderful sermon detailed the duties of mortal life. These duties are a preparation for a greater existence, eternal life with Him. In the Kingdom of God, we will find far greater riches, true riches and supreme happiness.

Jesus Christ let mankind know that there is a life beyond this life. That life is in the kingdom of heaven. He publicly went on record with what is required for citizenship in that great kingdom, His Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Please consider the actions of those who carried this spirit. Nephi loved his brothers in spite of their hatred for him and his father. He did not retaliate or seek revenge. He responded with love to their hatred.

The Apostle Paul suffered shipwreck, was whipped, was beaten with rods, was stoned and was put in prison more than once. Kindly refer to his sufferings in II Corinthians 11:22-28. He states in the 27th verse, "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." He could not be worn down. He would not give up. He carried the Spirit of God.

How do you want to live in this life? Where do you want to live after this life? You must be meek, be merciful, be a peacemaker, be poor in spirit, be pure in heart, hunger and thirst after righteousness and ready to suffer persecution for the sake of righteousness.

## Children Blessed

Zacharias Anthony Ricci, son of Brother Anthony and Sister Joyce Ricci, was blessed on December 24, 1995 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Andrew Michael Cornell, son of Andrew and Melinda Cornell, was blessed on January 28, 1996 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Jared Michael Stone, son of Brother Keith and Sister Angie (DiNardo) Stone, was blessed on December 24, 1995 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Derrick Theron Means and Reginal Maurice Means, grandsons of Sister Mammie Means, were blessed on December 3, 1995 at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Douglas Javier Alverson, son of Sister Regina and Brother Joe Alverson, was blessed on December 31, 1995 at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch.

## Baptism and Reinstatement

Keith Smith was baptized on November 5, 1995 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Dennis Moraco and confirmed by Brother Paul Dinardo.

Deborah Coyne was reinstated into fellowship on October 22, 1995 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch by Brother Philip Benyola.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of love ones. May God bless and comfort you*

### JANET MANES GETSY

Sister Janet Manes Getsy of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on December 15, 1995. Sister Janet is survived by her husband, William P. Getsy, Jr.; parents, Brother Nick and Sister Lillian Manes; one son, Jason Anthony Getsy; one brother, Ronald Manes; one sister, Sister Donna Kerner; and her grandmother, Mrs. Jean Turek.

### VINCENT L. MULLA

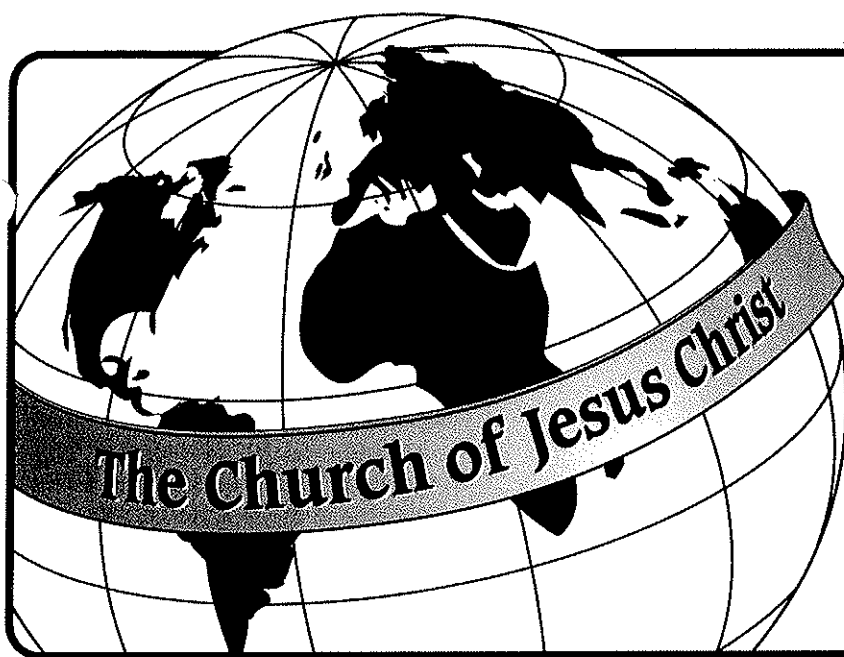
Brother Vincent L. Mulla of Branch #3, Sterling Heights, Michigan passed away to his eternal reward on November 17, 1995. Brother Vincent is survived by his wife, Mary Clark Mulla; two daughters, Cathy and Rosanne; one son, Vincent Mulla, Jr.; one brother, Paul Mulla; and one sister, Catherine Petrie.

### HARRIET D. FRANCIONE

Sister Harriet D. Francione of Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan passed on to her heavenly reward on January 31, 1996. Sister Harriet is survived by her husband, Brother Nick Francione; three daughters, Sisters Lynne Nieves and Tracey Francione and Dawn Sanchez; three sisters, Sisters Arline Whitton and Joyce Ross and Marge D'Amico; one brother, Alfred D'Amico, Jr. and several grandchildren.

### BELLE ROSE

Sister Belle Rose of the Brooklyn, New York Branch passed away to her eternal reward on January 15, 1996. Sister Belle was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Belle is survived by her husband, Evangelist Dominick Rose; two daughters, Sisters Virginia Rose and Lorraine Lupo; two sisters, Sisters Rose Laessig and Lydia Link; a brother, Brother Anthony Valenti; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 1996

Volume 52, No. 5

## Welcome! Come In

By Evangelist John R. Griffith

"... My Lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant; Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourself under the tree: and I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts . . . " (Genesis 18:3-5).

Remembering back to my childhood, I recall many times having guests in our family's home. Whether it had been for dinner or a longer stay it matters not. It was part of our routine to invite others in. I can recall sitting with my brother, and later sisters as well, listening to the adults talking and enjoying each other's company. And for whatever reason, before they would leave, a circle would be enjoined and a prayer offered thanking God for their season of togetherness. As the years passed, still yet to reach my teens, I began to realize this to be a spiritual lesson being taught us. This was what Jesus meant when He spoke of brotherly love and having the spirit of hospitality.

For the most part, these lovely visitors represented the saints of God. However, I can remember my

parents feeding the homeless as they would drift by on occasion. How exciting it was to give up our beds. It was like camping out for us kids. The visits became harder for me though because the goodbyes became more painful. As children watching our parents' example, the sweetness of fellowship was appreciated. After we had our farewell prayer and their car would pull away, I always found myself going to the bedroom our visitors used, crawling upon the bed and sobbing over their departure. Looking back, I am positive God was giving a little boy the benefit of knowing the sweet fellowship of the saints. Just think, in God's new world to come there will be no more goodbyes or parting, but just enjoying the saints' blessed fellowship forever.

In the aforementioned scripture, we can learn even through Abraham that hospitality is a way of serving God. We share our home, our food, our time. Even strangers were treated as honored guests by Abraham. *"Let brotherly love continue. . . ."* as Timothy wrote to the Hebrews in chapter 13:1-2; *"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

Luke 10:38-42 reminds us of the visit Jesus made with Mary and Martha. No doubt our family visitors also enjoyed the fellowship

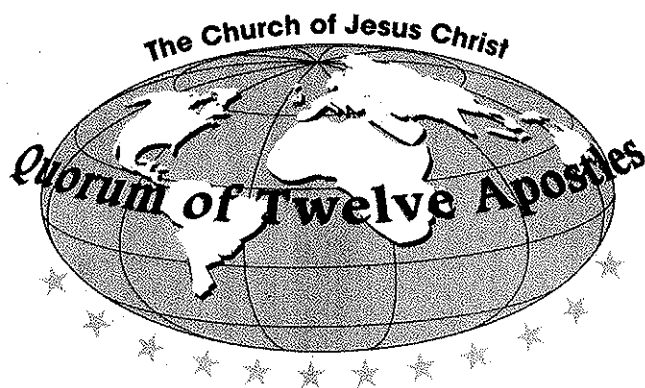
more than the food. Fellowship is sharing one's self with another and possibly that is why hospitality is not practiced as it was in days ago.

Hospitality differs from that of entertaining. Entertaining spotlights the host, the cleanliness of the home, the abundance and variety of food. Hospitality focuses on the guests, their needs, some refreshments, a place to rest, and a listening ear. To Abraham, the spirit of hospitality was offered under a tree. How big do our trees have to become before we can share this treasured brotherly love?

Accept the invitation of hospitality without the fear of repayment. Open up to the fullness of God's love. Invite someone into your home because of brotherly love, not because they think like you or because they're related. The next time you are seated in a Church meeting with others, look to the right and left. Be reminded how much you love them, and if that is difficult, remembering, be reminded that if we are all successful in reaching that heavenly mansion for eternity, we'll all be there together. So get to know one another now and learn to appreciate each other in this spirit of love.

*"And he looked round about on them which sat about him and said, Behold my mother and my brethren"*

(Continued on Page 11)

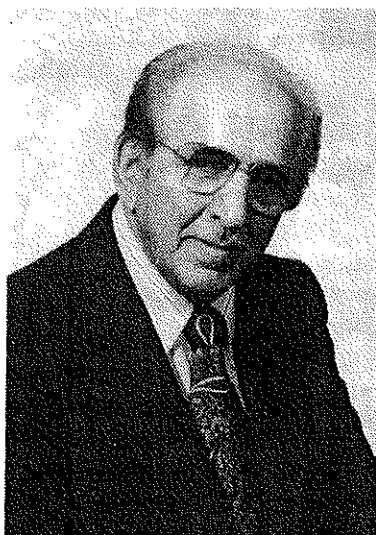


## The Nuclear Family and the Family of God

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART I

The word *nuclear* in this article has nothing to do with atomic energy, but is in reference to an organized, co-ordinated family. Strong families make a strong nation. The same can be said in the realms of religion. Strong, united families make a strong, healthy Church. Conversely, a firm, spiritual Church will be able to nurture the small nuclear families. A strong



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

nuclear family derives its strength from a firm, strong Church which keeps the commandments of Jesus Christ *in toto*.

It has always been imperative that the Church maintain a high level of righteousness in yesteryears and

today. Evil with its diabolical machinations has the ability to destroy the nuclear family. One has only to open a newspaper or read a magazine, to be told the families are in trouble. Such terms as "falling apart," "disintegrating," "disappearing," "declining" or "on the rocks" are used to describe the present state of the nuclear families.

It seems that the correct thing to do when trouble attacks the families is to look to society, to provide solutions to their problems, only to find that it has taken them farther apart. Should not the family take their example from the Word of God which leads to unity and strength? The adage of "the family that prays together, stays together," still holds true.

When society noticed that families were disintegrating, its immediate reaction was the attempt to educate people in the manner in which they could be strengthened. Hundreds of books and articles were written on how spouses could inter-relate better with each other, and how more quality time could be spent with the children. Instead of resorting to the Word of God, cues were taken from Social Sciences, with the result that many Ministers began to study psychology and counseling, hoping to find solutions to the families that were slowly but steadily "falling apart."

The nuclear family should be

responsible for the training of its children as well as for its own spiritual growth. If it is not careful, and takes its cues from a secular society, rather than from God's Holy Word, it will end up making irreparable mistakes over and over again. Adults who have acquired a certain degree of spiritual maturity should be role models for the younger generation in a nuclear family, otherwise there is a danger of inhibiting their spiritual and emotional growth.

Despite the changes in customs and cultures, the small nuclear families of today should not attempt to cope with these variations as though they were the first ones to face these problems. Changes come as predictable as they have since the beginning of time. To cope with these changes by taking examples from a tarnished society rather than the mighty Word of God, often results in a dysfunctional family.

It has been said that, "After God, one's family should receive the highest priority." While this statement sounds good, it is not in the realm of Biblical purview. Jesus Christ indicated that there would be times when one's family would be disrupted. Throughout the Gospel of Matthew one sees this theme. It is recorded: "And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him" (Matthew 4:21-22). In another instance, one of His disciples asked for permission to bury his father before following Him. Jesus replied, "Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead" (Matthew 8:22).

Christ also told His disciples the hardships they would encounter by following Him. Among these would be divisions in their immediate families even to the end that some of them would be betrayed and handed over to the executioners by their own brothers, parents or children (Matthew 10:21-22).

In the disruption of the family ties there would be consequences and rewards. This is noted in the following structural outline of Matthew 10:32-42:

- I. Consequences (vv.32-36):
  - a) In relation to God (32-33)
    - Positive (v.32)  
If one acknowledges Jesus before the people, Jesus will acknowledge one before the Father.
    - Negative (v.33)  
If one disowns Jesus before the people, He will disown one before the Father.
  - b) In relation to world (v.34)  
Not come to bring peace but a sword.
  - c) In relation to family (vv.35-36)
    - c1) Son versus father (v.35a)
    - c2) Daughter against mother (v.35b)
    - c3) Daughter-in-law versus Mother-in-law (v.35c)
    - c4) Enmity within the household (v.36)
- II. Demands on His followers (vv.37-39)
  - a) Must give up parents (37a)

- b) Must give up children (v37b)
- c) Must give up life (v.38)

- III. Consequences (v.39)
  - a) Negative  
He that finds his life shall lose it (v.39a)
  - b) Positive  
He that loses his life . . . shall find it (v.39b)
- IV. Rewards of following Him (vv.40-42)
  - a) Identification with Jesus (v.40a)  
He that receiveth you, receiveth me.
  - b) Identification with the Father (v.40b)  
He that receiveth me, receiveth the one who sent me.
  - c) A high level in life (vv.41-42)
    - c1) Becoming prophets (v.41a)
    - c2) Becoming righteous (v.41b)
    - c3) Becoming one of the little ones (v.42)

Obviously, Christ wanted His chosen disciples to understand all

that would befall them for following Him. Nothing must be done secretly. They must identify themselves with Him before the people, so that He can identify with them before the Father. He enumerates the price they will pay for following Him. There will be division and strife (a sword) in the world and especially in their own households.

They must be willing to give up all loyalties, all blood ties and possessions to fulfill their total commitment to Christ, even to the giving of their lives for His sake. By using the word, "sword," Jesus emphasized the intense departure from the norm when they would be separated from the family. In the Greek language, "sword" is *machaira* and in most cases, it is used to describe a weapon. Christ uses the word in contrast with peace. His Gospel would bring shocking and unalterable changes in a home. He blames Himself for this. He said, "I have come to turn a man against his father. . . ." This is the result of a no compromise situation in the hearts of His followers.

(To be continued)

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Note of Thanks

My Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and calls of concern we received on the passing of my late husband, Joe. This has been a difficult time for us and we can't imagine how hard it would have been without the love and support of the members of the Church. Praise God for His many blessings. He has been with us during tough times and good times. Although we do not

know what lies ahead, we pray that God will bless you and keep you in His love.

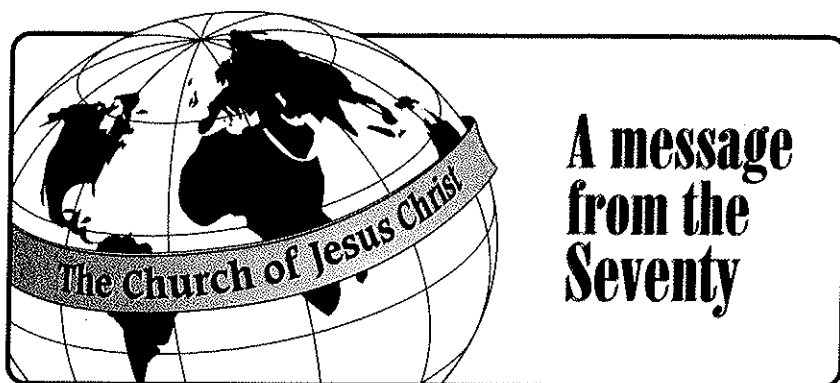
All our love,  
Sister Joan Longuillo and family

\* \* \* \* \*

I want to express my heartfelt and deepest thanks for your countless expressions of love. I want to thank you for your many prayers, cards, letters and phone calls and flowers. They were like a blanket of love around me after the passing of my husband, Brother Ansel (Sam) D'Amico.

Please continue to remember me in your prayers. God bless you all. I love you all.

Sister Carmella D'Amico



## Travel to Kenya

*By Carl J. Frammolino  
Evangelist Editor*

Brothers Joel Gehly, Mark Kovacic, Wayne Martorana, and Frank Natoli traveled to Kenya, East Africa, on January 27 and returned February 10. They reported they were pleased and uplifted to view the growth that is taking place in that nation and that, during their stay, thirty-two new converts were baptized, raising the total Church membership to one hundred eighty-four.

Many blessings were experienced, and the good desires of the Kenyan brothers and sisters were very evident. Currently, there are eight village congregations. They are located in Kenyanya, Ichuni, Nyansongo, Itibo, Kiogosi, Omosasa, Nyadiwa, and Openda. One village has a building, one meets in a home, four have shelters, and two meet under the trees. The metal roofing material for the shelters was donated by an individual in the United States, and each village donates the land, timbers, and labor. Three additional villages are waiting for land, as the roofing is available. The shelters are of timber construction with mud walls and floor. The structures serve as a meeting place out of the elements. Interest is being shown in additional villages also.

### ORDAINED OFFICERS

Overall, there are two Elders, Brothers Stephen and Elizaphan Osaka; six Teachers, five Deacons,

and six Deaconesses. Each Teacher is "in charge" of a village congregation, and he is assisted by the Deacons. They have services every week.

While there, the brothers met at each of the villages. Interestingly, on various occasions, members from other villages traveled to the location they were visiting that particular day.

On Sunday, February 4, a conference was held at a hotel and many were transported from the villages. Over one hundred twenty adults and approximately forty young people and children filled the packed room. The service started at 10:30 AM with many group selections and concluded about 2:15 PM after preaching, testimonies, singing, communion, and the ordination of two Teachers and two Deacons. After the service, everyone ate and fellowshiped together.

Meetings were also conducted with the ordained officers. Duties and responsibilities were reviewed, and instructional and study sessions were conducted. Admirably, Brother Stephen Osaka is in the process of translating the entire Book of Mormon into the Swahili language. Hopefully, it can then be printed which will enhance the ability to spread the Gospel. This is the first known attempt to make a complete translation into Swahili.

While there, the brothers were able to purchase "a very good loud-speaker system and a good portable generator" from funds donated from the United States for these items. The equipment will be used to hold three to four day crusades in particular villages. These events are adver-

tised in advance and they include meetings, singing, testimonies, and seminars. Rental of this equipment in the past has made it difficult and was almost cost prohibitive. Now regularly scheduled crusades are being planned.

### SCHOOLS

The Church currently is involved in the Nyakeyo Poly-Technical School (where seven courses of study are taught) and three nursery schools.

About sixty students are taking technical courses in carpentry, tailoring, masonry, electrical wiring, driving, typing and mechanical. An initiation fee has been instituted for each student and the goal is to have the school become self supporting within a year. The brothers stated that the school continues to be a great success.

Currently, between forty and one hundred forty students attend each nursery location. Plans are being made to add such schools in each village by the end of this year. Understandably, this project helps our brothers and sisters to educate their children.

## Exploratory Trip to Peru

Another exploratory trip was taken to Peru last December 28 through January 13. The travelers for this third such journey to that land were Brother Richard, Sister Pat, and Sister Melissa Christman and Brother Miquel Bicelis.

Areas where they spent time were Lima, Arequipa, and Santa Rosa (Melgar.) The first two places had been visited on the previous trips, but this was the first visit to Santa Rosa.

Services were held and many more people became acquainted with The Church of Jesus Christ. Many miracles and experiences were related about how God has performed His works. Also, the Bible, the Book of

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

There were those in the time of the Lord who were very concerned about the basics and necessities of life. Their concern was for food, drink and clothing. The Lord let them know that their Heavenly Father knew their needs. The Lord eloquently and humbly instructed them what was necessary, what was to be their priority and focus.

Jesus Christ told the multitude in Matthew 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

What is your focus? What is your priority? What is your pursuit in life? Are you pursuing the American dream? Are you pursuing your service to the Lord and His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ? Are you concerned about your quality of life? Do you build your life around the Church or do you build the Church around your life?

What is the American dream? It was a good job which resulted in a career for life. It provided food, clothing and shelter. It held out a promise of a stable career with a lifetime of excellent earnings and promotional opportunities. The last twenty years have shown the American dream may no longer be full of promise. In fact, it may now be very short on promise and fulfillment. Many have lost their jobs, their homes and their careers. It is no longer a stable environment; rather it is the epitome of instability. Is it worth the pursuit? Is it fulfilling? It is fair to say that it may not be worth the chase and it may not be fulfilling. The American dream could be a spiritual distraction!

It is not a choice between the American dream or the Lord and His Church. The choice is what comes first! If the American dream interferes with your service to the Lord, His Church, and being active and supportive of the Church, it has become a spiritual distraction!

The Lord has always taken care of His saints and their needs for the basics of life. He has never and will never forsake the saints of God.

Years ago there was a brother in the Church who had a good paying job during the Depression. It helped him support his family. It helped him with his financial duties and responsibilities to the Church. It is hard to imagine, but this job provided him steady work and many opportunities for overtime. His fellow workers became jealous and plotted against him. He overheard them talking one day that they would take a different route the next day and not pick him up for work. That night he prayed to the Lord and asked Him for His help and direction. He told the Lord he did not know what to do, he would lose his job. He also told the Lord that he needed this job to financially support the Church and to provide for his family. The Lord spoke to him and called him by name. The Lord told him what highway his fellow workers would take, what time they would arrive and where to stand. The following morning, this brother did exactly what the Lord told him to do. They arrived on time and at the exact location. This brother's fellow workers were stunned! They did not know what to do; but they did pick him up. The same thing happened on the second day and the third day, all at different highways and locations. For three days and nights, the Lord instructed the brother on their precise plans. On the third day, the workers who had conspired against the brother were arguing and trying to determine if there was a stool pigeon in the crowd! They did not know how this brother knew their plans. What they did not realize is that the Lord knew their plans. Little did they know it was the hand of the Lord! They gave up! The Lord and the brother were the victors!

Is the Church a necessary part of your life? How vital is it to you? Does it come first? Does the Church interfere with your plans and schedules? Do you schedule outside activities around the Church meetings and schedule? How important are weekly services including the auxiliaries, MBA, Sunday School and Ladies' Uplift Circle? Are Sunday

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

Have you noticed how many different things in this world change? For example, a hairstyle, clothing style, or type of car that is really popular this year will be considered out of date the next year. A game or toy that is really popular one holiday will be called boring the next.

Some people spend much of their energy, time and money searching out the "newest" things so they feel important and smart.

The companies that sell things spend hundreds of thousands of dollars constantly to get us to want new products. They hope to trick us into thinking that these things will make us happy.

Grown up people get tricked too. We think "Oh, if only I had that special new tool, or bigger house, or vacation, or new car, I'd really be happy."

But this is a lie. These kind of things do not make us happy in a long lasting, real way.

What does? What can really make a person happy, content and joyful? The answer is having peace in your heart. Having love, and hope that God can do all things, and having faith that Jesus will work out all of our troubles makes us truly happy.

In Romans 8:28, we are taught and promised, *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

This means that when something bad happens to you or your family, you do not have to fear. When we go through hard times, we learn. When a little baby is lying on the

blanket crying and fussing because he wants attention, he begins to wiggle. Eventually he looks around and begins to crawl. One day he holds onto to something, stands up and walks. And finally, he will be big enough to pick up some other baby and help carry them.

So when something bad does go wrong, it's time to turn to Jesus and cry out, "I trust you Lord. Let something good come from this. Help me!" And you will be surprised.

Once the problem passes, you will look back and think about all the ways you've changed. You'll see that you are stronger inside. If you have suffered, your heart is now opened to understand how others feel. If you have lost something, you will be grateful when you have something else. When your heart aches, you will learn how to talk with Jesus. What grows inside of you is called faith and hope.

It isn't Jesus that makes us suffer, it's that ugly, old devil who is call the father of all lies. He even makes up the lies that we tell ourselves when we decide to do something mean or unkind.

But Jesus will bring us through the suffering. He will give us forgiveness and a clean heart so we can start over. He is the light and the life. Trust Him. Tell Jesus the ugly, bitter, sad feelings you fight against. Jesus never goes out of style. Jesus knows all the devil's tricks. He is in charge of the devil. In Jesus name, with fasting and prayer, our Elders and saints can cast out the old devil.

Believe in Jesus. Believe in His

love. Let Him help you. Remember, He knows our sins already. He sees everything we do. He even knows our ugly thoughts but still loves us. Trust Him.

With care,  
Your friend who believes in change,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

JESUS	IN	LOVE
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S	E	O	G	T	H	I	N	G	S
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C	A	R	E	S	S	U	S	E	J

To Mothers  
Everywhere

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY**



## MBA 62nd Anniversary Branch #3, Michigan

*By Sister Lydia Furnari*

October 20, 1995 was a very special day in Branch #3, Sterling Heights, Michigan. What a thrill to see the faces of the saints, of family and friends who attended the 62nd Anniversary of the MBA of Branch #3 of The Church of Jesus Christ. There were many we had not seen in a long time, yet remembering those who could not be here because of distance, illness or who had passed away.

We enjoyed a season of singing while waiting for the latecomers as they entered the auditorium. Brother Gary Coppa welcomed everyone who made the effort to come and join in the celebration. We opened the

meeting by singing hymn #386, *When the Angel Moroni* and Brother Jim Carrabia opened in prayer.

Sister Dorothy Pastorelli did a fine job in compiling a list of officers from the year 1933 to the present and pulling from all the minutes, special points of interest from the past sixty-two years. Brother Gary read a few of the names of the past presidents, vice presidents and chaplains, noting that many had since passed away. The first minutes of the organization meeting of 1933 were read and certificates of recognition were given to the original founding members who are still with us. These members are: Brothers Jack Pontillo, Mike Piacentino, John Salerno, Frank Vitto and Joe DeFabio; Sisters: Lena (Ausilio) Pontillo, Frances (Campo) Cece, Mary (Conti) Vitto, Mary (Carrato) Pandovini, Theresa (Conti) Piacentino, Jenny (D'Angelo) Randazzo, Ida (Salerno) Jenio, Irene DiFabio and Frances (Ausilio) Capone.

Each member from this group shared a highlight of a memory they had of MBA and testified how the

MBA played an important part in their lives. Brother Gary asked the congregation if they had any questions to ask of these brothers and sisters. After the question and answer session, a poem written long ago by Brother Mike Piacentino called, *The MBA* was read. The congregation stood and sang, *In the Garden* to the original members. What a beautiful meeting!

We closed by singing hymn #37, *Weighed in the Balance* and Brother Joe Furnari offered prayer. After the meeting, we stayed and enjoyed a time of fellowship.

### Reminder

**GMBA CAMPOUT**

**JUNE 22-28, 1996**

**COME JOIN US AS WE GET**

**BACK TO THE BASICS.**



## Levittown, PA Branch

*By Sister Christina Perri*

As the year 1995 came to its close, it was a time to reflect on our accomplishments and blessings of the past year. As the new year began, it is also a time for us to look ahead toward new growth. The Levittown Branch experienced many blessings in 1995, and as I remember the sermons brought forth in 1995, many of them had a common message: "Be in one accord, have a strong foundation in Christ as members of His Church, with His power and His truth, and share the Gospel with others." In 1995, the Levittown Branch had been striving to do just that, share the

Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

One way we've tried to do this is through holding monthly "home meetings." Once a month, the members of the branch would split up in groups held at a different brother or sister's home, and we would invite neighbors and friends to join us at an informal meeting as a way to introduce the Gospel to them. We had several visitors at our meetings, and we've tried to plant that seed. The latter part of 1995 brought several regular visitors to our branch meetings, and we pray for their continued interest. They were first brought to our Church because of a shared testimony of a brother or sister. We thank God that we are beginning to see the fruits of our labors and prayers.

As for the year 1996, we thank God that we are off to a good start. We are planning a series of topics for our Wednesday night meetings on how to better present the Gospel to

others. We pray that God will bless our efforts and increase our desire in 1996 to serve Him better by sharing this wonderful Gospel.

## Branch #2, Michigan

*By Sister Carolynn Gentile*

On December 3, 1995 the members of Branch #2 were honored to have with us Brother Gary Coppa, his wife Sister Judy, and son Kevin from Branch #3.

Brother Gary is recovering from skin cancer on his nose which resulted in the removal of the left side of his nose.

His experience and the message that he shared with us that day was truly inspirational. It was a revelation of God's spirit within him and a

(Continued on Page 8)

**BRANCH #2 continued . . .**

testimony to God's goodness in his life. It is a privilege and obligation to share it with all of you.

Brother Gary opened the service thanking us for the prayers and cards on his behalf during this journey through surviving cancer. He then posed the question, "When is a miracle not a miracle?"

He began to answer his question by reading from Luke 17:11, the story of the ten lepers who were cleansed. One of the ten, a Samaritan, gave glory to God while the other nine did not.

He continued by reading from the Book of Mormon, Helaman, chapter 14, about Samuel's prophecy of the coming of Christ and the signs that the people of this land would witness to know of His birth and death. He read the confirmation of the prophecy in III Nephi 1:15 and how shortly after the people witnessed these signs, Satan stole these miracles from them.

He then referred to an article published in Time magazine regarding miracles. The article was about a group of renowned Biblical scholars from various organized religions who meet yearly for an event they call the "Jesus Seminars." Over time they meet to discuss significant Biblical happenings such as the miracles Jesus performed and His words, the Virgin Birth, and the Resurrection. They vote by casting the appropriate colored marbles in a plastic container depending on their feeling regarding that issue. If they believe the event was fabricated they cast a black marble, a grey marble if they believe it was probably fabricated, pink if it may have occurred and red if they believe it did.

Regarding the words and miracles of Jesus, the vote showed that they agree that He probably never said them or performed them. Ninety-six percent of the scholars voted that the Virgin Birth could not have happened, and in time for Easter, they took up the vote regarding the Resurrection and voted it down.

As Brother Gary shared the results of the vote, the sorrow in the hearts of the congregation was very prevalent.

With energy and spirit, he then answered his previously posed question, "When is a miracle not a miracle? **When it is not acknowledged!** He exclaimed, "I am a miracle. I have been touched by the finger of Jesus."

He urged us to stand on our feet and witness in order for our Church to grow and that without being a witness to the miracles in our lives and the lives of those around us we are letting Satan steal the miracles. The only miracles that do not happen are the ones that are not acknowledged.

He enthusiastically encouraged us to acknowledge the everyday miracles in our lives as well.

As he related his experience and his fight with cancer, he continually used it as an opportunity to praise God for every small battle he won. Praise God today that he is able to stand before us and thank Him for His healing touch. Miraculously, Brother Gary does not need to have radiation treatment which is extremely dangerous because of his face and still needs our prayers for a complete recovery. What a powerful message for all of us to consider daily in our lives.

Brother Dominic Thomas continued the service by stating that the same Satan that stole the miracles from the other nine lepers, or the signs of Christ's birth, is here today and we must not let him win. He explained that we need the power of miracles to let us know that this is God's Church not man's.

He encouraged us to pray every day and night for the members of the Church as every little thing you do for the Church no matter how small, adds to its goodness. God is with us, He performs miracles on our behalf daily. Many of the members of the congregation can attest to those miracles.

As we were closing the meeting, Brother Don Sweet stood and testified to a miracle in his life. He knew

he must praise God and acknowledge it before it could be stolen away.

We closed the meeting by singing *Count Your Blessings* and *Showers of Blessings*.

I hope that you all have the opportunity to hear Brother Gary's testimony and experience from him. The events and circumstances surrounding his illness are definitely miraculous. He was an inspiration to our congregation and his message has stayed with us in the following weeks.

Acknowledge your miracles!!!!

## Called to Serve

By Sister Karen L. Progar

October 8, 1995 was an exciting day in the Aliquippa Branch, with many visitors in attendance to witness the ordination of Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., into the office of Elder.

After Apostle Russell Cadman opened the service in prayer, Brother Paul J. Ciotti, Jr., from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania addressed the congregation, using II Kings 2 as his text. Brother Paul reminded us of the double portion of the Spirit which Elisha so diligently desired, stating that Elijah's mantle is akin to the authority which will be bestowed upon Brother Pete today.

Evangelist Ike Smith followed discussing missionaries of the past and how the saints today must seek a double portion of the Lord's Spirit in order to maintain the missionary zeal of the Church. Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, of Dallas, Texas continued commenting on the roll of the Priesthood to bring salvation to all of mankind.

After a wonderful meal prepared by the sisters of the branch, Regional President, Brother Art Gehly addressed our congregation telling us that we are called to this holy calling because of our faith. He further stated that it is a tremendous privilege to come under the sound of the Gospel and a greater privilege to be

**SERVE continued . . .**

called to serve. He urged us to listen to the calling of the Spirit.

Apostle Paul Palmieri then rehearsed the duties and responsibilities of an Elder, in particular, the importance of bringing souls to Christ. Brother Jeffrey Giannetti washed his brother's feet and Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr., had the honor of offering the ordination prayer.

After communion was served, Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., expressed himself, thanking his parents for the love he felt in their home as a child and for the influence they had leading to this day.

We were blessed to have our Sister Olga Mavrich receive an immediate healing when she was anointed during the meeting. It was a privilege to have three Apostles, along with many visiting Evangelists and Elders attend the ordination. As Apostle Joseph Bittinger closed our service with prayer, we all felt a portion of that Holy Spirit.

**Baptisms in Elkins, WV**

*By Sister Linda Ali*

" . . . and the blood was dripping down on the cross, and on the ground, but there was one drop *He Shed Just For Me.*" This song has been the theme at the Elkins Mission for years, and how appropriate to be sung on Sunday, October 22, 1995, the day the Lord chose to shed two drops of blood for Ken and Shellie Roy.

Brothers and sisters from Elkins and various branches of Pennsylvania met at the waters' edge. It was a cold day, but God's love warmed the air and water. Ken was baptized by Brother Bob Nicklow and confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo. Shellie was baptized by Brother Bill Colangelo and confirmed by Brother John Ali.

Our service was opened by Brother Bill Colangelo reading from the 8th chapter of Mark, verse 38,

*"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the son of man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his father with the holy angels."* Brother John Ali followed by speaking of the day Christ was born and how today Brother Ken and Sister Shellie were spiritually born. During our testimony service, Sister Hetti Benyola related that during the confirmations she saw another set of hands placed upon Brother Ken and Sister Shellie's heads. Praise God for His beautiful confirmations.

On Saturday, October 14, just a week prior, Brother Ken and Sister Shellie were united in marriage at Black Waterfalls by Brother Bill Colangelo and assisted by Brother Bob Nicklow.

Our prayer is that the Lord will bless Ken and Shellie as they start their new life together as husband and wife (and brother and sister) serving Him.

**Baptisms in Simi Valley, CA**

On November 19, 1995, my husband Pete and I went to Church. During the final moments of the service, I told Pete I wanted to be baptized. He asked me if I was sure. I said yes. Then I did something I'd never done before. I got up and walked out. I had no reason whatever for doing that and I am still puzzled by my actions. When I came back, Pete and Brother Edmund Buccellato were talking and I started to go to them. Before I got halfway, Brother Ed came to me and asked me how I was doing. I never answered him. I couldn't. But, Brother Ed knew. He took me into his office and once there, I could only say five little words. I told him, "I want to be baptized." A half a box of tissues later, I walked out of his office feeling like I was walking on air.

The day was finally chosen for the baptism. It would take place on December 17, 1995. It feels like an eternity away. No, it is an eternity away.

On the 16th of December, Pete and I stayed with family and friends so as not to have to get up so early in the morning. Pete and his nephew Darren stayed with Eddie Nester and I stayed with Pete's sister Lee and her husband Chick. Pete's sister Grace Brutz from San Diego and Jean Zaranko from Michigan were also there to witness our baptism. We all went to bed early to get a good night's rest.

There is a song that I can clearly relate to; it's called, *I Couldn't Sleep at all Last Night* and I couldn't. Among other things, I worried that the alarm wouldn't go off, or perhaps that I might die during the night. I had waited so long for this day to arrive that I suppose I was afraid that if I fell asleep that I would never wake up again. So many crazy thoughts were racing through my head as I lay there watching the night change to early dawn. Finally, I got up at 5:00 AM, made coffee and I was soon joined by the rest of the family. Shortly thereafter, it was time to get ready for the long awaited day.

As we arrived at the water, Brother Joe Ciarolla, Pete, Brother Ed and I stood at the shore and a prayer was said. Then it was time for Pete to be baptized. Brother Joe Ciarolla and Pete walked out into the waters and as I watched Pete being submerged I cried with joy for him. When he was picked up from the water, the most beautiful smile I had ever seen lit up his face. He looked radiant.

Then my turn had arrived, the moment I had waited so very long for. Brother Ed asked if I would serve God all my days and repent of all my sins—I do, I did, I will. And then he submerged me in the water.

A strange thing happened in the water. I had a feeling of floating in a tunnel. It was gray around the outer edge, but clearly light within the center. It felt like a tornado would feel. I was the eye (center) and the storm (outer edges) was spinning around me. As I watched, the outer

(Continued on Page 10)

**SIMI VALLEY continued . . .**

circle was gaining greater speed as it gathered all my wrongful deeds of the past, and the circle began to widen and widen till it was completely gone. Then all was quiet and I watched in wonder as a light surrounded me and I felt such a feeling of comfort and inner peace. I felt complete at last. I felt the presence of Jesus there with me. Having waited patiently for so long, He smiled upon me, and I was filled with joy knowing I came to Him at last.

Then the explosion happened. I didn't know what was happening to me. I was moving against my will. It took a moment to realize that Brother Ed was bringing me out of the water. Brother Ed had to help me back to shore, and my beautiful husband came out to the water to meet us and we embraced and cried. We then were surrounded with love and hugs from all who witnessed and shared this beautiful event.

At Church, we had the laying on of hands in which Pete cried and I

did not. Two completely different reactions. He was so very happy to be back in the Church, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He could hardly contain his emotions. He did the only thing he could do, he cried. I was very happy for him and proud of him. My reaction was not one of tears which surprised me but one of calm and complete peacefulness such as I had never experienced before. I am at peace with God and myself. For the first time in my life, I feel complete. I want to only serve you Jesus, till the day I can return to you.

"Thank you Father for waiting so patiently for me to come to you. You are all things good and mighty. I will bring honor to your name and will praise your most Holy Name. I give thanks for all You have done to me, for me and with me. May you protect Pete and me from evil ways and guide us to do Your will. Help us to do any good that will best serve Your needs. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Santa Ana, CA Mission**

*By Sister Santina M. Mercuri*

Some time has elapsed since our last communication with the *Gospel News*, so I shall try to give you an update on some of the happenings at our mission.

As most of you know, the city of Santa Ana has purchased the Church property due to a street widening project, which is to commence in the near future. The city will assist us in relocating at no cost to us. In reality, it will be a blessing for us, inasmuch as the Church building is too large for the number of members, plus that the upkeep financially and otherwise has been more than we have been able to assume. The parking has always been a problem, inasmuch as the Church is situated on the corner of a busy intersection, and when it rains, we have had problems getting out of our car due to the high rise of water. We will be given a period of three months to relocate.

Many changes have taken place over the years. People have been baptized and become part of our mission family, and people have gone, some to the native land of Mexico. Then our little mission was without an Elder. At this point, the district decided to initiate a rotation of ministers visiting program. This was a great help to us on Sundays and Thursdays and we are appreciative of the support they gave us.

Since we were left without a full time Elder, Brother Rudy Meo, under the inspiration of God, volunteered to come to Santa Ana and stay for as long as he was needed. His coming was a blessing to us. A dinner was held to welcome him as our Elder. He has blended well with the people and has shown a lot of love and care for a people who are sometimes not understood. He does not live exactly next door. It is about sixteen miles away from his home, but Brother Rudy has been there at each meeting consistently. We love our brother for all of his efforts and his love. May God bless him and give him the strength to continue as our Elder.

We are only a remnant, but we do care for one another and do want to stay together in the work here in Santa Ana. We know that in the not too distant future, our mission will grow and many souls will come to the knowledge of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our desire to reach out to the people in the community. The needs are great. We want to be a working mission that will continually show the light of God. After all, isn't that the real mission of the Church? Our forthcoming move will, without a doubt, usher in a time of triumph and blessing in the Lord.

Brother Raul and Sister Sally Ramirez, an elderly couple who had been attending our meetings for a while, were recently baptized, for which we thank God. We had a luncheon for them the day of their baptism and we all enjoyed a wonderful spirit in God's love.

We send our love and prayers to all of our Church family. Do remember us in your prayers as we prepare to delve into a greater work in the

**Announcement**

For May, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.10%
2 years	5.20%
3 years	5.30%
4 years	5.40%
5 years	5.50%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 814-227-2421.

Building Fund deposits and Building Fund letters for withdrawal requests must go to Brother Martin's new address listed on page 3 of this *Gospel News*.



city of Santa Ana. Come and visit us. Everyone is welcome. God bless you all!

## Tucson, AZ Mission

*"For behold the Lord doth grant unto all nations of their own nation and tongue, to teach his word . . ."* This quotation found in the Book of Mormon, Alma 29:8, took on special significance for the Tucson, Arizona Mission in the latter part of 1995. It was then that we became acquainted with Dr. Ram Chandra Baral, who, with his family of five, was finishing up his doctorate dissertation at the University of Arizona. He is a very intelligent man who comes from the country of Nepal which borders the northeastern part of India.

He has a wonderful and remarkable testimony of how he searched and found Jesus Christ and how he desired to know the truth of the Restored Gospel. His quest for truth led him to make contact with the General Church Officers who forwarded Brother Ram's inquiry to the Tucson Mission. Brothers Paul Francione and John Ross, Jr., met as often as Brother Ram's schedule permitted and learned how God had worked and blessed him with many experiences along the way. He will relate his own testimony later. Suffice it to say that God's hand has been on our brother for some time. The Spirit of God worked with him until we were able to meet and discuss with him the wonderful message of salvation found in Jesus Christ alone.

Brother Ram asked for his baptism on December 17, 1995, and at a beautiful setting on Silver Bell Lake with mountains in the background, he was baptized by Brother Dwayne Jordan of Tse Bonito. Our Mission is very grateful to Brother Dwayne and Sister Elaine Jordan for traveling to Tucson to share this special day with us. Interestingly enough, Brother Dwayne, Sister Elaine and Brother Ram have several mutual friends who were also from Nepal. After prayer by Brother John

Ross, Jr., Brother Dwayne offered prayer for the reception of the Holy Spirit. Brother Ram then expressed himself and related some interesting experiences, always giving special honor to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We had a little reception following the service.

There is a group of about five hundred in Nepal and they are scattered around. Just think, people in Nepal coming to us believing in the Book of Mormon. It is hard to imagine. Yet when God does the work, *" . . . his work is perfect,"* (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Our brother's intent is to go back to Nepal and resume both his natural work and his work for the Lord. Since he needs to work about a year to help with travel plans, he has now moved to Mississippi where God has provided a job for him. His address is listed below and any cards or letters of encouragement would be appreciated by him and his family.

We of the Tucson Mission marvel and stand in awe of what God can do. It is our prayer that what was begun that Sunday morning might blossom and bring forth much fruit for the Lord. All glory to Him.

Dr. Ram Baral  
P.O. Box 381  
Itta Bena, MS 38941

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## WELCOME continued . . .

(Mark 3:34). When you open your home, you are also opening your heart. God bless you as you consider your way of life and the example you are setting.

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## MESSAGE continued . . .

Mormon, and the Church's beliefs and ordinances were presented and explained.

The people enjoyed singing hymns of praise. Many of them were younger adults who sang with

exuberance and wanted to hear about the Restored Gospel.

The journey to Santa Rosa was made at the request of a landowner who was impressed to hear about the Church's work among the Seed of Joseph. He had made assurances that our people would be welcomed at his ranches.

Santa Rosa has colder temperatures, being in excess of 14,000 feet. It is a very rural area which just recently obtained electricity. It has a population of about 4,000 Indian people who depend upon livestock and agriculture.

The brothers stated they had good liberty in preaching the Gospel and were very impressed with the interest and the warmth of the people. They further reported that there appears to be great promise in the country of Peru.

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## EDITORIAL continued . . .

services sufficient in your life? Our Church attendance should not be subject to our convenience. It is important that we attend and meet often. It states in Moroni 6:5-6, *"And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls. And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus."*

Our quality of life is dependent on our service to the Lord and His Church. Serving the Lord enhances and improves our quality of life. Is there a better place to be than in Church with your wife, your children or family? Being active and attentive in Church keeps us spiritually focused and in constant touch with God. We must set the example for our children and families. Our children must understand that you become a product of your environment. Our children and families need the Lord, they need The Church of Jesus Christ. They need to learn and

(Continued on Page 12)

\* WEDDING \*

Windi Lu Gensburg and Mato Tripalo Kresic were married on November 11, 1995 in Newton Falls, Ohio.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### JOSEPH LONGUILLO

Joseph Longuillo, husband of Sister Joan Longuillo of the Edison, New Jersey Branch, passed away to his eternal reward on August 12, 1995. He is survived by his wife, Sister Joan Longuillo; two daughters, Sisters Donna Frashilla and Carol Beagan; and two grandchildren.

### CHARLOTTE E. LINT STRICKLER

Sister Charlotte E. Lint Strickler passed on to her heavenly reward on February 2, 1996. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Charlotte is survived by her husband, Donald R. Strickler; one daughter, Sister Donna Fleming; two sisters, Viola Lowery and Sister Geraldine Hall; two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

### ANN EVANKO BENYOLA

Sister Ann Evanko Benyola passed away to her eternal reward on February 12, 1996. She was a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. Sister Ann was

preceded in death by her husband, Brother Louis Benyola and a son, Thomas Benyola. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Mary Jane Cervone; four sons, Brothers Louis Benyola, Gerald Benyola, Raymond Benyola and Dennis Benyola; two sisters, Mary Evanko and Sue Coil; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### PRIMA PALAZZO

Sister Prima Palazzo passed away to her heavenly reward on January 10, 1996. She was a member of the Rochester, New York Mission.

## Children Blessed

John Johnson Blair, and Peter Dwyer Blair, twin sons of Princess Blair and Septimus Kelly were blessed on November 19, 1995 in the Bronx, New York Branch.

Calvin Ernest Blair, son of Carmen Blair and Colin Crowther, was blessed in the Bronx, New York Branch on November 19, 1995.

Jessica Raye McGuire, daughter of Michael McGuire and Michelle Pasquerella, was blessed on February 11, 1996 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Marissa Mae Hemmings, daughter of Brother Sam and Sister Lisa Hemmings was blessed on February 11, 1996 in the San Diego, California Branch.

Ashley Micelle Whitney, daughter of Jason and Stephanie Whitney, was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on November 28, 1995.

Sara Irene Monaghan, daughter of Brother Scott and Sister Lori Monaghan, was blessed on January 7, 1996 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Stephanie Noel Jenkins, daughter of Maria and Cliff Jenkins was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on November 26, 1995.

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### EDITORIAL continued . . .

know the pattern they must lead. That pattern is the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. They need to learn and know what is important in life. What is important is our service to God, keeping His commandments and obeying His doctrine in The Church of Jesus Christ.

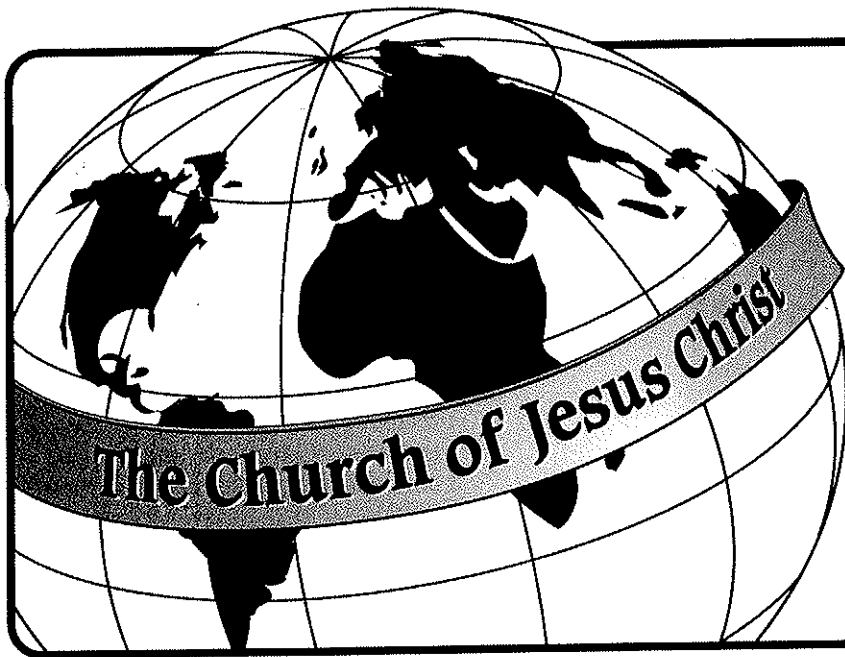
All your desires and needs can be fulfilled by seeking the kingdom of God. There is no shortage in God's storehouse of blessings. They are there for those that ask, for those that seek and for those that knock. All three are direct avenues to the storehouse of the Lord. It is up to us. We must decide what is important. The decision is not difficult. What is important is our service to the Lord and His Church. Joshua 24:15 states, "... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This statement captures it all.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

June, 1996

Volume 52, No. 6

## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST General Church Conference April 1996

*By Brother Jeffrey Giannetti*

*"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly . . ."* are the words used by the Prophet Joel many years ago. Yet, they perfectly capture the theme of the recent April 1996 General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ. While all present were thrilled to see the growth of the Church and the new inroads being made into mission fields all over the world, we also recognized the need to be drawn closer than ever to our Lord in order to meet the demand for the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ we have been blessed to experience. We also realize the importance of strong, growing and vibrant branches and missions throughout the parent Church allowing us to support the growing work worldwide. So, as the Prophet Joel admonished, each of us in our branches and missions around the world, must call a solemn assembly and sanctify a fast for the great work of the Lord!

The Saturday session of the conference was open to all and what a thrill it was to see the World

Conference Center filled to near capacity for the morning session. The day was started by Apostle Tom Liberto reading from the 17th chapter of St. John. Brother Tom spoke of the many "remembrances" we have when, at various times in our lives, we feel the touch of Jesus Christ. These remembrances come in many forms, but each serves to increase our faith, trust and hope in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Seventy, followed on the same theme and encouraged us to do all we can for the Lord and His Church. He admonished us to study the word of God that we may fully understand all that God has promised to His people and to His Church. As Brother Leonard Lovalvo spoke, a sister had a vision. "She saw a white dove descend over and upon the Ministry." Following our brothers' inspired messages, we enjoyed the Lord's Supper. How appropriate to turn our attention at the start of conference to remembering the suffering of Jesus Christ, for without

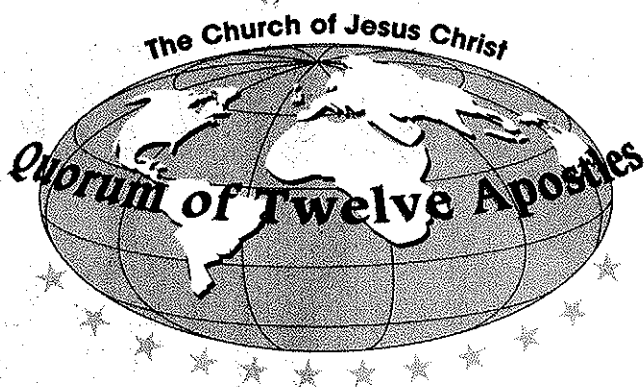
His sacrifice and His atoning blood, all of our efforts would be in vain.

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles continued speaking in our afternoon session. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo spoke first and directed his comments to the Priesthood of the Church. Our brother gave an enlightening and inspiring presentation on the qualities and responsibilities of a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. Our brother read from numerous scriptures and recounted several experiences from his more than sixty years in the ministry to provide a complete picture of who a minister must be and what he must accomplish.

Apostle Paul Benyola spoke next and offered inspired words on God's revealing power and the power of prayer. Brother Paul related a recent experience where the Lord revealed to a brother, eight different events that would take place the following Sunday. During the Sunday Service, each of the eight items revealed to our brother came to pass. The items revealed included a baptism, a healing, the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues and more. How good God is to reveal to us His will.

Apostles Paul Palmieri and Joseph Lovalvo completed the speaking in our afternoon service. Both brothers related how God continues to work in the Church as

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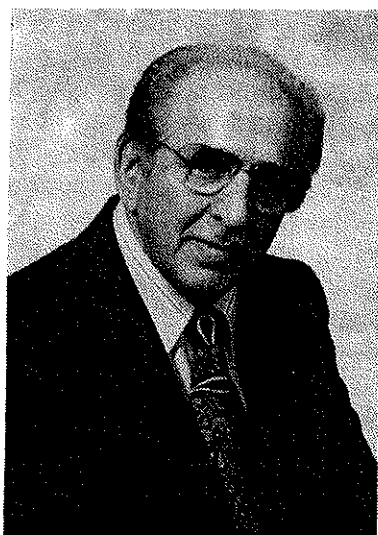


## The Nuclear Family and the Family of God

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART II

Following Jesus is not a matter of choosing to do more than one thing. A true disciple must choose to serve Him above his own family. The consequences for following Him is a disruption of the family and friends. Love for Jesus must transcend the love for family and possessions. Braced with this kind of love will help them to endure the certain consequences which will face



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

them for following Him. It was this love that made them victors over persecution and death. It was this love that brought them to sublime heights of joy despite the arrows of hate which were shot at them. Pain

and imprisonment could not quench the love for Christ in their hearts.

They were not ignorant of the potential dangers facing them nor fearful, for they had the Holy Spirit to give them courage. But when weighed in the balance, the blessings they received by seeing others obey the Lord and the signs which followed them were much more than the sufferings they endured.

Despite the fact that Jesus set forth the consequences and rewards of following Him, the Twelve whom He chose remained with Him. Something about this lowly Nazarene compelled them to continue with Him. Prior to this, Jesus spoke in general terms, using words as whoever and anyone. He now draws them closer to Him and addresses them in the more familiar pronoun, you. This was not by accident but by design. It was like saying to them that they had passed the test and were now ready to be used according to His direction. Now they are His witnesses, endowed with authority and power to administer His words, with the promised signs following.

Before this, Jesus focused on the negative, showing what a disciple had to give up to follow Him. The nuclear family would be disrupted, wives and children would be left behind as they traveled around preaching the Gospel of salvation. Now Christ focuses on the positive, telling His disciples the

rewards of following Him. *"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me"* (Matthew 10:40). Also: *"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel"* (Matthew 19:28).

And what about Jesus' family? Was He scorning them when, in response to the statement, *"Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee,"* He replied, *"Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother"* (vv. 47-50).

While these words may have offended the hearers, their gist and heart is not of the natural but of the spiritual. Jesus had not come to establish a natural family, but a new, spiritual one. The highest priority and allegiance must now be given to this family. One becomes a member of this family by total obedience to the Father and the Son.

To say that Jesus' teachings brought about the disruption of the nuclear family is indeed an error. Following Him is a choice, not a requirement. It is a matter of setting one's priorities in their proper perspective. As a matter of fact, Jesus emphasized the need for family provision. *"Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him"* (Matthew 7:9-11).

In providing for the material necessities, it is the family that gives its members their identity. It is safe to say that Christ placed a greater emphasis and importance on the

spiritual family than the physical one. The Church, as the spiritual family, now takes first place: brothers and sisters in Christ.

The New Testament exemplifies this teaching when a woman called out to Jesus, "*Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked*" (Luke 11:27). He responded, "*Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it*" (v.28), thus giving the spiritual family greater significance.

Another instance of importance is when Jesus tells Mary and John, at the foot of the cross, that they are now mother and son to each other. It has been the traditional interpretation that He was primarily concerned about her physical welfare, but in the fact that she had other children who, no doubt, took care of her, it seems plausible that Jesus was more concerned about their spiritual relationship.

Jesus did not ask His disciples to give up their families thereby depriving them of something good, rather He offered them something better; a spiritual family where they could all receive love and care from each other (Matthew 10:40-42). As this family (the Church) identifies itself with the Lord, by keeping His commandments, its members can better serve each other with unaffected love and care.

As the community of Christ grows and practices this kind of love, its members learn to identify with each other, thus becoming the ideal spiritual nuclear family.

As the family of God, the Church becomes the source of dispensing spiritual needs. Individualism must cease; collectivism must reign. An individual in the family of God is a particular part of the whole. Each member begins to learn how to suffer with those that suffer and rejoice with those who rejoice.

It is this relationship, sponsored by the Holy Spirit, which knits one to another in love, by which effusion also the heavenly gifts are manifested. 1 Corinthians, chapters 13-14 are excellent examples of the

spiritual gifts which are given to the family of God. It is suggested, by the use of the words, *to one* in those chapters that no one is exempt from a gift. While only nine gifts are mentioned (chapter 13), the storehouse of God overflows with gifts, ready to be bestowed on whomever He wills.

The Church should also be an entity of socialization. This does not mean a place of having parties, etc. It means getting together to acquire knowledge, understanding, value systems and abilities whereby spiritual growth is acquired. The children need this kind of socialization. Often, this function has been taken over by other institutions, including the educational system where our children are secularized by values not in harmony with spiritual ones.

It has been thought that this role should be the role and duty of the nuclear family. While it is true to a great extent, the Church should have a leading part in the nurturing of its children in order to counteract the negative influence surrounding them daily. In the larger atmosphere of the family of God (the Church), young people can be exposed to values supplementing those of a small nuclear one.

The Church is a place where one learns good values from older, mature members who can act as role models; those who have, by the grace of God, overcome many obstacles and who can impart such experienced knowledge to others. In its milieu one learns behavioral proficiencies as service, hospitality, tolerance, sensitivity, motivation, virtue and morality based upon the Word of God.

(To be continued)

#### CONFERENCE continued . . .

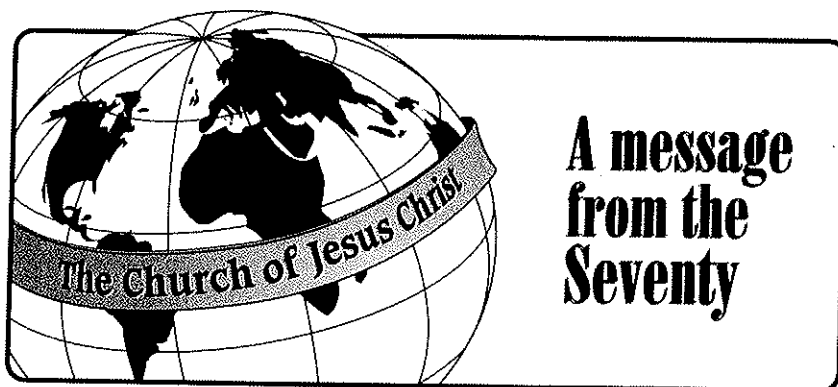
He has in days past. Brother Paul recounted miracles from a recent trip to Poland where the first convert was baptized and miracles in his own branch where a two-year-old

child with a terminal illness was completely healed to the amazement of her doctors. Brother Joe also related a number of powerful experiences each of which continues to renew his desire to preach the message of Jesus Christ and His Gospel. During the Saturday afternoon session, a sister had a vision. She wrote, "Behind the Ministry appeared a figure in a white robe walking towards the Ministry from the back wall of the rostrum. After a period of time, about five minutes, the figure disappeared."

On Saturday evening an overview of the numerous and growing mission fields throughout the Church was presented. We were also privileged to hear from Brother Rosario, an Elder from Italy and Brother Ram, our first member from the country of Nepal. Both of our brothers thanked God for His revealing power that led them to this Church.

Two themes resulted from the service on Saturday night. First, God is revealing to men and women in all parts of the world the truth of the Gospel Restored in the latter days. Inquiries from new fields are being received at an astonishing rate. When one considers we do no advertising as a Church and no international marketing, we realize it can only be the hand of God directing those who seek Him to The Church of Jesus Christ. The second theme resulting from this presentation was the tremendous potential for future growth if we, as a Church, can adequately support the various fields. It is clear, with the appropriate levels of support and involvement from the parent Church, exponential growth worldwide would be the norm. The presentation made clear we need not fear the inquiries nor the growth as both are from God and He will provide the means to support the work in each location. We, as members, must do all we can to promote the evangelism of this

(Continued on Page 11)



## Two Existing Mission Fields, New One Are Visited

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Two existing mission fields and a new one, at which an historic event took place, were visited in the February through April period. The trips were taken to Ghana in West Africa; Guatemala in Central America; and Poland in Europe where the first baptism by The Church of Jesus Christ took place in that nation.

God's presence, guidance, and protection were reported, and many blessings were experienced.

### JOURNEY TO GHANA, WEST AFRICA

Brothers Joseph Ross, Joseph Perri, and Richard Lawson journeyed to Ghana, West Africa on February 28 and returned on March 14. During their stay, eighteen baptisms were performed, bringing the membership there to two hundred fourteen.

They specified that they were once again impressed with the faith, enthusiasm, and dedication of our brothers and sisters in Ghana. Many testimonies were given and many miracles were related.

They visited, preached, and participated in services at the Church's locations. Also, they took part in three crusades, which were held in neighboring communities, accompanying Brother Ford Boadu, who is the President of the Church in Ghana, and the other Elders. Crusades have been very successful in bringing souls into the Gospel. A

religious video is shown, after which the Elders preach to the congregations about salvation.

The Church has a school in which one hundred ninety-eight children are registered and a small clinic, with a doctor in attendance four mornings a week. The brothers were able to go to these installations.

### TRAVEL TO GUATEMALA

Brothers Richard Christman and Paul Aaron Palmieri visited the Guatemala City Mission of the Church March 15-17.

They reported having a joyous time fellowshiping with the brothers, sisters and friends. The testimonies and the deeply moving singing were inspirational and highly noteworthy.

At the Sunday Service, both brothers spoke, as did Brother Luis Marroquin, the resident Minister and President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala. Miracles and manifestations of the Spirit were also narrated.

### HISTORIC TIME IN POLAND

Brothers Paul Palmieri, Philip Jackson, and David Nolfi traveled to Poland on April 7 in the historic trip, where the first convert in that nation was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. They returned April 15.

Edward Spyra of Warsaw was taken into the waters by Apostle

Palmieri on Wednesday afternoon, April 10, and he was confirmed by Brother Nolfi. The brothers, under the inspiration of God, also ordained Brother Spyra into the office of a Teacher on Sunday. His feet were washed by Brother Palmieri and he was ordained by Brother Jackson.

Meetings were held on Monday night, all day Tuesday, Wednesday morning, Friday evening, and Sunday. Communion was served during the Friday and Sunday services.

On Thursday, the group drove to Radom (an hour and a half from Warsaw) where relatives of the Spyras live and to Kracow (five hours from Warsaw) where they met with a person who is also interested in the Church. They were warmly received at both cities.

A dialogue had been carried on between Brother Palmieri and Brother Spyra, one of a group, for over a year, and this was the third trip to Poland. During the entire process, our new brother had become very familiar with our beliefs, doctrine, and ordinances and, of course, has been diligent in seeking God's will. He had initially contacted Brother Palmieri by telephone after having read about us in a book about Restoration groups.

The brothers left Poland with the prayer that the Lord will touch many other souls in Warsaw, as well as other locations, so that additional baptisms may be performed on future visits.

### FURTHER INTEREST IN THE CHURCH

Inquiries about The Church of Jesus Christ are being received from different parts of the world, in addition to those from within America.

The Lord's help is being sought in satisfying the requests being sent in to the General Church Correspondent. Both the Foreign Missions Operating Committee and Americas Missions Operating Committee are exploring the possibilities of entering new fields.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The great God that we serve can hear. He also listens. He is a sensitive God who knows our cares and needs. God is approachable and accessible. What we have to do is pray and pray often. We must pray without ceasing according to the Scriptures.

Why is prayer necessary? It is the means we use to communicate with God. It is our avenue to gain access to Him, to offer our thanks for His goodness and mercy. It is the avenue at our disposal for requesting His help for our daily bread and needs or to help our brothers and sisters and our fellow man.

Prayer moves the hand of God. The prayer of faith reaches the throne of God. Miracles of God are available to us. The full power of God is available to us. Forgiveness of our trespasses is available to us. All we have to do is ask God in prayer, with a broken heart and contrite spirit, and He will respond to our requests.

In Alma 34:18-27, Amulek gave excellent instruction on the need for prayer and why we need to pray. Amulek not only instructs us to pray, please notice that he uses the word "cry." We must pour out our hearts to God in prayer, mighty prayer.

Amulek tells us to pray for mercy. We are told to humble ourselves and continue in prayer to Him. We are told to cry unto Him when we are in our fields and over our flocks. Amulek tells us to cry unto Him in our houses in the morning, at noon and in the evening. He instructs us to cry to the Lord to overcome the power of our enemies. We are instructed to cry unto God to overcome the devil, the author of contention and lies, the enemy of all righteousness. Amulek tells us to cry over our fields that we may prosper in them. We are to cry over our flocks that they may increase. We are to cry and pour out our souls in mighty prayer in our closets, our homes, wherever we might be that God will bless us. We must be drawn out in prayer continuously for the welfare of our souls and for those around us.

Many people overcome obstacles, difficulties in life and illness through prayer. Because of prayer, the Brother of Jared, his family and their friends never experienced a confounding of their language. They were delivered to a promised land, a land of milk and honey.

God delivered Lehi and his family from their enemies, from destruction and brought them to a new and promised land. Nephi raised his brother Timothy from the dead.

Alma the younger and the four sons of Mosiah were snatched from the bonds of eternal damnation through prayer. They became wonderful and dedicated missionaries for the Lord.

Enos prayed for several hours that God would have mercy on him. God heard his prayer and forgave him. He became a wonderful man of God.

Cornelius prayed and prayed often. The Lord told Cornelius in Acts 10:4, "*Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*" As a result, he was given an opportunity and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. God answered his many prayers.

God answers our prayers today as He did in the days of old. He never changes. He is always there, ready to listen, ready to help. He never forsakes us, he never forgets us.

Recently, a young boy was healed during a meeting in Hopelawn, New Jersey. He had a growth on his chest. He was anointed by the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. After the anointing, he returned to his seat in the congregation. A few minutes later, he stood and testified that the growth was gone!

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "God the Creator"

Dear boys and girls,

How many times have you sat in a classroom and heard your teacher ask hard questions? How many times did you think about the right answer but were afraid to try it out loud? How many times have you wished you could do something really special but were afraid to try?

In the days Jerusalem was about to be destroyed, God spoke to his prophet, Lehi, a man who prayed and listened to God. The Lord told this man to leave the city quickly. He took tents, his wife and his sons and left for the wilderness. He was also joined by Ishmael, a man with many daughters.

Lehi's older sons, named Laman and Lemuel, were used to city ways. Their family had wealth. They did not want to leave. But they obeyed their father, complaining all the way. They set up camp in the wilderness and Prophet Lehi prayed again to God. One of his younger sons, Nephi, also prayed.

God told them to go back to the city, remove their secret wealth and offer to buy the ancient records of their people. In those days, paper was invented, but precious records were engraved (deeply scratched) into thin sheets of metal, called plates. These sheets of metal would last for centuries, and the words would be there for thousands of people to learn from.

Nephi, Laman and Lemuel had no success trying to buy the ancient brass plates. In fact, Laban, the man who kept the records, attacked them

and stole their riches. They were afraid and ran away.

Again, Nephi, the younger brother prayed. God encouraged him to try again. This time Laban the record keeper was drunk. Nephi was told by God, "It is better that one man perish (die) than that a whole nation of people fall away from knowing about God. Cut off Laban's head and bring the records back to your father in the wilderness." Nephi did so. He also brought Laban's heavy sword with him.

Eight years this family wandered in the wilderness. When their weapons broke, God inspired Nephi how to make new ones. When they became lost, God gave them a wondrous compass called the Liahona, which only worked when they were prayerful and good.

When they were starved, He showed Nephi where to find game. When the older brothers rebelled, God shook them, shocked them and forgave them. Each time a new problem came up, Lehi and Nephi prayed and God solved it for them.

Finally, they reached the beautiful seashore. Eight years of wilderness were behind them. The ocean was in front of them. God told Nephi that now He would teach Nephi how to build a boat to journey across the deep oceans to a promised land.

Nephi trusted God. If God could make every molecule of the universe, of course He can teach us anything. Nephi asked God, "Where shall I go to find ore (metal) that I can melt down to make tools?" God showed him. And he did.

Soon a ship was underway. His people came to the Americas. A man



who trusted God became a master engineer, a successful hunter, a faithful believer.

We can too. Nothing is impossible. If we are doing God's will, He can change us, teach us and make us much greater than we really are. Always remember how the Bible begins, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Let Him create with you.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

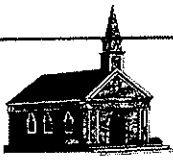
## WORD SEARCH

LET	BETTER	CAN
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CREATE	WHAT	TO
A	WE	US
GREATER	STARTED	PRAY
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O	P	T	G	H	A	K	L	O
R	E	T	H	A	N	S	O	R
B	N	A	C	T	D	A	F	G

To Fathers  
Everywhere

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S DAY**



## Branch and Mission News

### A Celebration of Our Past

By Sister Karen L. Progar

All of us recall loved ones and friends with whom we worshipped over the years, who for one reason or another, no longer meet with us. Such is the case in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. The matter of this loss preyed upon the hearts of the Priesthood and membership to such a degree that a committee was formed to organize an activity to which these people could be invited. We also took the opportunity to invite our loved ones who have moved away.

A weekend was chosen for a number of events and the project was entitled, "A Celebration of Our Past." We began the reunion on Saturday, November 18, 1995 with a dinner, followed by a video compiled by the committee, containing photos from the past and present, submitted by the branch membership. Brother Carl Amato of the McKees Rocks Pennsylvania Branch, videographed the photos for us and Brother Joel Ondik added a very touching musical soundtrack. We all gathered in the Church auditorium to see the video on a large screen television. There was a lot of chattering throughout the crowd, as the photos of those who have gone on to their reward, and pictures of those who have changed somewhat over the years, appeared on the screen. We all enjoyed a wonderful video history of the branch. Following the presentation, we gathered in the Church basement for dessert and discussion of the video.

Everyone was invited to attend services the following day as well. To begin the Sunday meeting, Brother Joe Ross, Presiding Elder, read a number of cards received from former members of the branch who were unable to attend the weekend, but wished to extend their love or

share some fond memories of their days in Aliquippa.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr., opened, stating that he felt wrapped in a blanket of love. He chose Alma 5 as his text, telling us of how the words of the prophet Abinadi rekindled in Alma the Spirit of God. He even went on to risk his life to promote and preach the Gospel.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., spoke of Alma's glorious heritage, likening it to the heritage we have received from our older brothers and sisters. He encouraged us to follow after those who came before us, with the hope that one day we will see Jesus. Communion appropriately closed our worship service.

A luncheon was served by the branch and our beautiful weekend of reminiscing and fellowship drew to a close. It is our prayer that this effort will spark in someone that spirit that they enjoyed in the past and that many of those we miss will feel a desire to meet with us on a continual basis. We know the Lord can touch their hearts, as He touched ours to desire their fellowship.

### Baptism in Hollywood, FL

By Sister Ilene Coppa

Today is December 31, 1995. We have come together to enjoy witnessing another repentant soul come to make a serious and firm promise to God.

The house of our Heavenly Father is filled to capacity. One can feel the thrill of knowing we are going to the waters of regeneration. The day is overcast, clouds threatening to release its moisture any minute. There is sunshine without limit in our souls. Upon arriving at the waters edge there were a number of people feeding wild ducks. We took the opportunity to tell them what was to take place. Who knows what seeds may be planted. Let's not leave any stone unturned.

We sang a verse of *Shall We Gather at the River*. Brother Paul

DiNardo offered prayer. We bowed our heads reverently while he called upon our God to visit, to observe an obedient servant leading another babe to fulfill His commandment. Repent and be baptized.

Erica Evette Chisholm allowed herself to be lead into the water. She had answered the question posed to her, "Do you repent of your sins and promise to serve God to the best of your ability?" Her answer was a resounding yes. Brother Dennis A. Moraco supported her and stepped into the water.

Brother Keith Smith, Erica's brother, was baptized in these same waters on November 5th of this year. He came to be present, to witness and support his sister's decision. Brother Keith stated he was frightened of water. Yet he was determined to carry through at the time of his baptism. Erica too was concerned. She was trembling, yet placed her full confidence in God and went willingly.

As Erica came up out of the water, Sister Kathy Kirschenpfad prepared to dry her off. As Erica stepped forward, Azalene, Erica's mother, came to her side. She gently took the towel from Kathy's hand and began wiping the watery tears from her daughter's face. Tenderly she cradled Erica in her arms, giving full approval of what she had just witnessed. Brother Keith also embraced his sister.

It's a wonderful privilege to worship as a natural family having all its members serving God under one roof. I would that all God's children would have the privilege. What harmony! We met back at the church building and proceeded following God's word to the letter.

Brother Paul DiNardo was chosen by the Spirit of God to offer prayer and ask God to bestow the abiding Holy Ghost upon our Sister Erica, that it might lead and guide her in the days ahead and never leave her alone.

Brother Silverio Coppa and Brother Leonard Benyola passed sacrament. This has truly been a

(Continued on Page 8)

**HOLLYWOOD continued . . .**

year of deep sorrow at losing loved ones—a year of building trust in God. A time in which there has been an increase in the numbers in our branch, so much so that we are crowded in seating capacity. Thus we have proven once again that one plants, one waters and our God gives the increase. We close the year on the mountain top, fortified with the strength and love of God. We love you all.

**I Only Felt Peace**

*By Sister Meredieth M. Martin*

“Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, Feelings lie buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by kindness, Cords that are broken will vibrate once more.” We count it all joy, that joy unspeakable and full of glory when we see the broken pieces of a crushed heart so skillfully and delicately molded together. One could see this heart begin to vibrate under the influence of a touch that descended from the upper world, even from the Lord.

The saints at Quincy, Florida observed this awesome mystery from the beginning of its inception until it was complete.

LaTasha Hinson Turner, shy and quiet, began to be awakened and restored as grace began to infiltrate her heart. She attended the meetings, but never spoke much.

When grace completed its work, LaTasha stood on her feet, spoke loud and clear, “I’m ready now. I want The Church of Jesus Christ to be in my heart, and not in mind . . . I want to be baptized.” Immediately that same grace so beautifully filled the building. The saints began to rejoice.

A week later, Sunday, November 26, 1995, we stood at the water’s edge. It was quite cold that morning as we gathered around the river shore to watch grace perform her work.

Suddenly, seemingly in the flicker of a moment, heaven and earth stood still to observe and pay reverence to this solemn event. The powerful work of the Ministry went into effect as Elder Charleston Hester’s hand raised between the heavens and the earth, declared God’s authority. The connection was made and LaTasha was immersed into that liquid grave and died. In the twinkling of the eye, quicker than the senses of man could perceive, she arose from the dead . . . Alive! I saw nothing, I heard nothing, and all I felt was peace was LaTasha’s description of this experience.

Back to the Church, as Brother Cleveland Baldwin was praying that LaTasha would receive the blessing of the Holy Ghost, a sister saw in a vision a huge book on the ministry and a hand writing in this book. Sister LaTasha Hinson Turner—a new name written down in glory.

**Ordination in Lake Worth, Florida**

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

On Sunday, February 4, 1996, we gathered with joy, thanksgiving and anticipation for a wonderful day in the House of the Lord. We had many visitors. They came from Ft. Pierce, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. It was a blessing to have Sister Marie McGuire’s children and grandchildren with us. They came to witness the ordination of their mother and grandmother into the office of deaconess.

Apostle Joseph Bittinger offered our opening prayer. Brother Eugene Perri read from Romans, chapter 16 concerning the duties and responsibilities of a deaconess. A beautiful dream was experienced by Sister Ann Radd and it confirmed the calling of Sister Marie McGuire into this office.

Sister Flo Perri washed Sister Marie’s feet. The Priesthood formed a circle around Sister Marie and

prayer was offered by Brother John D’Orazio for the inspiration of God. Sister Marie was then ordained into the office of deaconess by Brother Mike Radd.

We had a double blessing to share during this Sunday Service. The additional blessing is that we all took part in the beautiful ordinance of feet washing. The Spirit of God prevailed and freely flowed from person to person. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We enjoyed fellowship together and shared a wonderful fellowship during lunch as well. May God bless our sister, Sister Marie McGuire, in all her endeavors to serve and please the Lord.

**Ordinations in Freehold, NJ**

*By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.*

On February 11, 1996, we witnessed two brothers being ordained into the office of Teacher in our branch: Brother Rick Calabro and Brother Mario Morales. While Brother Rick’s feet were being washed by his father, Brother Paul Calabro, Brother Rick’s wife, Sister April was singing, *Vessels of Gold* in the *Songs of Zion*. Then, as Brother Mario’s feet were being washed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr., our Spanish speaking members were singing, *Keeping Step* in Spanish. Apostle Paul Benyola ordained Brother Rick and Brother Joe Perri ordained Brother Mario. There was a good spirit felt by all there. A group of sisters sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*, and this certainly is the desire of our two brothers who have labored much in bringing the Gospel to those in need and particularly to the Seed of Joseph.

There were many visitors in attendance today from throughout the Region. Brother Paul Benyola explained the duties of a Teacher before the ordinations, saying they must tend to the flock in love and patience. Later, Brother Jim Sgro opened the meeting along with Brother Mario interpreting as we had

many Spanish speaking visitors this day. Brother Jim said a few weeks prior to today, a feeling came over him that something special was coming for Brother Mario. Also, a sister later testified of a dream she had many years ago in which she saw destruction and saw Brother Rick and other brothers go out to preach and teach the Gospel to those who were dying. There were many other experiences, too numerous to write or even mention in the meeting. God's power confirmed all things done today as the gift of tongues came forth twice. We were thankful this day to see young men both Gentile and House of Israel being called to do the work of God. Nearly everyone stayed after the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship downstairs. It was certainly good to be among God's people this day.

God has been blessing us in our Sunday School and midweek meeting so much, that a sort of revival is occurring. We are thankful to see parents bringing their children to the meetings and have witnessed a greater desire to do the will of God. This recent experience sums it up. A sister had a vision during our meeting in which she saw the brothers and sisters walking on a straight path holding on to golden handrails on either side. Up ahead she saw a big beautiful tree with strong, deep roots. From the roots, a great light was emanating. We are thankful to be rooted in Jesus Christ and desire to press on to that great work that lies ahead. God bless you all.

## A Testimony

*By Brother Joel Calabrese*

Mere words cannot express my joy and feelings of love and thanksgiving to all of you! I will try however and share with you all that God has done for me and my family through my ordeal with cancer.

In the beginning, when I was told I had cancer, I did have a day that I was not sure how I would cope.

What would become of my wife and children? Our new home? After that, one day, the phone calls and the cards started coming and the prayers you offered reached the throne of God. Let's just say from that moment on, God took all my fears and anxieties away. I knew all would be well! Space does not permit sharing all the experiences had on my behalf. Suffice it to say each one of them confirmed and reconfirmed the same spirit of peace and contentment God gave me. I had recently experienced how good God is with the home we live in. How He came through and provided for us was truly a miracle. God showed me that what appears to be a stumbling block is really a stepping stone to a higher level of righteousness, and an opportunity for Him to show His power!

God has shown His power again in my life! The cancer was limited to the one area, and no signs of it show up anywhere else! As I write this, my radiation treatments are completed and all that is left is to recover from the minor side effects.

We do not know why things happen like they do, but I know one thing is certain; God "does not" give us any more than we can handle! The prayers of the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ came through on my behalf and I am grateful to all of you. We close once again saying, Thank you and God bless you all.

## God's Goodness

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have always believed in miracles and recently experienced one in my own family. My daughter, Sister Betty Davis, has been seriously ill for many years. She had Lupus, Sjogren's Disease, epilepsy and was and is yet a diabetic. These illnesses caused many other problems for her. She was on many medications which brought about even more problems. The doctors could only do so much as there is no cure for these illnesses. Betty became house bound and in

great pain for a long time.

In April 1995, her sugar dropped very low and she went into a coma. She was alone at the time. Her daughter, Michelle, came home and found her. She was rushed to the hospital and put on a respirator. The doctors held little to no hope for her recovery. We were told by some doctors that she would not make it and if she did, she could be ninety-five percent brain dead. Well, glory to God, she did survive and is now at home with her family. It was touch and go and very hard but God has taken the severe pain from her. She can now go outside and can go places with her daughter, sisters and myself. She has even gone into her sister's swimming pool a couple of times. Betty has many obstacles to overcome, and some she will have to live with but God has removed and healed her of many of them. I can never thank God enough. I give Him the honor and glory forever.

I want to thank each brother and sister and friends for their prayers for

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For June, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.3%
2 years	5.5%
3 years	5.7%
4 years	5.9%
5 years	6.1%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

**GOODNESS continued . . .**

my daughter. I thank all who sent cards, letters and tapes to her and those who helped financially for the medication. We will always remember you all in our prayers. I pray that God will bless each one of you. I thank our ministers for the love shown to Betty and her family.

I will praise God forever and tell others of His wonderful love. Please continue to pray for Betty and each other. Yes, I believe in miracles. I believe and thank my living God. God's still on His throne, go shout it, God's still on His throne.

With Love, Your Sister in Christ,  
Sister Pansy Wilson and Betty's family,  
Michelle (daughter) and Larry Davis  
(husband)

## Experiences in Ft. Pierce, Florida

*By Sister Mary Cason*

In July 1995, my daughter Laura was playing outside and stepped on a piece of glass. I had to take her to the hospital. The doctor said she was lucky to have a toe left, it was the one next to her little toe. While the doctor was injecting novocaine near the cut, we were trying to sing the hymn, *Keeping Step*. The pain was severe. I was holding one of her hands, the other hand was above her head. Laura was screaming. The doctor told me it was like sticking your foot into an open flame. After the ordeal, we were riding home and Laura said, "Mom, were you holding both of my hands?" I said, "No, I was holding the one by your side." She then said someone was holding her other hand. I told her that no one else was there at the top part of the bed. She said, "Mom, Jesus was holding my hand, I know it!" She was very sincere and we thank God for His caring and loving hands.

We were attending an MBA meeting on December 15, 1995. I had been going through some trials.

I asked the Elders to lay hands on me for spiritual strength and guidance. Apostle Nick Pietrangelo, Brothers Campitelle and Carradi laid their hands upon my head. Brother Pietrangelo offered prayer. While the prayer was being said, I felt oil being put on my head. I knew that Christ had anointed me with the prayer of the Elders. After the prayer was over, I told the Elders of my experience and truly there was oil in my hair. The Elders did not put oil on my head, because oil is used for the anointing of the sick. Thank God for showing love and mercy towards me, for truly, I could not have made it through the trials without Him. I love you Lord.

## Teacher Ordained in Modesto, California

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

On February 18, 1996, we were joined by brothers and sisters from many branches for the ordination of Brother Paul Vinsick to the office of teacher. Brother Paul had worked diligently in his office of deacon for several years, and the Ministry of our branch had prayed for two years for a revelation from the Lord regarding a teacher. Brother Joseph Lovalvo opened the service with an explanation of the duties and description of a teacher. He told us that God had revealed His choice of Brother Paul to several of the brothers, and Brother Paul himself had an experience confirming his calling. Brother Joe reminded us of the importance of a teacher in a branch. He is the glue that holds the saints together; he gives hope and courage to the discouraged. He is priceless in this office, and he teaches by example. The office of teacher is mentioned in the 4th chapter of Ephesians, as well as the Book of Mormon.

Brother Joe asked that the one who would wash Brother Paul's feet be inspired of God to do so. After a few moments, Brother Mark Coppa rose and walked over. As Brother

Mark washed Brother Paul's feet, he offered a very touching prayer, asking God to guide and strengthen Brother Paul for the duties of teacher, and to bless his family, especially Paul's wife, Christina, to be a support to him. Eleven ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ formed a circle around Brother Paul. Again Brother Joe asked that no one would take the bottle of blessed oil until beckoned by God. He was anointed by Brother Joseph Ciarolla, who uttered a beautiful prayer, asking that God would add blessings, joy and happiness to Brother Paul's life as he goes into the world to teach repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. The family of Brother Paul then came up to greet him as a teacher in the Church. It was a very poignant moment for us all as we witnessed the love and joy in the hearts of Brother Paul and his family.

Brother Frank Giovannone then spoke to us on the attributes of a teacher. He stated that having strength, added to humility, will cause the brothers and sisters to have a great respect and love for the teacher in the branch. He also reminded us that, "Where we go hereafter depends upon what we go after here." It is partly a teacher's duty to help us to remember these words of wisdom.

Brother Jim Lovalvo spoke to us next. The theme of his sermon, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," was given to him this week as he asked God in prayer what God would have us to know. The priority of our lives must be to seek for the Holy Spirit to be in our lives daily. He exhorted us to start building for that eternal home that awaits everyone who loves and serves God.

Brother Jim Huttenberger continued on Brother Jim Lovalvo's theme, and left us with a "sense of urgency to seek God while He can be found, while His Spirit is near." He encouraged us to make a decision each day to seek God's peace, and then to expect His power in our lives every day.

A beautiful, blessed season of



testimony followed. Our prayer is that God will bless Brother Paul in his office as he strives to follow in the footsteps of the early teachers of Christ's Church.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Smith, Sylvia  
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Fairfax, VA 22030  
703-591-0550

All members of the Warren, OH Branch have had their area codes changed to 330.

## CONFERENCE . . .

Gospel through fasting, prayer and our financial support. Saturday there was a baptism. The candidate was confirmed during the Saturday evening session. When Brother Tony Ricci was confirming the new sister, he spoke in tongues. A brother had the interpretation of the gift of tongues and he understood Brother Tony Ricci to say, "That God will bless you and take care of you."

On Sunday morning, the Conference Center was filled to overflowing and so was the Spirit of God. Brother Dan Picciutto, our resident missionary on the San Carlos Native American Reservation was our first

speaker. Using the words of Joel as his text, Brother Dan encouraged us to follow the admonitions of Joel and realize we are in a war against the enemy of our souls. Our brother related how we can win this war if we are diligent in keeping the commandments of God, in fasting and prayer and in seeking to bring the message of Christ to the Native American people. Brother Dan concluded by recounting numerous experiences of God's power and revelation. Truly with God's help, we will be victorious. A sister from Muncey, Ontario, Canada, had a vision during the Sunday preaching service. While Brother Dan Picciutto was preaching, she saw "a ring of gold around Brother Dominic Thomas' body." The gift of tongues was spoken during the Sunday Service. A sister had the interpretation and it was, "Thanks be to God, we can do this together."

Brother Gary Coppa continued by relating his recent battle with skin cancer and how with the help of Christ, he was able to win. He told us how his faith has been increased and he will use his voice to praise the name of Jesus Christ. Appropriately, as Brother Gary concluded his message, the congregation sang the hymn, Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow. We praise God for answering our prayers on Brother Gary's behalf.

We concluded our day with final remarks from Brother Rosario, visiting Elder from Italy. He told of his conversion and the Lord's revelation to him that this was indeed His Church. Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, concluded the service by asking each of us to fast and pray for the work of the Church. Brother Dominic Thomas said he would like to hold a meeting of all Church members world-wide where we would meet in prayer until God moves His hand and further directs the Church. Brother Dominic then encouraged us to fast and pray in our regions and branches until such a meeting can be held.

This conference was a tremendous blessing to all in attendance.

Evidence of God's power was demonstrated and the vibrancy and growth of the Church was illustrated. May God bless us as we seek to continue His great work.

## MESSAGE continued . . .

As of recent available statistics from the FMOC, there are one hundred eighty-four members in Kenya; one thousand two hundred fifty in India; thirty-five in Italy; six in the England-Germany-Netherlands grouping; three thousand two hundred forty-five in Nigeria; two hundred fourteen in Ghana; and now one in Poland. A brother who hails from Nepal in Asia was recently baptized in the United States, and he is desirous of having the Gospel brought to his nation.

The AMOC has four hundred fifty-six members in Mexico; thirty-seven in Guatemala; two in Venezuela; and eighty-eight on Native American reservations. There are hopes to start the Church in Peru, Venezuela, and El Salvador.

## EDITORIAL continued . . .

A young girl from Cleveland, Ohio was born with extremely poor hearing and a fatal, terminal illness. She experienced the mercy of God in the past few months. She was prayed for many times and anointed many times. She can hear and blood tests now show no signs of the illness.

Praise God! Thank God! Nothing is impossible with God. With God and through God, all things are possible. He answers prayer! He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Is this fantasy? Is this make believe? It is real! It is true! It is the power of God manifested in our time. That power is manifested through mighty and sincere prayer.

It is a commandment of Jesus Christ that we pray. In III Nephi

(Continued on Page 12)

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Vircenza (Enza) Traina and Richard Pusillo were united in holy matrimony on January 6, 1996 in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Sister Janeth Murillo and Brother Christopher Bilardo were united in holy matrimony on March 23, 1996 in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

## Children Blessed

Jordane Giovannone Raub, daughter of Leo and Sister Carrie Raub, was blessed on October 8, 1995 in the Warren, Ohio Branch.

Jacob Daniel Brown, son of Daniel and Amy Brown, was blessed on December 24, 1995 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Josephine Amormino, a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, celebrated sixty-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 26, 1995.

Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo, a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 13, 1995.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Apostle Joseph Calabrese, a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 30, 1995.

Sister Edith Genaro, a member Yucaipa, California, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 30, 1995.

Sister Mary Altomare, a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 30, 1995.

Apostle Russell Cadman and his wife, Sister Ethel, members of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty years as members of The Church of Jesus Christ on May 5, 1996.

## OBITUARY

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### RONALD J. PIERZYNOUSKI

Mr. Ronald J. Pierzynouski passed away to his eternal reward on December 18, 1995. He is survived by his wife, Sister Diane, two sons, two daughters, his mother, Delores, three brothers and one sister.

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

18:15-21, we read this commandment by Jesus Christ. It states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye be led away captive by Him.

"And as I have prayed among you even so shall ye pray in my church, among my people who do repent and are baptized in my name. Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you.

"Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always lest ye enter into temptation; for Satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

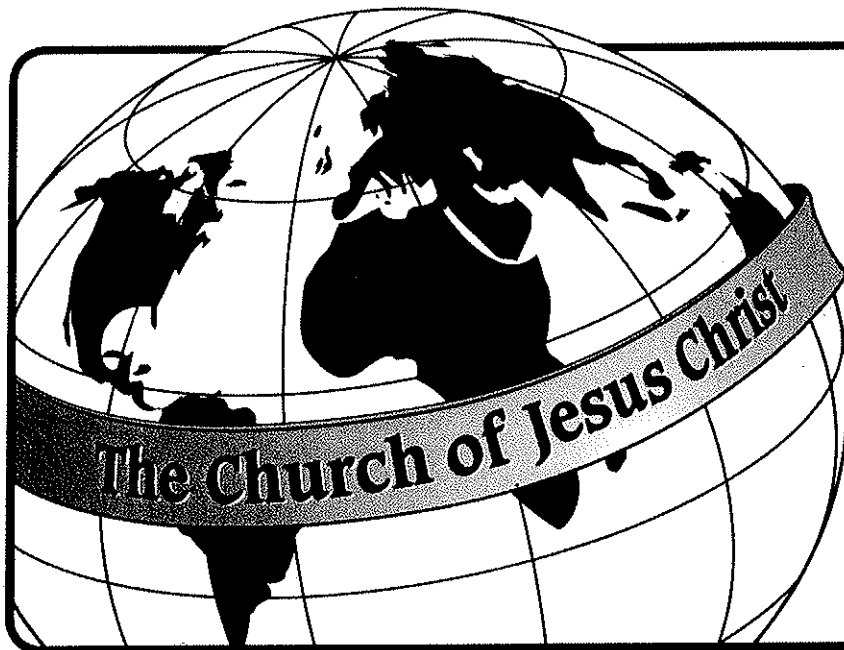
"Therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you.

"Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed."

It is through prayer that we secure our jobs. It is through prayer that we have our homes. It is through prayer that we have our health and our strength. It is through prayer that miracles occur. It is through prayer that we stay focused on our service to God and Jesus Christ.

We serve a compassionate, loving and merciful God. He always responds. All we have to do is sincerely pray.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monroeville, PA, USA

July, 1996

Volume 52, No. 7

## Surrender Your Independence, Gain Your Freedom

*By Brother Jerry Valenti*

On July 4 of this year, it will be 220 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in which America declared that it would no longer be dependent upon England for its existence but would stand on its own. On August 4 of this year, it will be 24 years since I signed my own personal "Declaration of Dependence" in which I declared that I would be forever dependent upon God for my existence and would no longer stand on my own.

God gives us many things when we serve Him but independence is not one of them. Rather, He wants us to depend upon Him for everything, just as little children depend upon their parents to supply their every need. This helps to explain why Christ instructs us to "become as little children" (Matthew 18:3).

Unfortunately, this dependence arrangement turns many people away as they feel that they are giving up freedom by trying to serve God. However, independence and freedom are actually two different things. Surrendering your

independence does not mean you are giving up freedom. On the contrary, serving God through His Son Jesus Christ is the only way to have freedom.

Freedom from what? Well, start with freedom from sin and its consequences. It's a common misconception that avoiding sin means you can't enjoy life because you're restricted from doing the things you want to do. This couldn't be farther from the truth. In reality, sin entraps you, placing you in situations you don't want to be in and often can't get out of.

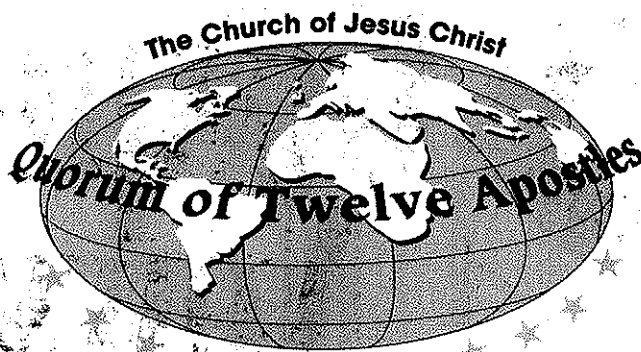
Alcoholism, drunk driving fatalities, drug addictions. These are often the result of people exercising their freedom to do with (or do to) their bodies as they see fit. Isn't it funny how that exact freedom is actually taken away when a person becomes addicted? At that point, drugs and alcohol are not an option but a requirement, even if it means stealing money to be able to buy them. Is avoidance of these harmful substances really a limitation of our freedom? No, in reality, avoiding them allows us the freedom to enjoy

our lives.

For another example, consider the contemporary attitudes toward sex. Anybody wishing to exercise restraint today is labeled as old-fashioned and not with it. Yet, the "enlightened" approach has caused a dramatic increase in teen pregnancies and extra-marital affairs. These in turn lead to abortions, children put up for adoption, divorce, broken homes and single parent situations. Of course, there are also various diseases which can be picked up, including AIDS. Anybody who participates in this way has to be somewhat fearful of the potential consequences. Isn't it beautiful how limiting yourself to sex within marriage, as the Lord teaches, sets you free from these consequences?

The pattern should be clear by now. By showing us the boundaries, God allows us total freedom to enjoy life within those boundaries. Last year, I had the occasion to tour New York City and go to the top of the World Trade Center, a building over 100 stories high. Up on that roof, there are large railings and fences all around to prevent anybody from falling off. Normally, people think of being fenced in as a restriction. Yet, in this case, the barriers gave me the freedom to move around

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## The Nuclear Family and the Family of God

By Apostle V. J. Lóvalvo

### PART III

The biological family cannot isolate itself from the family of God, but rather take its place as part of the larger unit. Nor can the Church isolate itself from the nuclear family because the smaller one is part and particle of the larger.

The Church, and the nuclear family can produce able and willing subjects for the kingdom of God,



Apostle V. James Lóvalvo

men and women who will become good citizens of society as well as excellent witnesses for the Lord. In order to accomplish these ideal goals, the family of God and the natural family must identify with the

following teachings of Christ:

*"Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men"* (Matthew 5:13).

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

No church or individual can identify with the Lord if His commandments are not adhered to completely. It is written: *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"* (James 2:10).

Neither the nuclear family nor the Church should be dictated by the philosophies of a secular society, rational as they may sound. The teachings of Jesus Christ should transcend all other philosophies, for in them is found the equation for righteous living, morally and spiritually. The Apostle Paul warned against this: *"Beware lest any spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"* (Ephesians 2:8).

Society today has fulfilled the prophecy recorded in the Bible: *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for*

*bitter"* (Isaiah 5:20). It's an acceptable thing in society for a man and a woman to live together without being legally married. It's called a *relationship*. The scriptures call it adultery.

In this kind of relationship, children sometimes are born out of wedlock. In some cases, either the man or woman leaves the other, and children become the victims of a sinful society which thinks that evil *relationship* is good, and lawful marriage just a piece of paper stating that the two have been joined together by an authorized clergyman.

This is an age where one has to pause before certain words are used. For example, the word *relationship* traditionally means having dealings with persons or nations; being connected by blood or marriage; kindred: a connection by consanguinity or affinity. Today, when one hears two people say they are having a relationship, one begins to wonder if they mean living together as husband and wife without the benefit of a legal marriage.

The word *gay* was meant to be happy, joyful, merry, lively, etc. Today the word *gay* is used often in reference to a homosexual person. Hence, care must be taken in the context which the word is used. Consequently, the scripture is fulfilled in that evil is called the proper thing to do.

As society becomes corrupted by sin, the nuclear family, in turn, becomes contaminated by the philosophies of society. Despite the efforts of a healthy, firm and well-organized condition of a biological family, it is not altogether immune from the onslaught of secularization. Therefore, it behooves the family to make the teachings of Jesus Christ its principal priority.

Only by determined vigilance against the encroachment of immorality can the nuclear family continue to exist. Jesus said, *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41). It has been, and always will be, the goal of Satan to disrupt the natural

family by subtle, devious and perverse methods, which he has mastered since he was cast out of heaven.

Christian families which have strong ties to a healthy spiritual Church are targets of Satan who is the Prince and Prime Minister of a profane and worldly society. "Go after the nuclear family," is the mandate of the *fallen angel*, to his hordes. "Destroy the unity of the family, and the Church as well as the nation will fall."

Immorality, in all ages, has been the downfall of families and nations. Morality, living a life patterned after the teachings of Jesus Christ, has conversely blessed and strengthened families and nations.

If the biological family as well as the Church is to continue on earth, it cannot permit a secular society to breach their spiritual stronghold. The Church then must take a leading role in becoming a nurturing family. It is not the nuclear family, regardless how strong it is, that should stand out as the main focal point, but rather the spotlight must center upon the Church, to exemplify itself as the spiritual family of God.

The Church must be a place of healing and care besides being a spiritual school of learning and missionary endeavors. Widows and orphans, poor and needy must be cared for, temporally and spiritually. The scriptures speak of this in positive terms (Acts 6:1 ff). The Church should always seek the grace-filled characteristics of shepherdhood and servanthood which Jesus Christ taught His Apostles. These valued attributes should be the goal of every member, starting with the Minister, Teacher, Deacon and Deaconess.

#### PART IV

#### CONCLUSION

Disruption of a nuclear family, when any one of its members chooses to become a disciple of

Jesus, does not mean its destruction. Nor did Christ say that His disciples' biological families would come to nothing because of following Him. He placed the priorities where they belonged. He said, "*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*" (Matthew 16:24). See also: Matthew 9:22; 19:21; John 12:26; 1 Peter 2:21.

The family of Lehi was disrupted because he chose to follow the revelation of God, but it did not demolish the family. Despite the arrogance and rebellion of the two elder sons, and their eventual separation, Lehi kept the moral and spiritual values of his family intact by keeping the commandments of the Lord. One has only to read Lehi's chronicle, in the Book of Mormon, to conclude that the rewards for following the Lord were much more than the sufferings they endured.

One of the most inspiring phrases of reward for faithful service and obedience to the Lord was spoken by Lehi's fourth son, Nephi. He said, "*... I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them*" (1 Nephi 3:7).

This kind of faith and trust in God is the building block upon which an individual constructs his spiritual household. Nephi learned to trust in God from his father and, in turn, was a role model for his entire family.

History reveals that the nuclear family always prospered when it lived righteously. Righteousness was, and is cultivated by strict adherence to the commandments of the Lord. When a household deviates from the laws of God, it is an invitation for Satan to enter in and begin his evil work of destruction.

Like he did with Jesus, the devil tempts with glittering sights of fame and fortune. But unlike Jesus who withstood him successfully, the

individual and/or the family sometimes fall victims to his enticings. He waves the lifestyles of the rich and famous, through the media, books, magazines and television, and whets the desire to be like them.

Often cues are taken from some movie stars, sports figures, rock and roll musicians and singers and prominent persons whose rate of live-in lovers, divorce and remarriage is staggering. Divorce to some of these persons is as simple as changing a dollar bill into four quarters or ten dimes. (Please note that I used the word *some* in the above paragraph).

The hope and success of nuclear families lie in a strong, firm and spiritual Church which is totally committed to keeping all the commandments of Jesus Christ, and is able to nurture and care for them with the mighty and holy Word of God. The Church must be the tower of power and the nucleus around which the biological families will rally to grow in spirit and in truth.

The nuclear family must put on the whole armor of God to protect itself against the assault and intrusion of a secular society. Clothed in this manner, it can identify itself with the Lord. The family must have righteous parents, able to administer love and discipline at the proper time to their children, not forgetting to nurture them with the commandments of the Lord. Although Bishops and Deacons are mentioned in the Scriptures, it is certainly implied that the head of a family must be an example of righteousness, as described by the Apostle Paul. He writes:

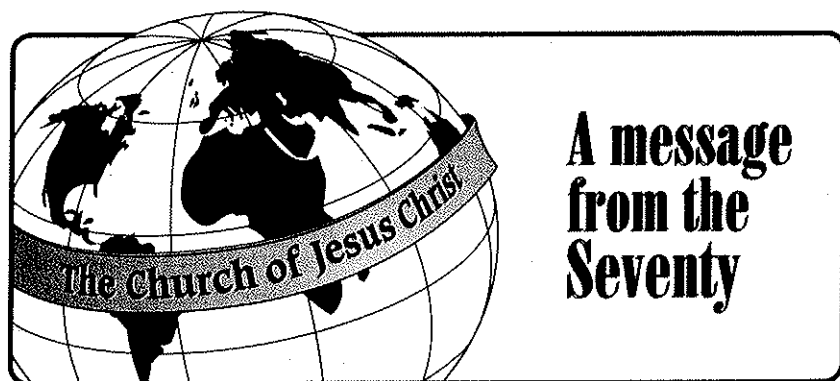
*"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

*"Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;*

*"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;*

*"(For if a man know not how to*

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## Missionary Activities, Reports, Plans at Quorum of 70 Conference Meeting

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Missionary activities were outlined, reports were given, and plans were made at the Semi-Annual Quorum of Seventy Evangelists' Conference Meeting on Friday, April 19, at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA. Progress in the mission fields was particularly noteworthy, and highlights from some of the sites were presented the following night at the General Church Spiritual Gathering.

In another vein, during a touching and heartwarming period of reflection, recognition was accorded by the Seventies to three veteran brothers, ordained Evangelists in the Ohio-Midwest Region many years ago, for their service and faithfulness. Honored were Ansel (Samuel) D'Amico (deceased), Patsy Marinetti, and Ralph Berardino.

The passing last December 20 of Brother D'Amico, who was 82 years old, was recalled with sadness. He had been ordained an Evangelist in 1943. A letter from his wife, Sister Carmella, thanking everyone for their sentiments and remembrances, was read.

It was reported that plaques had been given to Brothers Marinetti and Berardino, who have been Evangelists for approximately 53 and 30 years, respectively. Brother Marinetti requested that he be retired as an Evangelist because of illness, so a motion was passed with regrets to

comply with his wishes. He received his plaque from the Southwest Region to where he had moved and served the last 18 years. Brother Berardino received his plaque from his home Ohio-Midwest sector.

The three brothers' many years of dedication and missionary endeavors were cited.

### MISSIONARY REPORT

Brother John Griffith, Chairman of the Missionary Operating Committee, presented updates on the various fields. He elaborated on the "exciting work being done" and on possible future expansion. "Although there are budgetary limitations," he stipulated, "all feasible efforts will be made to continue to reach out to other nations and people."

Requests about the Church are being received from many parts of the world. God's direction is being sought to determine how to proceed in analyzing all inquiries from both foreign and domestic areas.

Trips taken to existing fields were reviewed and future planned ones were mentioned. Membership statistics were disclosed and particular labors were pointed out.

The first baptism in the nation of Poland was described and possibilities for increases there were explored. Also, news of our first member from Nepal, who was

baptized in Arizona last December, was received with great joy. There are about 500 people in Nepal who are waiting for us. The MOC, with recommendation from its Foreign Missions Operating Sub-Committee, has approved our going to that nation.

Brother Philip Jackson, Chairman of the FMOC, reminded the group of an experience which had been given that, if we would go to the country of Peru, the door would be opened to Asia. He pointed out that we have gone to Peru and now there is a brother in the Church from Nepal in Asia.

The MOC also stated that they were able to have Brother Rosario Scravagliare, in charge of the work in Italy, come to this General Church Conference and to visit various branches in America. He was being accompanied while here by Brother Michael LaSala.

Brother Dan Picciuto, Resident Minister on the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona, gave a very encouraging report on the work being done among the Native Americans at that reservation. Brother Dan and his wife, Sister Dolores, are in the seventh year of their second tour at San Carlos.

Of particular global interest, it was announced that plans are being made for another worldwide missionary conference. This event has been tentatively scheduled for 1998. The first such effort in 1983 was held in Virginia and brothers and sisters from different nations were brought here. It was an extremely successful venture because it allowed many people to meet representatives from different parts of the world. Likewise, it gave the visitors the opportunity to become acquainted with many saints whom they ordinarily would not have been able to know.

Acknowledgement was made of the *Missionary Newsletter* which is published six times a year by the General Church Missionary Foundation Committee. It was noted that, since its inception in 1995, it has

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In New York harbor stands a national monument. It is the Statue of Liberty. A gift from France over one hundred years ago, it is a symbol of freedom. It states something to the effect, "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." This symbol of hope, liberty and freedom has welcomed millions to this land of America. Many were our family ancestors.

What is liberty? The dictionary defines it as, "the right to act, believe, or express oneself in a manner of one's own choosing." This is exactly what God has given to His entire creation. The right to choose. God has made all of us free to choose good or evil.

II Nephi 2:27 states, *"Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; . . ."*

In a spiritual context, what is this liberty? What is this freedom? It is eloquently defined in Brother Jerry Valenti's article which appears in this issue as "freedom from sin and its consequences."

When we repent of our sins, are baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ and choose to serve the Lord for the rest of our lives, we are made free! We are no longer captives of sin. We are free from the burden of sin. We are free from the heavy load of sin. We are free from the consequences and wages of sin. Please remember that the wages and consequences of sin is eternal death. The reward of serving Jesus Christ and His Father is eternal life.

We become new creatures in and through Jesus Christ. Kindly reflect on the day you repented of your sins. Kindly reflect on the day you were baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. Remember the feeling? It felt as if the weight of the world was lifted from your body! The weight of sin and transgression was no longer a factor in your life. It no longer burdened you down with that unbearable load. Your sins were washed away through baptism. You now have the Spirit of God in your life on a daily basis to direct you in all things.

What a change! What a life! What a feeling of liberty and joy! It is difficult if not impossible to describe. A person has to experience it for himself or herself. A brother who was baptized a few years ago said it so well as he walked back to shore. He told the Elder who baptized him, "Now I understand." His liberty was immediate! Our liberty was immediate! There was another brother who when he was baptized, looked back and saw a black, eerie shadow washing away in the river. His sins were washed away!

Look at what happens to individuals who repent and serve the Lord. Look at what happens to people who no longer are in the grasp of sin.

Abinadi was willing to give his life for the Lord. His face shone with an exceeding luster as he preached to King Noah and his priests. Abinadi spoke with the power and authority of God. He did not do this on his own. He did it by the power of God. They could not stop him as he delivered his address and admonition. Abinadi was no longer concerned with his flesh. His concern was for the salvation and welfare of others. His concern was for the salvation and welfare of his soul.

After his healing and conversion, the Apostle Paul did not waste any time preaching the

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "The Woman Who Saved a Nation"

Dear Boys and Girls,

In the days when Esther was chosen to be a wife to the most powerful king on earth, no one knew she believed in the Most High God. No one knew she was Jewish and a true follower of God.

In those days, the king married many wives, all from different countries as a way to have those countries on his side. He spent a short amount of time with each wife and she was then sent to a guarded part of the palace to live with the other wives. Only one woman was chosen to be the queen.

No one could come near this king, whose name was Ahasuerus, unless he gave them permission. If he was willing to be bothered, he would lift his royal scepter (like a rod, or golden stick) and point it at that person. If he did not raise his scepter and give permission, they were put to death. You could not bother the king.

When King Ahasuerus had a big party, on the fifth day, after most people had been drinking, he called for his wife, Queen Vashti. He wanted her to put on her royal crown and come so everyone could see how beautiful his wife was. She was not happy to be treated this way and refused to come. The king's advisors told him, "Divorce her. Send her away and pick a new queen! If she can say no to the king, her husband, then all the women in this country will do the same thing! Replace



her!" So he did.

Dear friends, have you ever been in a tough situation where you had to speak up and stand up for something you believe in? Or has there been a time when you were too afraid to do what needed to be done and later you were ashamed?

When Esther was chosen out of all the most beautiful girls in the kingdom to be King Ahasuerus' new wife, she had a secret. Her secret was that she was Jewish. She believed in one God. She never worshipped statues or went to fortunetellers.

When she was young, her parents died and her cousin, Mordecai, raised her to know God. When she was chosen to go to live at the palace, Mordecai warned her not to tell anyone her religious beliefs. He also promised her that he'd come to the entryway gates of the palace so she could look out her windows and see him.

One day, Mordecai was sitting in the gates and the king's most important advisor, a man named Haman, came through. Everyone except Mordecai bowed down, almost like they were worshipping him. Haman noticed and was furious. He found out Mordecai was Jewish and said, "I'll not only kill the man but I'll kill all of his people, the Jews!"

Haman tricked the king into believing Jewish people were against him. The king trusted Haman and gave him permission to kill Jewish families and businessmen and to take all of their possessions.

A great sorrow came up from the land. Mordecai put on sackcloth (like old torn clothes). He also

rubbed ashes in his hair to show he was mourning.

Esther looked out the palace window and was shocked! Why was dear Mordecai full of pain and grief? She sent a trusted servant down to ask what was going on.

Mordecai told her of the evil Haman's plot. He told her she should go unto King Ahasuerus and beg him not to destroy the Jewish people.

Esther replied, "Everyone knows that if anyone goes into the king's courtyard who isn't called, they are put to death. Unless the king lifts his scepter, they are killed. And the king hasn't called to see me for thirty days."

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, "Don't think that you'll escape death because you're in the king's house! If you are silent now, God will use someone else to

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

MORDECAI	AND
WOULD	PRAYED
ONLY	SHE
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GOD	YOUR
BUT	PRAYERS
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D	E	L	P	O	E	P	I	A
Q	S	R	E	Y	A	R	P	C



## GMBA Conference November 10-12, 1995

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi  
GMBA Editor*

*"Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name . . ."*  
(Alma 26:8).

Saturday morning, the brothers and sisters gathered at the World Conference Center for a full day of business and fellowship. During this meeting the congregation heard from several different groups involving the young people. A good report was given on another successful GMBA Singles Retreat, which was held in Big Prairie, Ohio in October. We also heard many blessed testimonies from the Retreat's Director and a few who attended the function. We also heard many uplifting reports and testimonies from those who supported the 1995 Youth in Action Missionary Program. There were groups who traveled to Homestead, Florida; Harrison, Michigan; and Brooklyn, New York. There were many beautiful experiences shared with the brothers and sisters. The Youth in Action Committee was glad to report that the success of this missionary program is increasing with each new year. Praise God! It seemed that all reports given on the GMBA level were of good news and blessings. We thank God for the spirit of unity that was felt during the business portion of the conference.

Our Saturday evening meeting began with a "Thanksgiving Parade" coordinated by the GMBA Youth Committee. The children formed a train and each one held up a picture or craft that pictured what they were thankful for in their lives.

All of the newly elected GMBA officers were then called forward and

brought officially into their offices with a special prayer offered by Brother Bill Colangelo. After the special prayer, the GMBA honored Sister Karen Progar with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a heart full of thanksgiving for her many years of service and dedication to the GMBA.

The Pennsylvania choir came forward and honored the GMBA with a beautiful display of singing, the focus being on Jesus Christ. In retrospect, I stand in awe of the talent God has blessed His people with and in that talent the saints of God are fed. There was a beautiful spirit in their singing and a sweet spirit of liberty in the different speakers. We thank God for His goodness and for the many ways He uses His people for the upliftment of the saints. We also are thankful for the many experiences that came forward concerning the program. It seems time and time again, that whenever we follow the Spirit of God, His blessings are not far behind.

With great anticipation and an already full cup from the night before, we assembled for the Sunday service. Brother Doug Obradovich opened the meeting with scripture from the 8th chapter of the Book of John. The portion of scripture he used was of the woman taken in adultery, who was to be stoned. Brother Doug went on to state that each of us are that woman, we were taken in sin until Jesus Christ mercifully looked our way and gently whispered, "Go and sin no more." Brother Doug stated that The Church of Jesus Christ was restored in purity that we may be instruments in His hands to go and proclaim that He has paid the price—let Him cleanse your sin. Brother Ken Lombardo followed, expressing he had felt a burning desire to stand up and deliver the word of God. He also spoke on the same scripture as Brother Doug. Brother Ken emphasized that Christ directed the woman in the path of free choice, without burdening her down with too many "do nots," but with one simple "do"—"Go and sin no more." We were reminded that the call came from the cross and it

still calls today in urgency. We do not know about tomorrow, therefore we must cling to Jesus Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ. We must not spend another day in sorrow, but we must take hold of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ and hold on. Brother Ken made this analogy of the Spirit of God, "The Spirit of God is like falling snow. It begins to gently fall down, very surely and quietly finding its place and settling." Our Sunday service ended with an encore performance from the Pennsylvania choir. Praise God! He has been good to us.

## MBA Organized in Atlanta, Georgia

*By Sister Barbara DiNardo*

Saturday, January 13, 1996 was an historic day for the Atlanta, Georgia Mission. The MBA, Missionary Benevolent Association, was officially organized in Atlanta, Georgia. With its focus on the spiritual development of young people, the MBA is a welcome addition to this mission. It will offer the young people in Atlanta, Georgia an opportunity to apply their energies and talents for the Lord and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many MBA Regional Officers were present for this special day. Attending were, Brother Paul DiNardo, President; Brother David Checchi, Vice President; Brother Ike Smith, Chaplain; Sister Barbara DiNardo, Secretary; Brothers Jim Haugh and Ken Staley, Organizers; and Brothers Ikie D. Smith and Tony Moraco, Auditors.

There were many visitors representing several branches attending this wonderful weekend event. Branches represented were Palm Harbor, Tampa, Cape Coral, Fort Pierce and Hollywood. Brother John Griffith, Southeast Regional President, also attended and represented the Southeast Region.

**(Continued on Page 8)**



## Our Women Today

### PA Region Retreat Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Karen Progar

On Saturday, March 16, 1996, it was a pleasure to drive through the glorious countryside to Linden Hall, located in Dawson, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Region Ladies' Uplift Circle met for its semi-annual conference and annual retreat. Upon arriving, we received a "subpoena" to be a witness for Christ. After Region President, Sister Linda Ottavia welcomed everyone, the McKees Rocks Circle performed a inspired skit on the subject of being a false and true witness for Christ.

The officers gave their respective reports, after which Bertha Bilsky, Kellie Speck and Dana Thompson sang, *My God Thou Seest Me*. All those sixteen and under joined Sister Karen Progar in singing, *Amazing Grace*. It was a great blessing to have a large number of young women in attendance at our retreat.

The Region was able to donate \$200.00 to orphans in each of the following mission fields: Africa, India and San Carlos. It was decided that for the next six months, the Region will continue to raise money for the orphans.

Business was handled quickly and the balance of the morning was spent in singing and testimony. Sister Madeline Robinson sang, *I Find No Fault in Him*. We closed our morning service.

The afternoon seminar topic was, "Personal Workers for Christ," presented by Loretta Lowther and Jacque King.

After dinner, the children presented the evening program. Sister Susanna King, coordinator of evening activities, stated that when she heard how many children were

coming, her heart was touched and she felt that she wanted them to be a part of the retreat. The children from Monongahela sang a few selections, Brittany Giannetti played *In the Cross* on the piano and Mfon Udosen and Jolawna Rumble sang, *Lord You're Strong Enough*. Our entire group then played some games and the "Getting to Know You" forms, passed out earlier in the day, were reviewed. Several door prizes were presented.

We were privileged to have Brother Bill Colangelo from McKees Rocks speak to us on Sunday. Brother Bill evoked the Spirit of God to come among us. Using I Peter 4:10, Brother Bill reminded us to minister to one another as good stewards of God's grace. He spoke about going door to door witnessing of Christ. He told us that preparation is required to do the job, God must be with us and we must be in tune. He concluded by telling us that if you want to be a soul winner, you need to be obedient. We enjoyed sharing communion and hearing the testimonies of the saints. We were delighted to have General Circle Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio in attendance. Special thanks to Sister Jan Cornell who once again did a splendid job organizing our retreat. We surely felt the blessings of God during our weekend getaway.

### MBA ORGANIZED continued . . .

Election of officers was held and a number of young people were elected to offices for their Local MBA. Remember them in your prayers that God will lead, guide and direct them in their efforts to serve Him and spread His Gospel.

The Sunday meeting, January 14, 1996, began with singing many hymns and praising God. The communion table was set for the Lord's Supper. Brother Tom Jones offered the opening prayer for the service.

Brother Sam Risola opened the preaching service. The theme of his sermon was, "Lead Me and I Will Follow." Brother Sam spoke on how the MBA played a tremendous part in directing his life to serve Jesus Christ. Brother Sam also spoke on how we must hold and carry forward the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "When you are called, you are called to do a work; not just fill a seat but to do a work. Do the best that you can do in the offices you were given. Look to the Lord in all things! We are not to sit idle. We are to be out spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do the Lord's work and exalt Him. Make sure you stand up for the Lord in all things."

(Continued on Page 12)



MBA Membership, Atlanta, Georgia



## Baptisms in Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Anita L. Znoy

The Lord hears our prayers, although not always in the manner we expect. Brother Tony DiFalco was diagnosed with lung cancer. Our branch members went to their knees in fasting and prayer for his healing. Brother Tony was not immediately healed of his illness but he came through his surgery quite well and is healing and progressing with the help of God.

The Lord did heal the soul of his son, Tony. On a mild day, December 3, 1995, younger Tony's uncle, Brother Sam DiFalco, took his nephew to the waters of regeneration. As young Tony was being taken into the water, eleven year old Amanda Haley had a vision. She saw a man dressed in a white robe, standing on rocks some distance from the baptism site. The man walked on the water and stood by Tony's side as he was being baptized. Brother Tony was confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas. Brother John Straccia spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was, "Today his name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Step forward, today is the day of your liberty."

Brother Larry Champine, from Branch #1, was visiting and he spoke from Ephesians chapter 2. He stated that prior to today, Brother Tony was dead to Christ. However, today he was quickened, brought to life by the power of God. There is a change in him. He is now Brother Tony. We all must strive and should strive to serve God. The evil one is always there to pull us away from serving God. The natural man is constantly challenged to turn away from God, hold back from God and be more concerned with his natural needs. Brother Larry reminded us that God

created us with a soul so we could spend eternity with Him. The Gospel's goal is not just to baptize someone. Baptism is the door which opens our way to the Kingdom of God. The goal of the Gospel is to get you into the Kingdom of God.

When Brother Lou Vitto attempted to close the meeting, Brother Sam DiFalco got up and said that there were more who wanted to come forward. Brother Tony's brother Michael came forward to ask for prayer. The daughter of Sister Yolanda Spada, Carmella Barzak, also asked for prayer. We all went home filled with the blessings of God.

On Christmas Eve morning, Richard Kersey asked for his baptism. The Lord answered the prayers of his natural sister, Sister Dawn Chambers on that day. Brother Richard was baptized by Brother Lou Vitto. The deacons had to cut through fourteen inches of ice to get to the water! The baptism was the last one of 1995, on the last day of the year. Brother Richard has a great way to start off the year of 1996. May all of your prayers be answered as well.

## Baptism and Ordinations in Hollywood, Florida

Sister Barbara DiNardo

We were privileged to witness the calling and ordinations of Brothers Dane Obradovich and Ish Humphrey into the office of deacon on February 11, 1996.

Brother Dennis Moraco spoke on the duties of a deacon. Our brothers came forward to be set apart by the washing of feet. Brother Roger Kirschenpfad was moved to wash the feet of Brother Ish Humphrey. Brother John Catone washed the feet of Brother Dane Obradovich. Brother Joseph Bittinger offered prayer. He prayed for the Lord's Spirit to direct the ones who would ordain our brothers.

Brother Doug Obradovich

ordained Brother Dane Obradovich into the office of deacon. Brother Ken Staley ordained Brother Ish Humphrey into the office of deacon. Brother Ken stated that Brother Humphrey's mother and father, who were called to their reward, must be very pleased to look down and see their son being ordained as a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joseph Calabrese then spoke. The Lord told him, "Speak to them about the Kingdom, the Kingdom of God." Brother Doug Obradovich spoke and asked, "What will you do with what you know about Jesus Christ?" Brother Dennis Moraco spoke about the great responsibility of being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joseph Bittinger related how pleased he is about how the Church is growing. He is very thankful for all that that Lord has done for him.

On the evening of February 21, 1996, we went to the waters edge to witness the baptism of Brother David

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For July, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.3%
2 years	5.5%
3 years	5.7%
4 years	5.9%
5 years	6.1%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

## HOLLYWOOD continued . . .

Williams. We used the headlights of the cars and flashlights to see our way. What a beautiful feeling at a baptism!

Brother Phillip Benyola baptized Brother David Williams. Five years ago, David had a dream that Brother Phillip was baptizing him. The baptism was performed on Wednesday so members of Brother David's family could witness this ordinance.

Brother Dennis Moraco spoke on the baptism of Jesus Christ and how important it is that man is baptized! He then confirmed the gift of the Holy Ghost on Brother David Williams.

Sister Barbara (Persico) Williams testified how happy she is that her husband had given his life to Jesus Christ and they can serve God together. Although this was Wednesday evening, the Ministry was prompted to serve communion. It was later revealed that in the Sunday Service, Sister Barbara DiNardo was concerned that Brother David would not receive communion because he was waiting to be baptized on Wednesday. The Lord spoke to her and said, "Do not be discouraged, communion will be served on Wednesday." What a beautiful evening! We thank God for His great goodness.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Furitano, Kathleen  
55 771 Springdale  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(708) 983-6567

Kinser, Ruby  
8650 W. Peoria Ave.  
Apt. 1012  
Peoria, AZ 85345

(Correction)  
Weiner, Richard and Barbara  
43605 San Fermin Pl.  
Temecula, CA 92592  
(909) 676-0919

## FREEDOM continued . . .

freely and enjoy the breathtaking view from all sides. Had there been no fences, I would have been afraid to take one step up there. The fences may have taken away my option of experiencing the thrill of a 1000 foot freefall but I didn't mind the sacrifice, as I know what the end result would have been.

Want to enjoy life? Let God show you how. It's hard to imagine something more enjoyable than being touched by the Spirit of God. I'm so thankful that I have the opportunity to attend Church on a regular basis, experiencing the blessings of God and fellowshiping with the brothers and sisters. I could easily be one of the unfortunate ones who have that freedom taken away from them by being too tired, too busy, having to get things done or being just plain unwilling to give up part of their weekend to attend Church.

Another way our relationship with God allows us to enjoy life is that it releases us from the need to devote our lives to our jobs. I feel sorry for people who voluntarily give up their nights and weekends to go into the office or take work home with them. All in the name of getting ahead. This is freedom? Sounds more like slavery to me. As servants of God, we know that it's our mansions in heaven that are most important to us and that God will provide our daily bread. It's not of the utmost importance that we "get ahead" in the world. This knowledge allows us to keep our jobs in their proper perspective and enjoy the freedom to spend time with our families and do things we enjoy doing, including going to Church. To put it another way, I've never heard of anybody on their death bed saying, "I wish I'd spent more time with my job."

Don't be fooled into thinking that being independent will make you happy. Trust in God and depend on Him for all things. Jesus said, "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Know the truth and be made free!

## NUCLEAR FAMILY continued . . .

*rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God)?*

*"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

*"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:2-7).*

*"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*

*"If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

*"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

*"But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

*"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:5-9).*

In the Book of Mormon, Lehi and his wife are described as exemplary figures. It is written, "I, Nephi, being born of goodly parents . . ." (1 Nephi 1:1). Throughout the Book of Mormon, there were many men who were indeed role models to their children as well as to others. In Nephi and in all the righteous leaders up to Moroni, one sees how they identified themselves with the Lord by their total commitment in keeping His laws and commandments.

Now a few last words of counsel to those couples who are planning to start a family: Remember to let the Lord be the head of your household, and plan to raise your children in the fear and love of God. This you can do by being role models to them, that they, seeing your righteousness, will desire to emulate you. Strive to make yours an ideal nuclear family, and becoming a particular part of the larger family of God, the Church.



**MESSAGE continued . . .**

ffered more personalized in-depth information about the locations and has raised a reported \$24,376 in donations as of March 1996. Readers are able to designate to which fields they want their funds to be allocated if they choose to further support the Church's outreach programs.

In a fitting gesture, all the brothers present who had gone on missionary trips the last 18 months were recognized by the General Conference on Saturday evening. They were asked to stand so they could be publicly acknowledged.

**OTHER REPORTS**

Brother Dwayne Jordan, Chairman of the Research and Development Committee, reported on the progress of the resource manual being compiled by that group. Several topics are in various stages of completion.

A feasibility study by the Media Committee was presented by the writer. The possibilities and costs involved were evaluated and authorization was granted to pursue preparing a video which could be advertised and distributed.

Quorum President, Brother Leonard Lovalvo, and Vice President, Brother John Griffith, rolled out an Evangelism Program, approved by the Quorum, which can be used by the Regions. A pilot program is being readied and each domestic sector is being asked to indicate its requirements. Coordinators and other helpers will be made available so that the undertakings can be effective by drawing on the experiences and successes which have been achieved in similar ventures.

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

Gospel of Jesus Christ. He devoted his life to the cause of Jesus Christ and His Church. He made three long missionary journeys. The Apostle Paul preached Jesus Christ at every opportunity. He reached out to the

Gentiles, a people despised by the Jews and the House of Israel.

Moroni wanted his enemies to know his trust was in God and the liberty that comes from serving God. How did he convey his message? Alma 46:12 states, *"And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole."* Please notice the order of the writing and yet the subjects are all related, all part of the whole. He hoisted it for all to see and called it the "title of liberty." In fact, Moroni had the "title of liberty" hoisted in every tower throughout the land. He planted the standard of liberty among his people.

We can plant the standard of liberty. We can plant it for all to see. We can plant it for our families, our neighbors and friends. We plant it by our walk and our talk. We plant it by actions and example. We plant it by the love we show towards one another and towards all people.

There was a man studying to be a minister in another faith. On his job, he noticed the example of one of his fellow workers. He did not know that his fellow worker was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. This member was not a literate man. His knowledge of the English language was very little. He was one of the many immigrants who came to the land of America. One day on the job, the man who was studying to be a minister in another faith, approached this humble member of The Church of Jesus Christ. He said to the member, "I perceive you are a religious man." The member humbly responded that he attended The Church of Jesus Christ. He then said, "Come and see." The man came and saw. He believed and was baptized. He became an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. His name was Matthew Miller.

The liberty from sin is for all. Let us "Go and Tell Others of Jesus." All they have to do is choose Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

**CHILDREN'S continued . . .**

rescue His people and you will be destroyed! Besides, who knows if this is the real reason you were chosen to be queen here now?"

Can you imagine how Esther felt? Don't you think the evil one, Satan, tried to make her afraid to stand up for right?

But Esther knew and trusted God. She answered Mordecai by asking for spiritual help. She asked that Mordecai call all the Jews living in Shushan together to fast and pray for her for three days along with her maidservants. At the end of three days, she planned to go unto Ahasuerus uninvited. She said, "If I perish, I perish." It went well. God touched the king's heart so that when he saw Esther, he raised his scepter to let her come unto him.

She asked him to bring evil Haman and come to a feast. The king came and asked her again what she wanted. She replied that she wanted them to come the next night to another feast. They came. She prayed. Ahasuerus said, "I'll give you anything, even half of my kingdom!"

Esther replied that she wanted the lives of herself and her people saved.

Haman was shocked that his evil plan backfired. In fact, Ahasuerus was furious that Haman had plotted against Esther and her people. Ahasuerus had Haman put to death instead of Mordecai. All of the Jewish people were given legal power to protect themselves against those that tried to kill them.

Esther who overcame her fears saved thousands of people. It was God's plan that she stand up for her beliefs and her people. She gained courage after three long days of fasting (not eating or drinking) and praying. She also asked for others to fast and pray too.

This is still the way to handle heartaches and scary situations. Ask others to pray that you will have courage; then pray, and step out in faith. What worked to save a nation can work to save you today.

Sister Jan

## Baptisms and Reinstatement

Michael Danko was baptized on February 23, 1996 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother David Nolfi.

Joanne Kudla was baptized on March 24, 1996 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Alma Nolfi.

Elizabeth Zepeda was baptized on March 24, 1996 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Ed Donkin.

Connie Falvo was baptized on May 12, 1996 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Ali and confirmed by Brother Ed Donkin.

Karl Kirschner was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 26, 1996 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother George Johnson.

Rosemeier was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on April 7, 1996.

Jeffrey Scott Mooney, son of Scott and Lisa Mooney was blessed on March 31, 1996 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Danielle Joy Ford, daughter of Brother Joel and Sister Linda Ford was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on May 5, 1996.

Ian Tyler Gavaghan, son of Brennan Lynne Gavaghan, was blessed on May 26, 1996 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

## \* WEDDING \*

Brother Michael Danko and Sister Joane Kudla were married on March 30, 1996 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Children Blessed

Jac Raymond Boyle, son of Michael and Becky (Ciarolla) Boyle was blessed in the Warren, Ohio Branch on March 31, 1996.

Timothy Washington, Jr., son of Timothy and Jaqueline Washington was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on April 7, 1996.

Kayla Diane Gibson, daughter of Karen and Ryan Gibson was blessed on April 7, 1996 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Cassandra Marie Ross, daughter of Anthony and Michelle Ross was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on February 11, 1996.

John Andrew Rosemeier, son of Scott and Margaret

## Note of Thanks

The work in the Bowery in New York City is going well. We have a man who was in the shelter there visiting the Church. I want to continually thank our brothers and sisters who send us clothes for this work.

I also want to thank everyone who sent me cards and letters of encouragement concerning my recent fall, for our family and especially for our sons during their illnesses. May God bless you all. We pray that God will continue to bless all of you.

Sister Joan Rogolino

## MBA ORGANIZED continued . . .

Brother Justin Paxon honored the Lord with a hymn. Brother Ken Staley followed and spoke of how Gideon asked for a sign and it was given. "Are you ready? We all need to be like Gideon. Do you know what you are ready for? Are you ready to turn your life to Jesus Christ?"

Sacrament was served to the membership. Brother John Griffith then addressed the congregation and spoke about who would you like to be most? The answer, "Jesus Christ." "We want to have the power of God in our lives. How do we position our lives and change? Who among you will be chosen like Gideon? Are there any to be worthy to be a Gideon, to be chosen, to be called and used by God? Do you want to be a Gideon?"

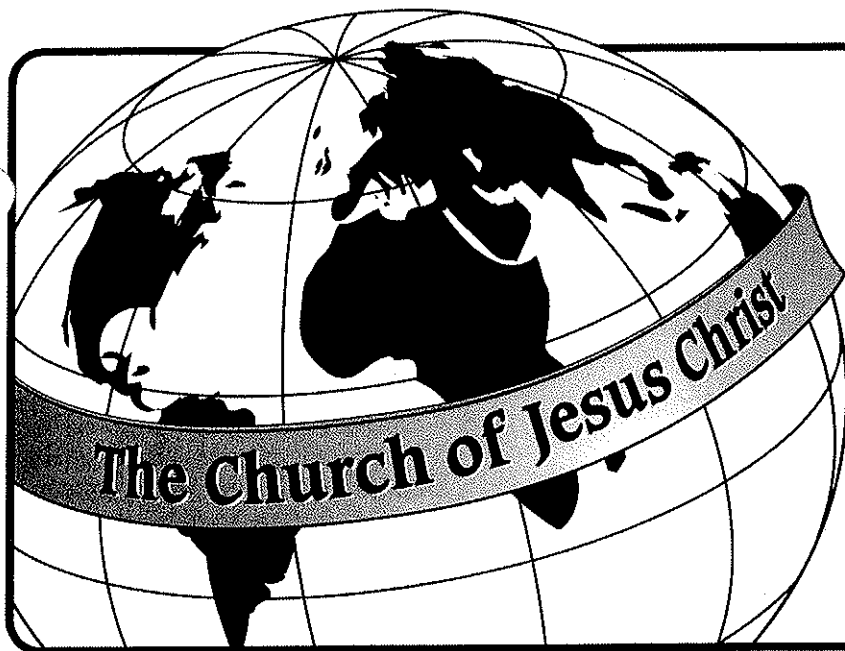
Our meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Paul DiNardo. We had a beautiful and blessed weekend. May God bless the members and all who attend the services in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

August, 1996

Volume 52, No. 8

## Building Dedicated in Ft. Pierce, Florida

On Saturday, January 27, 1996, the evening prior to the dedication of our new Church building, we sang praises to God for all that He has done for us. We rejoiced in the singing and in the experiences that a few brothers and sisters had many, many years ago regarding a new Church building in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Brother Sam Risola, Jr., presented the branch a new Bible for the pulpit from the General Church Trustees. Along with Brother Sam were representatives from the General Church Finance Committee, other trustees, Apostles and many visitors from all over the country. Brother Sam read an experience by Brother Patsy Rogolino (deceased) about how God had directed him to Florida and that is where he established a mission. It was also pointed out that Brother Anthony Ensana (deceased) had a dream to build a new building, and that day has arrived. There were many more experiences during the construction of the building. And along, the brothers and sisters were blessed for their constant support and efforts.

Words of encouragement rang loud and clear that even though the building is complete, it is only a

beginning for us in the branch. We must continue to put God first and continue in the love and unity that brought us this far. We ended the evening with thankful hearts.

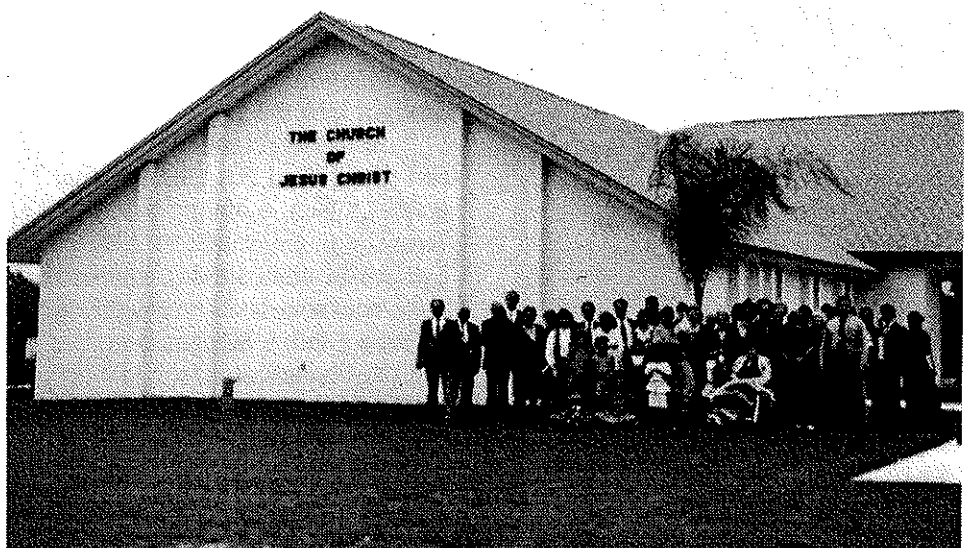
Sunday, January 28, 1996, we dedicated the new church building in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Our morning began with hymns by the children and choir.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese offered the dedication prayer saying, "This is your home Lord. Fill it

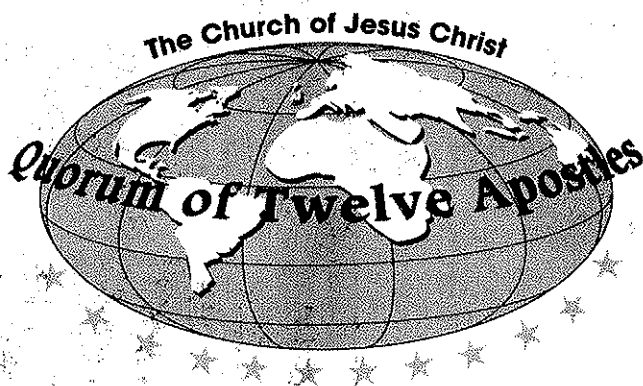
with your Spirit. Take a seat today, tomorrow and every time the saints meet together. This is holy ground and it belongs to you."

Our meeting was under the direction of the Apostles, V. J. Lovalvo, Joseph Bittinger, Joseph Calabrese and Nicholas Pietrangelo. Brother Nick related two experiences. While Brother Frank Rogolino was speaking, a light was glowing over the Priesthood. As Brother Joseph Calabrese was praying, the building glowed a gold and

(Continued on Page 10)



Ft. Pierce, Florida building and membership.



## The Book of Mormon Justified

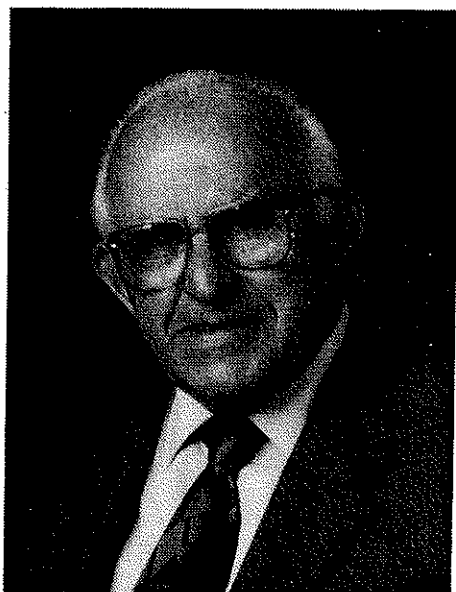
By Apostle Joseph Lovalvo

Isaiah 29:18, 19 read:

*"And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness."*

*"The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."*

In my travels throughout the United States and Canada, I have found that, while preaching the



Apostle Joseph Lovalvo

Restored Gospel, there is an unlimited amount of prejudice against the Book of Mormon. Men and women everywhere, without reading the book, take the advice of their religious leaders and denounce the

book as being of the devil and of being unworthy to be placed in the same category with the Bible.

The Book of Mormon is an historical and sacred record of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, namely the tribe of Joseph. It gives an account of God's dealings with them. It tells how God led them from the land of Palestine to the Western Hemisphere, or the land of America, 600 years before Christ was born. It relates, by the mouths of holy men of God, the promises that God made to them. It speaks of the wickedness and also of the righteousness of this people; and it also tells of the glorious visitation of Christ to the tribe of Joseph upon this American continent. Christ referred to them in St. John 10:16 as His other sheep, who would also hear His voice and would be brought into the fold.

Jesus taught them His Gospel and established His Church among them, as He did among the Jews in Jerusalem. Four centuries after Christ had visited them, because of their wickedness and unbelief, they became a fallen benighted people, and God commanded the last holy prophet among them, Moroni, by name, to take the sacred records, which contained the history of this people, whom we now call the American Indians or Native Americans, and hide them in the earth. These records were to later come

forth, when God would, according to the words of Isaiah, perform "... a marvelous work and a wonder: ..." It was in 1827 that the angel of the Lord brought the sacred records up from the earth. He had visited Joseph Smith, an unlearned farmer boy, periodically since 1820 and carefully instructed him of their contents. He gave them to Joseph Smith, in fulfillment of prophecy. David in Psalms 85:11 declares, *"Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven."*

Isaiah 29:4, 11, 12 also declare:

*"And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust."*

*"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed."*

*"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."*

Joseph Smith did not write the Book of Mormon, but he translated it by the gift and power of God. In 1829, the work of the translation was completed, and the following year it was printed in book form. The Book of Mormon does not add or take away anything from the Bible; but God has brought it forth to confirm the truths that are in the Bible, which have been perverted and altered by learned religious leaders.

The Book of Mormon is a record of God's dealings with the tribe of Joseph; the Bible is a record of God's dealings with the Jewish nation.

The prophet Ezekiel says in Ezekiel 37:15-19:

*"The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his compan-*

*ions: then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions.*

*"And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?"*

*"Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."*

The prophet declares that the record of Joseph (The Book of Mormon) and the record of Judah (The Bible) are the two sticks which would become one in the hand of God. Because of the prejudice of religious leaders and because of the wickedness of the leaders in the early days of the Restoration, the Book of Mormon has been frowned upon; and the way of truth was spoken of evilly.

The Book of Mormon does not teach polygamy, but it teaches that man shall have one wife and concubines, none. It does not teach celestial marriage, but it teaches that, in the Resurrection, we shall be immortal, incorruptible and glorified. It does not teach a plurality of Gods, but it emphatically declares that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that there is only one God. It does not teach predestination nor preexistence of spirits, but it teaches that all men and women are freeborn agents to choose for themselves the good that will lead them to God, or to choose evil which will lead them to perdition.

The Book of Mormon does not preach priestcraft nor that ministers or priests should make merchandise of God's word. It teaches "... the aborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish." The Book of Mormon does not teach infant baptism nor the baptism of little children, because little children are alive in Christ. It

declares in words of soberness that, if a man harbors in his mind that little children need baptism, he is in the bonds of iniquity and in the gall of bitterness.

It does not teach baptism for the dead, but it teaches that all men must repent and be baptized and endure to the end of their mortal lives in order to be saved. It does not teach a multiplicity of priesthoods, but it teaches only one, which is after the Order of Jesus Christ. It teaches obedience to all the teachings of Jesus Christ, so that the Kingdom of God may be established in righteousness upon the earth. It does not teach that one man shall set himself above another man, but it instructs plainly that all men are equal. It also teaches that the servants of God should not have part in secret combinations. Finally, it teaches that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Praise God!

Now, then, shall we turn our backs to this divine book because some of the men, to whom God entrusted this glorious record, have proven themselves unworthy of that trust? They have added and taken away from the pure principles and simple teachings of Jesus Christ which are laid down in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. These people have brought upon themselves the displeasure of God and have left their names as a curse upon God's chosen people. Shall we reject the Proverbs because Solomon was a polygamist? Shall we reject the Psalms because of David's adultery and murder? Shall we reject the Bible because Judas, one of the Apostles, betrayed His Master by selling Him for thirty pieces of silver?

Dear readers, are you willing to give heed to the pleadings of a merciful and loving God—who has sent His angel to restore the Everlasting Gospel? Are you, instead, satisfied to stand idly by and watch this world crumble fast under the weight of sin and transgression because of the false programs that learned men are offering the people under the heading of religion?

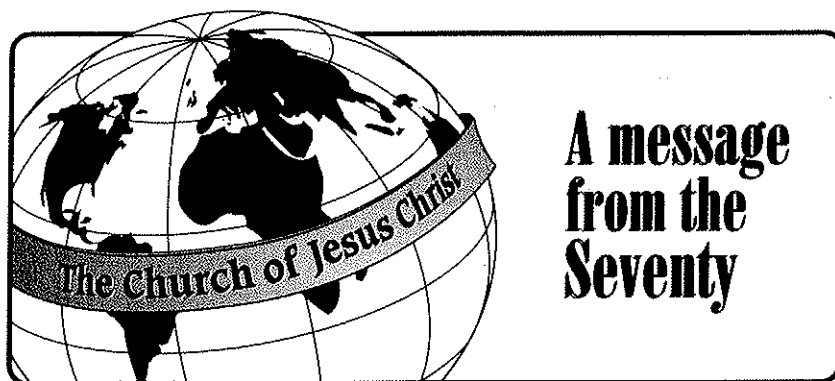
At the very mention of the Book of Mormon, these leaders disdainfully cry out: "A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible . . ." Have they, however, taught the human family to obey the teachings of Christ in the Bible? I say unto you, they have not. Woe unto them that saith, "... All is well in Zion; . . ."

The Book of Mormon reveals unto us how we may escape the great calamities which are about to fall upon humanity, particularly upon the Gentiles. Are you not tired of sin? Are you not longing for the day when wickedness and oppression shall cease and truth, like a rainbow, displays the bright written promise of peace through the showers of sorrow, heartaches, and disappointments?

The prophet Isaiah declares in chapter 11 of his writings that all this shall come to pass only by obeying the simple teachings of our Lord in the record of Judah, the Bible, and in the record of Joseph, the Book of Mormon. These two records shall grow together, to the laying down of contentions, to the confounding of false doctrines, and to the establishing of peace among Joseph's descendants (Native Americans) and to all the nations of the world.

My dear readers, I have written to you from the depths of my heart, because I have been entrusted with a holy calling by the Order of Jesus Christ into the holy office of an Apostle. Christ is my light, my crown, and my glory. I have walked and talked with Him, and many times He has made bare His holy arm to me. I rejoice in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because He has regenerated my heart and has made me a living witness to the truthfulness of the Restored Gospel, through my experiences with this record of divine truth. The Book of Mormon is a heavenly treasure, a book full of merit. It speaks from the dust by the power of the Spirit—a voice

(Continued on Page 11)



## Youth In Action Program Now in the Third Year

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Now in its third year of existence, the "Youth in Action Program" of the General Missionary Benevolent Association is sponsoring trips to five sites in 1996. This is up from two locations in 1994 and from three in 1995.

The increasing interest and enthusiasm of the young people of the Church and the additional requests of the locations to host the volunteers have allowed the expansion. Many benefits are received by both the travelers and the hosts in the joint effort.

The Church sanctioned program has been put in place to assist small branches and missions in their efforts to grow numerically. In exchange, the young workers donate some of their summer vacation time from school and get valuable training and experience in various phases of domestic missionary work. Many good reports have been received in the past, as the Lord's blessings have been present, and this year's visits will undoubtedly bring more edifying accounts.

### INVITATIONS EXTENDED

Basically, the participants work on person-to-person contacts. They introduce themselves and the Church, and extend invitations to people of the community to attend our services. Most times, they distribute circulars,

announcing our services (especially any specifically appointed ones during the time there) and urging the recipients to come to worship with us. This is done under the leadership of the Resident Elder and in conjunction with the members of the branch or mission. Other Church activities are also planned.

Of additional great mutual value overall is the fellowship that is experienced by the young people and the brothers and sisters of the host congregation.

Locations desirous of having a "Youth in Action" visit submit their requests through their Regional Missionary Operating Committees which then refer the matter to the GMBA's Youth in Action Committee. Availability of personnel is analyzed and arrangements are made and coordinated. The committee seeks to staff as many places as it can.

The sites in 1994 were Dallas, Texas and Harrison, Michigan. Last year, groups traveled to Homestead, Florida; Brooklyn, New York; and Harrison.

The places this year are the San Carlos, Arizona Indian Reservation Mission; the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch; the Brunswick, Maine Mission; the South Bend, Indiana Mission; and the Meaford, Ontario, Canada Mission. In detailing these locations, Brother Jerry

Valenti, Chairman of the Youth in Action Committee, stated that the volunteers who travel to San Carlos and Tse Bonito were also slated to attend the Southwest Region MBA Campout.

### SCHEDULE

The schedule for each location was specified as follows:

San Carlos, July 22-26. Resident Elder, Brother Dan Picciuto.

Tse Bonito, July 27-31. Resident Elder, Brother Larry Watson.

(Participants at San Carlos and Tse Bonito were to attend the Southwest Region Campout August 1-4.)

Brunswick, July 25-August 4. Resident Elders, Brothers Richard Onorato, Jr., and Brother Richard Onorato, Sr.

South Bend, August 9-16. Resident Elder, Brother Mitchell Edwards.

Meaford, August 14-21. Resident Elder, Brother Rick Elzby.

Although the intent is centered around outreach activities with workers generally going out into the communities, specific adaptations, as in the past, will be also made at each site. For example, at San Carlos and South Bend, Vacation Bible School was to be held for five days. At Tse Bonito, a spiritual concert was scheduled for July 31, and at Brunswick, a concert in "The Green" was also planned.

Other Elders and at least one member of the Youth in Action Committee will be on site at each of the locations. Committee members besides Brother Valenti are Brothers Jeff Giannetti, Jerry Morle, Ron Giovannone, Mario Zaccagnini, Paul A. Palmieri, Isaac J. Smith, and Randy Ciccati.

The MBA was founded with Church approval by Brother Alexander Cherry at Roscoe, Pennsylvania in 1904, and it is composed of Local, Region, and General organizations. According to part of the preamble of its by-laws, "... The main purpose of the MBA is to promote the spiritual welfare of

(Continued on Page 11)



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Centuries ago, it was required to offer blood sacrifices and burnt offerings to the Lord. Many were very faithful in keeping the law of sacrifices and burnt offerings. A vivid example is Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham did not hesitate. He did not question the Lord. He did not murmur. He did not deny his faith and trust in God. Abraham was about to slay Isaac when the angel of God stopped him. You will also note that Isaac was aware that there was no sacrifice, no lamb for a burnt offering. Yet Isaac was bound and the scripture is silent if he displayed any resistance. What a powerful story! What a display of faith and complete trust in God!

When the Lord came, He introduced a better way, a more excellent way. He said He would no longer accept sacrifices of blood or burnt offerings. What did the Lord introduce when He was on earth? Was this new commandment difficult? Was it possible or impossible? It was very plain and simple. The Lord wants our sacrifice to be a "broken heart and a contrite spirit."

In III Nephi 9:20, the Lord commanded, "*And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost . . .*" Please note that the Lord said He would be the One to baptize with fire and the Holy Ghost.

There were faithful people before Jesus Christ even came who were alive in Christ and kept the law because it was a commandment. In II Nephi 26, we read that the faithful believed in Christ, kept the law of Moses, looked steadfastly forward to Christ until the law would be fulfilled at His coming. They were so full of a broken heart and a contrite spirit that the law was dead to them. They were alive in Christ because of their faith. It states that they talked of Christ, rejoiced in Christ, preached Christ, and prophesied of Christ. They also wrote according to their prophecies, that their children would know what source would be responsible for a remission of their sins. That source was Jesus Christ and He was not born at the time of their writings.

What is this broken heart and contrite spirit that the Lord requires of us? It is the spirit of repentance. It is a humble recognition of one's transgressions. It is repenting for one's sins and a sincere remorse for wrongdoing. It is a requirement before someone is baptized.

It states in Moroni 6:2, "*Neither did they receive any unto baptism save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.*"

Consider what the Lord does to those who possess this spirit of repentance. One answer is found in the Old Testament. David wrote in Psalm 34:18, "*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*"

To those who are not baptized, would you like the Lord to forgive you? Would you like the Lord near you each day of your life? Would you like to experience this spiritual swelling in your soul? Would you like your heart to pound and beat like it never did before you met the Lord and His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ? Would you like to be free from the burden of sin? Would you like the Lord to save your soul? Simply offer Him a broken heart and a contrite spirit. That is what He asks of you. You will never regret your decision to render obedience to the Lord and become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. You will receive a life of hope, a life of spiritual riches, a life of spiritual blessings and the promise of eternal life when you endure to the end.

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



H	E	A	R	T	G	O	D	H
G	C	L	E	A	N	E	C	A
N	R	L	T	E	L	S	A	P
I	E	I	O	B	E	I	R	P
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## "Create a New Heart"

Dear friends,

You know, there are many times in your life when you are going to be alone. There are going to be many times when your heart aches or when someone you love has a deep problem that you can't talk about. Maybe this has already happened to you.

What will you do? Sometimes we try to run away from our thoughts and heartaches. We'll watch television, or read constantly. Maybe we overeat or can't eat, or feel so bad that we yell at everyone. Some grown-ups and kids drink alcohol, or even take medicine or drugs to keep their minds from painful thoughts.

But we don't have to do this. We can stop running away in fear from something that is too big for us to handle or impossible for us to solve. We can just put the terrible problem in the lap of Jesus.

We can ask, in the name of Jesus, for God to show us how to handle the problem. He created everything. He can create new ideas and thoughts within each of us. We can ask God to change our heart so we can put away fear, hateful feelings, hurt and disappointment.

Jesus told us not to worry way into the future. He said it is enough each day just to worry about the evil (since bad things are created by Satan) of that day. Jesus said that God even knows when a little sparrow falls. He knows your heartache. He cares for you.

The Apostle Paul wrote in

Romans 8:26, "... but the Spirit [Holy Ghost] itself makes intercession [asks for God's help] for us with groanings which cannot be uttered [spoken]." Otherwise, when you are so deeply heartsick and troubled that all you can do is groan, the Lord understands that pain. He loves you. He cares for you. He will lift you up.

In your mind, in your heart, think about Jesus. Speak to Him. Ask Him to walk with you and lift up your heart. When you sin, when you make a big mistake, tell Jesus. Then ask Him to help you not do it again. Then thank Him for forgiveness and go on.

Life is about starting over . . . again and again. Every mistake can lead to a new understanding. Trust Jesus.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

PRAYER	HAPPY
IS	INSIDE
TALKING	YOUR
TO	HEART
GOD	WILL
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WILL	BE
LET	TROUBLED
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FEEL	CARES
CLEAN	FOR
AND	YOU

## Notice

Penn-Mid Atlantic MBA  
Campout  
September 20-22, 1996  
Antiochian Village  
Ligonier, PA

Come join us as we focus our hearts and minds on what is described as being "*the fountain of all righteousness*"—Faith! Hope!! Charity!!! (Ether 12:28)

Questions? Please contact:

Brother Patrick Monaghan  
(412)745-1195 or

Sister Mitzi Yoder  
(412)899-3778

*"Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God" (Ether 12:4).*



## Our Women Today

### General Circle Conference

By Sister Karen Progar  
General Circle Editor

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle met in conference on Saturday, April 27, 1996, at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Everyone arriving was greeted by sisters from the Saline, Michigan Circle and presented a beautiful name tag which could later be used as a bookmark. We began by singing, *Victory in Jesus*, after which Sister Arline Whitton, President, welcomed the sisters and presented the theme, "God's Promises, Our Praises." She told her experience regarding the theme and how she and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President, had fasted many times seeking the Lord's guidance regarding the conference theme. The answer did not come swiftly, but was confirmed by input from other sisters, including the idea of presenting each member a hugger kit to be shared with the other sisters during the day.

After opening prayer, Sister Lucetta Scaglione was given a corsage as an expression of gratitude from the Circle for twenty-two years of service as our Corresponding Secretary. Sister Kathy Smith, Assistant Corresponding Secretary, then read a poem written by Brother Richard Scaglione rehearsing Sister Lucetta's life in the Church. Sister Lucetta then expressed herself.

Sister Lorraine read the Beatitudes from the Book of Mormon. In light of the theme, Sister Pierina DiFalco was afforded the opportunity to testify regarding her husband's recent illness.

Business began with the reading of the minutes from our last meeting. The Regional Presidents or representatives from the various Regions

presented their reports. Sister Dottie Benyola gave the report of the Atlantic Coast, Sister Pat Christman presented the Southwest report, Sister Lynette Huttenberger represented the Pacific Coast, Sister Joann Cotellesse, President of the hosting Region, told us about the Michigan/Ontario activities, and the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region President, Sister Linda Ottavian updated us on what is going on in her Region. We were pleased to hear that the Regions are very active in welfare projects and continue to raise money for the missionary work in their Regions.

Reports of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Gospel News Editor and Card Sender concluded the officers reports. After a delicious luncheon served by the sisters of Branch #3, we busied ourselves by spending the money the sisters so diligently raised in the past six months. The Circle donated \$2,200.00 for a motor bike for Kenya (our special project), in excess of \$2,400.00 to the work among the American Indians and \$388.00 to each of the following six mission fields: India, Italy, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and the General Church Missionary Foundation. The special project for the next six months will be raising funds to go toward the reduction of the mortgage on the World Conference Center.

Devotions were presented by Branch #2 and the Windsor Home Circles. In addition to singing *Standing on the Promises* and *Every Promise in the Book is Mine*, the sisters shared short skits dealing with God's promises and their fulfillment. To conclude the presentation, all the sisters from the Region joined the group to sing, *Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Ye the Lord* and *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*. Sister Iva Fedorka, from Glassport, Pennsylvania sang, *How Can I Ever Sufficiently Praise Him?*

Sister Arline felt inspired to ask Sisters Sara Vancik, Jeannette Velardi and Ilene Coppa to express themselves, which they graciously did. Their testimonies were enjoyed by the listeners. Sister Arline then

admonished us to encourage the young to become involved in the work of the Circle.

Apostle Joseph Bittinger addressed the group by expressing what a joy it is for him to meet with the Saints, regardless of the occasion. He stated that his years in the Church have been the best years of his life. He concluded by saying that he appreciated what is done for the benefit of the Church.

General Church President, Apostle Dominic Thomas also thanked the Circle for its consistent support of the Church and for the commitment to be at conference after such a busy few weeks. He reminded us that it is the great work of the Lord, not the great work of the Church, to which we have committed ourselves.

Our weekend concluded with four people asking for their baptism during the Sunday morning service in Branch #3. What an added blessing, what a wonderful Church!

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## Branch and Mission News

### Ordination in Youngstown, Ohio

Brother Ken Murray was ordained a teacher on March 3, 1996 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother David Pandone. He was ordained by Brother Don Pandone.

Our service was opened by Brother Bob Ciarrochi. His text was from Mosiah 12th chapter, *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publish peace; that publish salvation."*

Brother Bob stated that the time is rapidly approaching that the truth of the Restored Gospel will be preached throughout the world. He spoke of teachers as being "peacemakers."

This quality describes our Brother Ken Murray. His love for the Lord shows as he speaks of the love, peace, and joy we look forward to at the coming of Zion. His love and compassion for the saints of God is evidenced by all who know him. The Spirit of God prevailed as Brother Ken was ordained a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. We pray that God will bless and keep Brother Ken Murray in His care.

### News from Rochester, NY

*By Sister Carmella D'Amico*

During the past few months, we have been very blessed with many visitors in the Rochester, New York Mission. As a result, we have experienced the blessings and the outpouring of God's Spirit.

We have enjoyed the visits of Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Wayne Martorana and his wife, Sister Tina and their children. We had visits from Brother Frank and Sister

Rose Palacios of Lorain, Ohio; Brother Joel Gehly of Erie, Pennsylvania; Brother Joe and Sister Carmel Genaro; Brother Bob and Sister Ruth Batson and their children; Brother Russ Martorana and his wife, Sister Lena.

The sermons have been an encouragement to all of us. We heard messages from the Priesthood about the Sermon on the Mount; except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God; the New Jerusalem and God's holy mountain, and that our sons and daughters will prophesy, our old men shall dream dreams, and our young men shall see visions. We were reminded that great blessings await us and The Church of Jesus Christ if we are obedient and keep His commandments.

Our testimonies have been filled with His praises and thankfulness. During one of our testimony meetings, Elena Autoritano asked for her baptism.

We thank God for His goodness and mercy. Please remember us in your prayers. Please come and visit us. God bless you all.

### A "Spring" Visit from the Lord in Spartanburg, SC

*By Sister Connie Rossi*

I believe we can all agree that this past winter has been a very harsh and exhausting one to say the least. Even down here in the South, we have been hit with many ice storms, snow and very cold weather that is not normal for us in South Carolina. So when the sun and warm breezes broke through on this first spring Sunday, March 24, 1996, we at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission took advantage of God's creation and had our morning service out on our front lawn. As we sat there listening to our Brothers Darrell Rossi and Harold Littlejohn bring forth God's word, we could hear the birds singing as our Lord Jesus Christ manifested Himself in various experiences during

this meeting.

As we stood to testify to the honor and glory of our Lord, Brother Fred Hall stated the following: "As Brother Darrell and Brother Harold were speaking, I happened to notice all the other chairs were filled, all except one. When our Sister Gloria Keanon joined us, I noticed she did not take that seat. Instead she went inside and got another chair. During the service I realized why she did not take that seat; because it was already filled! A light was shining over and all around it. The light did not go beyond that chair but was confined to the chair. That was truly Jesus sitting in the chair in the midst of us."

Sister Ruth Hill testified that she had laid her Bible on that empty chair (which was next to her) and felt the urgency to take it off because she felt that someone was to be sitting there.

During the prayer for Communion, Sister Ruth Hill also testified as Brother Darrell was breaking the bread for Communion, she was remembering an experience she had just read in the *Gospel News* (March 1996 issue/GMBA Single's Retreat) how a sister had seen the hands of Jesus breaking the bread. And just as Sister Ruth was thinking about what the sister had seen, Brother Darrell recited the same scripture about the Brother of Jared asking the Lord to touch the stones. Brother Darrell became overpowered by the Spirit of God. Sister Ruth realized that the Lord was there with Brother Darrell as he was breaking the Communion bread.

At the end of the meeting as we were singing our closing hymn, Sister Geraldine Littlejohn testified the following: "I had my eyes closed. I opened my eyes to look and see if Sister Connie Smith had accidentally pushed the play button on the recorder instead of record. I heard concourses of people singing, like a chorus, singing with us the entire time we were singing. I looked again towards the recorder because I heard all these additional voices. It was so pretty because they just blended in with our singing. I thank God it was

so beautiful."

I thank God for these experiences during our outdoor meeting. Even I felt the presence of the Lord this day. As our brothers were speaking the messages, I heard their voices echoing through the trees and bouncing back to us. I believe their messages were reaching God in heaven and He was giving them back to us.

My ten-year-old daughter, Nina, also had an experience during our MBA meeting the Friday before. She said as Brother Harold was teaching the MBA lesson, she looked to the side of him where the American flag was standing. This flag has an eagle on the top of the flag resting on a golden ball. She said she saw a man standing there and there was a yellow glow all around Him and He had His hands outstretched on both sides of Him looking at us smiling. When she looked away and looked again, He was gone. Nina has had many such experiences in the past saying she sees golden images or lights around our brothers as they are preaching God's word.

I thank God for using our children as well as the brothers and sisters in revealing His presence to us and letting us know from time to time that He is among us and to make sure that we are keeping the faith of this Church that He has written. Thank you Jesus for your Gospel and your Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Deacon Ordained in McKees Rocks, PA

By Sister Carol Monaghan

*"For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13).*

On February 11, 1996, we had many visitors from Aliquippa, Fredonia and Glassport, Pennsylvania and Michigan to witness the ordination of Brother David Ciotti into the office of a deacon.

Brother Russell Cadman spoke and encouraged us to know our position in The Church of Jesus Christ and to stand firm for our faith in God's Holy Word.

During the afternoon, we proceeded with the ordination. Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., spoke on the duties of a deacon and referred to deacons of old, Stephen and Philip. Brother Ralph Ciotti read an experience Brother Tony Ricci had at a previous feet washing service. During that feet washing service, as Brother Tony Ricci was waiting to go up to have his feet washed, the Spirit of God spoke to him and told him to wait. Then the spirit said, "Go up now and David Ciotti will wash your feet." As Brother David washed his feet, the Spirit descended on Brother Tony Ricci as he thought about Brother David being in the Church and Brother Tony felt compelled to put his hands on Brother David's head and pray for him.

The gift of tongues was manifested in today's service just prior to the ordination. The interpretation given to Brother Tony Ricci was, "How much I love my servant, how much I love my servant." Brother David Ciotti was then called up and Brother Patrick Monaghan washed his feet. Brother Ralph Ciotti ordained Brother David into the office of deacon. It was a beautiful day.

At the close of the meeting, Brother Bill Colangelo related a dream he had that morning confirming who would wash Brother David Ciotti's feet. Brother Bill related he had been praying, asking God who would wash Brother David's feet. That morning upon awaking, he said, "Lord, the ordination is in a few hours and you haven't given me anything." He fell back to sleep and dreamed that he and Brother Patrick Monaghan were in a large department store looking for a part. He went one way and Brother Patrick another. Brother Patrick came up the aisle to him and showed him the part. Brother Bill said to him, "You are going to need a little more than that." Brother Patrick replied, "My great-grandfather (Brother Buzzy

DeMasso), who was also a deacon, has it back there with him and he awoke." Praise God! We had a wonderful day in God's House.

## A Special Sabbath in Branch #3, Michigan

By Sister Lydia Furnari

April 28th began as an ordinary Sunday, except for the fact that the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held the day before and the homes of the saints were filled with visiting sisters from Michigan-Ontario, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, California and Ohio. However, for four people, it will be a special day to remember in their hearts and minds for a very long time.

The congregational singing confirmed what would transpire with these selections: *There's Room At the Cross For You*, *Standing on the Promises*, *Come All Ye that Thirst*, and *There's Nothing Jesus Cannot Do*

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For August, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.3%
2 years	5.5%
3 years	5.7%
4 years	5.9%
5 years	6.1%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

**BRANCH #3 continued . . .**

to name a few. Brother Rick Elsby opened the meeting in prayer and Sister Tracey Francione set the tone for the day when she beautifully sang, *I Surrender All*.

Brother Larry King was first to speak. He read from Isaiah 55, about a forgiving God. Brother Rick Elsby followed and spoke on living waters and never thirsting again. The promise of salvation is given to all if we give our hearts to the Lord in exchange for eternal life. Brother Lou Vitto continued on how the joy of the Lord is ours and keeps us going. The promises of God are great and the Kingdom of God is large enough for the whole world. There is a lot of work for us to do. Brother Joseph Bittinger gave us words of encouragement when he spoke on how God is on our side and comes to our rescue when we call upon the Lord to help us overcome evil and temptations. Brother Gary Coppa reminded us that the rainbow is one of God's promises and how the Lord performed a miracle in his life by healing him of cancer.

After the testimony meeting, Cindy Impastato-Van Houtte rose to her feet and asked for her baptism, followed seconds later by Mike Capone and his wife, Jan Capone. Minutes later, Toni Beth Rancour asked for her baptism. What a joyous occasion for all who were attending the meeting. A caravan of cars traveled to the baptismal site to see the event take place. The weather was great all weekend and the sun shone brightly as our candidates made the vow to serve God all the days of their life.

Sister Cindy was baptized by Brother Lou Vitto, Sister Jan was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo, and Brother Gary Coppa baptized both Brother Mike and Sister Toni Beth. Back to Branch #3 and our candidates had hands laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Paul Whitton confirmed Sister Cindy, Brother Rick Elsby confirmed Sister Jan, Brother Lou Vitto confirmed Brother Mike, and

Brother Joe Furnari confirmed Sister Toni Beth. The ministry administered sacrament to the new members and gave each of them the opportunity to express themselves. "Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy today," and truly there was joy today not only here on earth but also in heaven as well. What a beautiful, beautiful day!

## *Note of Thanks*

I wish to say thank you, but there aren't words enough to express my feelings toward the brothers, sisters and friends who sent prayers, thoughts, and cards my way during my recent treatment for cancer. Your prayers were truly felt by me and heard by God. This may be hard to understand, but this was one of the most wonderful times of my life! Imagine yourself having the saints in California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina as well as many others praying for you. How wonderful! God is wonderful and He truly carried me through this illness and I will never forget His blessings and love and the love of the saints of His Church. God bless you all.

Love,  
Sister Sandra O'Brien

**DEDICATION continued . . .**

white.

Brother Jim Lovalvo opened the meeting, speaking about the millstone, milestone and cornerstone. Brother Jim mentioned many scriptures, Matthew, Acts, Ephesians, I Peter and Psalms. Brother Jim was directed by the Spirit of God. He spoke of the millstone, explaining the use of it and related it to scripture where Jesus said it would be better if a millstone was hanged around an individual's neck and he or she was drowned in the depth of the sea. The milestone originated in the Roman Empire and they laid it on the road to

measure distance of how far they had gone. Spiritually speaking, Brother Jim related the milestone from baptism to where we are now. We once drank the milk, now can we eat the meat? Brother Jim then posed many thought provoking questions. Where did Ft. Pierce start from? How far have we gone? Speaking about the cornerstone, Brother Jim said that Jesus Christ is our chief Cornerstone. It is the beauty of our spirit, and the righteousness of God that makes us, not the building itself.

Brother Jim then related to us that during the night as he lay awake with great anticipation for today's meeting, he petitioned the Lord. He asked, "What special message can I give for this day?" He was unsure as to whether he had a vision or a dream but Brother Jim found himself in this building with all the brothers and sisters and all of a sudden he heard a voice and it said, "This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." Brother Jim saw Jesus Christ on the pulpit, but He wasn't standing on the pulpit. Jesus Christ was standing on a large block of rock, solid rock and He said, "Tell them this, today I accept your gift of love. This shall be called My house and I will place My name upon it. But remember, He said, to live righteously and keep all My commandments that all who pass by may know that this is My Holy Sanctuary and then He disappeared." This is the message that God has given us today.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed by saying that the House of God is a special place. It is a place that we can come to lay our problems, afflictions, our praise and thanksgiving before the Lord. This is our place of refuge for our souls that we can find comfort, peace and love that we cannot find outside these doors.

Brother Charles Smith continued saying heaven is at hand. It wasn't opened until Christ was crucified and resurrected. It was opened for all mankind.

Brother Joseph Bittinger stated he was thankful for The Church of



Jesus Christ and so thankful for the people of God. He loves to come to where the weather is warm and hopes to meet many more times in the future. Brother Joe reminded us there is strength in unity.

Brother Joseph Calabrese said he was thankful to express himself saying, "Holy Spirit, thou art welcome in this place" and he felt the evidence of that Spirit today. Brother Joe also stated that dedications do not take place everyday. It takes a long time through sweat and tears and Jesus Christ is still the Cornerstone. Brother Joe continued with many beautiful words of encouragement. Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., closed in prayer and a beautiful spirit was felt by all.

In closing, the Ft. Pierce Branch would like to say how thankful we are for each of you who helped make this dream a reality. It was not only the hands that labored, it was the prayers, it was the encouraging words, the financial support, but most importantly, it was the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless each of you.

### BOOK OF MORMON continued...

from the Saviour upon which saints can rely and by which they can watch for the day when He brings again Zion.

Therefore my beloved brothers who have been called into the Royal Priesthood by Jesus Christ the King, the Rock of all ages, the Rock of our salvation, let's preach the Restored Gospel with the boldness and power that comes from the eternal throne of God.

We have the greatest story to tell the world that was ever told—the Restored Gospel story. The saints of old were told by Christ to preach the resurrected Jesus and His salvation.

Now, Christ has in these latter days, the last dispensation of time, commissioned us, The Church of Jesus Christ, to preach not only the resurrected Christ and His salvation, but also that North and South

America is the Promised Land and that the Native Americans who are the descendants of the great Joseph of Egypt will be converted. A great and mighty prophet will God raise up from among the Native Americans who will lead them to the great knowledge of Christ and who they are. A New Jerusalem will be built on this land of America and Zion will be established. The nation of Judah and the lost tribes will be converted and the Gospel shall be preached to the whole world.

God has through the Restored Gospel entrusted The Church of Jesus Christ with the knowledge of how to bring peace on earth and good will to men.

Then let's preach the Restored Gospel without fear of men because we have all the answers in the Bible and Book of Mormon. The two books will confound false doctrines and will stop contention and will establish peace among the Native Americans and all the nations of the world.

May God richly bless The Church of Jesus Christ and all its Holy Priesthood is my prayer.

### MESSAGE continued...

the youth in our midst. Also, it seeks to provide opportunities for young people to assume MBA responsibilities. Other purposes of the MBA are to provide financial assistance for the Church's missionary efforts and to provide welfare assistance for needy persons. In addition, the General MBA will, from time to time, conduct special activities intended to provide a means of assisting in the development of the organization's membership (both spiritually and temporally) . . .

In general, the MBA provides scriptural study classes for everyone at its local units in branches and missions and leadership opportunities for the youth of the Church at various levels. Also, it has focused on helping in missionary endeavors. Along with the Church's other

auxiliary units, The Ladies' Uplift Circles and the Sunday Schools, it has been able to raise and donate much needed and highly appreciated funds to support activities in the field. All the auxiliaries are to be commended for their continuous labors in helping to bring souls to salvation.

### EDITORIAL continued...

To those that are baptized, do you still feel the same way you felt on the day of your repentance and baptism? Do you still carry a broken heart and contrite spirit before the Lord? Do you remember who you were and what you were before you repented of your sins? Do you continue to thank God daily for His goodness, mercy and grace that He has extended to you? Do you love, pray for and support the Ministry of your branch and mission? Do you humbly submit to the ruling of the majority? Do you do things in the love of God? Do you accept your brothers and sisters for what they are, not what you think they should be? Are you patient with your brothers and sisters?

This broken heart and contrite spirit is not just required the day we repent and are baptized. It is required every day of our life. This spirit causes us to experience the very presence of God in our lives. It causes us to become new creatures, new men and women in the love and Spirit of God. That is why the saints of God are referred to as a peculiar people.

This spirit has other affects on someone's life. It causes humbleness and humility. Remember that humbleness and humility are required to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. We must become as little children. We must possess the spirit of a little child that forgives and forgets. The Lord forgives and forgets when someone repents.

A broken heart and contrite

(Continued on Page 12)

## Children Blessed

Danielle Marie Banyacski, daughter of Brother Thomas and Sister Linda Banyacski was blessed on May 19, 1996 in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Michael Yanda and Jonathan Andrew Gray, sons of Damian Gray and Tina Frank, were blessed in the Cleveland Euclid, Ohio Branch on June 9, 1996.

Kayleigh Nicole Cook, daughter of Tyrone and Nicole Cook, was blessed in the Cleveland Euclid, Ohio Branch on May 19, 1996.

Raquel Marie and Lucy Lee Moore, twin daughters of Ben and Tina Moore, were blessed on September 24, 1995 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch.

Zachary Brandon, son of Gregory and Christie Stephen, was blessed on November 19, 1995 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch.

Timothy Wade Vadasz, son of Brother John and Judy Vadasz, was blessed in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch on May 26, 1996.

David Joseph Catalano, son of Sister JoAnn and Brother David Catalano, was blessed on September 4, 1995 at the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

## EDITORIAL continued . . .

spirit allows us to love one another and all people, not just some. It helps us understand the Apostle Paul's statement in Acts 17:26, *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."*

Offer the Lord a broken heart and contrite spirit. You will never regret it. He will bless you for it.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## BAPTISM

Carmen Manuela Sanchez was baptized on May 19, 1996 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother James Sgro and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### ETHEL M. FISHER COON

Sister Ethel M. Fisher Coon passed away to her eternal reward on April 17, 1996. She was a member of the Cape Coral, Florida Branch. Sister Ethel is survived by her daughter, Lorretta J. Benjamin, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

### CHARLES ALDOUS

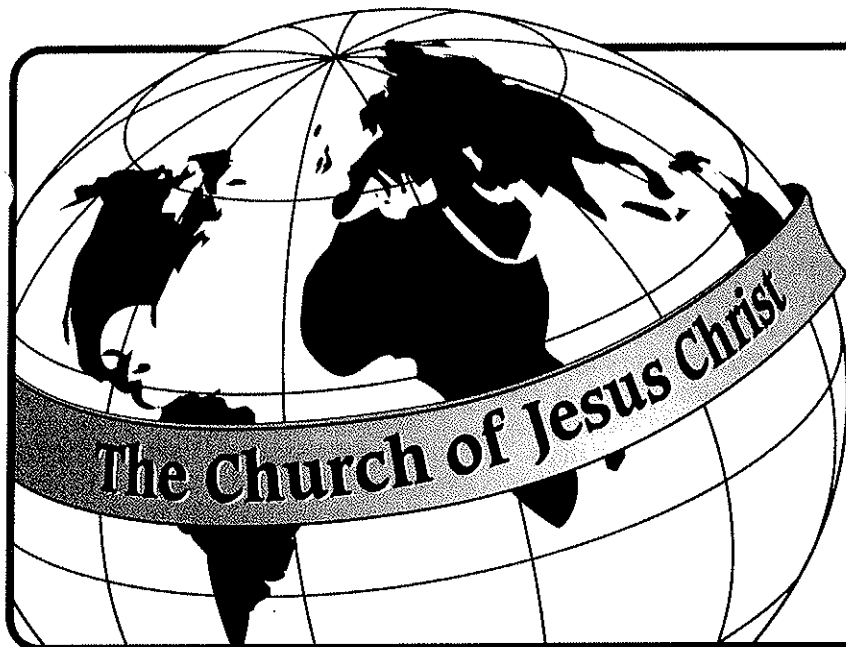
Brother Charles "Bud" Aldous passed away to his heavenly reward on May 1, 1996. He was an ordained Teacher and a member of the Quincy, Florida Branch. Brother "Bud" is survived by three sons, Richard Aldous, Timothy Aldous, Aaron Aldous; two daughters, Rose Marie Thompson and Margaret Ann Stiles; one sister, Sister Norma Kendall; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### MARY C. FEHER

Sister Mary C. Feher passed away to her eternal reward on April 11, 1996. She was an ordained Deaconess and a member of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. Sister Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Mike Feher. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Joyce Ramsey, and two grandchildren.

### MARY BEHANNA MANCINI

Mary Behanna Mancini passed away to her eternal reward on May 24, 1996. She attended the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch. She is survived by a daughter, Carol Sue Mancini Vira; a son, John Charles Mancini; two sisters, Margaret Behanna Blackwell and Elaine Sechez.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 1996

Volume 52, No. 9

## A Lay View of Missionary Work San Carlos, Arizona

*By Sister Nancy Buck*

When my husband, Brother Ken and I heard that Brother John DiBattista was planning a trip to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona, we were eager to join him, although we did not know what our contribution would be. We went anticipating blessings, having been there four times before. We enjoyed a truly spirit filled weekend. As my contribution, I would like to relay to you, especially those who have not been there, a flavor for what we saw on our trip that we may all continue in unity toward our Divine Commission.

We left on a Friday after a short day at work and arrived after dark, noticing the lights of the new housing developments, many more lights than at our earlier visits. We arrived early enough to enjoy Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto's company and get caught up on the happenings at the mission. Surgery on Brother Dan's root had recently been preempted twice, and many, including Brother Dan, had been fasting and praying that God would heal him from his discomfort. God blessed us with

His presence as Brother John anointed Brother Dan and we thanked God for his work on this reservation.

Early Saturday morning, a young girl came to ask Brother Dan to bless her new truck. Such faith!

We drove to town with Brother Dan and Sister Dolores to buy a loaf of bread. At the grocery store, Brother Dan was eagerly asked by a friend to come anoint a relative who had been in the hospital. This request was quickly responded to. Brother John and Brother Dan went inside to pray for him, while Sister Dolores, myself and Ken waited in the van. As we waited, I counted seven adults and one child going in and out or meandering in the back yard, and contemplated how so many can live in these small homes. Brother Dan and Brother John returned with faces of contentment. This very spiritual man, who is highly esteemed in the Apache community, attends an Apache church, yet highly respects Brother Dan and our mission (a comment we heard often).

After a tour of the downtown

San Carlos area, we headed out of town to visit Lincoln, a man whose wife had died recently. We could not call ahead to let him know we were coming, as telephones are uncommon. On the way, Brother Dan made a quick u-turn, saying something about how God sends us where He wants us to go. We pulled into a nearby driveway and were openly welcomed by Mike, a father who had also lost his wife recently. We greeted his teenage daughters, who were sitting outside on crates around an open fire heating wash water in a small bucket. His sons were inside the house which appeared to be under renovation, as did many of the surrounding homes. We all held hands in a circle and Brother Dan and Brother John offered prayers from their hearts for these young girls and their father. The girls showed little expression, except the tears which covered the cheeks of the younger one after our prayers. (Mike and his oldest daughter attended our Church for the first time the following morning.)

Driving down the road, my mind continued to be flooded with the song, "This is Holy Ground, we're standing on Holy Ground. For the Lord is present, and where He is is Holy."

We stopped at Lincoln's home,

(Continued on Page 10)

## Rescue the Perishing

By Brother David Nolfi

As Mormon and his son Moroni concluded the abridgment of the Book of Mormon, searching through the many inscribed gold plates that spanned some nine centuries, they were directed of God to add the account of their own day and time covering A.D. 310 to A.D. 420. Their writings, the Book of Mormon (a nine chapter book contained within the Book of Mormon) and the Book of Moroni, contain the most sorrowful portion of the spiritual history of the Nephites. It was the same period in time that Nephi saw in his vision (I Nephi 15:5) and Samuel the Lamanite prophesied of (Helaman 13:8-10), "the destruction of the Nephite civilization!"

In the midst of the final battles between the overpowering Lamanites and the godless Nephites, Mormon witnesses not only the horrible slaughter and carnage of the Nephite people but he also had to bear overwhelming sadness over the falling away of the Gospel. In the year A.D. 325 he writes in Mormon 1:12-14, *"But wickedness did prevail upon the face of the whole land, insomuch that the Lord did take away his beloved disciples, and the work of miracles and of healing did cease because of the iniquity of the people. And there were no gifts from the Lord, and the Holy Ghost did not come upon any, because of their wickedness and unbelief."* From the depths of love and concern, Mormon attempts to preach to his people (Mormon 1:16-17), but is forbidden by the Spirit of God. The Nephites, who willfully reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are now a people without hope, without God. In despair for a dying civilization, God comforts Mormon and Moroni by revealing the purpose of their labors in abridging the records. They are privileged to see the latter day work, the Restoration of the House of Israel, the glory of Zion, the New

Jerusalem; but their vision is marred by the proud and hardhearted Gentiles.

Through the gift of prophecy both Mormon and Moroni are able to look down through the future centuries to "our present day." Mormon, by commandment of Jesus Christ, pleads with the Gentiles of this generation to repent of their gross wickedness (III Nephi 30). Likewise, Moroni sees and speaks (Mormon 8:34-35) to our very corrupt and haughty society. Moroni warns our generation of the sword of justice that hangs over this land. As Moroni abridges the account of the Jaredites, from the twenty-four gold plates found by the people of Limhi, he again speaks to the Gentiles of our day (Ether 2:17) that they must repent and turn from their iniquities or suffer the fullness of the wrath of God when they are ripened in iniquity!

Never before in recorded history have such advancements in progress been made as in this Gentile generation. Man continues to utilize the God-given power of his mind and physical strength to achieve what was once impossible. Apostle Paul (Hebrews 2:6-8) addresses the fact that God has given man the ability to subdue this earth, to have dominion over it. But of all that man has conquered, he has yet to conquer self! In spite of the great accomplishments, man's lust for the pleasure of sin now dominates his lifestyle. Today the power of spiritual wickedness in high positions of our nation struggle to shroud the existence of God from society. Man seeks to be the god of today! No pleasure, no indulgence, no gratification, no sin is to be denied from man's insatiable lust! The Word of God is despised and hated because it places restrictions, boundaries, guidelines on man's depraved nature! The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has been mocked and refuted openly in our schools, government and media! Moral foundations have crumbled to dust! The deluge of sin has been accepted, promoted and glorified as

the acceptable lifestyle among millions!

With sin so deeply embedded in our environment, is it any wonder that the populace should be plagued with an epidemic of anxiety, depression, stress, guilt, mood swings, sleeplessness, multiple personalities, all types of psychosis? The sin infected throngs now turn to man for help. They seek the wisdom of man in counselors, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, to remedy their emotional ills. A profligate society seeks a tablet, a pill, a potion, a prescription drug from the much revered medical professionals to cure their sin ravaged soul!

Lifestyles are polluted with abominations. Role models for our youth live degenerate lives. The ripeness of iniquity is sorrowfully and clearly seen in the grim statistics that encompass our nation's youth! In a hurry to grow up into adults, the adolescents of this generation have mimicked the wicked lifestyles of our adult society. Today the youth of our nation has, with great appetite, devoured every sinful temptation cast before them. They have been raised without the reverence or even the knowledge of God's existence. Sexual promiscuity, pregnancy, abortion, violent crime, homosexuality, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction have rooted themselves deep into the hearts and minds of our teens and preteens. As the sins of the adults contaminate the children, the ripeness of iniquity draws ever near.

Jesus stated in Matthew 16:18, *"and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* This is one of the few instances where God's people are instructed to take an offensive posture. The gates of hell are not the threats of Satan against the Church but are the first line of defense to protect the devil's domain (gates protect entrances). Jesus Christ has, through His victory over sin and death, empowered and commissioned His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ to carry forth the Gospel beyond the gates of hell

into the very heart of the devil's lair that we may liberate those who are held captive by sin. As we face those souls held captive by the power of evil, the symptoms of evil's powerful grip can be quite frightening and appear hopeless. Often we have heard it said, "He or she needs professional help." No greater writings on psychology can be found than the Scriptures! No greater insight into the heart and mind of a human being can be utilized than the Word of God! Apostle Paul states in Hebrews 4:12-13, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."* And no greater profession or power exists than the power of God, which power is imparted to His Ministry! How wonderful God is, to be so powerful yet His first choice is to utilize this great power for the salvation of a soul!

It is imperative that we, the army of God, be suited in the armor of righteousness. Our feet carry us through the gates of hell's stronghold to the precious souls lost in sin. It is faith's shield that enables us to face the evil foe without harm. A life true to God, filled with righteousness, protects us from the shame and reproach evil would cast upon us. The mind of Christ dwelling in us directs us onward, sited upon the salvation of a soul lost in sin. Armed with the Word of God and guided by a great love for the sinner, we are able to deliver the Gospel's message into the ears of the lost. This sweet song of salvation through Christ conveys to that lost soul love that convicts their heart; encouraging them to exercise their own faith. Then the resurrecting power of Jesus Christ is able to break the chains of hell that bind the soul. Paul the Apostle states in II

Corinthians 10:4, *"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)." "*

Jesus said in Mark 3:27, *"No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."* Truly our Saviour has bound the strong man which enables us to spoil his goods. Let every minister and member labor for the spoils of souls held by the grip of sin. We are called to wage a war of righteousness. O that we would fight the good fight; prayerfully, diligently, with all long suffering, trusting in Jesus Christ to give us the victory! God bless you.

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## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I want to thank you for your thoughts, cards, calls, and prayers. It has been several months since my accident, and my recovery is due in large measure to your prayers, the anointings of the ministry, and the tender mercies of God. In my grievous moments, I received great comfort and blessing after reading your cards, which I have read over and over again. How kind and marvelous is the love of God in your hearts!

I have made good progress with, of course, more to go. Much of my trial has slipped from my memory, but one thing I'll never forget is the fact that God has spared my life and there is nothing more precious than the love and prayers that have been offered on my behalf.

You are all in my daily prayers. May God bless you. I love you all.

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo

## Announcement

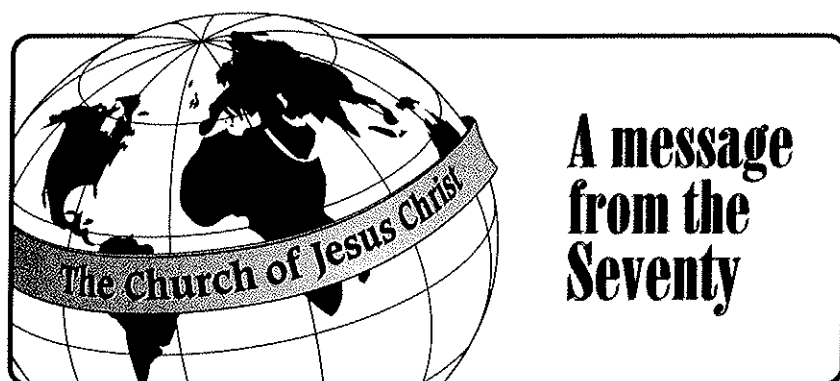
For September, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.5%
2 years	5.7%
3 years	5.9%
4 years	6.1%
5 years	6.3%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421



## Annual Conference of the Americas

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

The annual Conference of the Americas was held in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico on July 17-21 during which the Lord answered the requests of those who prayed at the first meeting for "... a torrent of blessings for all who are present and to come ..."

Representatives from locations in Mexico and many visitors from different parts of the Church who came shared in the blessings that followed. The sincere desires to serve God and to seek His direction were evident, as ways to learn more of His ways and to properly prepare to do His work were highlighted.

The spirited preaching, singing, and testifying, along with the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit, provided much edification. They allowed attendees to leave with a greater determination to serve the Lord.

### CONFERENCE THEME

The theme for the conference was "Stir Up The Gift," as taken from the writings of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 1:6-7: *"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

The authority and power given to the Church in the preaching and the practicing of the Word were

reviewed. Using these which have been bestowed by the laying on of hands was characterized as requiring faith, enthusiasm, and devotion in doing the Lord's work.

Sessions and seminars were directed toward increasing the knowledge and the ability of the workers to fulfill their responsibilities. These ranged from scriptural lessons to financial matters. The comprehensive agenda included fast and prayer, reports from the Mexican locations, and instructional periods for Elders and Teachers, including a seminar of the Book of Mormon. Some of the meetings were open to everyone.

The theme last year was "Working Together in Unity." Obviously, working together in unity, very evident at the Conference, and stirring up the gift which is within are both necessary in moving forward.

Review of the last year and plans for the future were presented. Visions of the goals of the Church in Mexico and means to accomplish them were expressed in an exuberant discussion intended to share the knowledge and experience accumulated so that everyone could become more capable in performing their duties. The major concentration, as in the past, was to seek to solidify and further the work of the Lord among the American Indian (the seed of Joseph) in North, Central, and South America, which is the Church's primary focus.

Last year, Evangelist Paul Liberto, Chairman of the Mexico Missions Operating Sub-Committee, wrote in this column that "The conference is held annually to provide for the spiritual development of our brothers who have been ordained to preach the Gospel in Mexico and Guatemala." In addition to this geographical orientation, expansion is now being pursued in South America. Exploratory trips have been made to Peru and one was planned to Venezuela for immediately after this conference. Other more long standing Native American missionary work has been done in the United States and Canada on Indian reservations and in urban areas.

### GIFT OF TONGUES

As Apostle Paul Palmieri was speaking on Saturday, exhorting the Ministry about the importance of each Minister's remembering the power which God has given to him, Evangelist John Griffith spoke in the gift of tongues. Brother John also had the interpretation: "You are called by the authority of Jesus Christ. Without the Spirit of Christ within you, you are ineffective in your calling. Be united in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and you will be blessed in your calling."

Apostle Thomas Liberto spoke after Brother Palmieri, continuing on the same subject, and he pointed out that each ordained Elder has power received from God, not through his own strength. Brother David Alcaraz stood after Brother Tom had concluded and said he had heard a voice which said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Do my will and I will bless you."

Sister Leonarda Castillo Domínguez of the Guatemala City Mission testified on Sunday that she saw the Church unified and lifted up. Before Sacrament was served, Brother Griffith again spoke in tongues. He also interpreted: "Thus sayeth the Lord: The table has been set. The body has been broken. The blood has been spilled. It is time to

**(Continued on Page 11)**



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*" . . . Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* This question was asked in unison by a number of people many years ago. Do you know who answered the question? Do you have any idea how it was answered?

The answer, the response was given by the Apostle Peter. We read in Acts 2:38, *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* He was humbly direct and to the point. They had to be baptized for a remission of their sins. There was no other way.

The Apostle Peter's response was very similar to what the Lord said to Nicodemus. The Lord told Nicodemus that a man had to be born again. Nicodemus was instructed that a man had to be born of the water and of the spirit. When you read this instruction in John, chapter 3, please note that the Lord said that without this new birth, you will neither enter or see the kingdom of God! It is very plain. It is very specific.

The Book of Mormon is just as plain, just as specific. We read in II Nephi 9:23-24, *"And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. And if they will not repent and believe in his name, and be baptized in his name, and endure to the end, they must be damned; for the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has spoken it."*

Jesus Christ confirmed these words when He appeared on the land of America. He told a great multitude that whoever believed in Him and was baptized, he would be saved and inherit the kingdom of God. The Lord also said that whoever would not believe in Him and is not baptized, he would be damned. Jesus Christ said, *" . . . this is my doctrine."* The Lord set the example. He was baptized even though He was perfect, spotless and righteous. Therefore, men and women everywhere need to repent and be baptized.

Would you like your sins forgiven? Would you like eternal salvation? Do you desire to see heaven? Do you desire to enter heaven? Would you like to live with Jesus Christ for all eternity? What you have to do is repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and by His authority. Have you considered it? Please do. It is the best decision you will ever make. It is necessary for your salvation.

Repentance and baptism are the gate to eternal life. They are the entrance to the kingdom of God. It is recorded in III Nephi 7:24, *" . . . that there were none who were brought unto repentance, who were not baptized with water."* Alma said that no man can be saved except his garments are washed white; his garments must be purified until they are cleansed from all stain. This comes through repentance and baptism.

The Apostle Paul states in Romans 6:4, *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

After repentance and baptism, life is new. It is a rebirth. People become new creatures. Minds change. Hearts change. Old habits become a thing of the past. Life takes on a new and different dimension, a new and different meaning.

People who repented and were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ experienced a profound change in their lives. There were alcoholics who were instantly healed. They did not need a doctor, they did not need shock treatments, they did not have to visit any clinic to overcome their alcoholism. Jesus Christ took it away! There were some who overcame

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "Jacob—A Child in the Promised Land"

Dear friends,

Can you imagine what it would be like not to have a television, or a car, or music on the radio? What if your family didn't have magazines and see advertisements on television or even get mail everyday?

What would it be like if you lived far, far from any cities and the only lights you had at night were fireflies or firelight? What if the roof over your head at night was a tent or rustling trees?

What if your family carried you on their backs and your older, tired mother walked and carried another, younger baby on hers? Can you picture a family watching out for each other, struggling along rough ground, following changing directions on a special compass?

Each day Jacob's family did this in the wilderness. The sounds he heard as a baby were the strange sounds of wild birds, beasts and insects in the wilderness. There were no refrigerators or sinks with nice, cold water. All food, spices, supplies, seeds for future gardens and water to drink were carried on the backs of Jacob's parents, his older brothers, family friends and sisters-in-law.

Everyone was related by marriage or blood to his older father, Lehi, a minister and prophet of God. But everyone did not get along. Frequently Jacob's oldest brothers, Laman and Lemuel would start fighting and arguing with the others.



They complained bitterly about living in the wilderness. They were angry they couldn't persuade their father to return to their old home in the city of Jerusalem. Jacob could only imagine what a city was like, or how the face of a stranger would appear.

All he knew was family. And he knew the deep feelings of sadness and fear when Laman and Lemuel would try to hurt his dear brother Nephi. Jacob also witnessed the great power of God each time he disciplined Laman and Lemuel.

When Nephi called on God to help him, God did. God gave Nephi great power to shake his brothers and convince them to journey with the family to a new land. On board ship, the older brothers started acting rude and wild. When Nephi told them to stop, they tied him with ropes. They refused to listen to their old parents, Nephi's wife or young Jacob and Joseph who were so hurt by their mean ways.

God acted. He sent a storm and made the compass quit working. The wicked brothers repented and freed Nephi. Jacob was young, but he remembered. All of the days of his life he loved and served God.

The Book of Mormon tells us that angels visited him and the Lord spoke to him several times. He ruled the followers of God after Nephi died and then passed his leadership on to his son Enos. Jacob, the baby born in the wilderness, the boy who traveled across the ocean to the promised land was a great ruler and powerful man of God. He never forgot.

### WORD SEARCH

JACOB	SHIP
WAS	LEHI
BORN	WAS
IN	HIS
THE	DAD
WILDERNESS	NOTHING
SLEPT	SHOOK
UNDER	HIS
A	FAITH
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## GMBA Conference May 1996

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi  
GMBA Editor

I Chronicles 16:10, "*Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.*"

Once again we thank God for another blessed gathering of the saints. Truly we can testify to the message of the scripture; for we sought and were blessed.

Saturday morning we enjoyed a smooth running business meeting, where much was accomplished. We were informed on the MBA events of each region and how they had spent their past six months. Brother Jerry Valenti spoke concerning the Youth in Action Program and gave a report on this year's tour sites. The missions that would be attended were located in Maine, San Carlos, Arizona Indian Reservation and Meaford, Ontario, Canada. There was an increase in participation this year and we thank God for the excitement of the young people.

The GMBA also voted on the campsite for 1997. It is refreshing to inform you that we will be traveling south next year to sunny Florida. Our 1997 GMBA Camp will be held in Leesburg, Florida and your camp director is Brother Jason Monaghan.

After the lunch break on Saturday, we all met back in the auditorium for the afternoon service. This year we broke off into groups and attended seminars. All together there were three seminars and each group circulated around until they visited each one. The first seminar was focused on praise (singing) and the instructor was Sister Carolyn Parravano. She began by encouraging each one to let themselves relax and allow the Spirit of God to freely bless and inspire their singing. She

followed that by teaching a new song and providing time to sing old favorites. The second seminar was focused on testimony and our instructors were Brothers Bobby Nicklow and Joel Calabrese. They began by briefly defining the word testimony and what the main goal or purpose should eventually be. In their instructing, they related a few experiences of the brothers and sisters. One in specific was the short, yet effective and blessed words of a brother. They stated that it usually was "thank you God" or similar words to that effect. At the end of the seminar they allotted some time for a mini testimony meeting. It was a great joy to hear the many testimonies of the saints, both young and old. Finally, the last seminar focused on commitment and the instructors were Brothers Ken Staley and Paul Ciotti. They spoke to us about being committed in serving God and what that entails. They used the examples of Joshua and Caleb and how they had dedicated their lives to Christ. This seminar too was a blessing and a help in our service to God.

The Ohio-Midwest Region presented a beautiful program. The theme was "Trusting in God" and rejoicing in the fruit of that trust. Their message was a blessing and it allowed each one of us to reflect on the goodness of God and all the times we trusted and He heard.

Sunday morning dawned, along with a beautiful day outside. Surely when we saw God's miraculous creation that morning, we anxiously awaited to hear the word of God and to be blessed. The Ohio-Midwest Region opened the morning by singing a few selections of their program.

Brother Flip Palacios opened our morning meeting. He spoke on the Apostle Paul and how God had given him such a powerful and humble testimony. Brother Flip narrated on how the Apostle Paul used his great testimony to convert many people. He exhorted on the relentless desire of Paul to tell all of Jesus Christ. Brother Flip then encouraged each of us to remember that there are people

in this world that know nothing of a testimony or of God's works and that we should not be ashamed of the Gospel. As God's children, we need to stand firm on our testimony and the testimonies of other brothers and sisters. He used many wonderful examples and stories to illustrate the power of God and the power of a testimony, but there were a few words that he spoke that stand out: "There is power and life in the words that God has given you, hold fast to your testimony. The words mixed with the Spirit of God are like dynamite!" Following Brother Flip, the Spirit of God moved upon the congregation to stand and sing *There is Power in the Blood*.

Brother Ken Staley followed. He spoke on his testimony of the time he met Iva Fedorka in school. He thanked God for his openness to share the love of God and related to us how it touched her life. We thank God for Brother Ken's testimony, for now we can call her sister.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. followed. He encouraged us to remember the Lord and how He graciously pulled us from a life of sin and sorrow. He stated that being born and raised in the Church affords us multiple testimonies; not only our personal one, but the ones of those who reared us and taught us of the love of God. He demanded that we be "hot" in the Lord and to give our testimony, for there is no room for a lukewarm approach.

We had a beautiful Sunday meeting and without a doubt or question, we can say we felt the Spirit of God and the love of the saints.

### Kindness

Kindness is like oil. It overcomes the frictions of life.



## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Atlantic Coast Region

By Sister Suzette Huttenberger

"This world is moving rapidly, too fast for a child like me; I know what I must do today, I have to find some time to pray."

On March 30, 1996, the Atlantic Coast Region Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered together at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch to fast and pray. The meeting was opened with hymns, *Take Some Time To Pray* and *Sweet Hour of Prayer*. Sister Lydia Link, our Region Vice President, opened in prayer. Before the sisters each prayed, Sister Dottie Benyola, our Region President, addressed us for a few minutes.

She began by speaking on the value of fasting and prayer for us as sisters in our service to the Church and our Local Circles. Sister Dottie reminded us "to pray for one another, our families, the sick, the widows, those who are mourning, the ministry, our missionaries, and our Church. The list of who to pray for or what to pray for is endless. There are many needs today for the people of God. Jacob 3:1 states, "... Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions, and he will plead your cause..." It states in I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers;..."

Our Lord hears every single prayer. We must pray without ceasing. He hears our cries. We must exercise enough faith that He is in control of the situation! He has the answer! He has the solution that is right for us. We need to lean and depend on Him completely for all things.

We want to see our families all

serving God? Fast and pray! We want to see the sick healed? Fast and pray! We want to see Satan bound? Fast and pray! We want to see the Choice Seer come? Fast and pray!"

The meeting was then turned over to the sisters and whomever felt to pray. The Spirit of God surely filled us all. We had a wonderful season of prayer. We had a beautiful spirit of prayer.

Some business was conducted. It was reported that funds were given by each Local to the General Circle.

We were especially thankful to have Sister Dolores Picciuto with us from the San Carlos, Arizona Reservation. She talked to us about fasting and prayer. Sister Dolores spoke to us for an hour, telling us that's what the Church there in San Carlos is built on. She began by telling us how San Carlos started and how she and her family got involved with the work among the Seed of Joseph. Our job is to be nursing mothers and fathers, planting seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When the Choice Seer is raised, then will the Seed of Joseph come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. It states in II Nephi 3:7-8, "... And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers. ... And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work."

The experiences are numerous concerning the beginning of the work in San Carlos. A woman had a vision of fire coming down from heaven, rolling around the area where the Church was to be built. A young girl had an affliction on her legs and she could not walk. Our Brother Dan Picciuto, through the healing power of Jesus Christ, anointed her. Her legs straightened out and she now walks! A young boy was taken to the doctor with cancer in his eye. His mother had Brother Dan anoint him at the boy's request. When they went to the doctor, he was sent home with a clean bill of health! The Lord even provided a cloud of rain to relieve

our brothers when the Church building was being built! This is just a few of the blessings and miracles Sister Dolores shared with us. We thanked her for visiting with us and hope she comes back when God sees fit with more experiences.

We broke for lunch. Then each Local spoke on the benefits of fasting and prayer in their own branch. Many glorious experiences were shared. The Lord answered prayers for those finding a spouse, a home, having a family, a brother surviving a life threatening aneurysm, another a car accident and a sister coming from Europe to find the Church. Prayer can move mountains! Praise the Lord for His healing power. Surely we can say, "There's Not Anything That Jesus Cannot Do!"

### From a Small Acorn . . . Anniversary at Spartanburg, SC

A journey started ten years ago for the sisters at Spartanburg, South Carolina, with a desire to organize a Ladies' Circle. On June 30, 1996, the sisters and young women of the mission celebrated the anniversary of their Circle with a program honoring the "humble beginnings" of the General Ladies' Circle in 1920 through their own organization by way of song, testimony and recitation.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, the General Circle Vice President, read the Pledge of the Circle giving corresponding scriptural reference:

*"We pledge ourselves to read and search the Scriptures (II Timothy 2:15) and ask God to direct and bless our Ladies' Uplift Circle in every way (Psalms 119:1,2). We will do our duty to visit the sick (Matthew 25:36-40); we will neither find fault nor offend in word or deed (Matthew 7:3), but will be a help to each other and help others to the best of our ability (all Scripture)."*

(Continued on Page 11)



## A Special Visitor

By Sister Karen Progar

On April 24, 1996, the saints of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch joined together to honor Brother Rosario Scraglieri, who was visiting from Italy. The evening began with a supper provided by the membership.

We were joined by the Glassport, McKees Rocks and Imperial, Pennsylvania Branches for a special Wednesday evening service. The meeting was begun by the singing of *Showers of Blessings* in Italian. Many in the Region had recently taken weekly Italian lessons, so this gave them the opportunity to display their skill, as well as honor our brother by singing in his native tongue.

Brother Mike LaSala from Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan, who has been Brother Rosario's interpreter and companion, opened our service by stating that he was delighted to be in our midst. In addition, speaking for Brother Rosario, he said that our brother was overwhelmed by the number in attendance. Brother Rosario so looked forward to visiting in the United States and meeting the saints. Brother Rosario told Brother Mike that he will take home with him the love he has felt and that it will uplift him as he preaches the Gospel in Italy.

The newly formed Italian Choir then sang, *Christ Forgives Sinful Man, Only Jesus (Sol Gesù)* and *First Love*. Many in the congregation also got into the spirit of singing and joined the choir.

Brother Rosario thanked everyone for their kindness, courtesy and love. He reaffirmed how delighted he was to have the other branches visiting. He wanted the congregation to know that he will take home to the

saints in Italy a holy kiss from the brothers and sisters here.

He chose the Lord's Prayer as his text for the evening, using an experience to illustrate the importance of prayer. He reminded us that we can find joy in nature, love and our children, but this is not enough. We experience true joy when we turn our lives over to the Lord and begin a new life in Christ. He concluded stating that baptism is not the end, merely the beginning.

After our meeting, the saints were given yet another opportunity to fellowship with our brother when refreshments were served to the group. We thank God for the love our brother brought to us and the love he takes home with him.

## Ordinations in Cape Coral, Florida

By Sister Theresa Palermo

We started this special Easter Sunday service with community singing. Our meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Ron Carradi. We had many visitors from Cincinnati, Ohio; Levittown, Pennsylvania; Sterling Heights, Michigan; Hollywood, Lake Worth, Palm Harbor, Tampa and Fort Pierce, Florida. Brother Sam Palermo's daughter from Sterling Heights, Sister Linda Conger and her family along with Sister Collene and Lisa Capone from Branch #3, Sterling Heights, Michigan had come to witness the ordination of Brother Sam Palermo into the office of a Deacon. Also, Brother Pete Darr was being ordained a Teacher.

The sisters had purchased new sacrament dishes, glasses and wine decanter. Brother Doug Obradovich offered a beautiful prayer, dedicating their use to God's service. Brother Dennis Moraco opened our service, speaking on the ordained offices of Teacher and Deacon and how our brothers are called of God into these offices. He read from Matthew, 21st chapter concerning how we are

prepared to enter the kingdom of heaven. Brother Dennis related several beautiful experiences of Teachers and Deacons in the early Church. Brother Rocco Benyola followed and emphasized that we should put our trust in the Lord always.

Our brothers were called forward to have their feet washed. Brother Jim Haugh washed Brother Pete Darr's feet and Brother Frank DiDonato washed Brother Sam Palermo's feet. Brother Bert Sheffler ordained Brother Pete Darr and Brother Ikie Smith ordained Brother Sam Palermo. Our newly ordained brothers and their wives were asked to say a few words and express themselves. Sister Linda Darr had an experience before Brother Sam had open heart surgery last year that he would be ordained a Deacon. Sister Theresa Palermo also had a confirming experience. She had a dream that we were gathered together with brothers and sisters in a Church meeting. She was talking to Sister Sharon Staley and asked where Brother Ken and Brother Sam had gone. Sister Sharon told her that Brother Ken had taken Brother Sam out of the meeting to explain to him the duties of a Deacon.

Brother Ikie Smith was then inspired to speak to us about the Deacon's duties. Brother Ikie testified that when he came home from work at 7:00 a.m. this morning, he picked up his Bible, thinking he knew Brother Pete Darr and since they were friends, he would possibly be used in ordaining our new Teacher. Little did he know that the Lord had different plans for him. Instead, the Lord directed him to Acts, chapter 6 pertaining to the calling of Deacons. When Brother Ken Staley had asked earlier in the meeting if there was anyone directed to speak on a Deacon's responsibilities, Brother Ikie acknowledged that the Lord had truly directed him to do this. Surely all things are in the hands of the Lord.

What a beautiful spirit filled our meeting place. Following an inspired

(Continued on Page 10)

**CAPE CORAL, FL continued . . .**

closing prayer by Brother Tony Micale, an Easter luncheon was served to all present. Please pray for us here in Cape Coral as we endeavor to serve the Lord and move towards a ground breaking for our own Church building in the near future. God bless you all.

## Ordination in Fort Pierce, Florida

*By Sister Marilyn Carradi*

March 24, 1996 was a special day for the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch. It was the day that Brother Rocco Benyola was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. We had many visitors and many blessings, starting with Sunday School which was taught by Brother Jim Speck from Palm Harbor, Florida.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Sam DiFalco. All the Elders sang that special hymn #286, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. A vision was seen that there was an angel standing next to each Elder with many more behind them, all singing along and together.

Brother Norman Campitelli opened the service stating that we were about to witness one of the greatest events on earth, the calling of a brother into the Royal Priesthood. It is a calling from God, not from man, and not to be taken lightly.

Apostle Nick Pietrangelo said that this calling had to come from God and proceeded to tell us how God calls an individual. The Apostle Paul states that no man can take upon himself this honor. He also stated that the most important aspect of an Elder is love and to uphold and to defend the laws and faith and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. He related this experience that took place in the ministerial meeting. Tongues were spoken and the interpretation was, "Now you are called. Do the work of the Lord, do the work of the

Lord, do the work of the Lord."

Brother Ken Staley from the Cape Coral, Florida Branch offered a very humble and beautiful prayer as he washed Brother Rocco Benyola's feet. An angel was seen kneeling next to Brother Ken and another angel was seen standing next to Brother Rocco. The Elders formed a circle around Brother Rocco and they knelt in prayer. A blanket of white mist was seen covering them. Brother Cleveland Baldwin anointed and ordained Brother Rocco Benyola. A brother in the congregation had an experience during the prayer. He heard the voice of God speak to him saying, "I am Jehovah, and today I ordain my brother."

Brother Rocco Benyola spoke to the congregation. While he was speaking to us, a sister saw Jesus Christ standing next to him. Then the Lord took a step forward and placed a pure gold mantel around Brother Rocco's shoulders. On the right of Brother Rocco stood a man in a suit wearing a bow tie. The sister asked the Lord, "Who is this man?" In Brother Rocco's next sentence he stated that he felt for sure that his father knew and was aware of what was taking place today! Praise the Lord, God is so good!

Brother Lou Vitto spoke about faith and how we needed to increase it. How necessary it is to tell others about the Lord. Christ died for all the world.

Brother Sam DiFalco encouraged us to speak to people about the Restored Gospel, to preach repentance! Brother Ron Carradi read from the Book of Mormon, Mosiah 18:26. The reward for laboring is more of the Spirit of God, to teach with power and authority.

Sacrament was served. While the Lord's Supper was being served, another vision was had and angels were seen walking with the brothers that passed communion. What a beautiful spirit was felt by all. Four sisters from the Ft. Pierce Branch sang *Jesus Use Me*, in honor of Brother Rocco Benyola.

Brother Dennis Moraco closed our day in prayer. Everyone left

with their cups overflowing with God's peace and blessings. Thank you Lord for allowing us to spend a beautiful day with you.

**SAN CARLOS continued . . .**

the man whose wife had recently died. No one was home, so we left a note on his door and continued our drive. He too was in Church the next morning.

That we might all feel as one in this effort, let me update us all. Sister Tina, Brother Dan's daughter, works with the Sunday School program, various activities for the local Indian children and Vacation Bible School, which involves many months of administration and planning. Her adopted son, Lehi, age four, is growing up and has overcome much of the afflictions he had when Sister Tina received him as a very sick baby. Sister Tina's daughter, Erryn, now eleven, broke her neck on the playground at the Church this year. X-rays confirmed the break, but after being anointed and much prayer, subsequent x-rays showed no break. Praise God! I always look forward to seeing Sister Tina's foster daughter, Jonelle, also eleven, and her smiling face and wonderful happy attitude.

Sister Lori and Brother David Picciuto's five children are growing up so fast. Curtis, at age fourteen, is taller than Brother David. Jerrica, age nine, is beautiful with her long blonde curls. Kaleb, age six, sings so openly and willingly. Sweet Sabrina, age three, their foster daughter is much healthier. Happy Jonathan, age one, their latest foster son, is nearing the date for his operation to replace the outgrown shunt in his heart. He still needs our prayers. He started life with a tremendous disadvantage, which is taking time to overcome. He is still at great risk. Please pray for him.

Sister Regina and her son Cory, age seven, are now back helping at the mission. Praise God for keeping our families together and strong in the Lord. Sister Regina works in



the hospital in Globe, Arizona.

God bless Grandman Nell, with her beautiful eighty-three year old smile and the love she shows the children. And Brother Virgil, of the Seed of Joseph, one of the family, so willingly gives so much to labor for the Lord.

Church service on Sunday morning was blessed, as are the Church services throughout this blessed land. The whole Sunday School group sang so openly. Brother John preached, not about the tribe of Joseph or the Divine Commission, but a message of the love of Jesus Christ, filled with scripture and tying together His word and how He is active in our lives. The congregation of forty-eight was truly blessed. Tongues were spoken. I thank God that we know Him and can say with assurance that we have been blessed with His Holy Spirit.

On our way out of town, we again stopped by Lincoln's, per his request that we come bless his home, which he has been renovating. He was happy to see us and welcomed us wholeheartedly. He turned off the Christian program he was watching on television. As his friend, Jimmy, came from a rear bedroom heading outside, Brother Dan snagged him and insisted he join us. The resistance was visible. Brothers Dan, John, and David offered beautiful prayers of love and care as we held hands in a circle in the living room. Peace filled the room as we opened our eyes. Lincoln rushed behind the couch to share a large poster board with pictures of his beloved wife. We hugged them and said goodbye, including Jimmy, a picture of surrender. The tears glistened on his dark cheeks, even under the shadow of his cowboy hat. As we were leaving, he was eager to talk, and shared how his mother had died last year. He understood what his friend was going through and was there to help him through this time of emptiness. (Lord Jesus, bless them both that they might come to fill that emptiness with your love.)

I thank God that I was able to go to San Carlos. Knowing how busy

we are, I bring back word that we might all know how to pray for this effort, thereby all participating in the labor. Brother Dan and Sister Dolores send their love and the so frequently voiced invitation to all to come visit them any time. They enjoy sharing their heartwarming testimonies of the way God has worked in their lives. Their address is: Dan and Dolores Picciuto, P.O. Box 65, San Carlos, AZ 85550, telephone number 520-475-2871. Remember them in your prayers. God bless you all.

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### MESSAGE continued . . .

feed my people that they may receive spiritual wealth and spiritual nourishment until I return, thus sayeth the Lord." Sister Rosa Martinez had the same exact interpretation in English as Brother John was speaking in tongues and she corroborated his interpretation after he gave it in English.

Represented at the Conference besides the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists were the Missionary Operating Committee, the Americas Missionary Operating Committee, the Guatemala MOC Sub-Committee, the Pacific Coast Region and its Missionary Operating Committee, and Elders and members from various parts of the Church.

The conference has been officially held annually since 1990. Prior to that time, a gathering had been conducted for several years primarily for the Mexican fields.

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### EDITORIAL continued . . .

drug addiction. How? By the power of Jesus Christ! There were others who were in the depths of despair and agony. Their minds were made whole by the power of Jesus Christ! There were some who were sick with terminal illnesses. They were healed and made whole by the power of Jesus Christ! Some were gamblers and Jesus Christ changed their lives.

They no longer gambled in life, they no longer gambled with their life. There were individuals who were atheists before they met the Lord and His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. They are now firm believers and some are members of His Royal Priesthood! Imagine! They now preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To the young people, ask the older brothers and sisters in your branch or mission what they have seen in the Church. Ask them about the miracles, the healings and the blessings of God they have witnessed in the Church. You will be amazed and awestruck when you hear the stories and testimonies.

They will share great and wonderful stories of what happened to people when they repented and were baptized. They will tell you how lives changed when people were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. They will share with you what God has done for them in their lives. Listen to them. They have experienced it, they have witnessed it.

Through observation you will see the change in their lives. When you look at them, when you study them, you will see what can happen to you when you repent and are baptized. It is a beautiful experience.

You will never regret your decision to be baptized. Do not delay your decision. Tomorrow may never arrive. Today is the day of salvation.

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### OUR WOMEN TODAY continued

The first Circle (1920) was not accepted by all, but has grown by the faithfulness, dedication and loyalty of those whose desire was great to help the Church and others. The Circle continues to grow as the women meet to study the scripture, to share experiences and needs, to visit and care for the sick, and to support the Church in Her work. Sister Shirley Gray related an experience she was

(Continued on Page 12)

**\* WEDDING \***

Wilfred Dawson and Sister Mary Gavaghan were married on July 13, 1996 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

**Children Blessed**

Brianna Ciara Howard, daughter of Georgiana Howard was blessed on May 12, 1996 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

Troy Joseph Carson, son of Matthew and Elaine Carson was blessed on June 2, 1996 in the Warren, Ohio Branch.

Emily Elizabeth Hollowell, daughter of Mary Hollowell was blessed on June 30, 1996 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Daniel Seighman, son of the late Brenda Seighman was blessed on June 16, 1996 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

**Baptism and Reinstatement**

Jason Christopher Genaro of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch was baptized at the GMBA Campout on June 26, 1996 by Brother Ron Genaro and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Sister Annette Corrado was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 23, 1996 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

**OBITUARIES**

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

**ETHEL NEILL CROSIER**

Sister Ethel Neill Crosier of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on July 8, 1996. Sister Ethel is survived by her daughter, Sister Holly Ladley; two sons, Park Crosier and Brother J. Dean Crosier; and three grandchildren.

**GEORGE JOHNSON**

Brother George Johnson of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on July 18, 1996. Brother George served as an ordained Elder and Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother George is survived by his wife, Sister Margaret Cowen Johnson; two sons, David Johnson and George Johnson; two stepsons, Gerald Mellinger and Rick Mellinger; a stepdaughter, Audrey Thomas; twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**BRENDA SEIGHMAN**

Brenda Seighman of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her eternal reward on May 12, 1996. Brenda is survived by one son, Daniel Seighman; her father, Clyde Seighman; one brother, Clyde Seighman, Jr.; and a step grandmother and step grandfather.

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**OUR WOMEN TODAY continued . . .**

given that the Ladies' Circle is to the Church like the wife is unto the husband—a helpmate.

Also present at the anniversary was Sister Arline Whitton who read a letter written to her from Sister Mabel Bickerton at the time she became Circle President. A *New Era* was started, a time of building and strengthening of the Circle. Our sister expressed her thankfulness for the support she receives from sisters, brothers and her husband: love and unity works! She closed reading from I Corinthians 1:10, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*"

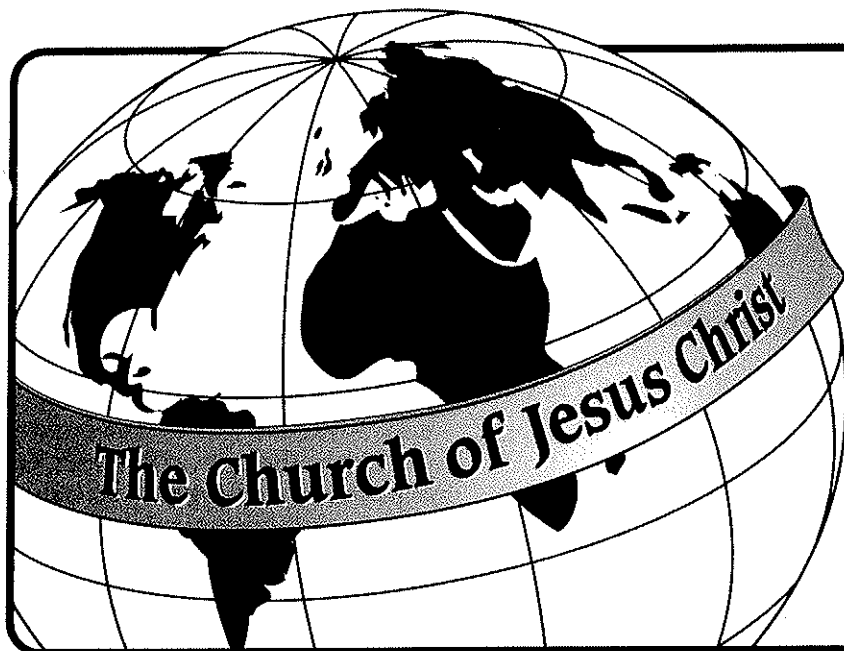
Praise God for the desire of our sisters (and honorary brothers) in the Spartanburg Circle for the good works they strive to accomplish as they continue on their journey.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 1996

Volume 52, No. 10

## Who Rules Your Life?

*By Evangelist Peter A. Scolaro*

The concept of rule is very broad and powerful embracing control; authority; dominance; command; judgment; and decisiveness. A ruler does not derive his authority from those governed, as in a democracy. Rather he has unquestioned, permanent authority either by rule of force, as in a dictatorship, or from some supposedly "divine" delegation, as in a monarchy. When we are "ruled" we are under the power of the ruler.

History and scripture have many examples of totalitarian rulers, both kings and dictators, whose rule was beyond challenge by those ruled. From Nebuchadnezzar (ref. Daniel 1-5; II Kings 24 & 25; I Chronicles 6:15; II Chronicles 36; Ezra 1:7, 2:1, 5:12-14, 6:5) through the Caesars down to Hitler and currently to Saddam Hussein, men have dominated other men, allowing even the very lives of their subjects to continue only by permission.

A ruler is able to exact behavior from his subjects that may be completely contrary to their wills and desires. Fear of reprisal, knowledge of others' pain, denial of

privilege can bend some of the strongest wills into compliant behavior.

As members of a free society we have not experienced "rulers" over us. However, we are subject to the rule of law and know that there are punishments, such as fines or imprisonment, assigned for breaking laws. As a result, we may behave differently than we would if there were no punishments. For example, a person in a hurry to get from one place to another limits his speed by what he thinks he can do without getting a speeding ticket. This person is not exercising his will but is being reigned in by fear of punishment.

Perhaps a more dramatic example in our history was the enforcement of the Sabbath in the days of the Puritans. The fear of the stocks probably caused a physical observance of the Sabbath that far exceeded the spiritual observance. The fact is that the Puritans could not "rule" the minds and hearts of the populace, so they settled for a facsimile by civil rule. Dominating the behavior of the people was clearly more important than winning their hearts.

Although the definition of rule does not explicitly include it, the authority to rule implies a responsibility for the well being of those

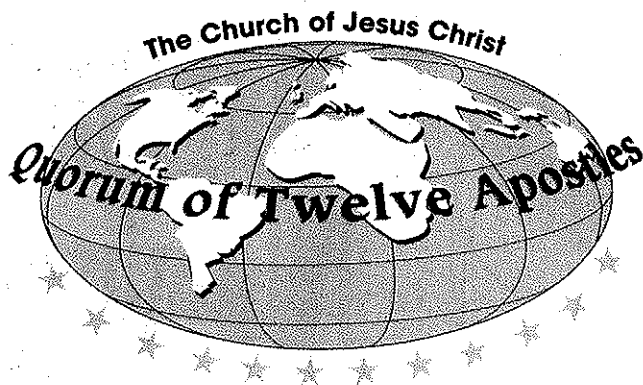
ruled. When a ruler includes the happiness of his subjects within the scope of his rule, he frequently creates an atmosphere of freedom and shared sacrifice. The ruler then fulfills a fatherly role of benevolence rather than a dictatorship of power. King Benjamin (ref. Mosiah 1-6; 29:13) exemplified this type of rule and even extended his concern to the spiritual well-being of his people who responded with respect and love.

A ruler only achieves spiritual rule when the subject is willing.

Of course, God is the all powerful ruler of the universe, of heaven and earth. He is the creator and has no peer. He expects recognition as such (ref. Isaiah 45:5-12). The scriptures are rich with references to God's rule, some examples: II Chronicles 20:6; Psalms 66:5-7; 89:5-18; 103:19; Proverbs 8:16; 29:26; Daniel 4:17, 25-32; 5:21; I Corinthians 15:24.

God wants our hearts. He wants us to demonstrate the desire of our hearts in faithful service to Him. Our perceptions of His "style" of rule depend upon choices we make (ref. I Nephi 17:36-40). Many who see Him only as the God who will mete out punishment upon the wicked attempt to serve Him on a behavioral basis--doing what he wants in order

(Continued on Page 9)

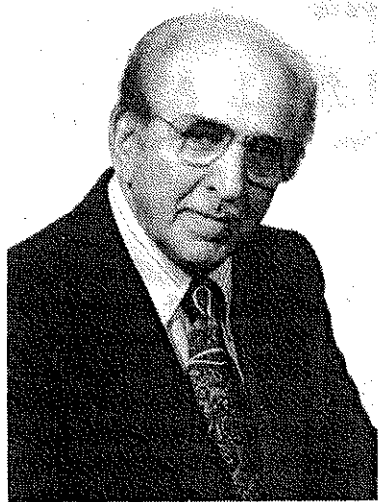


## An Exegesis on Unity

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART I

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psalm 133:1-3).

**UNITY:** The state or quality of being one; singleness.

The state or quality of being in

accord; harmony.

Singleness or constancy of purpose or action; continuity; a singleness of mind; a oneness; a united commitment of a religious group to keep the commandments of Jesus Christ.

### THE CONCEPT OF UNITY

Jesus said, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we [are]" (John 17:11).

Alma's words:

"And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another" (Alma 18:21).

Is the Bible and the Book of Mormon accepted as the "conclusive authority" in the concept of unity? Or shall the accepted signals be those that come from other "authorities"—science, personal experience, personal interpretation of Scripture, sports or the mass media?

This creates a crisis, and a confusion. This crisis can lead to a *strange silence* in the area of religion. In the mainstream Evangelical world, the voice of the Scriptures is falling silent in the preaching and teaching of the Church and the consciousness of its people, espe-

cially the Ministers. This is evident even among those who seem most insistent upon their devotion to the Scriptures.

The understanding of Church unity from a Biblical perspective is obstructed by the fact that the fundamental Scriptures are considered unsuitable by many and ignored by others. Many tend to consign the Scriptures to the category of antiquities or myths, thereby relegating them to a nebulous background, or deny that certain passages relate to their faith.

The next problem is, "How is the Biblical Church perceived?" Most Christian churches now agree, albeit mistakenly, that it is impossible to find in the Bible a blueprint or a single normative pattern that can be "restored" or reproduced in order to establish "unity" among them. The relevant question of concern at this moment is, "How does The Church of Jesus Christ perceive the Biblical Church?"

### UNITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

It was God's intention that humanity, His creation, should live in unity, based upon obedience and ceaseless service to Him.

"Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the LORD" (Leviticus 22:31).

"If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (Leviticus 26:3-4, 14-16).

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 14:15; 15:10).

#### RESULTS OF DISOBEDIENCE

- a) Adam's and Eve's disobedience resulted in sin and death.
- b) The flood (result of transgression); The Tower of Babel (lust for power).
- c) Apostasy (transgression).

God covenanted with Abraham to create a new nation (Genesis:12, 15). Israel was to be the instrument of unity, with a mission to bring healing to all humanity. But Israel lost sight of this mission. God made a covenant with Moses, but again Israel broke this covenant by choosing to rebel against Him.

The prophets continually warned Israel to return to unity by repenting and keeping God's commandments. Often God—through His prophets—exhorted Israel to *return to Him*.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicle 7:14).

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me" (Proverbs 8:17).

God was asking them to return to the unity He had intended from the beginning. Sin and transgression brought about disunity and the eventual dispersing of Israel.

#### NEW TESTAMENT

It is claimed that even the early Church of the New Testament reveals a variety of thought and practice. Among the Apostolic Church, there is found, however, a unity. They were of one accord in the *upper room* awaiting the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. It is

written:

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14).

#### CAUSES OF DISUNITY

Self-serving interpretation of the Word of God resulted in the changing of the doctrines and commandments. Alteration of baptism, the Lord's Supper, feet washing, laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit, et al, resulted in the apostasy of the Church and from the Church.

Diversity of opinion does not necessarily bring disunity. It is the opinion (or interpretation) that is contrary to the Words of Jesus Christ that brings disunity and tensions in the Church. Without a question, tensions arose in the Apostolic Church, but they were not always destructive. One was between Paul and Peter:

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles" (Galatians 2:11-15).

This tension, however, was resolved by the love of God between these two men. One has only to read Peter's words to discern this:

"And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul

also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Another tension was between John and Diotrephes:

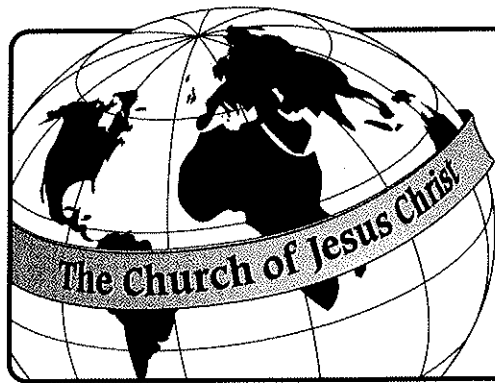
"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not" (3 John v.9).

The Bible is silent on whether there was a reconciliation between these two men. One likes to think there was, considering the great love which was predominant in the Early Church.

Tension arose over whether the Gentile members of the Church should be circumcised or not. This problem was settled at the conference in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit prompted James to give his historical counsel which created a unity among them.

"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written: After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city

(Continued on Page 10)



## A message from the Seventy

### First Trip to Venezuela

By Carl J. Frammolino  
Evangelist Editor

Shortly after the Conference of the Americas which was held in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico in July as reported last month, a trip was made to Venezuela August 3-11 in further efforts to spread the Gospel in South America. This was the first official journey to that nation.

The purpose of the visit was to fellowship and worship with a member of the Church, Sister Alicia Bicelis, who had been baptized in Homestead, Florida last year and who lives in Caracas, and to talk to other interested parties about the Gospel.

#### TRAVELERS

The travelers were Brothers Richard Christman and Fred Olexa; Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., and his wife, Sister Viola; and Brother John Catone and his wife, Sister Helen (Bicelis) Catone, who is Sister Alicia's niece. Sister Helen, who formerly lived in Venezuela, had been in contact with many of her relatives and friends who ultimately spent much time with the group learning about the Church.

Besides holding services on both Sundays at the Continental Hotel in Caracas and on Tuesday at the apartment, the period was devoted to talking to individuals about our beliefs and history.

The visitors were met warmly at the airport in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, on the Saturday by about

fifteen people who then accompanied them to an apartment graciously offered to them for their use by another of Sister Helen's aunts, Dive Gimend. During their stay, many brought food, checked to make certain their needs were being met, and came to hear about God, Christ, salvation, the Gospel, and the Church. Many experiences were related, prayers offered, and teaching given during these times. Our beliefs were accepted by some who were touched by God and who proclaimed their acceptance.

On the Tuesday morning, they also toured Junquito and Colonial Tovar, a German community high in the mountains above Caracas.

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

The first Sunday, there were thirty-five people in attendance at the worship service. Brother Christman introduced the meeting, explaining that the purpose for being there was to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Olexa spoke from John 5:14, about the woman of Samaria who met Jesus at the well and to whom Jesus offered the living water. Brother Fred emphasized, "This is what we offer to the people of Venezuela today: the living water of the Restored Gospel."

Brother Joe Catone, Sr., continued by quoting the words of Jesus from Matthew 28:18-20: *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to*

*observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."*

He elaborated that the same message that Jesus brought to the woman at the well was being brought to Venezuela and that we have been commissioned to preach the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people and that the Gospel being presented is the same one that Jesus brought to mankind.

Brother Christman spoke from Alma 32:28, comparing the word of God to a seed and encouraging those assembled to take the words they were hearing and to plant them in their souls.

Sister Alicia Bicelis bore her testimony after which Brother Joe served communion to the baptized members. There were also five anointings.

The following Sunday, there was a total of twenty-seven people in attendance. Several of them were new people, as some of the others who had been there the week before could not attend for various reasons.

The service was begun with Brother Christman reading Matthew 19:13-14 about the blessing of children after which Brothers Fred and Joe each offered a young child in prayer unto the Lord. Eight people were then anointed.

Brother Joe began the preaching, thanking God for the opportunity of being in Venezuela and explaining from the Bible and the Book of Mormon that there is only one God and only one true Church. He also cited III Nephi 27:3-10 where Jesus named the Church.

Brother Christman continued, emphasizing how the second record (the Book of Mormon) confirms the Bible and how there are hope and joy with God for all mankind. He also encouraged everyone to pray about the truth of the Word which was brought to them the past week.

Communion was served by Brother Olexa, after which some testimonies were given.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What is hope? The dictionary defines it as "a desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment."

Moroni gave a wonderful dissertation on hope. He asked how you can attain faith unless you have hope. He instructs us that we have hope through the atonement of Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection. Moroni informs us that we have a hope to be raised to eternal life. We are told that if a man has faith, he must have hope. Without faith, there simply is no hope. Only the meek and lowly of heart can attain faith and hope. If we are not meek and lowly of heart, our faith and our hope is vain.

In Ether 12:4, Moroni states, *"Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God."*

Nephi had great faith, he had hope that he would *" . . . meet many souls spotless at his judgment-seat."*

Abraham had a hope, he was sure that he would become the father of many nations, according to what was spoken.

The Apostle Paul tells us things were written for our learning and through patience and comfort of the scriptures, we might have hope.

"Hope is an anchor to keep us, Holding both steadfast and sure; Hope brings a wonderful cleansing, Thru His Blood, making us pure. Whispering hope of His coming, How my heart thrills at His Word! O to be watching and waiting, Ready to welcome the Lord!" In whom do we hope? Psalm 41:5 states, *"For thou art my hope, O Lord God."* God is hope. Without God there is no hope. Without God there is nothing.

Can you imagine what life would be like without hope? Life without hope would be spiritual despair and misery with no expectation of eternal life. Life without hope means life without charity. Could you go through life without hope for eternal life? Could you go through life without charity, the love of God in your heart and soul?

Can you imagine what it would be like if we did not have the hope and understanding of the Seed of Joseph, the Choice Seer, the gathering of the House of Israel, the building of the New Jerusalem and the Peaceful Reign?

As brothers and sisters, we hope for a better day. We hope for a day when men and women will live to the age of a tree. We hope for the day when we will have our own vine and fig tree. We hope for a day when the power of God will be so great the dead shall be raised and the miracles of God will constantly be manifested in our lives. We hope for the day that wherever we go, we will meet a brother, a sister and a friend.

Imagine what it will be like to travel throughout the world and meet a brother, a sister and a friend. We know the Lord will grant all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach His word. It will be done in wisdom and in the manner prescribed by God. What a hope! Can you imagine the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached in Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, French, Russian, German, Serbian, Croatian, Portugese, and many, many other languages? Sounds wonderful! Sounds exciting! Praise God!

Language will not be a barrier in The Church of Jesus Christ. Language will not be a barrier

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



In God's own mysterious time,  
He will bring you what you need.  
Love Him, Trust Him, He cares for  
you.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

Ecclesiastes 3:1

## WORD SEARCH

ECCLESIASTES	OTHER
THREE	TRUST
ONE	IN
THROUGH	GOD
ELEVEN	CARE
THERE	WE
IS	LOVE
A	ONE
SEASON	ANOTHER
FOR	THE
EVERYTHING	APOSTLE
PAIN	PAUL
WILL	TAUGHT
GO	US
AWAY	ALSO
SHARE	TO
WITH	DO
EACH	SO

## God's Mysterious Ways

Dear friends,

When you were a baby and you were waiting for your father or mother or someone to feed you, you would cry or fuss. Even if they called to you from the other room, most babies still are anxious, worried and upset.

Even though the beautiful soothing voice calls to the baby from the other room saying, "Fear not my little baby, I'm coming," the baby still is restless.

We are very often like that with our Lord. When a problem is too big or too complicated for us to handle, we have to rely on God. Most of us humans are not prepared to patiently wait.

Just like a small child who does not want to wait, we cry, we holler and complain while all of the time a beautiful surprise that answers all of our needs is just around the corner.

Humans have not changed much since the beginning of time. When Moses led the children of Israel (grown-ups and families) out of slavery, they were quick to forget God's blessings. They had seen the miracles of the plagues. Their people had been saved from hailstorms, lice, frogs, water turning into blood and even the deaths of every first born (older) creature.

The children of Israel were guided by day with a huge cloud and guided at night by a pillar of fire. But they still forgot. They still complained. Some of them even complained bitterly over not being

able to eat leeks (onions). They were being saved from slavery but still complained about God in between troubles.

Are we like this? I know sometimes I forget. Sometimes I am like the little baby fussing loudly while the Lord is preparing something truly wonderful.

Sometimes we complain when we are truly safe, comfortable, well fed and able to worship God freely. These are actually good times to be alive in. In the Bible, in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 it says,

*"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up (pick) that which was planted; . . . a time to break down and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; . . . a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away, . . . a time to keep silence, and a time to speak, . . . a time to love and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."*

Be grateful you are living in a time where there is not war. Be grateful if you are in a happy time of laughing. Do not fear if you have lost someone dear to you and loneliness is eating away inside your heart. Reach out to others. Share their happy times.

Do as the Apostle Paul told us to do in his letter to the Romans 12:15, *"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."*

E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G
E	N	I	A	P	E	S	C	O	C
R	O	F	G	N	I	E	C	N	A
H	G	U	O	R	H	T	H	E	R
T	N	O	S	A	E	S	R	P	E
I	R	E	H	T	O	A	W	A	Y
W	E	E	A	C	H	I	L	N	E
T	T	R	U	S	T	S	O	O	L
H	L	C	G	O	D	E	V	T	T
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A	P	U	L	N	L	C	O	R	P
T	N	E	V	E	L	E	D	D	A



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## GMBA Campout 1996

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

As I stepped onto the campgrounds Saturday afternoon, I found myself at a loss for words, which is not commonplace for an English major. On the other hand, the moment I step onto camp, a loss for words is commonplace. After all the learning of the English language, I still find it hard to express the love and Spirit of God in words. I believe that feeling the presence of His love is a gift and a blessing, and surely the warmth of the spirit was evident from the onset of camp.

It seems that even the first day of camp holds so many events, that it is hard to remember all of them, let alone trying to sum up the whole week in an article. Diligently I took notes of every meeting and every special event that I could possibly be in attendance at. We started off our week with a brief orientation, where we enjoyed the blessings of being in each others company yet another year. Our theme this year was **Back to the Basics**. Sunday always seems to be the actual take off point for the week—and it was. Our brothers were blessed in speaking the word of God. The overlying theme of the Sunday morning service was “love,” reverting back to the most basic of Christ’s teachings: “That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Because of this basic of love we are free. This love also lends us a genuine concern and compassion for each other. Our behavior must constantly be in sync with God, and then the Holy Ghost will be the factor that keeps “love” alive in our lives. Through all of life’s occurrences, we find that the workings of God’s love is constant.

Monday started off with early morning prayer service (which would occur every morning of the week.) In chapel we were asked “Are you

ready?” If so, and if God be true then live your lives to the best of your ability, loving God and each other. If the Lord is God, follow Him. You need no other proof, just go back to the basics. All the proof you need hung on a cross many years ago, just let go and let God! Our evening meeting was going to be dedicated to praising God. The singing of the saints was beautiful and blessed. One of our brothers stood up under the inspiration of God and began to preach the word. He kept directing different questions at us, concerning our service to God. How can we continue to turn our backs to Him and His Spirit, when we have felt the Spirit of God like a mighty rushing wind? How can we turn our backs on a man who gave His life for us? How can we say no? Regardless of our place in life, He is the best friend any one of us can have and He proved that to us by giving His life for you and me. Following our brother the young people came forward to sing a few selections. After their singing a brother was directed to open the meeting for prayer. We felt the Spirit of God in our presence as many came forward for various needs. We felt the blessings of God that night.

In chapel on Tuesday the subjects of love and the laying down of the Savior’s life were reintroduced and added to. We were taught that the Lord allows a path of assurance unto all of those who would just believe. Because of the many sacrifices of Jesus Christ, we must feel the burden upon our hearts to tell others of Jesus and the love He has for them. Following, a brother began to tell the story of Moses, and how he had to go through many trials and situations in his life before he would be used by God. Many times we ask ourselves, “Who are we that God would use us?” Surely Moses had the same questions that we face today. Our brother reminded us that as humans we continually find faults within ourselves and we wonder why God would waste His time on us. God reassures us, as He did Moses, that He goes with us and in our

weakness He makes us perfect. God always provides for His children.

Our chapel on Wednesday was very different. The brother who opened spoke on how each of us are a part of the body of Christ and in turn we each hold a special function and purpose. As a piece of a puzzle, we are each cut out differently, but all are equal and necessary in purpose. Not one piece is of greater value than the other. After seminars today we went down to the waters of baptism for one candidate, but we returned with seven new candidates: Brothers Zac Jackson, Jason Genaro, Phil Benyola and Brian Alessio; Sisters Becky Straccia, January Cody and Joann Fraschilla. Praise God! During the Wednesday night service the confirmations were held. Two very key experiences were had this day, that led to the outpouring of repentance. A brother was inspired to tell another brother to preach repentance at the waters’ edge, through several confirmations of this, our brother walked out on faith and

**(Continued on Page 11)**

### Notice

All Singles, 15 years and over,  
come join us at the

GMBA Singles Retreat '96  
October 25-27, 1996

at

The McKeever Environmental  
Learning Center  
Sandy Lake, PA

Theme: Be A Living Sacrifice  
Romans 12:1

Turn registration forms & checks  
in by Oct. 11, 1996

Mail to: Sister Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446



## Our Psalm of Praise

Your mercy and forgiveness have followed us all the days of our lives and will lead us into life forevermore  
 We see your mercy and feel your forgiveness when we touch the nailprints of Your Son's hands  
 We rejoice as a spiritual family when we come together  
 We are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, children of God  
 His spirit and love bind us together, keep us united as a family  
 May His circle never be broken  
 I praise God for the joy of family, they are a comfort to me in troubled times  
 I praise God for the renewal of life, the child-like faith and hope for the future  
 I praise God for the spiritual ties that bind us and give us peace  
 He gave me music when there was no song  
 He gave me His spirit when there was emptiness and He gave me music and song to fill my soul  
 I will praise the Lord for mountains so high, valleys so low  
 For all that is green there to grow  
 Water so pure and peaceful below  
 My soul shall sing and forever glow  
 Praise the name of the Lord!  
 We are thankful for the promises that You have made  
 For You have blessed us richly, as we see the rainbows and feel Your guidance and love each day  
 Praise the Lord for the ultimate promise . . . our salvation through Jesus Christ  
 His Church—our hope  
 We praise thee, oh God, for the Restoration of the truth  
 God . . . powerful . . . almighty . . . omnipotent  
 He reigns on high, He is victorious  
 Elohim!

The Sisters of the Southwest Region

## Ordination in Levittown, PA

By Sister Diane Robinson

After all were assembled on this special Sunday, March 24, 1996, Apostle Paul Benyola opened the service with prayer and called, *O Happy Day*.

Brother Sam Dell, former longtime Elder and Evangelist in Levittown, Pennsylvania, was visiting this Sunday from New Brunswick. As our first speaker, Brother Sam mentioned the joys and blessings in his life, his recent illness and how the Lord brought him through it. Brother Sam referred to I Timothy 4:1. He asked, "Do we bow our heads and pray before eating, that the Lord may sanctify the food?" Brother Sam mentioned the news reports of diseased cattle from England and how we must ask the Lord to direct our paths because we know not when terrible things may happen to us. Brother Sam preached a message of turning our hearts to the Lord, citing the signs of the times of floods, destruction and murdering worldwide. "Prepare to meet the Lord while you still have your senses," he said. It was a blessing to hear our brother exhort to us again.

Brother David Catalano from Metuchen, New Jersey Branch followed. He reminded us of how Abraham didn't stagger at the promise, and God counted it as righteousness. He spoke about the hope we have. He mentioned the importance of feasting on the Word of God and enduring to the end. We enjoyed the words of our newly ordained Elder, Brother David Catalano.

Brother George Timms, from Herndon, Virginia, also brought a blessing to this special day. Brother George addressed the congregation comparing the deaconess duties to the roles of Mary and Martha. Brother George stated that if we read, learn and understand the scriptures and don't apply them to our lives, it is sad. He read scriptures concerning having escaped the corruption that is

in the world. "Have we escaped it?" he asked. Brother George said we should be reminded of the promise we made at the waters' edge.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident in the soundness of our brothers' words and the harmony of the spirit.

Two weeks before, Sister Cindy Bright related a dream in which she saw a formal dress which she was to wear to work. Yet in her natural job, she would not wear that style of dress. She felt that it meant working for the Lord.

Brother Jerry Valenti, our Presiding Elder, explained the duties of a deaconess. Sister Cindy's feet were washed by her mother, Sister Sylvia Smith, who is also a deaconess. Brother Sam Dell prayed a beautiful confirmation prayer, as our sister became a deaconess.

We enjoyed a warm fellowship and were gladdened by visiting brothers and sisters from Herndon, Virginia, and the Edison and Metuchen, New Jersey branches. We pray that God will bless Sister Cindy Bright as a deaconess and use her for His honor and glory.

## Baptism and Ordination in Freehold, New Jersey

"With arms open wide then, they took the child in, For life had been hard to this one lost in sin. The prodigal's tears washed away their concern—And the angels rejoiced so, to see the return." Jim Calabro returned on April 7, 1996. He was baptized by Brother Jim Moore and confirmed by Brother Joe Perri. While he was being confirmed, a sister had a vision of a personage in white hug Brother Jim. Brother Jim Calabro had been born and raised in the Church like so many others. He became a prodigal son when he stayed away from the Church for nearly fifteen years. One day while driving in his truck, through the blaring radio, he heard a voice say, "Jimmy come home." You know the rest. We were thankful this day to

have visiting with us from Imperial, Pennsylvania, Brother Jim Moore and his wife, Sister Jean. While he was preaching, the gift of tongues came forth twice. Four different sisters heard the word "Zion" spoken several times during the tongues in English. The week prior to Brother Jim's baptism, there was a Regional gathering in Hopelawn, New Jersey, during which visiting Brother Dan Piccuito prayed for Brother Jim. During his prayer, Brother Dan spoke in the gift of tongues. Praise God for Brother Jim Calabro's return.

The following Sunday, April 14, was another blessed event for our branch. We gathered in the Hopelawn Branch along with many visitors from the Region along with Brother Jim Huttenberger from Anaheim, California and Brother Dan Buffington from Imperial, Pennsylvania to witness the ordination of Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr., into the Ministry. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Crudup and he was ordained by his spiritual and natural brother, Brother Jim Huttenberger. A few sisters from Freehold sang, *Send Hunters and Fishers*. The power of God was truly evident in our midst. First, Brother Joe Perri read several experiences before the ordination including a fax he received the night before from Florida. A brother there had a vision several months prior to the ordination in which he saw the Freehold Branch, and saw Brother Carl being set apart by the washing of feet. While Brother Carl's feet were being washed, a sister had a vision of a woman dressed in white place a crown on Brother Carl's head. Another sister saw his feet on fire and saw a personage hand him something golden. The congregation then sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*.

Brother Dan Buffington offered prayer before the ordination and the gift of tongues was spoken. Then during the ordination prayer, the gift of tongues were spoken twice more. A sister spoke in the spirit and said, "Glory be to God!" Another sister saw a ring of fire surround the Ministry as they prayed for Brother

Carl. One of the tongues was interpreted which was, "Blessed is thy ministry." There were two other beautiful visions had by other sisters and other manifestations of God's power. We were thankful to witness the power of God and thankful to have reconfirmed the power and authority that rests upon The Church of Jesus Christ. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9). God bless you all.

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## WHO RULES continued . . .

to avoid punishment. These folks tend to seek the minimum requirement—sort of like paying taxes. Others, seeing Him as the loving heavenly Father who gave His only begotten Son to save mankind from the fall, serve Him out of love and gratitude.

Interestingly, though His power is unlimited, God will not force the human mind. Rather, He is looking for "whosoever will" serve Him (ref. Revelations 22:17; Alma 7:16; 41:8, 42:27; Helaman 3:29; 14:29; III Nephi 23:5; Mormon 9:25) to forgive and grant eternal life. On the other hand, whosoever will be a friend of the world is an enemy to God (ref. James 4:4).

God wants us to yield to Him and allow Him to be our spiritual ruler. He wants willing servants although He is capable of having each and every one of us as captive slaves. Some questions you might want to ask yourself:

- \* How do you relate to God?
- \* Are you serving God out of love or fear?
- \* How do you tell the difference?
- \* Which makes serving God easier?
- \* Remember the day of your decision to be baptized. Did God force you? Why did you decide to serve Him that day?

Think about this. We have both scriptural and contemporary perspectives to reference.

Historically, as long as we are mindful of Him and His will, God has proven willing to attend to our needs, tolerate our mistakes, protect us, comfort us, and do all the fatherly things. If we have learned to interface personally with Jesus Christ, we can sense His presence as He walks us to an eternal reward with Him in heaven.

On the other hand God has promised, and will deliver, utter destruction to those who turn away from Him. He bases His promises upon our wills or our desires rather than on the absolute quality of our

(Continued on Page 10)

**WHO RULES continued . . .**

performance. He has set up Jesus Christ as our example and asked for our reasonable service. More introspective questions:

- \* Consider whether you find your self more often in fear of God's promises or basking in His love and anticipating His glory. Which do you think He wants for you?
- \* What kind of experiences have you had when you were in one mode or the other? Have you had any experiences when you were absolutely not serving God at all?
- \* In your daily life--do you relate to God as the one in control or do you find yourself respecting or fearing something or someone else instead? Health/Illness? Friends/Social Acceptance? Success? Comfort? Fun?

Human nature seems to find other priorities and/or powers that take up our primary allegiance. This is not new. God's people have often failed Him this way. Take the time to read these scriptures: Mosiah 8:20 & 21; Helaman 12; John 3:19-21. It is no wonder that when we turn away from the Almighty, we have anxiety, or lack satisfaction, or find ourselves seeking identity and fulfillment.

- \* Can you get the most out of life with confidence in your service to God?

**LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN  
YOUR HEART**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians (3:15), *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."*

Let's go back to that totalitarian king, Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1-4). He had taken the cream of Judah's youth captive to his court to nurture and train them in the ways of the Chaldeans. The young men, including Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, had already experienced devastating conquest at the hands of the Babylonian king. As his captives, they were being offered the finest in education and diet so that

they might be placed in positions of power before their new ruler, Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar had achieved physical rule over them; he desired to rule their wills and knew that would only come if they consented. Meanwhile, the Hebrew children had every reason to fear for their lives at the hands of the king, knowing at the same time that he held out great hope for a rich and powerful life if they would cooperate as Chaldeans.

Instead, the young men let the peace of God rule in their hearts. Doing so they were able to overcome both the threat and the temptation of Nebuchadnezzar's power. They remained Hebrews, loyal to their God. In the end they demonstrated power greater than the Chaldeans had ever imagined--advising the king in matters of state, surviving the fiery furnace, recalling and interpreting dreams, even bringing Nebuchadnezzar to acknowledge the power of God in Daniel. By holding true to their faith, not tangible via the senses, they got more out of life than Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the civilized world, could ever offer.

Remember Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39-47). Isolation from friend and family, bondage of slavery, the power of Potiphar's wife, Pharaoh--all dwarfed before him as he contemplated his true ruler, God, and let His peace rule in his heart. Joseph remained true to the Lord. In the end his ruler proved superior, and Joseph thrived not only for himself but for his family as well.

When Hezekiah (II Kings 18 & 19) looked out over the walls of Jerusalem, he saw the city surrounded by the Assyrians who had conquered everyone they encountered. Sennacherib (Assyrian king) scorned Hezekiah's trust in God. Hezekiah sought out the prophet Isaiah who helped him re-establish God's peace in his heart. In the face of a horrific, visible foe who wished to rule, Hezekiah, now able to pray with faith, achieved conquest without raising a sword.

- \* How do you deal with the "Nebuchadnezzars," the "Potiphars," and

the "Sennacheribs" in your life? Does the threat of a "fiery furnace" shake the peace of God from your heart?

- \* What are the things that you deal with that compare to Joseph's, Daniel's, the Hebrew children's, and Hezekiah's challenges?
- \* Were they "special" people or is it really God who is "special"?
- \* Are you confident in the Lord, in His gospel and His salvation?
- \* Does your service to God reflect faithfulness?
- \* As you contemplate your heart, your mind, your will--can you proclaim

**"GOD RULES!!!"**

**UNITY continued . . .**

them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barnabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from



which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well" (Acts 15:13-29).

Tension arose between Barnabas and Paul over Mark who had left them while in Pamphylia. The reason is not given, but it was enough to cause a serious argument between the two missionaries.

"And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God" (Acts 15:37-40).

However, one has only to read the following chapters in the book of Acts to see that the tension was dissipated by brotherly love.

Jealousy developed among the Church members of Jerusalem and Antioch over which was to be the headquarters of the Church. Loyalty to certain leaders in Corinth--Paul, Apollos and Cephas (Peter)--developed tension and disunity.

These tensions, per se, did not altogether bring about the destruction of unity in the Church. It was the transgression of the Lord's commandments, the changing of the ordinances and the breaking of the Everlasting Covenant that did the damage which resulted in the subsequent apostasy. None of the above tensions can parallel the divisions and tensions going on in the churches of today.

(To Be Continued)

## MESSAGE continued . . .

After the service, there was a long period of tearfully saying, "Goodbye." The travelers were asked to stay another week, which they could not do; and they were questioned about when they could return, with some suggesting they

come back in December. Also requested were copies of the Book of Mormon in Spanish. The feeling reported was that there was genuine interest expressed by, "A very loving people who are definitely seeking the truth of God."

This is the second South American country which members of the Americas Missions Operating Committee have visited. Previous trips had been made to Peru, where there has also been much interest in the Church.

## EDITORIAL continued . . .

because of the love of God. The power of God overcomes the barrier of language. The Spirit of God overcomes the barrier of language. We will all be one in Christ Jesus!

Joseph of Egypt had a coat of many colors. Is it possible this coat represents the many nations of the world? We know that God will use Joseph in the gathering of the House of Israel. We know that through the Seed of Abraham all nations will be blessed. We know that the Gentiles will assist in this mighty work of God. What a hope we have in The Church of Jesus Christ! What a hope to build Zion! What a hope to build God's kingdom!

The Church of Jesus Christ has a hope that all nations, all races of people will hear and render obedience to the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ will go to all nations. It is presently going to many nations. People from everywhere and from all walks of life will come to hear and see. Imagine your branches and missions filled with the Seed of Joseph, the House of Israel, people from Europe, the Far East, the Middle East, Africa, all of Asia, Australia, Central America, South America and North America. They will come to hear and obey the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. They will bring their colorful and different styles of dress, their national dishes.

Will they be welcome? Will they be accepted? The answer is yes from the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They will be members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They will sit with us. They will wash feet with us. They will take part in the Lord's Supper. They will not be excluded because of race, color or nationality. We will share our homes. We will share our dinner tables. We will share in the hospitality of the saints of God. We will be bonded by the love and Spirit of God.

We have a hope that has no equal. It is rich with promise. Thank God for this hope.

## CAMPOUT continued . . .

approached the other brother. Another brother heard the voice of the Lord say: "Wait be patient and I will show you the glory of the Lord." The promise of these experiences were seventeen baptisms by the end of the week. Tonight the GMBA Campout Choir also sang. How fitting the theme of the songs was change, and surely God had changed seven lives that night.

Our final day of camp came to soon! Our morning chapel had an emphasis of building up the basics of our spiritual lives, giving us a good strong defense against the evil one and all his tricks. We were reminded that humility is a direct line to the basics of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Finally, believe in God! Thursday afternoon we returned to the waters of baptism. There were six candidates this day: Sisters Rachel Rao, Leah Steinrock, Jamie Schroeder, Kristina Cross and Brothers Robby McDonnell and Eric Slater. Once again we thank God for these young people who decided to see how well they learned the music and how well they sang. They were truly a blessing. Traditionally the last night of camp is the night we pick the camp theme song. This year the brothers and sisters chose, *Mansion Over the Hilltop*.

Finally, I thank God for all the

(Continued on Page 12)

## Baptisms

Brother Perry Wayne Bonasso was baptized on July 7, 1996 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ralph Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother David Jarret was baptized on March 31, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joel Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Wayne Martorana.

## Ordinations

Sister Edna Calabrese was ordained a Deaconess on March 31, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Katherine Cocco and she was ordained by Brother Dan Buffington.

Brother Frank Anthony (Tony) Calabrese, was ordained an Elder on March 31, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Fred Olexa and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Brother Samuel Altomare was ordained a Deacon on March 31, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Art Cotton and he was ordained by Brother Dan Buffington.

Brother Anthony (Tony) DeCredico was ordained a Teacher on March 31, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Alessio and he was ordained by Brother Joel Calabrese.

## Children Blessed

Nathan Michael and Noah Thomas Bonasso, twin sons of Sister Amy and Brother Perry Bonasso were blessed on August 4, 1996 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Heather Leigh Kinser, daughter of Andy and Kim Kinser was blessed on April 7, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Lauren Ashley Opalenik, daughter of John and Sister Anita Opalenik was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 21, 1996.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### ANTHONY PUSATERI

Brother Anthony Pusateri passed away to his heavenly reward on August 17, 1996. He was a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. Brother Anthony is survived by his wife, Sister Jean; one son, Ronald; one brother, August; one sister, Mary Lipp; and five grandchildren.

### ALICE ROMANO

Sister Alice Romano passed on to her eternal reward on June 21, 1996. She was a member of Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan and was an ordained Deaconess. Sister Alice is survived by her daughter, Sister Dolores Thomas; son-in-law, Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ; two brothers, Apostle Joseph Calabrese and Dominic Calabrese; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

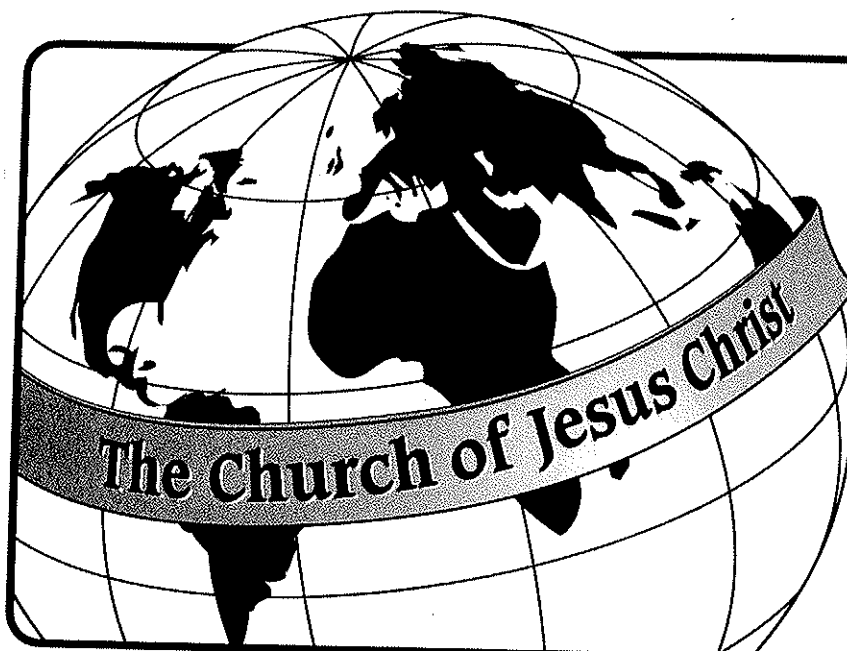
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### CAMPOUT continued . . .

blessings and gifts He bestowed upon us throughout the week. I'm sure everyone that attended could say the same. Brother Justin Paxon was the camp director this year. His efforts were tremendous and his labors rewarded. We thank him for his commitment and desire to serve the brothers and sisters. Thank you. Next year's camp director will be Brother Jason Monaghan. Let us remember him in our prayers that God will lead, guide and direct all his decisions and desires.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 1996

Volume 52, No. 11

## Greetings in Christ

By Evangelist Mark Randy

Lest we forget,  
To the glory of God and His  
Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Inasmuch as man could not redeem himself, God sent His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ in the form of a man and He was the Lamb without defect. Jesus Christ brought with Him the Gospel of redemption. The Gospel of salvation has touched our lives and the lives of our families.

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (Romans 3:23-25).*

You, the readers of the *Gospel News* have a testimony of your own to the glory of our Creator. In my life, God has done many things for me and my family. Many years ago, Brother W. H. Cadman, our former president of our beloved Church wrote to me saying he

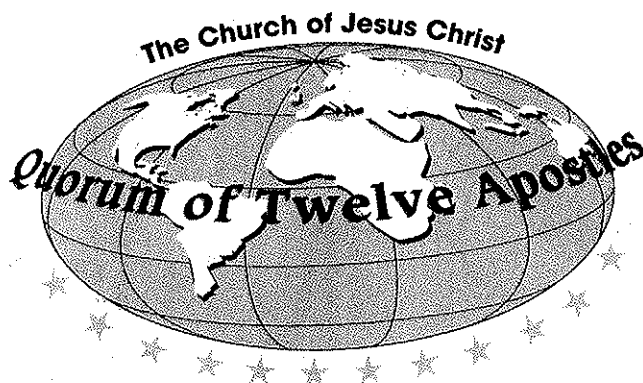
wanted to spend some time in Muncey, Ontario, Canada, where I had been elected Presiding Elder. Brother W. H. Cadman was a second father to me and Mary, my beloved wife. Brother Cadman came and we spent nineteen days in Muncey, holding meetings every night. Each day we would visit several families, both Church members and non-members. Our meetings were spent mostly in short, fifteen minute sermons, then singing in both Chippewa and English. The children took part every night in the singing. These meetings resulted in three baptisms. These are glorious memories.

Brother Cadman laid out the morning agenda. If he got up first, he would make breakfast, but I would make the bed and wash the dishes. If I got up first, the duties were reversed.

One of the members in Muncey, Brother Joseph Deleary, had high blood pressure and lived approximately two to three miles from our Church building. When the weather was good, he would walk to Church and walk back home. This one Sunday, it had rained and where he lived there was a low depression in the ground of dirt and mud. It was all right on foot but I decided to drive him home after the meeting. I made it all the

way to his house. On the way back to Church, I was going a little too slow in that depressed area of loose dirt, water and mud. My car got stuck in the mud. There was no way that I could possibly have come out of the place without some help. I got out and prayed, "My God, please help me get out of this place." I saw a young Indian standing on the higher ground laughing at me. He said, "The white man knows how to build a car but does not know how to get out of the mud." I said, "Well, I guess that is the way it is, but how do I get out of this place?" He said, "You are all wet now. I'll come and help you. Let's get some brush and we'll jack your car up and put the brush under the wheels on both sides of the rear end of the car." It took some doing, but we finally succeeded. I thanked him and then I said, "How did you know I was stuck?" He replied, "I heard the car drive by and I figured that Marco is the only one who would be coming up this way." In those days, cars were very scarce, but as I was getting close to his house, he heard a voice inside him saying, "Go and help him!" So he walked about three or four hundred feet from the cabin and came to help me. I wanted to compensate him. Two dollars was all I

(Continued on Page 10)



## An Exegesis on Unity

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART II AND CONCLUSION

The New Testament is replete with metaphoric images of the Church which reveal the unity that exists between Jesus Christ and His Church: People of God; temple of God; the chosen of God; people of the new covenant; sheep of the Good Shepherd; one flock and one Shepherd; living stones; body of Christ; bride of the Savior, etc.

There is also the unity which



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

exists between husband and wife: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

Unity was expressed on the day

that the promised Holy Spirit filled the Apostles. The miracle of Pentecost was the miracle of unity. It was the cancellation of Babel when the lust for power destroyed whatever fellowship there was among God's people. The difference in language, race and nation isolated rather than enriched them. Babel tore apart the unity of those who were originally created to live in harmony.

At Pentecost, the people from all countries (14) of the inhabited earth became one people of God. The Spirit of Christ draws people together to live in a kind of unity that makes it possible to overcome the forces of hatred and isolation that would destroy them.

Luke speaks of unity in rather impassioned words: "And they devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Luke's power word is "fellowship" (*koinonia*).

*Koinonia* is more than just fellowship. It meant "common life" to the early saints; living in the same hope; having one heart and soul; sharing property and material goods. *That was real unity.* However, it didn't last very long. The *agapa* love was destroyed by jealousy, greed and lust for prominence.

The greatest act of unity is described by Paul the Apostle:

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:" (Ephesians 1:10).

Ephesians 4:1-16 speaks of the unity that must exist in order to be that perfect Church (the Body of Christ).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ . . ."

In verse 2 and 3, Paul instructs the Ephesians how to obtain unity:

"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The above is like a pilgrimage towards achieving this goal of unity.

In His exalted and sublime prayer (John 17), Jesus petitions God not only for His disciples, but also for those who will believe in Him through their preaching, that they may become one as He and the Father:

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; (v.20).

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (v.21).

Here is then the beginning and end of becoming united: "*That the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*"

The synthesis expressed above is a unity received by keeping God's commandments, not that which is fabricated by human endeavors. The power to unite lies in God's hands, but this does not mean that people are supposed to be passive and do nothing, expecting the Lord to do it all. Obedience to His commandments, and living a life of righteousness is mandatory. Only by this will the grace of God help His people to become one with Him.

No greater or higher motivation

can exist for the people of God than that they should embody on earth the unity between God and Jesus Christ. Unity has to be visible enough in the actual life of the Church to challenge the world to believe in Jesus Christ.

#### SOME NT REFERENCES ON THE RESULT OF DISUNITY

**DISUNITY:** Lust for power, differences of opinions which led to controversies: The Lord's Supper, baptism, et al.

Disunity in the early Church was the principle cause of the apostasy. It was predicted by Jesus Christ, Paul the Apostle and some of the Old Testament Prophets.

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies of hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth" (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good; Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they

heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3).

#### SOME OT PREDICTIONS OF THE RESULTS OF DISUNITY

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left" (Isaiah 24:5-6).

#### LATTER DAY RESULTS OF DISUNITY

After Joseph Smith was called, and used to translate the Plates, he was commanded to call Twelve Apostles, but called twelve High Priests instead.

Apostles called 5 years later.

By 1844, 210,000 people had been baptized.

Disunity entered the Church quickly.

**REASONS:** lust for power, prominence and false revelations.

Joseph Smith was ordained Prophet, Seer and Revelator.

The doctrine of polygamy was introduced by an alleged revelation.

The doctrines of plurality of gods and plurality of spiritual wives were also introduced.

David Whitmer claims that Joseph Smith did receive the revelation on polygamy, but repented of it before he was killed in jail at Carthage, Illinois. The Reorganized Latter-Day Saints' Church does not believe that Joseph Smith had that

revelation but rather Brigham Young. In a court case the RLDS Church proved that Joseph Smith did not practice polygamy. Joseph's wife also writes that she was his only wife.

Most of the Witnesses broke away from Joseph Smith and the Church. But not one of them denied his testimony.

#### WILLIAM BICKERTON CALLED

William Bickerton was called (and ordained) in the Sidney Rigdon organization. When Sidney Rigdon's organization *came to nought*, William Bickerton joined the LDS Church for about 2 years. But when the doctrine of polygamy was introduced to him, he left that church.

Soon he received a revelation from God which motivated him to start preaching the Gospel as had been restored. Following are his own words:

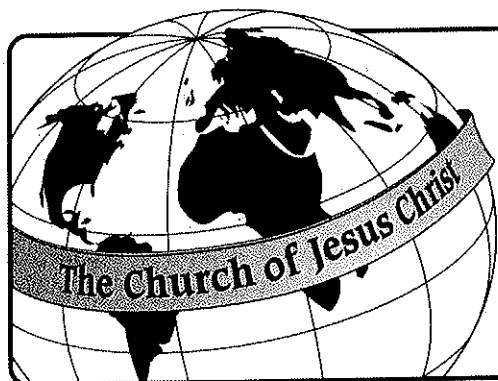
"As I had lived true to God and to His interests I was carried away in the Spirit and placed on a high mountain just room enough for me to stand, the Lord told me unless I went ahead and preached the Gospel I would fall and be torn to bits."

The scripture that has been used by The Church of Jesus Christ to relate to his calling is:

"For all those [things] hath mine hand made, and all those [things] have been, saith the LORD: but to this [man] will I look, [even] to [him that is] poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. He that killeth an ox [is as if] he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, [as if] he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, [as if he offered] swine's blood; he that burneth incense, [as if] he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations" (Isaiah 66:2-3).

In conclusion, the quest for unity in The Church of Jesus Christ must always be sought with dili-

(Continued on Page 11)



## A message from the Seventy

### 1996 Youth-in-Action Visits

By Jerry Valenti, YIA Chairman

The 1996 Youth-In-Action Program of the General Missionary Benevolent Association was completed with very satisfactory results, as visits made to Arizona, New Mexico, Maine, and Indiana were very noteworthy and edifying to the participants and members of the host groups. The sites, dates, and reports follow.

#### SOUTHWEST REGION

The period spent in the Southwest Region was from July 22 to August 4. Visited were the San Carlos, Arizona Indian Reservation (July 22-26); the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch (July 27-31); and the Southwest Area Campout near Gallup, New Mexico (August 1-4).

In San Carlos, over 100 children attended the Vacation Bible School in which the YIA team members participated in the teaching of various classes. During the week, Resident Elder Dan Picciuto held seminars with the team on "Evangelism." Some of the young people had visions, including one of a choir of angels.

At Tse Bonito, the team prepared for and presented a Gospel Concert under the direction of Sister Pam Benyola. The surrounding community was canvassed, inviting people to the event. Some of them did in fact attend. The Resident Elder was Larry Watson.

The team was fortunate to have

attended and taken part at the campout. The YIA choir sang every night. As a wonderful bonus, seven young people asked for their baptisms on the Saturday night. They were Michael Watson, Aaron Genaro, Ryan Wilson, Erin Picciuto, David DeLaCruz, Cindy Duval, and Dennis Buck. Some of the new converts were from San Carlos and Tse Bonito, so it is safe to say that the YIA tour played an important role in helping them to the point of coming into the flock.

YIA travelers were Deanna Nuzzi and Mandy Genaro from Ohio; Rachel and Becky Straccia, Joshua and Jennifer Conger, Michael and Jason Bashaw, Canon Ciccatti, and van drivers Joe Conger and Tim Capone from Michigan; and Isaac D. and Bethany Smith from Florida. The YIA committee member on site was Jeff Giannetti.

#### BRUNSWICK, MAINE

As at the other sites, many experiences were received during the Maine tour. One of the first occurred before the group from New Jersey even left home. While in a circle to offer a prayer, a brother heard a voice saying that one of the people in the room would be baptized by the end of the visit. This did come to pass.

The team canvassed the neighborhood during the first few days, inviting the public to a barbecue to be

held on the Church grounds on Saturday afternoon. Just prior to when the barbecue was to start, it began to rain. A couple of brothers gathered outside and prayed to God, asking Him to stop the rain. When the prayers were concluded, a patch of blue was seen on the horizon and the dark clouds began moving out. Within 10 minutes, the rain stopped and the team formed a circle and prayed. As soon as the prayer began, the sun came out and the first visitor called to ask for directions. The barbecue was started on time!

The team visited three nursing homes, spending uplifting periods with the elderly and the staff members. Flyers were also distributed in the same neighborhoods.

A renewal took place during the Sunday meeting after a young sister had a vision in which she saw the brother coming into the light from a dark ditch. The Three Nephites were also seen in a vision that day.

Nearly at the close of the tour, three young people asked for their baptisms, two from Maine and one from New Jersey, the latter as was prophesied before the group left. The two baptisms at Brunswick, Heather and Justin Onorato, were the first new converts for some time. Renewed was Brother Edward Onorato, who had been seen in the vision. The new member from New Jersey was in fulfillment of the voice heard prior to departure.

Participating in the tour were Jason Monaghan, Daniel Cornell, Mitzi Yoder, Melissa Lowther, and Gary Camden, Jr. from Pennsylvania; Julie Schroeder from Kansas; Duane Werley from Ohio; and Jennifer Kowalsky, John Huttenberger, Jr., Osbaldo Reyes, and Nyema Brown from New Jersey. The van/car drivers were Mike Nuzzi from Ohio and Rick Calabro from New Jersey. The Resident Elders were Richard Onorato, Jr. and Richard Onorato, Sr. The YIA representative on site was Jerry Valenti.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The word "thanksgiving" to many people signifies a national holiday. This is the day most people set aside to recognize and give thanks for all of their natural blessings.

What is "thanksgiving" to the people of God? What is "thanksgiving" to the members of The Church of Jesus Christ? The Apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 5:18 states, *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

The people of God are taught to give thanks to God for all His rich blessings, both natural and spiritual. This thanks, this thanksgiving is given every day to God in many ways. It is given in prayer. It is given in hymns. It is given in testimony. It is shown in our daily lives and service to our great God and our fellow man. It is shown by keeping His doctrine, His commandments.

What are we thankful for in our lives and service to God? Many, many things. We begin by giving thanks that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins. We are grateful that God restored His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, that we now have the path, the doctrine of Jesus Christ to guide us through life and to eternal life. We thank God daily for allowing us to be His brothers and sisters, His children since being baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

We thank God for our branches, missions and His Ministry. We thank Him for our brothers and sisters in Christ, our parents, our wives, our husbands, our children and family relatives. We thank God for the rich heritage we have in The Church of Jesus Christ. It is our duty to give God thanks for our food, clothing and shelter. It is our duty to give God thanks for our health and strength. God has granted us much in this life. Some more than others. Whatever you have, give thanks to God for what He has given you.

People throughout scripture have given thanks to God for His goodness and mercy towards them and others. They expressed thanks for the provisions extended to them by God.

King Benjamin in his marvelous sermon tells us that if we should render all the thanks and praise which our soul has power to possess, we would still be unprofitable servants. He was thankful to God for His countless blessings.

Job continued to thank God for all His blessings despite his horrible trial and ordeal. He continued to thank God in the face of criticism by his wife and friends.

Alma tells us to always return thanks to God for whatever we receive from Him in this life. He went on to instruct all men that when we rise in the morning, we should allow our hearts to be full of thanks to God.

Have you ever thought what life would be like without knowing the Lord and His Church? Where would you be? What would you be? Only God knows where we would be, what we would have become in this life.

Do you feel a rush of excitement, anticipation and joy when you attend a meeting, a gathering of brothers and sisters? Consider how beautiful and wonderful it is to attend Wednesday evening service. A middle of the week break from the cares and turmoil of life. A middle of the week meeting that gives you a boost of joy and peace.

Are you grateful that you have the opportunity and privilege to attend church more than once during the week? Are you grateful that the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ is on call and available to you twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week? Are you thankful

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Faith, Repentance and Baptism,

Dear friends,

In The Church of Jesus Christ, we are taught that each of us can make friends with the Lord. We don't pay a minister or priest to do this for us. We don't practice special poems or say "magic chants" to do this. We don't have to burn little candles to carry our prayers to heaven.

No, all we have to do is clean up our hearts and call on Jesus to help us. In the old days, before Jesus was on the earth, God taught His followers to bring an offering and burn it on a special altar. Sometimes the offering was fruit and grain, like in the story of Cain and Abel. Sometimes the offering was a dove, or a goat or hundreds of oxen.

But once Jesus came to earth, He became the last living sacrifice. He had all the power in the universe to not allow Himself to be crucified. He could have called a thousand angels to fight His enemies and save Him from death. But He was God's special Son. He came to earth as part of God's wonderful plan to teach us humans how to be.

And Jesus was willing to be the last sacrifice. Later, when people asked Him what it took to be a servant of God, He told them something new. He said, "It takes a broken heart and a contrite spirit."

This means if we are sorry for all the mean, selfish and hurtful things we think or do to others and ourselves, that we are getting close to



doing what Jesus wants. Then, in the name of Jesus, we pray to have those kinds of thoughts and feelings go away! And every time they try to come back, we call again on Jesus.

Jesus' disciple James taught us, "resist the devil and he will flee from you (run away from you)." Those bad feelings are not from Jesus.

Then when we get older and are able to really know right from wrong, it's our job to really make life good. We do this by showing faith and repentance. Then we get baptized.

It's simple. It's free. It may not be easy because our flesh (human) side and the devil side will try to talk us out of making this choice but God has the true power. Jesus will take away our fears and hates.

We can stop ourselves and others. We can start trying to do all sorts of interesting new things and succeed. If we fail, we can pick ourselves up and try again, because no matter what, God loves us. The Creator of the universe doesn't believe we are dumb or stupid or ugly.

He looks at our hearts. He can't be fooled by someone who looks pretty or successful but is actually very mean or selfish. He cares for you! He cares for me. He cares about our hearts and happiness.

He is only a prayer away. When you are afraid, ask Jesus to help you. When you make the same mistakes, ask God, in the name of Jesus to forgive and give you new ideas.

Don't waste a lot of time hating yourself. Hate your sin instead and ask God to take it away! Have faith;

He will. He is the Creator.

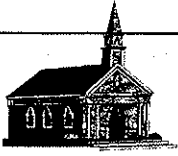
He who created a tiny bug, a gorgeous sunset that lasts only one evening, the animals, the rain, and fresh wind can and will create a new heart in you. Try it. It's called faith. Do it. It's called repentance. And someday, I'll call you my brother or sister in Christ. It's called baptism and welcome into the family of God!

With love,  
Your friend,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

REMEMBER	THE
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DEVIL	TRY
AND	FAITH
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WILL	BAPTISM
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## Branch and Mission News

### God's Blessings

*By Jennifer Malandro*

The birds, the bees, the flowers and trees  
God blessed us with all of these.

He watches over us night and day  
That's why He's so special in every way.

He heals the sick and helps the poor,  
And tries to do some more and more.

He died for us so we could live,  
There's so much more that we could give.

A note about the author: Jennifer is eleven years of age. She was born with a hole in her heart and at the age of four, underwent open heart surgery. She came through the operation quite well and has never had to take medication. Jennifer was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ as a baby and attends Sunday School faithfully in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. She has been blessed with many talents, music, crafts and poetry, all of which she uses to the honor and glory of God. It is wonderful to see our young people heeding the words of Jesus, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

### News from Muncey, Ontario, Canada

*By Sister Linda Snake*

There were eight of us, the Seed of Joseph, from Muncey, Ontario, Canada who attended the General Church Conference in April and one Gentile from South Hampton,

Ontario, Canada, Brother Matt Collison who rode with us. Whenever we travel, we always feel the Spirit of God with us and when Brother Matt came along with us, we were doubly blessed. Brother Matt would go on and on about experiences other brothers and sisters had received in their lives and we were enticed in the Lord through his soft voice and manner.

When Brother Rodney Dyer had announced that there may not be a Church meeting on a certain Sunday because a holiday is observed in Canada, we decided to visit the mission in South Hampton, Ontario, Canada. We called Brother Matt Collison and he had also told us it would be good and he had a little presentation to show us on how the Book of Mormon and the Bible historically join. There were nine of us from Muncey who traveled and again we were blessed in our trip. The presentation opened our eyes as to who we are and where we came from and the promises of God to us as the Seed of Joseph. It provided a larger and better understanding of what is inside the Book of Mormon and that it is the history of the North American Indian and their special relationship with God.

Sunday at South Hampton started with Brother Don Collison telling us how much he loved us and it brought tears to our eyes because we could feel the sincerity in his voice. Sister Shirley Groesbeck had a hard time with the lump she carried in her throat through the whole service. Sister Linda Snake got prayed on for various reasons and as the brother was praying for her, Brother George Groesbeck saw three hearts floating around her. Later she told him that in her mind she was telling God that she was asking for so much and had nothing to give back in return. The only thing she could think of was to give her heart which was a confirmation that her prayers will be answered.

Brother George Groesbeck said the closing prayer and in his prayer asked if one more song could be sung before leaving. Immediately, Sister

Shirley said she had it in her heart to ask Sister Linda Snake if she would sing. The small trailer converted into a Church in the woods of the Saugeen Indian Reservation was full for the first time, mostly the Seed of Joseph. The day had streaks of sunshine through the trees as Sister Linda Snake sang, *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*. A soft breeze could be felt every now and then, putting us all in a feeling of euphoria and one with God. The brothers and sisters in South Hampton treated us with such care and love, that when it was time to leave for home, our hearts were saddened. We knew that the Lord is with these people in this side of the vineyard, because it shows like a beacon light. Our hope and prayers are for them, that they may have a convincing spirit with the Seed of Joseph in South Hampton. Our prayer is that many will hear the word through them and come to the truth that is waiting for them.

This was in my heart to write that others may read and receive a blessing. God bless you and keep you.

### Announcement

For November, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.5%
2 years	5.7%
3 years	5.9%
4 years	6.1%
5 years	6.3%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

## A Sweet Spirit in Saline, Michigan

By Pete Oestreicher

On May 5, 1996, approximately forty brothers, sisters, children and friends from the Detroit Inner City Branch, traveled forty miles west to worship and fellowship in Saline, Michigan. During a forty-five minute "season of song," everyone sang *Songs of Zion* and favorite Spanish hymns, accompanied by four guitars, a flute and a harmonica.

To *My Lord Can*, the ministry occupied the podium, after which Brother Kerry Carlini, Saline's Presiding Elder, welcomed everyone. Brother Jim Cotellesse opened in prayer, and it was beautiful to witness two deaconesses, one from Saline and one from Inner City, set the Lord's Table.

Brother Steve Champine opened the meeting with the message, "To him with faith, no proof is necessary. To him without faith, no proof is adequate." Brother Steve related the story of a young man who was in a serious accident, and managed, with the help of a dog, to walk a mile to his house with a broken back and ruptured spleen. When Brother Steve anointed this man, the spirit of God was felt in the room, and he asked for his baptism. It took proof for this young man to want to get baptized, and until he had faith, no proof would have been adequate. "You can do all things through Jesus Christ—God wants you to be fully convinced."

Another message Brother Steve relayed was that only we can help ourselves. Jesus taught us to worry about things in our control, for he knew we don't have control over our neighbors. We must learn to handle ourselves differently in different situations. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must follow our convictions, and if we can change someone else along the way, so much the better. According to the Apostle Paul, we are living epistles—we are the proof of the living God to the

world.

Next, Brother Flip Palacios talked about the power of testimony. He compared The Church of Jesus Christ, "Marching to Zion" to the Million Man March. People in the Church have a voice, and should testify. There is an enemy out there trying to silence members of the Church. As long as two or three witnesses come together to testify, "there will be a movement as the world has never seen."

Finally, Brother Gary Champine relayed the message that brothers and sisters represent The Church of Jesus Christ. "We have a purpose—through Jesus, the world has hope." He then related that the Inner City Branch was built by Brother Joe Milantoni, not by what he said, but by what he did. Members are now building on that foundation. "Christ Jesus is leading us on and on."

Following Brother Gary's message, there were six anointings, and Sister Judy Salerno spoke in tongues. Sister Connie Leopoldo-Zaccagnini stated, "The Lord cast out all fear" after the anointings, and gave confirmation to the tongues with the interpretation, "The Lord will go with them whatever they must go through."

Brother Steve Champine, at the request of Brother Reno Bologna, related an experience that occurred to him in India. On a recent trip, a man whose feet were gnarled and bent requested prayer, and after being anointed by Brother Steve, his feet straightened out and the man was able to walk. This was the work of Jesus Christ.

After the passing of sacrament, Brother Kerry stated this meeting will not be officially closed until the Saline Branch visits Inner City. As the Champine Brothers sang the closing hymn, *Israel's Coming Home*, a white personage of the Lord was seen among the ministry. Brother Mark Mancinelli offered the closing prayer, and everyone reconvened for lunch and to enjoy the "sweet spirit" which existed. Plans for Saline to visit the Inner City Branch are presently being made.

## A Testimony from Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Regina Alverson

I am writing this article to the honor and glory of God, and in the hope that it may be a blessing and encouragement to all who read it.

My husband and I recently had our first child in December of 1995. In November when I was beginning my eighth month of pregnancy, I began having severe stomach pains. My doctor sent me to the hospital to have an ultrasound scan of my gall bladder because he thought I had developed gallstones. When the nurse was doing my ultrasound, I could tell by the expression on her face that something was wrong. I asked if there was a problem with my bladder and she said no, but then she called in a doctor to look at the scan. The doctor stated to me that my bladder looked healthy, but they found several spots on my liver, and they were not sure what they were. My doctor consulted with liver and pediatric specialists and they all felt the best thing would be to do an MRI to see what they were dealing with and they also wanted me to have a Caesarean birth. The doctors tried to assure me that an MRI would not be harmful to my baby. My doctor also said that he thought the spots on my liver were a condition pregnant women sometimes develop called a "hemangioma" which is a collection of blood vessels. However, the doctors written report stated that the spots on my liver were not consistent with hemangioma. The report said the spots were possibly tumors and they were not sure if it was or was not cancer. This all happened on a Wednesday, and when I left the doctor's office, I was very upset.

I decided to get anointed by our presiding elder, Brother Darrell Rossi. On the way to Brother Darrell's home, I was listening to a program on the radio entitled, "Money Matters." Today however, the host was not speaking of any finances, he was speaking of adversi-

ties and how he had to deal with the adversity of cancer. I found this odd since this is a financial program. I did not know what God was trying to tell me so I prayed that God would help me to accept His will.

After I was anointed, I returned home and my doctor called me saying that he needed me to come back into his office as soon as possible so they could do some liver function tests. So I went back to the doctor and they told me the results from my test would be back in three days. I prayed to the Lord and told Him that I did not want to have an MRI and I did not want the doctor to take my baby four weeks early.

I asked the saints in our mission to pray for me and when we returned home from Church, I called Brother Eugene Amormino, whom my husband and I love very much and told him all that the doctor had told me. I told him that I had been anointed and he said he wanted to pray for me also and he told me to place my hand upon the sore spot on my liver. He asked the Lord to rebuke Satan and to heal me of this affliction. When he finished praying for me, I felt such a peace though I still had the pain.

Thursday morning when I awoke I had no pain in my body. I was so amazed that I began to touch my stomach looking for the pain but there was no pain! I praised God and set about to do my daily errands. When I returned home, my doctor called and said the results from my liver test were in and that my liver appeared to be functioning fine. I told him that I had no more pain and asked him if he could wait to do the MRI until I delivered the baby naturally. He was reluctant but he agreed to wait until after the baby was born.

The days passed and the pain did not come back. On Sunday, Brother Tom Jones from the Atlanta, Georgia Mission was visiting and he related how he had only once seen someone immediately healed after he prayed for them. I felt very prompted to have prayer that day and I knew that Brother Tom would be the one to

pray for me, which he did. When he prayed, he asked God to allow me to rise from the chair knowing I had been healed. There were no bells that went off, but I said to myself, "I'm going to be able to call this brother after my test and tell him that the spots on my liver were gone."

After I had the baby, my doctor said he wanted me to have another ultrasound done of my abdomen in six weeks. He said that if the spots were still present that he would proceed with the MRI.

The morning of my second test I knelt in my room and asked God if He would give me a scripture. I said wherever the Bible falls open that is where I will read. The book opened to Luke, chapter 8, which speaks of Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood and Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead.

While I was in the hospital room by myself waiting on the nurse I began to pray. I was somewhat nervous and scared, so I asked the Lord if He would be with me. Suddenly I felt a presence standing behind my bed and a few minutes later the nurses came in to begin the test. After a few minutes she began scanning my entire stomach and part of my back. Then she pulled my old x-rays. She called the doctor in and he said to me that whatever they saw the first time was no longer there! I immediately broke into a smile. The doctor said he could not explain it, but I knew that it was God who had healed me! I was so ecstatic that the

nurses began to laugh at me but I told them I have had a lot of prayer! I thank God with all of my heart for His mercy and love towards me. I thank God for this trial that my faith and the faith of others may grow. I pray that someone may benefit upon hearing what the Lord did for me and that they may trust that He can do the same for them.

## The Heavenly Agenda

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

At 7:00 AM, Sunday, March 30, 1996, Apostle Paul Benyola received a phone call which would later prove to be a revelation from God. The caller said that he was overcome by the Spirit of God. It was revealed that somewhere in the Church, the following would occur during the meeting:

- \* Men will speak with tongues.
- \* One lost would repent.
- \* Men will be healed.
- \* One will be called to a higher calling.

With anticipation, Brother Paul, readied himself to attend an Atlantic Coast Regional meeting to be held in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

The Region gathered to meet with Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto of the San Carlos, Arizona Mission. For many of us, it was our first meeting with a couple who have devoted much of their lives to ministering to the Native Americans at the San Carlos Indian Reservation. Brother Dan opened the meeting by asking us a probing question. "What do we do with the power of the Holy Spirit?" There were three key points that he stressed:

1. As the anointed of the Lord, we possess the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Our responsibility is to follow God's commandments.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Notice

To the person who may have lost their 35mm camera at the Warren, Ohio Branch on the day of Abby Holan's baptism, please contact:

Brother Ralph Cartino  
26 Belmont Avenue  
Niles, OH 44446  
330-544-1143

## AGENDA continued . . .

### 3. Tell others of Jesus.

He shared many wonderful experiences of how God had worked in his and Sister Dolores' lives. It is difficult to express in words but the congregation was energized with the Spirit!

Brother Paul Benyola followed by telling us of the early morning phone call. He told us to hold fast to the Church and not to be dismayed by those who have turned to other doctrines. He reassured us that if we feel a burning in our hearts to do good, it is the Holy Spirit guiding us and not a trick of Satan.

The intensity of the Spirit peaked as the anointings took place. Then the heavenly agenda began to unfold.

### Men will speak with tongues.

Brother Dan spoke in tongues while anointing Jim Calabro. The interpretation was as follows: "The covenant which God has given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He will give to all His people who serve Him with all their heart."

**One lost would repent.** Brother Jim Calabro requested his baptism.

**Men will be healed.** Twelve-year-old Eric Purkall was healed of a lump on his chest. As of this writing, he has a clean bill of health.

**One will be called to a higher calling.** It was announced that Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr., was to be ordained into the ministry.

This portion of the meeting concluded with the passing of Holy Communion and more anointings.

After lunch, we saw slides of San Carlos and heard the testimony of Sister Dolores. (The sisters who attended the Regional Ladies' Circle Seminar on Saturday, were privileged to hear her speak, at length, on her family's experiences as nursing mothers and fathers to the Native Americans.)

We thank God for the privilege to worship with Brother Dan and Sister Dolores. The blessings we received remain with us and are now

part of our precious memories. As Brother Paul came to realize and explain, we had been in heavenly places and Jesus Christ had set the agenda.

## Note of Thanks

My family and I wish to thank all of the brothers and sisters throughout the Church for your prayers and cards in the recent passing of my husband, Brother Tony Pusateri. Your love and kindness were a great support in our hour of need. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Love,  
Sister Jean Pusateri

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

How can I ever thank you enough for your cards, calls, gifts and especially your prayers while I was afflicted? I thank God I am much better. God bless you all.

Sister Vicki Calabrese

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## GREETINGS continued . . .

had in my pocket and when I offered him those two dollars, he turned from a smiling, friendly person to a very angry and bitter one. He said, "That's the only way a white man knows how to compensate." I apologized by saying, "Please forgive me. You did come here and help me. I wouldn't have been able to get out otherwise." Then he went on to tell me his experience. He said, "I never felt that way before." He said, "I figured this is Marco. You love our people and this is the least I could do." He embraced me and said, "Please pray for my family which means a lot more to me than the two dollars that you would give me." When I arrived at Church, some of the Indians were still there along with Brother Cadman. Brother Cadman said, "Marco has problems." An Indian said, "God will help him. He is a man of God." I rehearsed the experience when an old Indian sister by the name of Alice Seth said, "Our Indians love you, Brother Marco. Only you could have done what you did in bringing Brother Delary home. He is so sick, yet he manages to walk three miles every Sunday to Church and another three miles back home."

Those were glorious days; days of praise, days of sharing; yes, days of caring one for another. I believe that was the climax of the most beautiful nineteen days in which we gained a measure of love from the young and the old. These are beautiful memories in my heart.

Now I'm an old man. I don't know how long the Lord will keep



me in this life. I pray for the younger generation. Jesus used the expression, "When they tell you to walk one mile, go with them two miles. When they ask you for your coat, give them your cloak, also." Jesus is God in the flesh. His love was pure love and He wanted us to be so much like Him. Give the full measure of your life. Remember, everything that you possess in this life is a passing journey but eternal life is forever.

God bless the reader. Do the best you can and God will recompense you with a full measure of His love and goodness.

#### UNITY continued . . .

gence and perseverance. Unity begets knowledge, understanding, wholeness, holiness, communion with the Lord and the attendance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For it is written:

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:1-4, 13).

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

##### SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

At South Bend, the Vacation Bible School was held each night under the direction of Ronald Griffin and Nestor Gomez who are the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, respectively. Connie Jackson was the coordinator and Kathleen Furitano supplied all the lesson plans.

Among the subjects and people

presented were Joseph, David and Goliath, Samuel (the boy prophet), and the different fruit which God has created. A picnic was held on the Saturday at a nearby park.

YIA team members were Lynette Buffa from Michigan and Lisa Italiano from Ohio. The Resident Elder was Mitchell Edwards.

#### THANK GOD

The committee is very pleased and thankful to God for the success of the program in 1996. The credit goes first to God and second to both the young people who participated and to the locations which have been hospitable and kind.

Perhaps in 1997 we will have more sites that want the program so it will be essential to have enough young people to fulfill the requests. We encourage all young people of the Church, from the east coast to the west coast, to try to sign up for next year. All places that have been visited have expressed their gratitude and the participants who have volunteered have stated that they have received many blessings in addition to valuable training in missionary work.

The other committee members are Jeff Giannetti, Jerry Morle, Ron Giovannone, Mario Zaccagnini, Paul A. Palmieri, Isaac J. Smith and Randy Ciccatti.

#### EDITORIAL continued . . .

they are available to serve you? What would it be like if they were not "on call" some evening?

Are you quick to thank God during testimony service? Do you just sit back, let others take the lead and simply listen? If we do not testify often and thank God often, how do we expect Him to respond to our needs and requests?

In your prayers, do you spend most of the time thanking God or making requests of God? God knows our needs before we ask. He wants

us to ask. God wants our hearts to be full and overflowing with thanks. God wants our thanks.

Have you read the story of the ten lepers? You will find it in the 17th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. It is an amazing story and example of how quick we can forget. All ten lepers were healed but only one turned back and glorified God! Only one with a loud voice glorified and thanked God for His mercy and goodness. Have you ever thought what became of the other nine? Have you ever thought what might become of the other nine? How will they answer?

How can we sufficiently praise Him for the great things He has done for our souls? God wants our simple and humble thanks. The thank you does not have to be expressed with eloquent speech. It can be a simple yet humble expression of thankfulness. It can be expressed in any language. God understands all languages.

Thank you Lord for saving my soul. Thank you Lord for making me whole. Thank you Lord for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free. This is a short and simple hymn of thanks. In spite of its short length, it reaches a long way. It reaches the throne of God.

Give thanks and praises to God for all things. In Ephesians 5:20 we read, "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Remember, without thanks, there is no welcome!

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
To All Our Readers

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Brother Duane Lovalvo and Sister Joannah Guzman from Branch #2 in Allen Park, Michigan were married on June 28, 1996.

Sister Shannon Lambert and Brother Frank Hamet were married on July 20, 1996 at Branch #2, Allen Park, Michigan.

Brother Miguel Bicelis and Sister Melissa Christman were married on July 6, 1996 in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

**Children Blessed**

Danny Thomas Roberts, son of Danny and Lisa Roberts was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on September 1, 1996.

Ariel Stephanie Mortimer, daughter of Timothy and Brenda Curran was blessed in the Maine Mission on July 14, 1996.

Caleb James Wilhelm Kunkel, son of Sam and Teresa Kunkel, was blessed in the Atlanta, Georgia Mission on April 7, 1996.

Matthew Thomas Gentile, son of David and Linda Gentile, was blessed on June 16, 1996 in Branch #2, Allen Park, Michigan.

Alicia Lynnae Lemmo, daughter of Shantae and Joe Lemmo, was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on August 11, 1996.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Brother Ralph Waltz was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 25, 1996 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

Heather Marie Onorato was baptized on August 4, 1996 in the Maine Mission. She was baptized by Brother Richard J. Onorato, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Richard J. Onorato, Sr.

Justin William Onorato was baptized on August 4, 1996 in the Maine Mission. He was baptized by Brother Richard J. Onorato, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Richard J. Onorato, Sr.

Sister Crystal Morris was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 30, 1996 at the Quincy, Florida Mission.

Mariam Harriet Stevenson was baptized on June 30, 1996 in the Quincy, Florida Mission. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Charleston Hester.

Sabrina Lynn Roach was baptized on September 1, 1996 in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dick Christman and confirmed by Brother Joe Griffith.

Paul Scarsella was baptized on September 1, 1996 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Santilli and confirmed by Brother Joe Genaro.

**OBITUARIES**

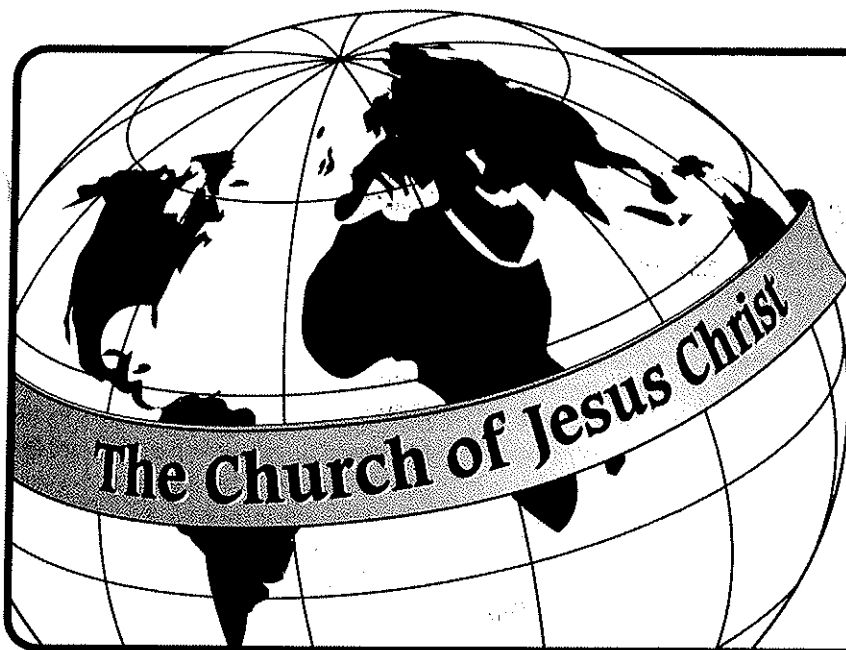
*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

**BERTHA T. CONSTANTINE**

Sister Bertha T. Constantine of the Cape Coral, Florida Branch passed on to her eternal reward on July 27, 1996. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Joseph Constantine. Sister Bertha is survived by her son, William Constantine; her daughter, Sister Jackie Hickman; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Carl Theodore; and two sisters, Sisters Mary Cosetti and Cecelia Byo.

**FLORENCE E. PICCIUTO**

Sister Florence E. Picciuto of the Perry, Ohio Mission passed on to her heavenly reward on May 29, 1996. Sister Florence is survived by one daughter, Sister Rose Deulus; four sons, Brothers Daniel Picciuto, Anthony Picciuto, Abinadi Picciuto, Ernest Picciuto; nineteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

December, 1996

Volume 52, No. 12

## New Members at Branch #2 Allen Park, MI

By Sister Carolynn Gentile O'Connor

The Lord is continuing to bless our branch with new young members. On May 26, 1996, we witnessed the baptism of three young members, Sister Joannah Guzman, Brother Paul Lambert, and Sister Hope Bologna. Each of their experiences of how God has touched their lives is significant and unique and reflects His presence in our lives today. I would like to share their experiences with you.

**Sister Joannah**—I first heard of The Church of Jesus Christ during the early summer of 1994 through Duane Loyalvo who is now my husband. Duane did a great job of promoting the Church and I was so excited to finally visit in August. I strongly feel that the spirit drew me in from the very beginning. During my first visit, I was blessed with wonderful feelings that I had never in my life felt. The saints of the Church made me feel welcomed. Their love for one another radiated off their smiling faces. I must confess that I questioned whether it was all an act, but to my wonderful surprise, I finally found the true

saints of God. I had many questions, but with each answer, my heart was at ease and the love for the Church grew uncontrollable. Once all of my basic questions were answered, I began to weigh out my options. By the summer of 1995, I had no doubt that this was the true church. Now all I was waiting for was MY GREAT EXPERIENCE. I knew that God was working in my life but I continued to wait. On April 15 I had a dream in which I saw the Lord Jesus Christ. He was wearing His crown of thorns and was crying. As I watched Him cry, it weighed heavy on my heart because of all the pain He endured to save my soul. After having this dream, however, I continued to wait. Finally on May 25, Sister Darlene Loyalvo was giving me her testimony which made me realize that I had no reason to wait. I was not fortunate enough to be born and raised in the Church, but I pray that I will always remember what I did not have and appreciate and treasure the Church. I have received many blessings. I just want to praise God's name and thank Him for the

opportunity to serve Him with my husband. Thank you for all of your prayers on our behalf.

**Brother Paul**—At the GMBA Campout I wanted to ask for my baptism; however, my parents wanted me to wait. They thought that I may be too young. Through the next year, the Lord worked with me and brought me closer to Him. He protected me through a serious fall when I fell over forty feet rock climbing. On Sunday May 26, 1996, I woke up for Church and for some reason, I knew that something was going to happen to me but I did not know what. During the meeting, visiting Elder Doug Obradovich spoke about baptism and then I knew he was talking to me. I got this pounding in my chest and as the meeting progressed, the pounding got harder and I knew I was supposed to stand up, but I fought it. After the meeting we had lunch at Church. I could not wait any longer so I took my mom aside and told her I wanted to be baptized and after I said that it was like a weight had been lifted off of me and the pounding stopped. I thank the Lord for calling me into His Church. All my life the Lord has told me things, shown me things, and given me many other experiences. God bless you.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo

Apostle, Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo passed on to his reward on September 12, 1996, finalizing a life of constant service to the Lord and His Church. Brother Nick was probably one-of-a-kind in terms of his focus and drive on behalf of the Church. He was noted for his steadfastness in keeping principle above popularity, his diligent leadership, and his never ending energy on behalf of the work of the Lord. He was unique in many ways. Most who knew him will agree that he left his mark—whether as an advisor, a confidant, a coach, a colleague, a Brother in Christ.

Born, April 23, 1915, Brother Nick first met The Church of Jesus Christ as a young boy in Detroit, Michigan when his parents Brother



**Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo**

Tony and Sister Rose Pietrangelo were baptized in 1923. He grew up under the ministry of many of the Church's pioneers of his day. He witnessed many miracles and outpourings of the Holy Spirit as the Lord used men, such as Brothers Patsy DiBattista, Ishmael D'Amico, Thurman Furnier and others. Many

of these brothers had sacrificed personal priorities, some relocating far from home, in order to minister the Restored Gospel to a few Italian immigrants in Detroit. By the time Brother Nick was baptized into the Church, October 13, 1935, Detroit Branch #1 was in a tremendous growth mode. The sacrifices he had seen others make in order to prosper the Church were very influential upon him throughout his life.

Although Brother Nick was a family man and a good provider, Sister Yolanda, his wife, and the four children they eventually had became accustomed to his sense of duty when it came to Church matters. Brother Nick was ordained a Teacher in January of 1936. During the 1930's and 1940's he was very active in supporting the Church's work in every way. He was elected to serve as an Assistant Secretary of the General Church in 1944. He was ordained an Elder on August 14, 1946 and an Evangelist on July 15, 1948. In addition to Branch #1, the experiences Brother Nick enjoyed while supporting places such as Muncey, Grand River (Six Nations), Mt. Bridges, Port Huron, and Sarnia were very dear to him and were frequently referenced during sermons and conversations of later years. Some of us who did not have first hand knowledge of those places and times came to make a place in our own hearts for them through the reflections of our Brother Nick.

Brother Nick's spiritual and administrative leadership stands as an outstanding factor in developing the character of Detroit Branch #1. He served as Presiding Elder there for a total of fifteen years (longer than anyone else) and was a model of the diligence and cooperation for the sake of the Church that he had learned from his predecessors. Likewise, the Great Lakes and Southeast Regions will long reflect his influence and the benefit of the assignments he fulfilled. However, Brother Nick must be remembered most for his dedication to the Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ.

His personality and contributions have been standards at the general level for as long as anyone can remember.

Elected to the Office of Executive Secretary of the Church in April, 1960, Brother Nick had and continued to serve in many capacities, committees, boards, and special assignments. He was an outstanding project manager and problem solver who could not tolerate passiveness when action was needed. His recall of General Church proceedings covering many decades was so impressive that it became his trademark and the source of many good-natured chides to those who would challenge his memory. His calling as an Apostle in 1974, as usual accompanied by experiences and confirming revelations, was an almost natural progression of his development as a leader of the Church. Brother Nick served the Church as First Counselor from April 1979, until October 1992.

Those who knew Brother Nick best, will miss him as their most trusted confidant and advisor. While his exhortations for diligence and progress were open and observed by all, his empathy and counsel, even his uniquely tolerable critiques, were privately treasured by many brothers and sisters throughout the Church. Brother Nick Pietrangelo will be missed. The example he set will be missed as will his love for the Church. We thank God for inspiring him and using him in our era.

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### NEW MEMBERS continued . . .

**Sister Hope**—Being born and raised in the Church, I always knew that one day I would want to be baptized. This past year, it was a big issue for me. I had been thinking about it a lot. I prayed about it and asked God to help me and give me strength. I attend the Saline Branch now however, when I was little I went to Branch #2. I often thought what it would be like to get

baptized and whenever I tried to imagine it, I always pictured it being at Branch #2. June 2, 1996, my parents woke me up and told me that Joannah was going to be baptized. I was very excited and I started getting this anxious feeling in my stomach. I was thinking about how I wanted to be baptized and I knew that today was the day. On our way to Branch #2, the knot in my stomach doubled in size and my feelings were becoming more and more intense. By the time I entered the building I was holding back the tears. I was warmly greeted by everyone and took my seat. We started singing and I started to get all choked up. As the meeting proceeded, my feelings were becoming more and more intense. One of the brothers stood up and said that there was someone holding back and that there were more people that wanted to be baptized. All of a sudden, I started to feel very uncomfortable and the tears that I had been holding back started to become uncontrollable. I started crying and could not stop. I knew that I had to act on the feelings I had been holding back for so long. After the meeting, I asked my uncle Alex Gentile if I could be baptized. He gave me a big hug and that was the beginning of a very beautiful day.

Sister Joannah was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. Brother Paul Lambert was baptized by Brother Dan Parravano and confirmed by Brother Larry Henderson. Sister Hope Bologna was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Brother Reno Bologna.

Although many of us were not at camp to witness the baptism of another new sister of our branch, we were elated that she had chosen to give her life to Christ. Sister Leah Steinrock was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Joel Calabrese.

**Sister Leah**—I went to campout thinking “no way.” I don’t think I’ll get baptized, but deep inside I had a feeling I wanted to. Tuesday night I

had a dream that I got baptized in my black shorts and black smiley face shirt which I just put out of my mind when I awoke. The next day when we went to the water I felt the Spirit of God very strongly. I then knew that I wanted to get baptized but I wasn’t sure whether or not it was my time. I was really praying hard and then my dream came to my head and I realized that I was wearing the outfit. I still wanted to make sure. All I wanted to do was to jump into the water and do it. I got prayed on and then after that I asked the Lord to let a particular brother just come up to me and talk to me and he did. When I discussed my wishes with my mom, she was not sure that I was being called. She asked me to wait to see if I felt the same the next day. I decided to get prayed on again and as I was sitting and waiting in a long line of other young people who had asked for prayer, I had a feeling of who would pray for me but I just blew that off. He was the brother that laid hands on me so I decided I would ask for my baptism. When the seminar was over, I walked up to Brother Doug Obradovich and asked and it was not easy. Then that day on June 27, 1996, Brother John Buffa baptized me and Brother Joel Calabrese confirmed me.

A few weeks later, less than a week before his wedding day, Brother Frank Hamet asked for his baptism on a Sunday afternoon.

**Brother Frank**—I was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ by my future wife, Shannon Lambert. At first, I was a bit apprehensive due to the foreign concepts of testimony, feet washing, and the ubiquitous holy kisses. Coming from a church, however, where the congregation and priesthood were pulling further and further away from the Gospel, it became apparent that maybe I had found a church that was suitable to my needs. I cannot say that on the day that I asked for my baptism, July 14, 1996, that I was planning to do just that. It just happened. I can say that since then, I have felt more at peace and I have

a greater sense of contentment than I have ever felt before.

Brother Frank was baptized by Brother Dominic Thomas and confirmed by Brother Larry Henderson.

We ask that you join us in praying for our newly baptized members as they strive to serve the Lord to the best of their ability. They will be great additions to our membership and we look forward to a continued growth.

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the brothers and sisters for their prayers during my recent hip replacement surgery. I know that God heard and answered your prayers. Many times we are sustained by the grace of God and the prayers of the saints.

Brother John Genaro

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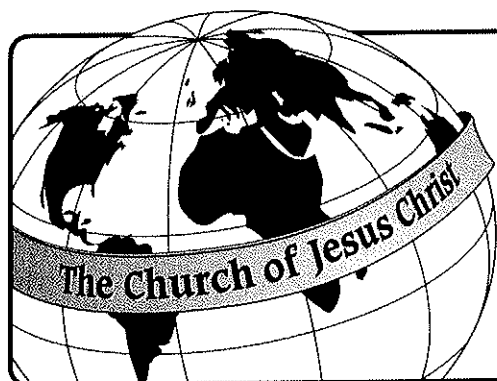
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## A message from the Seventy

### Callings, Passing, Visit, Reports, Elections at October Seventy Conference

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The calling of four new Evangelists, the passing of a long time faithful worker, a visit from the General Church President, reports of missionary work, and the election of officers occupied most of the agenda at the Semi-Annual Conference of the General Quorum of the Seventy Evangelists on Thursday, October 10, 1996. Future plans were also outlined.

The four brothers recommended to the General Church Conference which approved them two days later for ordination into the office of an Evangelist were Rosario Scravaglieri from Italy, Michael LaSala from the Great Lakes Region, Robert Nicklow, Sr., from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, and John DiBattista from the Pacific Region.

Brother Scravaglieri is in charge of the Church in Italy. As such, he has been very active in seeking to bring souls to salvation in that nation. He was ordained an Elder in 1979.

Brother LaSala has been involved extensively with missionary work in Italy, as well as with the Muncey and Six Nations Reservations in his home region. He was ordained into the Ministry in 1969.

Very active in his region, Brother Nicklow has been an Elder since 1976. He has been in charge of the Elkins, West Virginia Mission for about ten years and has also been

laboring more recently in other parts of the state.

Brother DiBattista has functioned in different capacities in his region and on the Foreign Missions Operating Committee as Secretary and is the coordinator for Italy. He has been in the Ministry for five years.

#### MUCH SERVICE

The seasoned brother who went on to his reward in September was Anthony R. Lovalvo. He had been an Evangelist since 1968 and had given much service. He labored diligently at different locations. He will perhaps best be remembered for the more than twenty years that he spent at the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada. A moment of silence was observed by the brothers assembled in recognition of his faithful duty and in observance of his passing.

The General Church President, Apostle Dominic R. Thomas, was invited to address the group. This was only the second time he had done so. His other visit was in 1984.

He reviewed the progress being made by the Seventies, notably through its Missionary Operating Committee. He acknowledged the Evangelists for their labors in both the foreign and domestic mission fields. He also cited the other Elders

and members who have been active in reaching out to individuals seeking salvation.

In reflecting on the successes in the fields, he said it is important to get the good news to all the members of the Church. He pointed out that Presiding Elders must be informed so they can make the membership aware of what is going on, enabling everyone to back the efforts being made with prayers and support. He said, "... our members want to rightfully share in the blessings being received."

Brother Thomas talked about the benefits of a second World Missionary Conference which was proposed by the Seventies and was approved subsequently by this General Church Conference to be held in the United States in 1999. The first one was in Virginia in 1983, and was very successful. He pointed out the mutual blessings and opportunities for our people both in this part of the world and those who come from abroad to meet and interact.

#### MISSIONARY REPORTS

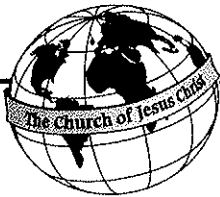
The Missionary Operating Committee Chairman, Brother John Griffith, gave an overview of the existing fields. He also asked Brother Phil Jackson, Chairman of the Foreign Missions Operating Committee, and Brother Richard Christman, Chairman of the Americas Missions Operating Committee, to give more detailed information about some locations.

Recent and future planned trips to various areas of the world were discussed. (Attempts are being made to keep readers informed about them in this column.)

Brother Leonard Lovalvo reported on the progress of the domestic evangelistic program which was authorized in April. He stated the Pacific Region had been involved in the pilot program and that the meetings had been successful. Other reports were presented by the Research and Development Committee and the Media Committee.

(Continued on Page 10)



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Luke 2:14 states, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" What an angelic song!

These beautiful words were declared by a multitude of the heavenly host to shepherds that were tending their flock. They announced the birth of the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ.

These words, this declaration, has to be preached throughout the world. People of all races and nationalities have to hear them loud and clear. The human family must hear them now more than ever. They have to be declared by the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

How will the Ministry get this message throughout the world? How will the Ministry be sent?

The members of The Church of Jesus Christ will send them. The Priesthood will carry our prayers. The Priesthood will go with our financial support.

The Christmas season is synonymous with giving. It is often referred to as the season with the "spirit of giving." Do you possess the "spirit of giving?" How strong is it? Do you possess the "spirit of freewill giving?" How deep is it?

Do you remember the story of the widow who gave two mites to the treasury? Please refresh your memory by reading Mark 21:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4; both scriptures contain this event, the "spirit of giving." Please read it slowly and carefully. It is a wonderful description of giving from the heart! It is a wonderful testimony about the "spirit of giving." It graphically describes that it is better to share your monies rather than retain them. It describes how the Lord recognizes "giving from the heart." It reminds us what the Lord stated in Matthew 10:8, "*. . . freely ye have received, freely give.*"

The Church of Jesus Christ needs our financial support. It is not needed to pay the Ministry. We do not believe in a paid Ministry. The financial support is needed to support the many missionary efforts of the Church. Are you aware The Church of Jesus Christ is established in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America?

The Church has recently received letters of inquiry from China and Russia! Can you imagine? The Church of Jesus Christ is on the move. Do you want it to continue to move forward? Would you like to be responsible for the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ going to these far off places? You can be responsible for these efforts. Think positive. Think of how you can be responsible for these and other missionary efforts.

As you consider your service to God, please consider your financial obligation and support to the Church. Part of our service to God is our financial support and responsibility to His Church, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If we appeared before God today, could we answer yes if and when asked if we donated to The Church of Jesus Christ? Could we say we gave much? Could we answer that we possessed and exercised the "spirit of giving?" Would we have to answer that we gave little, we could have given much more?

If we cannot afford to send missionaries to the Seed of Joseph, the House of Israel, China, Russia, Japan, Australia or wherever they are requested, how will we answer to God? Could we answer in the love of God that we freely gave and gave much to His Church? Could we answer that we never faltered or hesitated in our financial support to His Church?

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## The King Who Wouldn't Wait

Dear friends,

Have you ever wanted something very much and had your parent or person in charge tell you, "Yes, you will have this, but first you must wait. Trust me. I will give it to you when it is the best time." And then you waited. And sometimes you waited a very, very long time.

Sometimes it was very hard to keep happy while you were hoping and waiting with faith. A baby's idea of time is not the same as yours. Immediately a baby will fuss or cry when he is uncomfortable or hungry. Even if you are on your way to give the baby what it needs, it still cries in misery. It is almost like the baby doesn't trust or have faith in you to take care of it. We are often the same way with God.

In fact the first king of the Israelite people, King Saul, lost his kingdom because he would not wait upon the Lord. He listened to his men grumbling and complaining and gave up pleasing the Lord instead. For this, God had to choose a new leader for His people.

Saul had only been king a short time when a huge army of Philistines came upon his land, robbing and killing. Immediately he called for men everywhere to hurry and come to do battle. There were no telephones so runners and riders took several days getting to the capital cities of each of the twelve tribes. The fighting men began to

gather. A day passed, then another. Saul was supposed to wait for God's wonderful prophet, Samuel, to come and pray powerfully before battle. Instead of trusting in God and directing his soldiers to be patient, Saul gave in. He called for the offering, lit it on fire and began to pray.

No sooner had he finished than Samuel arrived. The prophet asked Saul, "Why didn't you wait on the Lord?"

Saul told him he was worried the men would leave. Saul made a big mistake because God could win the battle for Israel just by changing the weather. God was so disappointed in Saul. Samuel told Saul that Saul's descendants were not going to be chosen as the leaders in Israel forever.

This happened; a new young shepherd named David grew in power to lead the people. David was a man who waited on the Lord. He often made choices that no one liked except God. His men hoped he'd kill Saul several times when he found him sleeping.

Even when Saul turned on David, David said it was up to God to decide whether Saul lived or died. David was a man who waited on the Lord, a man after God's own heart. King Saul's line was cut off. The Saviour of the world came from the line of David, a man after God's heart.

I Samuel 13-14

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

SAMUEL	SOLDIERS
GOD'S	LACK OF FAITH
HOLY	AND
PROPHET	RUSHED
WAS	AHEAD
SUPPOSED	OF
TO	GOD
MAKE	HE
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SAUL	WAIT
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ABOUT	LORD
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D	O	R	C	W	A	D	A	T
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D	I	D	G	O	D	S	E	N
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H	H	T	H	E	O	Y	A	R
S	F	T	U	F	L	M	H	E
U	F	M	E	H	U	A	E	F
R	A	B	D	N	A	K	A	F
S	U	P	P	O	S	E	D	O

Merry  
Christmas  
To All Our Readers



## Ladies' Uplift Circle Michigan-Ontario Region Retreat

*By Sister Judy Coppa*

The Michigan-Ontario Region Circle sisters, members and friends attended a weekend retreat in Windsor, Ontario, Canada in March 1996. The theme of the weekend was "GOD'S PROMISES, OUR PRAISES." The seminar classes centered on: What is a promise? How do we know to trust someone's promise? What are God's promises to us? Our praises—How can we praise God for all that He has done?

We began our seminar by defining what a promise was and examining how we decide to trust someone to keep their promise to us. We were amazed to learn that some scholar had determined that in the Bible alone there are 7,487 promises made to man. Our group then began to read scripture passages which told us of the promises of everlasting life through Jesus Christ. We read and discussed about how God promises to help us with our spiritual and temporal life.

Many who were present then began to share their own real life experiences about how God has actually fulfilled the very promises that we were reading about in scripture. By searching out and reading through the beautiful things God promised to do for us, we each began to examine our past and present life situations. This led us into the second half of our seminar, in which we began to praise God for His goodness to us.

Our study page began with, "I PROMISE TO CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS THROUGH PRAISE!" Once again we looked to the scriptures to see the many ways in which we can praise God. We can praise

Him through singing, thanksgiving, rejoicing and testifying. The women who were present in our seminar were not all baptized members of our Church, some were visiting our Circle group for the first time. When the testimonies and praises began flowing from the sisters, the visitors were truly amazed and touched by the Spirit. One such woman in our group said she was overwhelmed by the warmth and love she experienced with us. Another said she was seeking God's love and peace in her life.

The praises began to flow and we began to sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving. As we finished our singing, we heard the seminar group in the meeting room next to ours begin singing also. The Spirit of God like a fire was burning and the more we praised and thanked Him, the more He blessed us. This spirit remained with us throughout the entire evening and on into the next day, which was our Sunday Service.

Brother Alex Gentile arrived early Sunday morning to help conduct our Sunday meeting. Brother Alex opened the meeting by speaking to us about the "Be-Attitudes" found in Matthew 5. He explained that the attitude we have or display is very important. Pins and labels won't tell people who or what we truly are, but our actions and attitude will. Our relationship with God must be constant and close. We must be the peacemakers, the merciful, the meek and all the attributes that are found in the Sermon on the Mount. To attain these beautiful attitudes, we must protect ourselves from Satan's darts and arrows. Praying, singing and giving thanks and praise to God will keep us in close communion with the Lord and defeat Satan's interference.

After Brother Alex finished speaking, the meeting was opened for testimony. A beautiful season of testimony and singing began. Twenty-two women stood and offered praise and thanks to God, among these were some unbaptized and first time visitors. There were



## Plumbrook, MI MBA Visits Hill Cumorah

*By Sisters Judy Coppa and  
Lydia Furnari*

The Plumbrook, Michigan Branch MBA, formerly called Branch #3, visited Hill Cumorah. Our trip became a reality because of a wishful dream a sister had several years ago to visit Hill Cumorah as a branch and this year the wheels went into motion because of the pushing and prodding from our MBA president. After many fund raisers, our hard work was rewarded as our fund grew and the date was finally set for July 13, 1996.

At 6:30AM on Saturday morning, forty five saints and friends met in the Church parking lot. We boarded the bus and after a word of prayer, we were on our way. Much to our surprise, we would be traveling through Canada to get to New York. The Canadian countryside with its quaint small towns was lovely to see. After a lunch stop, we arrived at our destination Henrietta, New York at 2:30 PM. We received our room assignments, freshened up, ate dinner and then boarded the bus for the Hill Cumorah Pageant.

The first timers to see the Hill Cumorah Pageant were full of anticipation and the rest of the group caught the excitement as they viewed the new outdoor stage and seating area. The actors dressed in their costumes mingled with the crowd. They shared their personal stories and experiences as to why they were taking part in the pageant. They even took advantage of the situation by asking if you knew anything about the Book of Mormon. The pageant was presented as if it were a Hollywood production. The beautiful

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism and Renewal Roscoe, PA

By Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky

Sister Patty Morris was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ and attended meetings at the Monongahela Branch as a child. Almost two years ago, she began attending Ladies' Circle meetings with her mother, Sister Edith Snyder, at the Roscoe Branch and quickly became a very devoted member of the Circle.

At the close of the GMBA Conference on Sunday, May 19, 1996, Sister Patty Jean Morris made the decision to ask for her baptism. A few months prior, God gave her a dream. She was taken up into a heavenly mist and a bright light shone upon her. She heard a beautiful voice, "Patty, I cannot keep calling you. You will know when the time is right." Three different times she had this dream. The third time the voice said, "Patty, I will call you no more; It is your turn to make up your mind." She felt God's spirit envelope her several times during the Conference, and as *I Surrender All* was sung, she knew it was time and made her wishes known.

On June 9, 1996, Brother James and Sister Jean Moore and Sister Becky Tarbuk came from the Imperial Branch. Brother James Moore opened the morning service and spoke from the 37th and 41st chapters of Alma from the Book of Mormon. He talked on the gift of repentance and the high calling of our new sister and how her name would be inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life. He said that it is impossible to please God without faith and how we must hunger and thirst for the things of God. He spoke about the plan of eternal life and how it is laid down like a blueprint. He said how Christ must rejoice today and feel that all of His suffering was worth it as He sees

another soul enter in. He told many encouraging experiences and spoke many beautiful words of life. Brother James Abbott concluded testifying of his calling into the Gospel and encouraged all to heed the Spirit of God and not put off their decision to serve Him.

After lunch, we gathered at the Monongahela River where Brother Abbott took Sister Patty into the waters of baptism. It was a beautiful sight to see our sister come forth from the water a new child of God. Upon returning to the Church for our afternoon meeting, the Ministry laid hands on Sister Patty's head with Brother John Kendall offering prayer that God's Holy Spirit would make its abode within our new sister. Brother Elmer Devore, Sister Patty's uncle, then stood and asked to be reinstated into the Church. As the elders laid hands upon Brother Elmer's head, Brother James Moore offered prayer on his behalf. What a joy to see the return of our brother to God's fold! After sacrament, many testimonies of praise and thanksgiving were given. It was a beautiful day and we thank God for His many blessings. May God continue to bless Sister Patty, Brother Elmer, our visitors from the Imperial Branch who traveled to spend the day with us, and all who strive to serve Him.

### The Light of the Lord

Matthew 5:16 states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Sister Debbie Coyne of the Hollywood, Florida Branch recently overcame an ordeal with cancer and testifies of God's goodness. This is her testimony.

After this experience, I was prompted by the Lord to work in the community with others who are in need. Because of this involvement, I was asked by the community leaders to be an Olympic torchbearer. When the shock wore off, I realized that I was being asked by God to carry the

torch for Christ. If it were not for Him, I would not be here. Because of Him, I live, temporally and spiritually. With that in mind, I tried to set the example for Jesus Christ by carrying His light.

One of the reasons I was chosen as a community torchbearer was because of the way God enabled me to handle my battle with cancer and how He has provided a way for me to serve Him through volunteerism and service to those in need within my community.

For me, faith, courage and strength came directly from my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I carried the torch for Him. For me, the flame represented the flame which burns within my heart, His Light, which shines within me, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to all who prayed for me and supported me through this event. One of the most wonderful parts of the experience was seeing my brothers and sisters waiting for my arrival and cheering me on as I carried the torch for Christ. I thank God for His goodness and all things.

### Spirit Filled Day in Palm Harbor, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

On March 24, 1996, the Palm Harbor Branch in Florida enjoyed a spirit filled day. Many visitors fellowshipped with us coming from Branch #1 Michigan and Cape Coral, Florida.

A good spirit prevailed as Brother Louis Pietrangelo, our opening speaker, spoke on faith using the scriptures from Habakkuk. Brother Milfred Eutsey, Sr., followed elaborating more on the same subject. The spirit in their words was enjoyed by all.

As the meeting was then opened to testimony, the movement of God's Spirit was again quickened in us. A strong desire to do more for the Lord was shared by many. Brothers and

sisters expressed their desire of wanting to grow in spirit and understanding of God's will for them. All expressed interest in the prayers of the Ministry that God would touch them. Sister Coco Eutsey along with Brothers Scott Griffith, Dan Risola, DeWayne Eutsey and Bryan Griffith were called forward and were seated before the Ministry. It was a unanimous decision of the Priesthood that a special prayer would be offered on behalf of those young saints.

The Elders formed a circle around us and Brother Salvio Risola prayed on our behalf. While he was praying, I asked the Lord to give us a special message. As Brother Risola was ending his prayer, the gift of tongues was spoken. As the tongues were being given, I felt as if the Lord was waving His hand over us. Later I realized that the brother himself speaking in tongues was sweeping his hand back and forth over our heads.

An interpretation was given. 'Seek my virtue my children for I prepare the next generation, thus saith the Lord.' Surely this was our combined desire, that we individually would be used in His service. How wonderful for us if we were chosen in the next generation of workers for our Lord. Truly the Lord visited us this day.

Our membership is being constantly encouraged by our Priesthood to seek God's righteousness. We want Him in our lives. Let's seek that higher spiritual ground together. May God bless you.

## Elder Ordained in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

May 26, 1996 began as a beautiful day of great anticipation as we greeted visitors from many parts of the Church, including the parents of Brother Mark Coppa. They all came to witness Brother Mark's ordination as an Elder in The Church of Jesus

Christ.

Brother Jim Huttenberger opened our meeting, remarking that he saw the countenance of Jesus on everyone's faces. Our brother spoke on recognizing the call to action, using Luke 26:46, which speaks on those called who doeth not. Jesus knew there would be trials, but we all have callings and He is there to help us; we need only be firmly rooted so we can carry them out. He exhorted us to not be hearers only, but doers of the word. Jesus said that whoever does the will of His Father is His sister, brother, etc. God is calling all—young and old—to do His work. He will help us; just do it! Accept the challenge, as Brother Mark has done.

Brother Jim Lovalvo read from Psalm 110:1 and 4. The Lord said, "Sit thou at my right hand . . ." Also in Mark 12:36 it states, ". . . Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool." Also, he read in Alma 13 regarding the holy calling of the Ministry of the Church. Those who take on the High Priesthood are yoked with God. They must be willing to give their life for God, if necessary. They are counsellors, fathers, leaders of the flock. They have been consecrated by the Holy Spirit. Such a beautiful spirit prevailed as we considered these descriptions of the office to which our Brother Mark would soon be ordained.

Brother Joe Lovalvo then spoke to us about Brother Mark's calling. He told the congregation that Brother Mark was called because of his faith, dedication and good works. Every elder in Modesto had experiences about Brother Mark, which brought unity among them all regarding his calling into the Priesthood. Brother Mark's feet were washed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo who felt called to wash his feet and pray for him. Brother Joe Lovalvo prayed that Brother Mark would now have the power to heal, as he anointed Brother Mark with holy oil. All the elders gathered around him, holding hands. Brother Jim petitioned God for the purification of each one of them.

After the ordination, the congregation sang the hymn, *Ready*, and there was a joyous time as Brother Mark's family gathered around him, hugging one another. Brother Mark's wife, Sister Sue Coppa, had hands laid on her for dedication and to help her to be a supportive companion to her husband.

There was a vision as Brother Mark sat, a big star was seen, bright and very wide. Also there was a large tree with many branches in a garden, and the Lord appeared in the garden. As Brother Mark was being anointed earlier, a member of the Church from Pennsylvania saw the Lord's face above the Ministry.

Brother Mark then gave his testimony, praising God. He had many witnesses regarding his calling. His mother had an experience in which it was revealed to her, "Your son was called to be a teacher, and now a servant." Brother Mark expressed his desire to be in the service of the Lord. Brother Mark thanked Brother Paul Gray for his support. His wife, Sister Kay Gray had a vision many years ago that Paul and Mark would be going two by two as Elders in The Church of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

Brother John DiBattista and Brother Mark Coppa passed sacrament. There were many tears of joy on the faces of the brothers and sisters, as this was a very touching moment, receiving the Lord's Supper from our new elder. After sacrament, Sister Sue Coppa expressed herself, telling of a dream Brother Joe Lovalvo had in July of 1986, in which he was ordaining Brother Mark. This was before he had even met Brother Mark. Today was a fulfillment of that dream.

We ask that you would all remember to pray for Brother Mark and his family and for the entire Priesthood as they devote their lives to the responsibility of feeding God's sheep.

We ended our day with a luncheon and fellowship in honor of our newest elder.

## Three Fold Blessing for Kinsman, Ohio Mission

By Sister Fran Jackson

The GMBA Campout was again fruitful for our mission. Two candidates requested baptism—Zachary Jackson and Daveda Hayford. Zachary was baptized at camp by his father, Brother Phil Jackson; but Daveda chose to be baptized in her home mission where she first heard the message and also so that her family would be able to attend. Sunday, July 28, 1996 was the day chosen for this blessed event. The hymn *The Family of God* was sung and seemed to set the theme for the message of the day:

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!  
I've been washed in the fountain,  
cleansed by His blood  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel  
this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, the family of God

Brother Phil Jackson introduced the service using Genesis 15:1-5 for his text—where the Lord promises Abraham an heir of his own seed and also how numberless his seed would become. He also referred to Galatians 4:1-7, “an heir of God through Christ.” Brother Phil’s message was directed primarily to Daveda, making many comparisons, a natural heir and a spiritual heir. Abraham’s faith made all things possible in his life. Daveda’s faith in the message and faith in God and His Son and faith that Christ would lead her to this decision of baptism will in turn allow her to become an heir of Jesus Christ and His kingdom. In this natural life we may become heirs to a lot of things; land, houses, money, jewels, and many other items. By becoming an heir of Christ, Daveda will receive spiritual wealth, jewels of the spirit to adorn her soul. The jewels Christ gives are priceless. They are peace and joy.

She will also inherit land, the kingdom of Christ and also a house, a mansion in His kingdom.

In life some will inherit status and also bodyguards. Daveda will become a child of the king and her bodyguards will be the angels of heaven to protect her, lead her and guide her. Abraham believed in God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Daveda’s belief and faith in Christ will also be counted unto her as an heir to His kingdom. Enjoy being a heir of God, enjoy being a part of the family of God.

Brother John Genaro followed using the same theme. He also stated that he asked the Lord prior to coming to this service to inspire him with something “special” for Daveda. The scripture given to him was Daniel 10:12, *“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.”*

Brother John spoke in the same manner, addressing Daveda. He reminded her how she first had a desire to know and become a part of the family of God. How God blessed that desire and brought her to this point and will continue to bless and nourish her if she will be steadfast in her determination to serve Him. Brother John bore his testimony saying in spite of all his misgivings and misdeeds, there was a “tiny desire” within him to serve God at some point in his life. He also had a special love for the word of God. The Lord stopped him and readjusted his life and what a wonderful journey it has been!

We went to the baptismal site (which is just behind our Church) to baptize Daveda and then what a wonderful surprise! Gordie Morris made his wishes known to the ministry that he wanted to follow Christ and didn’t want the Lord to pass him by, praise God! After the baptisms, we enjoyed a season of singing while the candidates and Elders changed into dry clothes. Our service continued with the explanation of confirma-

tion. The two candidates were then confirmed. Brother Howard Jackson baptized and confirmed Sister Daveda Hayford asking the Lord to allow her to be a light to those around her. Brother Phil Jackson baptized Brother Gordie Morris and Brother John Genaro confirmed him asking the Lord to bless him with wisdom.

A season of testimony followed and the passing of the Lord’s Supper was shared with our new brother and sister. The meeting was closed with thankfulness for the blessings of the day! Thank you Lord for the three new souls added to our mission.

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## MESSAGE continued . . .

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected for the next two years.

General Quorum Officers:

Leonard Lovalvo, President; John Griffith, Vice-President; Eugene Perri, Secretary; Wayne Martorana, Assistant Secretary; Fred Olexa, Treasurer; and the writer, Editor.

Committee Officers: John

Griffith, Chairman, Missions Operating Committee; Peter Scolaro, MOC Vice-Chairman; Richard Christman, Chairman, Americas Missions Operating Committee; Fred Olexa, AMOC Vice-Chairman; Philip Jackson, Chairman, Foreign Missions Operating Committee; Joel Gehly, FMOC Vice-Chairman; Dwayne Jordan, Chairman, Research and Development Committee; Nephi DeMercurio, R&D Vice-Chairman; the writer, Media Chairman; and Matthew Rogolino, Media Vice-Chairman.

For informational purposes, the Evangelistic Chairman in the seven regions are Joseph Perri, Atlantic; Nephi DeMercurio, Great Lakes; Russell Martorana, Ohio Mid-West; Paul Liberto, Pacific; Richard Lawson, Penn-Mid Atlantic; Dennis Moraco, Southeast; and Dwayne Jordan, Southwest.



## EDITORIAL continued . . .

Would we be in a position to respond that we were quick to reach into our pockets, wallets or purses? God restored His Church for all mankind. It is not just for us.

We read in Jacob 2:17, "*Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.*"

Who are your brethren? They are your neighbors, they are the entire creation of God. We must become familiar with "all!" When we consider how fortunate we are, what we have, are we motivated to be free with our riches and substance that others might hear?

God has given us much. He expects us to share our prosperity with others that they may be rich, rich in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Have you any idea of what God expects us to do with our riches and wealth? Why do we have them? What is their purpose?

Jacob 2:19 states, "*And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted.*"

May our intent be to do good. Let us do good. Please be free with your substance so we will realize what Jacob states in this excellent passage about our obligations to the creation of God.

We have a story to tell to the nations. That story is that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel. That story is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored. It has been restored that mankind might live and live in the spiritual riches of our great Lord, Jesus Christ.

May we all possess the "spirit of giving." May we all possess the "spirit of caring and sharing."

## OUR WOMEN continued . . .

many requests during the testimonies for a remembrance of certain individuals in prayer. Each one present felt a commitment to remember in prayer those who were mentioned. We had learned an important lesson this weekend; to keep our promises to others because God has kept and continues to keep all His promises to us. We each made a renewed promise to celebrate God's goodness through praise.

As we closed our meeting and ended our weekend of spiritual growth and blessings, we embraced one another in the love of Jesus Christ.

## Notice

Literature makes wonderful Christmas gifts. Consider giving someone on your Christmas list one of the wonderful books, written by brothers in our Church, that we have available at the Print House. We also have tapes of the Bible. The New Testament tape is \$19.95 and the complete Bible on tape is \$89.95. We are offering The Book of Mormon Dictionary at a discount price of \$8.00. Gift certificates are also available. Please call 313-429-5080 for more information or to place an order.

The Print House

## PLUMBROOK continued . . .

scenery and excellent special effects told the story of the Book of Mormon and Jesus Christ's coming to this land in such a way the audience seemed spellbound. We truly enjoyed the evening.

On Sunday morning, we again boarded our Blue Lakes bus with our driver Bob. This time we were heading for the Lockport, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. We were looking forward to visiting the brothers and sisters at

Lockport and they were ready to greet us as we pulled into their parking lot. The building was filled to near capacity as the service began. God's blessings were truly with us as the Elders spoke. Brother Silver Coppa reminisced for a few moments about his visits to Lockport many years ago. He continued by reading from Matthew about the parable of the seeds. Brother Joe Furnari followed with an invitation to come as you are. Obey the Gospel and bring forth fruit by your testimony. Brother Gary Coppa spoke of how much effort was put forth to make this branch MBA trip a reality. He exhorted everyone to put the same effort into improving our spiritual lives. Brother Gary challenged us to give our testimony to one person a week. Brother Andy Locci concluded the theme of the sermons by telling us of a woman he met thirty-nine years ago. He saw her again just a few months ago and greeted her as a newly baptized member of The Church of Jesus Christ. There is much work for us to do. We must sometimes wait to see the fruits of our labor. We must not get discouraged.

Following our brothers sermons we had a beautiful season of testimony. The meeting was closed in prayer and we ate a delicious lunch which the members of the Lockport Branch graciously prepared for us. We enjoyed the fellowship of the saints very much. After visiting and eating lunch we said good-bye to the brothers and sisters of Lockport. Once again we boarded the bus to travel home to Michigan. Because we were running ahead of our time schedule, we were able to make a thirty minute stop in Niagara Falls. What a marvelous sight to see.

At last we arrived at our branch parking lot. We offered a prayer to thank God for our wonderful and safe weekend. We then each headed for our individual homes feeling a little bit closer as a Church family. Our expectations were fully met and the fruits of our MBA labor were enjoyed by all who participated in our trip to Hill Cumorah.

## OBITUARIES

*We wish to express our sympathy to those that mourn over the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### ELIZABETH SGRO

Sister Elizabeth Sgro of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed away to her eternal reward on August 22, 1996. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Carmen Sgro. Sister Elizabeth is survived by one son, Stephen; one daughter, Esther Thompson; two brothers, Jimmy and Steve Parolise; one sister, Catherine Lupo; eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

### PATSY ABRUZZESI

Brother Patsy Abruzzesi of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on September 29, 1996. Brother Patsy is survived by his wife, Emily Walling Abruzzesi; one son Michael; one daughter, Patricia Adam; three sisters, Sisters Carmella Biro, Ann Radd and Maggie Blakley; four granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

### BERTHA MAY YOUNG

Sister Bertha May Young of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her eternal reward on April 7, 1996. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry "Joe" Young and her daughter, Louise Buchanan. Sister Bertha is survived by one sister, Sister Helen Treaster, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### VIRGINIA WILSON RICHARDS

Sister Virginia Wilson Richards recently passed away in Florida to her heavenly reward. Services were held in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Sister Virginia, the daughter of the late Brother George and Sister Mary Wilson of West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania is survived by her husband, Jim; one daughter, Sherry; and two grandchildren.

### ANTHONY R. LOVALVO

Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo of Branch #4 in Redford, Michigan passed on to his eternal reward on September 9, 1996. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Anthony is survived by his wife, Sister Anne; one son, Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo; one daughter, Sister Rosanne Batalucco; two brothers, Apostles Joseph Lovalvo and V. James Lovalvo; one sister, Anna Pagano; and six grandchildren.

## \* WEDDING \*

Robyn Graham and Timothy R. Lenhart were united in holy matrimony on August 17, 1996 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Children Blessed

Christopher Jordan King, son of Emily and Lawrence King, Jr., was blessed in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on May 24, 1996.

Jeffrey Lawrence Okorn, Jr., son of Tracy and Jeffrey Okorn, Sr., was blessed in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on May 28, 1996.

Mark Brandon King, son of Judy and Brother Mark King was blessed on June 30, 1996 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Trent Joseph Crayton, son of Rena Stroko and Robert Crayton II was blessed in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on July 21, 1996.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_