

# The Gospel News

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## The Bible Predicts the Coming of The Book of Mormon

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

The Book of Mormon tells us that Lehi was a descendant of Joseph who was sold into Egypt (1 Nephi 5:14). This information concerning the lineage of Lehi is very important, as the Bible makes it quite plain the descendants of Joseph, or at least a branch of the House of Joseph, were to have a special land. It seems clear that this land was America. Let us examine the two blessings given by Jacob and Moses, respectively.

Just before Jacob's death, he blessed the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. Among other things, he said, "Let them grow into a multitude of nations in the midst of the earth," (Genesis 48:16). To Joseph, he said, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall" (Genesis 49:22).

Moses, just prior to his death, in blessing the tribe of Joseph said, "Blessed of the Lord be his land. His horns are like the horns of unicorns, and with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth. They are the ten

thousands of Ephraim and the thousands of Manasseh" (Deuteronomy 33:12-17).

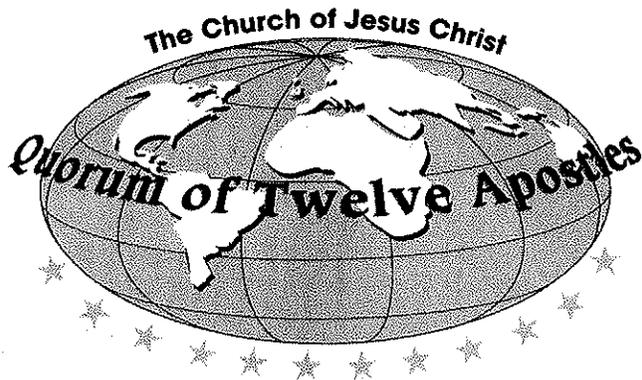
Let us notice the similarity of the three blessings in regard to the land that Joseph was to have. It was to be in "the midst of the earth," "over the wall" and "ends of the earth." By examining a globe, we find that America is almost directly opposite where the blessings were given. Note also the similarity of the blessings in regard to the population of the land, as applied in the phrase "a multitude," "fruitful bough," "the ten thousands of Ephraim," and the "thousands of Manasseh." The Book of Mormon states that the Nephites and Lamanites, who are descendants of Joseph through Manasseh, became as numerous almost as the sands of the sea on this land.

Does it seem reasonable that God should lead a portion of Israel, His choice people to a strange land, and then cease to speak to them through the voice of His prophets? We note that the Jews kept a record of the prophecies given to them from time to time, as recorded in the

Bible. Ezekiel speaks of this record as the "Stick of Judah." But he also speaks of another record, to be known as the "Stick of Joseph" (see Ezekiel 37:15-23). These sticks are to be put together, and made one in God's hand. After this is done (verse 21), Israel is to be gathered back to their homeland. The Christian World accepts the Stick of Judah as the Bible. Saints of Latter Day accept the coming forth of the Book of Mormon as the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy, believing the Book of Mormon to be the Stick of Joseph. Shortly after the coming forth of the Stick of Joseph in these last days, the Jews began to return to Jerusalem, in fulfillment of verse 21.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that a book is to come forth. Let us examine Isaiah 29:4. Here we find that God's chosen people shall speak out of the ground, and their speech shall whisper out of the dust. Verse 11 says a sealed book is to be delivered to an unlearned man, and the words of the book, to a learned man. Verse 13 tells us the condition of the world when the book comes forth. Verse 17 tells us that in just a little while after the book comes forth, Lebanon (Palestine) shall be turned into a fruitful field. Verse 24 says the book will be of a doctrinal nature. Saints of Latter Day people

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## Is Baptism Essential to Salvation?

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART I

I shall treat this subject under seven headings, namely:

1. Essentiality of baptism.
2. Reasons why some feel water baptism is set aside as non-essential.
3. Purpose of baptism.
4. What is the sign that one is ready for baptism?
5. Mode of baptism.



Apostle Robert A. Watson

6. Authority to baptize.
  7. Perpetuality of baptism.
1. Essentiality of Baptism.

There are three steps required for salvation, namely: faith, repen-

tance and baptism. It is virtually impossible to obey and fulfill one to the exclusion of the other two. The kingdom of God represents the most exclusive and selective kingdom ever formed and salvation represents that one has successfully completed and fulfilled his or her commitment made in the flesh, that is, to obey all the laws and commandments prescribed by God through His Word. It is then of the utmost importance that we place our obedient service to God as the most important thing in our life.

It is not unreasonable to believe that God's laws that rule the spiritual and mental world are any less rigid and binding than the laws which rule matter and space. The ignorance or neglect of either the physical law or civic law does not preclude that man must suffer by whatsoever consequences he engenders by his omissive actions. We have all been marshalled by the physical laws that govern such powerful forces as electricity and gravitation and we are all well aware that nature has not made any exceptions to the strict adherence of these laws by every living creature on this earth and that disobedience to these laws brings misery. Is it not safe then to equate that the same parallel of punishment must apply to those who omit or neglect to obey all the laws that govern the spiritual kingdom and the entrance thereof?

If, for example, a person keeps

all the laws of good citizenship and the only thing he does that is wrong is to steal his neighbor's automobile, when he is apprehended and brought before the judge, is he not considered a law breaker even though he has kept all the laws but the one that governs honesty? So God defines that he who breaks the least of His laws is guilty of breaking them all, and the importance of making these laws an everyday part of our life is best described in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

The Bible also states to the law and testimony meaning we must go to the books, Bible and Book of Mormon, to examine what spiritual laws have been given by God to legislate the actions of all mankind desiring citizenship into His kingdom.

The commandment we are specifically considering in this treatise is baptism and its essentiality to salvation. We must first consider baptism in the light of it being a law. Webster defines law as, "any rule expected to be observed or a divine commandment" and he defines essential as "necessary to make a thing what it is or indispensable" and finally salvation as "the saving of the soul from sin and death." Having agreed with Webster on the fact that law is a divine commandment, we must assume that baptism is a spiritual law because it is expected to be observed unconditionally and as such becomes essential as the following verses indicate. In the Bible we have the following in Matthew

28:19-20, "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."

Mark 16:15-16, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Acts 2:38, Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ."

Acts 10:47-49, Cornelius was told by Peter, "Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized . . ." Acts 16:30-33, the jailor asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved . . . And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized . . ."

And in the Book of Mormon please note the following: 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." Please read II Nephi 31:5-9, and II Nephi 31:17.

We have a great example on the compulsory nature of baptism in the example of Cornelius. Even though he was worthy to receive the visitation of angels prior to baptism, he was still required to be baptized.

## 2. Reasons Why Some Feel Water Baptism Is Set Aside as Non-Essential.

There are some that would justify the non-essentiality of baptism by quoting the following: Hebrews 9:9-10, "Which was a

figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation."

It is perhaps their feeling that the washings and carnal ordinances refer to water baptism and that this would be set aside at a designated time, but is it not more proper to feel that this rather refers to the ceremonial washings practiced by the Israelites under the Mosaical law and receiving its fulfillment under Christ rather than the baptism of Christ as practiced by the apostolic church?

There are those who would say that John the Baptist in saying, "I indeed baptize with water unto repentance but He that cometh after me shall baptize you with fire and the Holy Spirit," inferred that under the Christian dispensation, water baptism was supplanted by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

There are many biblical illustrations of both water baptism and baptism of the Holy Ghost being equally required. Cornelius received baptism of the Holy Spirit and still was required to be baptized by water, Acts 10:44.

## 3. What is the Purpose of Baptism?

We can say as has been expressed many times, it is an outward sign of an inward emotion. It affords an opportunity for confessing to God and the whole world by performing a physical act that was preceded by repentance and complete surrender to God's will.

It has also been typified as a burial, meaning that at our baptism, we bury our old carnal nature and we come up out of the waters as a new creature in Christ, Romans 6:4-5, "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. For if we have been planted

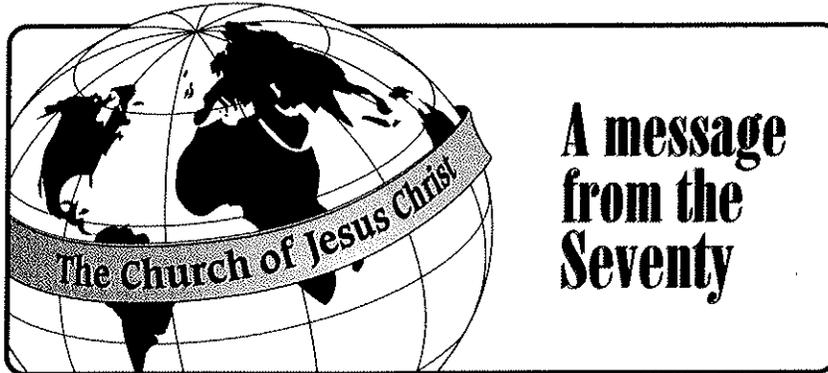
together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Baptism also affords us admission into the Church and is designed to be fully integrated with repentance as is recorded in Mark 1:4, "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." See also Acts 2:38. It is also symbolic of a cleansing and its purpose is to wash away one's sins as Paul declares of his baptism in Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Baptism is also referred to as a door and as such provides an entrance into God's Kingdom on earth, II Nephi 31:17, "Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for, for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost."

## 4. What Is the Sign that One Is Ready for Baptism?

One is ready for baptism when they show fruits of repentance and are willing to make a complete surrender to God as recorded in Moroni 8:25, "And the first fruits of repentance is baptism, and baptism cometh by faith unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins." To be willing to share with others is also indicative of one's readiness for baptism as recorded by Mosiah 18:5 and 18:8-11.

To be also ready to make complete restoration of any wrongdoing as Zaccheus, Luke 19:8, ". . . Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

(To Be Continued)



## Four European Trips Since Last April

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Four trips were taken to European mission fields since last April. They were made to England, Italy (twice), and Poland to assist the laborers there and to strive to bring more souls to salvation.

The Lord's accompaniment and presence were felt while traveling and during the stays. Experiences and healing were received and time was spent in meetings and fellowship.

Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Sal Azzinaro traveled to England on May 18 and returned May 29. They worked with Brother Pat O'Callaghan, Resident Elder, who had been afflicted. The Lord spared Brother O'Callaghan from serious peril and he was returned from the hospital in one day.

The first trip to Italy was from July 24 to September 25, and it was made by Brother Michael LaSala. While there, he traveled with Brother Rosario Scravaglieri, who is in charge of the Church in that nation, to visit the saints. Brother LaSala has gone to Italy frequently in the past and has been very active in the field, having journeyed extensively while there.

Brothers Phil Jackson and David Nolfi went to Poland on September 25 and returned October 2. They baptized Katherine Spyra on this trip. On their previous trip in April, along with Brother Paul Palmieri, they had baptized her husband, Brother Edward Spyra, who was ordained a Teacher and has been holding scrip-

tural studies and prayer services with the small group there.

The second trip to Italy was taken on October 24 by Brothers Thomas Liberto, Leonard Lovalvo, Louis Vitto, Michael LaSala (again) and John DiBattista. They all returned the first full week of November with the exception of Brother LaSala who was scheduled to stay until January. While they were there, Brother Rosario Scravaglieri was ordained into the office of an Evangelist, which had been approved by the October General Church Conference. They also were able to visit members in that nation. The focus has been to help Brother Scravaglieri in his labors because of the large geographical area which must be covered.

In analyzing the activity in the fields, it can be seen that attempts are being made to offer both support to the locations and increase the numbers in the fold.

### UNDER FMOC

The European area is under the Foreign Missions Operating Committee. Other nations presently under this group are Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya in Africa and India. There are many sites in these countries, which have been reported in the past. People are inquiring about the Church from various parts of the world. The General Church Correspondent, Brother Richard Lawson,

reported that for the first six months of 1996, twenty-seven letters were written. Seven of these were addressed to people in New Zealand, Germany, Argentina, Canada, Austria, Spain, and Russia.

An overall list of the places being serviced would perhaps be of interest and benefit to readers. As of the last October General Church Conference, The Missionary Operating Committee reported on the many foreign and domestic locations. They are classified under either the FMOC (reported above) or the Americas Missions Operating Committee, which has places in North, Central, and South America under their respective regions.

### UNDER AMOC

Outside the United States and Canada, fields are in Guatemala, under the Guatemala Region Operating Committee, and in Mexico, under the Mexico Region Operating Committee in Tijuana, San Ysidro, Ahome, Gomez Palacios, Cuauhtemoc, Mexicali, Ciudad Netzahualcoyoti (Mexico City), and Pedernales. In addition, trips are being made to the nations of Peru and Venezuela in South America.

Locations under the domestic regions' (United States and Canada) Operating Committees are:

Atlantic Coast: Cottageville, SC; Brunswick, ME; the Bowery, New York City; Dedham, MA; and Avondale, PA.

Great Lakes: Muncey and Six Nations Indian Reservations in Ontario, Canada.

Ohio-Midwest: Rochester and Lockport, NY; Cincinnati, Columbus, and Kent, OH; Elizabethtown, KY; Independence, MO; South Bend, IN; and Omaha, NE/Bedford, IA.

Pacific: The Pacific Region was in charge of the Mexican locations until recently and has been working along with the Mexico RMOC. Programs are now being implemented within the Pacific Region.

Penn-Mid Atlantic: Elkins, WV; Butler, PA; Cumberland, MD;

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It states in 2 Peter 3:8, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

God is eternal. Times and seasons are known only to God. Time is not measured to God. Time is measured only to man.

The dictionary contains several definitions for the word time. As we enter a new year, one appropriate definition is, "a suitable or opportune moment or season."

Another year has passed and gone. It will never return. A new year has begun. It is in our hands. It is up to us what we make of it. It is up to us what we do with it. We can use it for our spiritual growth. We can use it for the spiritual growth and reach of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Time is extremely important. It was measured in precise terms by the people of God throughout the ages. The importance of the birth of Christ was emphasized by the Nephites in the Book of Mormon. They began to reckon their time at the coming of Jesus Christ.

Many people in scripture devoted their time by doing things for that great God, the Creator of all things. The Bible and Book of Mormon contain several accounts of individuals and groups of people who devoted their time and lives to the Lord and Saviour of the world.

The Apostle Paul devoted many years of his life to missionary work. He journeyed far and wide to tell people about The Church of Jesus Christ. He preached much and taught much about the Son of God. He preached much and taught much about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He suffered much for the cause of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was relentless in his devotion, service and zeal for the Lord.

The sons of Mosiah spent fourteen years preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Lamanite people. Imagine, fourteen years in the wilderness, away from home and the comforts of life. They did not even stay together as a group during their missionary efforts. They separated so each one could do a part and be a part of the great work of the Lord. They were confident, they had faith in God that He would guide them and protect them. Their trust was in the Lord that they should meet again at the close of their harvest.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

What is your season? Is it now or later? Do not put your season off until tomorrow, tomorrow may never come. At the close of each day can you testify that you did something for the Lord? What purpose do we have or make for time in our daily lives?

How do we use our time? Is our primary use of time to glorify God by our service and obedience to Him? Can we lay a harvest at the feet of the Lord?

Our spiritual interests must be paramount in our lives. We should live our time to do the will of God. There is much to do for the Lord and His Church.

The world needs the Gospel of love, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored for mankind. We must bring it to them. We must declare the glad tidings of great joy. We must go tell it on the mountain. Jesus Christ is alive! He resurrected for mankind. He overcame the permanent sting of death. He offers complete and total salvation. The Lord offers permanent and eternal life!

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## Put Evil Down; Stand Up For God

Dear friends,

Today I want to talk to you about a dangerous problem starting to grow in the world and especially the United States and Canada. It is the problem of lonely, worried people who don't believe in God. The problem happens when these lonely people start looking for power in the areas where the devil rules—the areas of psychics, pretend psychics who take peoples' money, ugly witchcraft and magic.

The devil is tricky. He tries to make things look harmless. For example, there is no such thing as a good witch or "white witch." Witchcraft comes straight from the devil. Over and over in the Bible, God's people are warned to stay away from these bad things. Stay away from all witchcraft.

The true way to power comes from totally trusting in our Creator, God and our Savior, Jesus. As our faith grows and we practice relying on God, miracles happen. When we pray deeply for someone and God hears, something better than magic happens. When we see our bad sides and ask God to change us, a true miracle happens and we grow inside. We can be way stronger and better with God.

God also wants us to be like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. God wants us to stand up for Him and put all evil down. When these men refused to worship a statue of the king, their lives were threatened.

The king tried to kill them by throwing them in a fiery furnace. But an angel was sent down to save them. Everyone saw how truly powerful God is.

You can trust God. When bad things happen, you can pray and feel your spirits lift. But you need to remember who "you" are. You need to be strong too. When kids at school or at a party want to tell fortunes, play with toys that supposedly tell the fortune, call a psychic or even tell horrible ghost stories, say "No!" Leave the room. Play something else.

Don't read evil books or watch movies about evil spirits or even happy little ghosts. These things are not for us. God is in charge of the entire universe. You don't have to fear aliens, or evil spirits. No one has power over you when you serve Jesus and call on His name to save you.

If you've made a mistake and sinned, quickly beg God to forgive you. Then call on Him, in the name of Jesus to help you, to take away the fear and to make evil leave you. He can. He will. He cares for you. You are never alone. Keep your heart and mind clear of evil and clean and trust in your Savior. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

DISTRUST      THROW  
ALL              OUT  
UGLY             ALL

WITCHCRAFT      UNGODLINESS  
CALL              ALL  
ON                  POWER  
GOD                TO  
TRUST              SAVE  
HIM                HIS  
AND                CHILDREN  
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J	N	I	J	L	U	S	B	E	L	R
U	H	I	S	Y	E	T	E	N	E	B

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My family and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers in behalf of Brother Anthony Loyalvo during his illness, and also for all of your loving cards and prayers after his passing. They have been very comforting. God bless each one of you.

Love in Christ,  
Sister Anne Loyalvo



## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Aliquippa, PA

By Sister Dora Rossi

The Ladies' Uplift Circle in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania has been busy this past year with a variety of activities. These activities were to support the surrounding community and the Church.

On two occasions, the Local Circle donated baked goods to the community "Meals on Wheels"

agency. This agency helps to support those that are less fortunate. We felt a wonderful blessing as we endeavored to help the needy and at the same time, set an example for the Lord. We are often reminded that we must "love our neighbor as ourself."

The sisters held a special meeting at the home of Sister Erma Rossi, who because of poor health, is not able to attend our meetings. We all received a blessing as each sister bore her testimony. The fellowship and love of God was wonderful. What a tremendous gift, the love of God. We shared it among ourselves and especially with Sister Erma Rossi.

We also visited another shut-in sister, Antoinette Giannetti at the Beaver County Geriatric Center. She was honored by over twenty visitors

who sang several hymns. The sisters of the Local Circle presented her with a beautiful plant to brighten her surroundings. We pray that it will be a reminder of our visit and our love.

The sisters wanted our Local Circle members, Sisters Erma Rossi and Antoinette Giannetti who can no longer make it to the meetings, to know how much they are missed and loved.

We had a number of fund-raisers during the year. The intent was to support the goals of the General Church Ladies' Uplift Circle, to support our Local Circle and to support our branch. May God bless our Circle as we endeavor to serve God and to help the many missionaries with our prayers and financial support.



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

### Penn Mid-Atlantic Regional MBA

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

The Penn Mid-Atlantic Regional MBA held their annual retreat at Antiochian Village, September 20-22, 1996. The theme was FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY.

We arrived on Friday evening with great anticipation for a blessed weekend. After a short orientation meeting, the remainder of the time was spent in fellowship and greeting each new arrival.

Saturday began very early in the morning with a beautiful prayer meeting. Brother Bill Colangelo spoke to us in our chapel service. He reminded us that "We Have An Anchor" in Jesus Christ. He told of an experience his mother had many years ago that expressed a marvelous faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. The

Lord actually repaired a fallen ceiling because she put her service to Him before anything else. Brother Bill asked us, "Believeth thou this?" Brother Jim Speck also spoke. He likened the trials and temptations in our lives as going through the fiery furnace. We could be consumed but with faith in our God, He will bring us through. We are like those vessels of gold. Each time we go through that furnace we become stronger, purified by the fire of Jesus Christ. The remainder of the day was filled with the usual activities. Everyone talked about the spirit-filled seminar classes as they discussed FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY. The afternoon was taken up with recreation and craft classes. The children had a great time taking part in a carnival of games.

Our first speaker on Saturday evening was Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. He read the scripture about the Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at the well. Jesus asked this woman for a drink. Then Jesus told her, if she knew who He was, she would ask Him for that living water, that water that would quench her thirst so that she would never thirst again. Brother Pete asked, "Are you thirsty, tonight? Are you running to and fro trying to quench that thirst, but it

can't be quenched?" Listen to that still, small voice that says, "I am the living water, drink of me and I will quench your thirst." What Jesus offers us is sweet but we have to exercise faith to receive it. If your soul has been crying for the living water, open your heart that you will never thirst again. Brother Paul Palmieri reminded us that we were like this woman before we met the Lord. But thank God, as He forgave this woman, He forgave us. Now we have hope because He loves us. Brother Paul Ciotti exhorted us that we are at the fountain drinking. The woman at the well left her water pot to go tell the others about Jesus. Are we willing to leave our water pots or those natural things in our lives that mean nothing and pick up our spiritual water pots to be filled with Faith, Hope and Charity? We are the wells, to become fountains, to extend to others that they too can drink of this living water. Our message is a message of hope to the world in despair. The remainder of our meeting was spent in giving testimonies and singing praises to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Brother Tony Ricci opened our Sunday Service. He read from the

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## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism In Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

On August 18, 1996, we thanked God to again be at the water's edge to witness the baptism of Oswaldo Reyes into the Church. He was baptized by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Jim Crudup. As one brother put it, Brother Oswaldo was the "first fruits of Joseph," being the first young person from the Seed of Joseph to be baptized in our branch. We heard his testimony of how he, while in Maine for the Youth in Action, felt God's call the night before leaving there. While they were singing *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, and Brother Oswaldo was praying within himself if it was his time, a power overtook him and he leaped to his feet during the song and asked to be baptized.

At the water's edge, a sister had a vision in which she saw a personage in black trying to grab Brother Oswaldo but she saw him turn and go the other way. Praise God that through baptism we can turn from Satan and turn from this world to enjoy a life of blessings in serving God. While he was being confirmed another vision was had in which a sister saw Brother Oswaldo turn golden and saw a heavenly personage with his hands on Brother Jim Crudup's shoulders as he confirmed Brother Oswaldo. Another sister said she dreamed there would be more baptisms, but in her dream she saw that Brother Oswaldo was the first. She dreamed this before she even knew of Brother Oswaldo's desire. We praise God for His wonderful manifestations. The gift of tongues came forth while a visitor was testifying during our afternoon MBA. We are reminded of the scripture that teaches us that the gifts would be in our midst so long as we would

believe.

It is truly a joy when one would surrender his life to Jesus Christ and as the angels in heaven were surely rejoicing, we too rejoiced in another one of our children who is safely home. May God bless you all.

### Showers of Blessings in Fort Pierce, FL

By Sister Terri Benyola

May 5, 1996 was no ordinary day for the saints in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. During our testimony meeting three souls made it known of their desire to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ: Brenda Scott, the natural and now spiritual sister of Sister Mary Cason, Melissa Martin, who is a very good friend of Sister Mary Carson and Jim Griffin, the husband of Sister Carol Giovannone Griffin. The saints gathered up hymnals and some belongings and went to the waters of regeneration. Sister Brenda Scott and Brother Jim Griffin were both baptized by Brother Rocco Benyola. Sister Melissa Martin was baptized by Brother Frank Rogolino.

When we returned to the branch, Sister Brenda was confirmed by Brother Norman Campitelle, Sister Melissa was confirmed by Brother Sam Costarella and Brother Jim was confirmed by Brother Norman Campitelle. A wonderful spirit was felt as sacrament was being passed. As this wonderful day came to an end, the brothers, sisters and friends formed a circle of love and we dismissed the blessed day in prayer.

On May 12, 1996, Mothers' Day was a special Sabbath day. The brothers met at the branch early and prepared breakfast for the mothers. What an expression of love! After this act of love, we waited on the blessings of God.

Our service began with the blessing of five children. Amanda Griffin was blessed by Brother Frank Rogolino; Summer Martin by Brother Ron Carradi; Travis Martin by Brother Rocco Benyola; Michael

Martin by Brother Sam Costarella and Daniel Shane Martin by Brother Norman Campitelle. During the blessings a sister had a vision that a personage stood by each Elder and a gold light and white light shown beyond description.

Brother Ron Carradi visiting from the Lake Worth Branch opened the meeting by saying how important our mothers are. He read concerning the two thousand stripling soldiers in the Book of Mormon and how they rehearsed the words of their mothers. Brother Ron also mentioned the necessary role of a mother towards her children. He expounded to us that we should remember our spiritual mother, The Church of Jesus Christ. Let us not take this lightly because it is an honor and a blessing to be a member.

Brother Frank Rogolino spoke, stating it was the prayers of mothers that on many occasions preserved their children. Brother Norman Campitelle asked the children to come up front. One by one he gave each child the microphone and they thanked God for their mothers. What a wonderful blessing our children are to their parents and to the Church. We enjoyed a season of testimony.

It was good to be in the House of the Lord today. Remember us in Fort Pierce, Florida. God bless you.

### News from Hollywood, FL

By Sister Janet Humphrey

The sisters and brothers of the Hollywood, Florida Branch, with God's blessings, have been working very hard towards our goal of a new or expanded building. We have grown in membership to the point that we need to expand our present building or build a new one. Praise God!

Towards this end, we have been raising funds through a variety of activities. We conducted a car wash and in spite of the hot, sunny weather, the saints had a good deal of energy and high spirits as they washed a number of vehicles. We

sold candy and the sale was very successful. It helped us inch our way higher in the building fund, while giving us an opportunity of spreading the word that Jesus is the way and telling people about The Church of Jesus Christ.

A few brothers and sisters hosted and prepared a delicious dinner for our "Latin American Fiesta Fund Raiser." Our hosts were Sister Helen and Brother John Catone, Lisa and Brother Oscar Lopez and Sister Susan and Brother Dennis Moraco. Our special guest for the evening was Brother Mark Mancinelli from the Inner City Branch in Detroit, Michigan. He showed his wonderful photographic slide presentation from his travels around the Southwestern United States and Mexico. May all those who viewed this beautiful collection be inspired to work with the Seed of Joseph.

Please remember us in your prayers. Our desire is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with His help, expand our meeting place so we can comfortably accommodate the membership and visitors. God bless you all is our prayer.

## Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

*By Sister Connie Rossi*

August 25, 1996 was a day of rejoicing and great jubilee at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission as fourteen year old Melissa Rossi rendered obedience to the Gospel and was baptized by Brother Darrell Rossi. It was especially a joyous day for Brother Darrell and myself as Melissa is our daughter. We have been blessed to see two of our daughters baptized within the past two years. Our oldest daughter, Nikki Marcantonio, sixteen, was baptized in 1994.

The day of Melissa's baptism started off with ominous clouds and threats of thunderstorms but the Lord graciously held back the rain for this

blessed event. However, the rain was not the only threat to stop this baptism. The water spot that we have used in the past for baptisms was now roped off with a "No Trespassing" sign across it but we did not let that stop us. We all proceeded to a nearby park and used the park lake.

After Melissa's baptism, we proceeded back to Church where Brother Darrell and Brother Harold Littlejohn laid hands on Melissa and prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit to come upon her life.



**Bro. Rossi baptizing Melissa.**

It turned out to be a beautiful baptism and we thank God for His goodness and mercy and for removing all obstacles from us this day. We also thank Him for calling yet another one of our youth into the Church. We ask all our brothers and sisters to keep our new young sister in your prayers and that many more young and older souls would answer the same call and they, too, would render obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## The Gospel in Cottageville, SC

*By Sister Carol Racz*

The Caring and Sharing Program left on one of its routine trips to the mission in Cottageville, South Carolina on the evening of May 23, 1996. We returned home in the early

morning hours of May 27, 1996. A group of sisters and brothers from the Edison and Metuchen, New Jersey Branches ventured on this missionary effort. There were three sisters, Marge Crupi, Joan Longuillo and Carol Racz and brothers from Edison, headed by Phil Arcuri and Angelo Zaino. Three young people from Edison journeyed along as well—Stephanie Crupi, her sister, Elise and Brother Marc Zaino. Laurie Schmidt represented Metuchen. It was a "sleeves rolled up ready to work" dedicated group. We worked hard and enjoyed the company of all.

The group's main objective was to distribute food and to make connections in an underlying effort to put forth the news of the Gospel Restored. Twenty-seven families were visited and food was distributed to them. A majority of these families were Native Americans of the Edisto Tribe, a branch of the Natchez Kusso Indians. The other families comprised the surrounding needy community. Is there a better combination than to spiritually feed the Seed of Joseph as we endeavored at the same time to feed and clothe, naturally, those who are poor?

A special blessing was added to this trip. During our Sunday service, Sister Juanita Riley had hands laid on as she was reinstated into fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord has abundantly blessed Sister Juanita during the past year. She requests our prayers on her behalf.

The Sunday meeting had an attendance of eighteen, including John Muckenfuss, a representative of the Indian community and members from the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission. The brothers and sisters of Spartanburg always support Cottageville. Brother Ralph Lee Heung, an ordained Teacher, lives in Cottageville, not far from the mission. Every Sunday he conducts scripture lessons for Sister Juanita and visitors. Brother Ralph keeps the "home fires" burning for the mission when the brothers and sisters are away.

We ask you to remember the Cottageville Mission in your prayers.

## Visitors in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

We were honored to have with us Brother Rosario Scravaglieri from Italy and Brother Mike LaSala from Detroit, Michigan in April 1996. The brothers had recently attended the General Church Conference and were visiting various branches. Brother Rosario told us that he had been asked by the General Church to come and visit our branches and to take something back to Italy as a means of reinforcing the branches there. Brother Rosario spoke on the scripture regarding Nicodemus. He asked us, "What is important in order for us to receive eternal life?" He gave Christ's answer, "You must be born again of the water and of the spirit." He directed this part of his sermon to those who have not yet been baptized. It is important that we realize that we are beginning a new life in Christ. For those who have not yet been baptized, he told a little story to illustrate his point.

Once there was a little boy who put his hand into a vase and could not get it back out again. He told his

father, who then asked him to stretch his fingers in and pull up gradually. The boy said, "If I open my fingers, I will drop the money I have in my hand!" This story symbolizes the conflict between the natural and the spiritual within us. Brother Rosario advised us that his wish for us is that our faith and spirituality would always be strong, and wherever we are, to always remain happy in the Lord. He encouraged those who are not baptized to examine themselves and turn to the Lord in prayer, and he is sure we will receive an answer. He exhorted us to not stop praying; to seek and we shall find. The congregation stood as Brother Rosario read Psalm 100 to us, which encourages us in praising God in song and worship.

Brother Mike LaSala continued, speaking of the restoration of this beautiful Gospel by the glorious record, The Book of Mormon. We in The Church of Jesus Christ are a small church in the midst of so many churches, but we are the largest church in the world with the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must believe in our hearts that we have the truth. As Brother Mike spoke the words, "God will bless His Church!", Brother Matthew Picciuto stood up and spoke in the gift of tongues. Such a powerful spirit enveloped us.

The interpretation of the gift of tongues was, "This is My Church. These are My words." Brother Joseph Lovalvo said he felt the power and spirit of God both during the tongues and during the interpretation by Sister Sue Coppa.

Brother Mike spoke on the importance of fasting and prayer—that God has always moved His hand after the brothers and sisters fast and pray. We should feel the conviction in our hearts that this is the true Gospel Restored in our Church.

Many anointings and testimonies followed. Brother Ken Brown was anointed and instantly healed of severe back pain as our Brother Rosario began to speak a prayer for his healing.

In closing, Brother Matthew Picciuto reminded us to guard this

beautiful faith which we have been given. Such a refreshing fountain of living waters was there for us to drink from this day. We all left spiritually filled and joyous for the great blessings God had poured out upon us.

## The Nephites Three

By Sister Mabel Bickerton

Have you heard of the Nephites three,  
Left on earth for you and me?  
The Restored Gospel has made plain  
Here among us they still remain.

John the Beloved has work to do,  
Like these three, strength to renew,  
For the weary, the weak and needy,  
All mankind may live spiritually.

The saying went abroad about John  
The words of Jesus to follow on—  
He may tarry until I return,  
What is that to thee, be firm.

Great and marvelous works by their  
hand  
Will minister to tribes of every land,  
The Jews and Gentiles shall know  
them not,  
As God's great plan shall be wrought.

In a twinkling of an eye their change  
shall be,  
When the Father comes on earth to see,  
Many souls below who have found  
the way,  
The Gospel of Truth, enjoy and obey.

May we live as saints and worthy be  
To meet with John and the Nephites  
three,  
And sing upon that golden shore  
To dwell with Christ forever more.

### Announcement

For January, 1997 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	5.75%
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:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

### Notice

Please remember to send in your address changes as soon as possible. Every *Gospel News* that comes back to the Print House costs the Church 50¢.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**To All Our Readers**

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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**BOOK OF MORMON continued...**

claim that Isaiah 29 has been fulfilled by the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Let us see in what manner.

The Book of Mormon plates were hid in the earth. After being translated and read, it is as one "speaking from the dust." The book has a "familiar spirit," as its teachings are like those of the Bible. The record was delivered by an angel to an "unlearned man" (Joseph Smith), the "learned man" being Professor Anton to whom some of the characters from the plates and their translation were taken for examination. The record teaches such doctrines as faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. The book did come forth just "a little while" prior to "Lebanon becoming a fruitful field." Historians tell us that in the year 1853, rains again descended upon Palestine, which for years had

been a barren waste. The Book of Mormon came forth in 1827. Since, according to prophecy, a book was to come forth just previous to the restoration of Palestine's fertility, the coming forth of the Book of Mormon must be this book, as it fulfills the prophecy in every respect, and no other book of which we know identifies itself as the one that does this. If the book has not already come forth, it is too late now for it to fulfill prophecy.

For a description of Joseph's land (America), see Deuteronomy 33:13-17. Also see John 10:16, "Other Sheep" (House of Israel), and Psalms 85:11 (Book of Mormon).

**MESSAGE continued . . .**

Spartanburg and Gastonia, NC; and St. John, KS.

Southeast: Orlando and Homestead, FL; New Orleans, LA; and Atlanta, GA.

Southwest: Lakeside and San Carlos, AZ; Tse Bonito, NM; and Paonia and Denver, CO.

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

The world needs the "youth in action." It needs the older people in action. It needs the entire membership of His Church in action.

Wherever the Church is established, in every city and country, we must reach out to the souls of men and women. We must establish new branches and missions. We must reach out to the souls of men and women to insure they have an opportunity to hear and obey the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Consider the beauty of hearing one person say, "I am glad you came my way! Because of you, I met the Master. Because of you, I met The Church of Jesus Christ!" Praise God! What a testimony!

Serving the Lord is not limited by age. Remember that Moses was

eighty years of age when God used him for His purpose. Moroni was twenty-five years old when he was appointed Chief Captain in the eighteenth year of the reign of Judges.

Time slowly but surely is passing away. Time slowly but surely is ticking away. We must take advantage of each moment, each opportunity. Each day that passes by could be a missed opportunity. We must make each moment count!

Suppose the Lord asks, "what have you done for me today? Can you answer in the affirmative that you did something for Him? Can you tell Him that you testified of Him to someone today?"

Did you call someone today? Did you visit someone today? Did you pray for someone today? Did you go to Church for the weekly scheduled services?

Please do not waste the time that God has given you. It is precious. It is up to you what you do with it. It is up to you what you make of it. Use it for His honor and His glory. It will be counted to you for good.

**PENN MID-ATLANTIC MBA continued . . .**

third chapter of Hebrews. He told us that we have the great house of God within us. If we are the redeemed of Jesus Christ, we should have confidence in this house that is built upon a rock. It is made with the best materials because the carpenter and designer is Jesus Christ. He hopes there is that living water flowing from our house. If we have any clogs in our pipes, we should clean them out. There has to be life in our water so that others may dip in and drink from us. We want to make sure today that the water flowing from our threshold is clear, pure and full flowing, filled with Faith, Hope and Charity. Brother Peter Giannetti, Sr., asked, "Whose house are we?" God called us to labor and bring the Restored Gospel to the

(Continued on Page 12)

## Children Blessed

Marissa Nicole Campitelle, daughter of Norman and Susan Campitelle, was blessed on September 29, 1996 at Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan.

Dominic Anthony DiMelis, son of Brother Dino and Sister Christina DiMelis, was blessed on September 15, 1996 in Branch #2, Allen Park, Michigan.

Edward Anthony Callahan, son of Edward and Marina Callahan, was blessed in the Cleveland, Ohio Branch on September 15, 1996.

Thomas Anthony Salerno, son of Tom Joseph and Shirley Ann Salerno, was blessed in the Niles, Ohio Branch on April 14, 1996.

## OBITUARY

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

### WILMER (RED) M. BARRON

Brother Wilmer M. Barron of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to his eternal reward on October 19, 1996. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alverta Bartock Barron and other family members. Brother Barron is survived by one brother, Earl E. Barron; two sisters, Edna Barron and Mrs. Samuel Jean Polgrato; three sons, Regis Barron, Robert Barron and Leonard W. Barron; one daughter, Shirley Hodgkiss; eleven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDING \*

Judith Marie Dix and Ronald Harkovich were united in marriage on June 28, 1996 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan.

### PENN MID-ATLANTIC MBA continued . . .

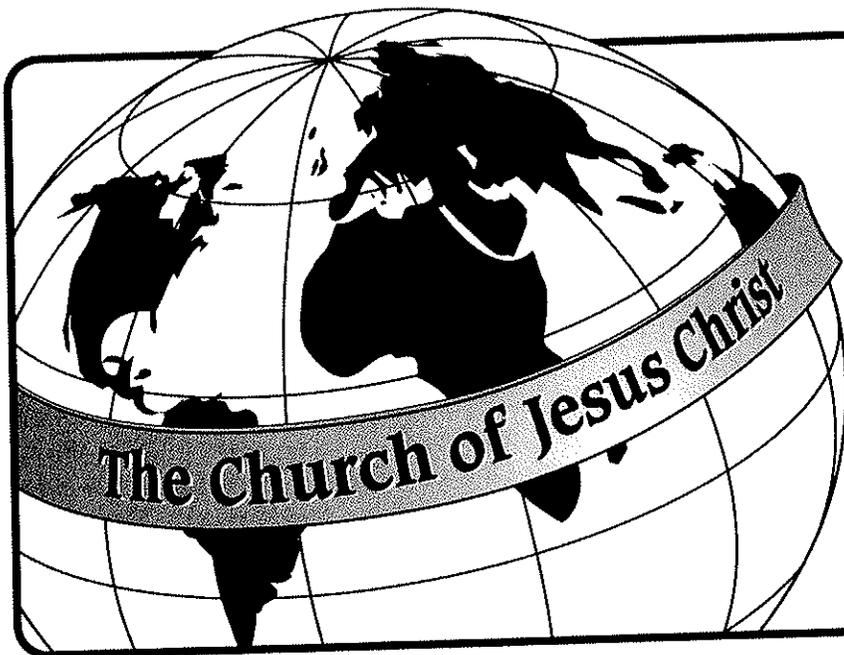
world. Our calling is a serious thing. Are we willing to give our all to see the Gospel go forth? We all have a part to play and we better play it well. Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., advised us that if we are the house or temple of God, then God dwells within us. We should put our confidence in Him and He will never fail us. Charity will never fail. Why? Because it is Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son for us. Brother Paul Palmieri testified of being at peace because he was with the people of God. He said it is Jesus Christ who makes our house of any worth. We don't worship the house but the builder, Jesus Christ. Isn't it beautiful to say I belong to Jesus Christ and I don't have to worry anymore? Get your family and friends to come to Jesus so that they might feel this comfort zone. Brother Bob Nicklow thought about Philip and the eunuch. After the eunuch heard the word and saw the water he asked, "What hindereth me to be baptized?" Brother Bob related a dream he had where he saw a large body of water and a woman in the water with only her head showing. He was given to understand she represented those who were struggling. He encouraged those who were struggling to listen to the call and let go of the world, the Lord has His hands outstretched. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri said the call has gone out. The waters of life are here in The Church of Jesus Christ. He testified that the scripture that Brother Ricci used was also given to him before the meeting.

Brother Rich Scaglione led the congregation in a special prayer for a young boy from Muncey who is very ill. Brother Patrick Monaghan, our camp director, testified how the Lord blessed him with the theme, FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY after much fasting and prayer. We can truly say, it was a weekend well spent in the service of God and in fellowship with the saints.

Some of our upcoming events for the next year, 1997, are:

- January 18, 1997—A seminar at Monongahela, PA
- February 14, 1997—A marriage enrichment weekend
- April 5, 1997—Regional Conference at McKees Rocks, PA
- Memorial Day Weekend—A singles retreat at Vanderbilt, PA
- June 7, 1997—A weekend trip to the Herndon, VA Branch
- September, 1997—Annual weekend retreat

God bless and keep you all.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 1997

Volume 53, No. 2

## Baptism in Warren, Ohio

*All to Jesus, I surrender,  
All to Him, I freely give.*

Our Sunday morning service was opened at the waters of baptism with saints from Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Sister Abby Holan asked for her baptism at campout and was baptized in the Warren, Ohio Branch by Brother Ralph Cartino on July 14, 1996. The Spirit of God was felt from the time we gathered at the water's edge. Brother Mike Nuzzi had a vision of a personage in a white robe walking beside Brother Ralph as he escorted Sister Abby into the water. As Brother Ralph brought Sister Abby out of the water, the personage put a gold crown on her head and it had jewels in it!

Returning to Church, Brother Ralph Cartino, Jr. and Sisters Barb and Deanna Nuzzi sang the beautiful and fitting hymn, *I Surrender All*. A prayer that God's spirit would be with our sister was offered by Brother Phil Jackson. Brother John Genaro pronounced the Holy Ghost upon Sister Abby.

Brother Bob Batson opened the meeting by saying that this day was a day of celebration not only for Abby, but for the saints as well. He focused on the young adults that

have made their commitment to Christ and how they influence those around them and those who are growing up in the Church that are younger than they are. Through the years, parents offer many prayers for their children as they grow up, from the time they are born and blessed in this Church until the time when they are at the age of accountability. The responsibility we have, as parents, is very great. He likened this to Alma and his son Alma and the four sons of Mosiah. Despite the error of their ways, their parents continued to pray that they might turn to the works of God. The prayers of Alma were not in vain. An angel of God spoke to these young men with such power that they repented of their sins and the persecution they gave to the Church. We as parents are in the same position as Alma was in. We want our children to feel the authority that was brought to earth by Jesus Christ and given to this Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Collectively, we are all their mothers and fathers, having the same desire as Alma had for his son. There comes a point where we need to let go and let God work with the young. By God using His Spirit, He leads us to Him, not by forcing us,

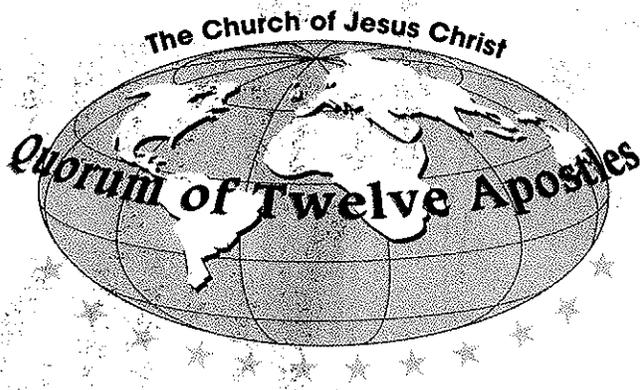
but through His grace. We rejoice to see our children come to Christ just as Alma did.

We need to glorify God for His mercy and goodness toward us. Brother Bob encouraged us not only to remember the young people but all those who come into contact with The Church of Jesus Christ. We should pray for them as if they were our children, praying for their souls, to see the power and feel God's Spirit.

Brother Phil Jackson followed and continued on the story of Alma and how God had a great work for him to do along with the sons of Mosiah; they converted thousands of people into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He then commented on the saying "Why me?", turning this phrase from a negative to a positive "Why me? Why did God pick me? Why did God choose you for His kingdom?"

God picked each of us for a purpose. Of those who we see as doing great works, it's easy for us to answer that question. Why does God call the crippled, those less fortunate? So that they can glorify His name to others. "What is our purpose? What has God called me to do?" We all have a job—to labor for Him. This is how we fulfill what He has asked us to do. Brother Phil asked that we

(Continued on Page 10)



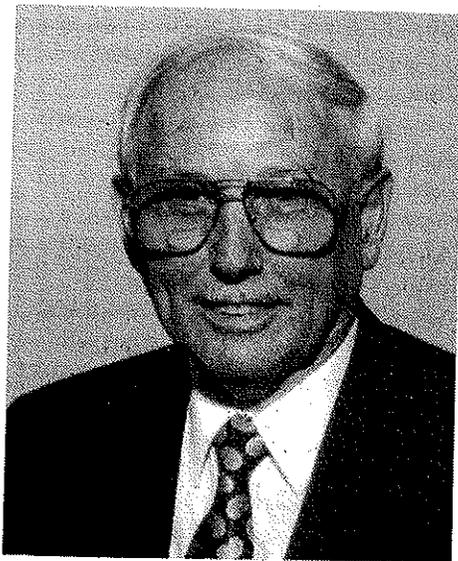
## Is Baptism Essential to Salvation?

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART II AND CONCLUSION

#### 5. Mode of Baptism.

The word baptize is from the Greek "baptizo or bapto" signifying to dip, plunge or immerse. Such classical writers as Polybius and Strabu who lived prior to or at the time of the Savior used the word in this sense from which it is fair to



Apostle Robert A. Watson

infer that such was the meaning intended where it is used in the New Testament.

Mosheim, in his ecclesiastical history Volume 1, page 129 says, "the sacrament of baptism was administered in this first century

without the Public Assemblies in places appointed and prepared for the purpose and was performed by immersion of the whole body." Martin Luther says the term baptism is a Greek word; it may be rendered by dipping as when we dip anything in water that it may be entirely covered with water. Calvin said the word baptize signifies to immerse and the rite of immersion was observed by the ancient Church.

Schaaf, an ancient Swiss theologian says, "As to the outward mode of administering this (baptismal) ordinance, immersion and not sprinkling was unquestionably the original normal form; not until the end of the 13th century did sprinkling become the rule and immersion the exception.

John Wesley writes, "Buried with him," alluding to the ancient manner of baptism by immersion. Jeremy Taylor, the learned bishop writes, "The custom of the ancient churches was not sprinkling but immersion in pursuance of the sense of the word in the commandment and the example of our blessed Savior."

Let us now go to the Scripture, both Bible and Book of Mormon, to substantiate the practice of immersion by the early church. In the Bible, the following passages would seem to indicate such practices. Matthew 3:16, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight-way out of the water . . ." John

3:23, "And John also was baptizing in AEnon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized." Acts 8:38, "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Romans 6:3-5, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death . . . For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection."

The Book of Mormon is much plainer in its evidence of immersion as the valid mode of baptism. Please refer to Mosiah 18:12-15, "And now it came to pass that Alma took Helam, he being one of the first, and went and stood forth in the water, and cried, saying: O Lord, pour out thy Spirit upon thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart. And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he said: Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God, as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant to serve him until you are dead as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant unto you eternal life, through the redemption of Christ, whom he has prepared from the foundation of the world. And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water; and they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit. And again, Alma took another, and went forth a second time into the water, and baptized him according to the first, only he did not bury himself again in the water."

III Nephi 11:22-26, "And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his

sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them—Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: 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. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.”

The above Scriptures indicate from facts such as much water, the entering in of both the minister and the candidate into the water and there being much water that immersion was the common practice.

As we investigate history, we conclude that immersion and other aspects of baptism were changed. In the early church, baptism was administered upon admission of faith and evidence of repentance and was performed by immersion at the hands of one having priesthood authority. There were no delays, such as evidenced upon the day of Pentecost and in the case of Philip and the eunuch.

In the second century, however, priestly mandate restricted baptismal ordinances to two times, Easter and Whitsuntide. A long and tedious preparation was made by the candidate; he was known as a catechumen or novice in training and according to some authorities it took them on a three year preparatory training program. Also in the second century, additions were made to the ordinance. The newly baptized were treated as infants and were fed milk and honey in token of their immaturity. It was also a practice to place salt in the mouth of the newly baptized member as a symbol of purification and the actual baptism was both preceded and followed by an anointing with oil.

Early in the third century, the form of baptism began to be changed, up to this time, it was immersion—Cyprian, bishop of Carthage during a controversy about

respecting rebaptism of those who denied the faith during the days of persecution, decided that those in ill health who could not be immersed could be sprinkled. The first case of this kind stated by Eusebius was Novatus, a heretic who created schism in the Church.

In the year 253 A.D., a council of sixty bishops in Africa, at which Cyprian, bishop of Carthage presided, discussed whether infants should be baptized within two or three days after birth, or whether it should be deferred until the eighth day as was the custom of the Jews on circumcision. The council decided they should be baptized at once within a day or two after birth. Infant baptism is not valid according to Scripture. Moroni 8:12-14, “But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism! Wherefore, if little children could not be saved without baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell. Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity; for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity; wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell.”

Baptism of infants or pedobaptism (Greek) paidos meaning child and baptismos meaning baptism as it is styled in theological lore. There is no authentic record of infant baptism having been practiced during the first two centuries after Christ and the custom did not become general before the fifth century.

In the early part of the 16th century, a sect arose into prominence in Germany called Anabaptists, distinguished for their opposition to practice of infant baptism and they demanded that all its members who were baptized in infancy be baptized again.

Some pedobaptists have tried to prove analogy between circumcision

and baptism without warrant; circumcision was made as a mark of a covenant between God and Abraham and was indicative of their freedom and nowhere is circumcision made a means of remission of sins. The rite was for males only, baptism is for both sexes.

## 6. Authority to Baptize and do the Work of the Ministry.

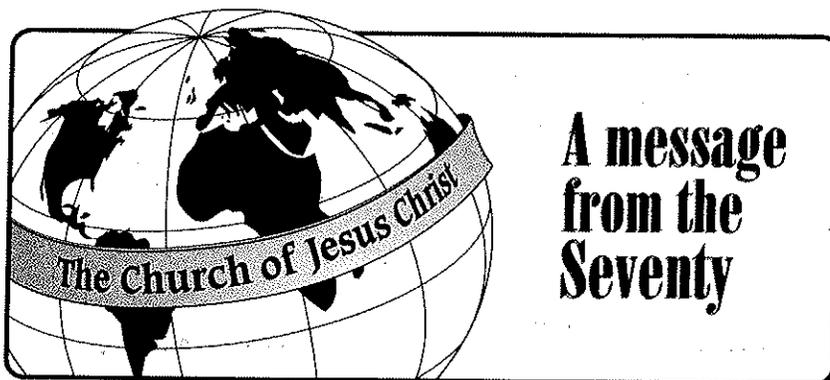
One cannot approach the Ministry as a secular profession or as an escape mechanism to escape the world of business. It is the highest calling to man for service and carries with it responsibilities that encompass the mind, body and spirit. One cannot baptize without due authority and calling. We are chosen for this work by God. John 15:16, “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 . . .”

The great commission found in Matthew 28:19 specifies without any doubt that the disciples were authorized to baptize, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

In the Book of Mormon it explicitly states in III Nephi 11:19-22, “And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and did kiss his feet. And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him. And the Lord said unto him: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again descended into heaven. And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize . . .”

Jesus also gave the disciples on this land authority to convey the Holy Ghost upon those whom they prayed. III Nephi 18:36-37, “And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of these sayings, he touched with his hand the disciples whom he had chosen, one by one,

(Continued on Page 11)



## General Church President Invited to Speak to the Quorum of Seventy

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

It was reported in this column several months ago that General Church President Dominic R. Thomas had been invited to speak at the Semi-Annual Conference of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists last October. This was the second time he had addressed the group, the other occasion being in 1984.

In his delivery, Apostle Thomas dwelled on the important tasks required in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He reviewed the progress being made by the Seventies, notably through the Missionary Operating Committee. Furthermore, he acknowledged the Evangelists for their labors in both the foreign and domestic fields and he also cited the other Elders and members who have been active in reaching out to individuals seeking salvation.

### COMMITMENT

His comments about the depth of commitment that is needed in performing this work were particularly noteworthy. He reflected on the sacrifices and time involved in doing what is needed and he thanked all the laborers who have participated, most of whom also have used their own resources as much as they could.

An Evangelist before he was ordained an Apostle many years ago, Brother Thomas was very insightful as he recalled his experience as an

Evangelist and some of the brothers who had led the Seventies in the past. He also reviewed the successes accomplished through God's direction, protection, and help. He underscored specific challenges which are inherently involved in being an Evangelist, and the enthusiasm and determination which have always been required in declaring the good news of the Gospel were emphasized.

The brothers were uplifted by Brother Dominic's evaluation. His insights on what presently can be done and how God can bring the increases were straightforward and perceptive. Analyzing the importance of what he was saying, the attendees were very affected by how he characterized the hopes for the future. In his appraisal, he stated the objectives to be reached and the ways to attain them. He said there was no easy way of getting the job done but that God will bless us if we persevere in our efforts.

### UNITY

The necessity of being united in working for the Lord was specifically detailed. Brother Thomas said he was happy for the harmony that is present between the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. He said it was inspirational and highly encouraging to see and feel the mutual respect and

love that are shown. He also pointed out how essential it is for this cooperation to be evident as the Gospel is being expanded to many parts of the world. He stressed that this unity must also be exhibited and sincerely felt throughout the Church and went on to state that all officers and members of the Church must be closely linked spiritually so that successes around the globe can continue.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Brother Thomas specified that, in being highly committed to working for the Lord, the Evangelists must always remember their responsibilities to preach, to be diligent workers, to be role-models to other Elders, and to be unceasing in seeking the Lord's guidance and help.

In reflecting on work in mission fields, he said we must let our people know what is being accomplished, and he depicted how important it is to get the information 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 Dominic said he was pleased that the Seventies recognized the hard work that many older Evangelists had done for the Church and that they demonstrated their appreciation to these individuals who had retired after serving so faithfully for many years. He said this allowed the retirees to feel valued, as they were honored in a very heartfelt, courteous, and dignified way. This recognition also applies to those who have passed on and whose families were given remembrances of their service.

In conclusion, Brother Thomas said he was highly supportive of a Second World Missionary Conference, which the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists was proposing. (Two days later the October General

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A foundation is the basis on which a thing stands, is founded or supported.

A rock is a hard, naturally formed mass of mineral or petrified matter. A rock is also someone or something that is very firm, stable or dependable.

Sand is loose, granular, gritty particles of worn or disintegrated rock, finer than gravel, and coarser than dust.

Make your selection! Would you like a foundation of rock or sand? The answer is obvious. The greatest foundation is rock, that hard mass of matter, that someone who is very firm, stable and dependable. That foundation is Jesus Christ.

We sing that glorious hymn, *My Hope Is Built*. It states, "My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."

The wise build their house on Jesus Christ. Why? He is that solid rock. He is that solid rock for all mankind. The wise still seek Him. The wise shall always seek Him.

With Jesus Christ as our foundation, we can overcome the world. With Jesus Christ as our foundation, we can endure all things. In Him, through Him and by Him, we shall overcome all things that are detrimental to our spiritual health and welfare of our soul. We will not be moved by the wind and rain of the world. We can stand firm on the foundation of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus." No one else will do. No one else can do. There is no other!

We read in Helaman 5:12, "And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fail."

This instruction by Helaman to his sons, Nephi and Lehi, is a powerful reminder of who is the one and only key to salvation. It is direct yet is a plea of love and encouragement. It parallels the Lord's instructions He gave when He visited the Americas. The Lord said it more than once that we must build on His doctrine, His rock so the gates of hell are shut and cannot prevail against us.

When Moses smote the rock, it provided living water for the congregation. The Scriptures tell us the water came out abundantly! The Apostle Paul informs us that the Israelites "drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

David said the Lord was his rock and his fortress. He asked the Lord to be his strong rock. He asked the Lord to be his "house of defence." David said, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust."

Jesus never fails. He never leaves you alone. He is always there. He is always ready to help you in your time of need. Jesus Christ will never forsake you.

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

# The Children's Corner



By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever thought about all the people that lived before you? Do you know when your parents or ancestors (great-great grandparents) decided to serve God? Do you know how your grandparents solved their problems of life?

Usually if they taught their kids (your parents) how to be loving, how to repent and how to forgive, then your parents will teach you. When a family is new to learning about God's love, then everyone starts learning together.

Many centuries ago, in the Promised Land of the Americas, a new group of people lived. Their ancestors came over together after the Tower of Babel. They were one race, one religion and one nationality called Jaredites.

At first, the parents and children knew about God's love and power. They taught their children. But little by little, the people began to sin. Kings had more than one wife. People were taxed heavily to pay for the kings' treasures. Good people were put into prison to work for the king there. The leaders sinned.

Sometimes the people rebelled and a new king came along. Eventually a strong king named Coriantumr started to rule. He was trained in all the ways of war and all the cunning of the world. He taught his sons to be like him and to trust in the swords and weapons of war, not in God.

God sent a mighty prophet named Ether to warn Coriantumr to serve God and stop the wars. King Coriantumr became enraged and his people tried to kill Ether. But God

helped Ether hide in a special cave to witness and write down what he saw happen.

Ether had told King Coriantumr that if he and his household repented, the Lord would be pleased and bless them. They would rule in peace. If they did not, then the entire nation would kill off each other. King Coriantumr alone would survive to see another nation take over the Promised Land.

King Coriantumr refused to repent or teach his people a better way. Entire families joined his army. Other families joined his enemy Shez. One horrible battle after the other was fought. Millions died until only King Coriantumr was left. He was sorry too late.

He traveled south and eventually met up with a new group of people who'd come to the Promised Land. These were the people of Mulek who joined the Nephites eventually. The nation who turned away from God was utterly destroyed.

They were replaced by the great ancestors of today's Native American (or Indian) peoples. One of those great men, Moroni, translated the ancient records before he died. We have them in the Book of Mormon.

Today, when scientists who study ancient people say "no one knows why these great civilizations disappeared," we know! They forgot to teach their children to love one another, to repent and to live by God's laws. That's all!

With care,  
Sister Jan

Ether 15

AFTER	REPENT
THE	ETHER
TOWER	A
OF	PROPHET
BABEL	OF
THE	GOD
JAREDITES	TOLD
MULTIPLIED	HIM
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M	Q	T	H	E	B	N	I	S	R

## Special Request

The Americas Missionary Operating Committee (AMOC) requests your assistance in compiling Sunday School lesson plans designed by branches, missions and/or individuals associated with The Church of Jesus Christ. The materials desired should be relative to the primary through young adult classes. These lesson plans will be translated into Spanish for use in our Spanish speaking mission fields. Please send these materials to Brother Paul J. Ciotti, Jr., at the following address: 1835 Devonshire Road; Coraopolis, PA 15108. Phone (412) 264-1981.



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## MBA Organized in Freehold, New Jersey

*By Sister Kathy Kowalsky*

The first MBA Local meeting of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch was held on Sunday, July 21, 1996. There was excitement in the air as most of our young people and many brothers, sisters and the Ministry gathered in support of Freehold's

organizing an MBA Local. It was off to a great start!

The MBA Local officers, Brothers Jim Calabro, John Huttenberger and Boatin Reid greeted all officers and members. The President of our Local, recently baptized Brother Jim Calabro, opened with words of encouragement and instruction for the MBA and its young people. He stressed the importance of having humility before God by resisting the world and directing one's energies into working for God. Therefore, take advantage of what is being offered in your MBA Local, glean from it.

Our next speaker was Brother John Huttenberger, a long standing

and seasoned participant of the MBA. He made it clear that the Freehold MBA Local will focus on the youth in our meetings with the intent of providing an opportunity to be involved in the Church meetings. The young people will also be encouraged to go outside their own Church group, sharing in charitable works, and allowing the opportunity for others to come visit our MBA. Brother John went on to say that this Local is here to meet the needs of the young people of the Church in today's world by providing a spiritual base of support, guidance, growth and of course, love. Please remember our Local in prayer as we go forward in the strength of the Lord.



**Our Women Today**

## Ladies' Uplift Circle General Conference

*By Sister Karen Progar*

From the moment I entered the Greensburg Chapel on Saturday, October 12, 1996, I felt the Spirit of the Lord in the singing and saw His joy on the faces of my sisters. Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, asked, "If our light was shining?" and I can tell you that I saw it, as I looked over the assembly.

Excitement was in the air when the first announcement made was that the General Circle would sponsor another retreat in 1998. Charleston, South Carolina has been selected as the location.

The Regional Presidents shared their reports, verifying that the Circle is busy supporting the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ. Immediately following these reports, our Financial Secretary, Lynette Huttenberger, informed us that collections were up over sixteen

percent, further showing evidence of our sisters' commitment. Sister Lydia Link, Treasurer, informed us that the Circle accumulated \$2,383.00 in this six month's special missionary effort. An additional \$2,600.00 was raised and split equally among the work in India, Italy, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and the Missionary Foundation. The Indian Mission received \$2,466.00. It was truly delightful to hear that such needed assistance was provided to the missionary work of the Church. The next Special Project collection will be directed toward the World Conference Center mortgage.

Sister Mabel Bickerton and Sister Sara Vancik addressed the sisters, sharing with the group their family's desire that the funds in the \$75,000.00 General Circle Memorial Fund, created after the death of their mother, Sister Sadie Cadman, be reallocated to the General Church in order to send missionaries to "new mission fields."

We were pleased to hear from Sister Kay Gray, who shared the experiences of her family during her husband's (Brother Paul Gray) illness. She thanked everyone for their prayers, cards and kindness in the midst of this trial and gratefully expressed that the power of God has been displayed to the family. It was a great blessing to hear her testimony.

After lunch, Brothers Joel Gehly, Frank Natoli and Mark Kovacic addressed the Conference thanking the sisters for assistance in purchasing a vehicle for Kenya. The brothers also announced that Sister Arline and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, General Circle Vice President, will be going to Kenya in January with Brother Frank, Brother Mark and Brother Wayne Martorana, at the request of the Kenyan sisters.

Sister Joyce Ross, President of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Regional Circle wrote a program entitled, "The Light of the World is Jesus," which was presented as our Conference devotions and enjoyed by all. During the presentation, a vision was had in which personages of light appeared behind the choir as choruses of angels.

We thank God for a glorious time of fellowship and the joy of blessings overflowing. Join us on April 26, 1997, in Freehold, New Jersey for our next Conference. You'll bring a blessing and we guarantee you'll take one away with you.

# Ohio Mid-West Region Sunday Conference

AUGUST 25, 1996

By Brother Ronald Giovannone

On Sunday, August 25, 1996, the glorious sounds of songs praising our Creator were being heard in the heavens, as the saints of God were gathering for the Ohio Mid-West Conference. We were blessed to have with us Brother Isaac Smith from the Southwest Region, Brother Flip Palacios from the Great Lakes Region, Brothers Jim Moore, Paul Palmieri and Russell Cadman from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region.

After opening prayer, Brother John Genaro, preparing us for communion, read a few verses from Moroni, chapter 4, and stressed the importance of communion and our commitment we made at the water's edge. The brothers then broke the bread for communion, during which Sister Rose Palacios had an experience where the Lord said unto her that He was here and to "Come and Dine." Being true to His word, a spirit of invitation would be felt throughout the service.

Brother Paul Palmieri opened the service by relating his testimony of his conversion into the Church. He read from the book of Enos and expressed the main purpose of this Gospel is repentance and baptism. Brother Flip Palacios followed Brother Paul and compelled us to call upon the name of Jesus. The word of the Lord was then spoken by Brother Joe Genaro, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus the sweetest name I know." Brother Flip related several recent experiences from the Southwest campout and how God had truly blessed them with several individuals giving their life to the Lord. Brother Jim Moore then followed the brothers with an invitation for those whose spirits were dead and wanted to live. He rehearsed Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, and how the Lord told him to speak unto the

bones and they arose to life.

Sister Karen Progar sang, *Come and Dine*. The officers asked all of the young people to come up and sing *It Is Well With My Soul*. A prayer was offered over the young people for God's protection and guidance through the upcoming school year. Several of the young people testified about their conversion into the Church and their recent trip with the Youth in Action. Sister Dee Nuzzi and Sister Mandy Genaro sang, *I'll Work For You*, their theme song from the trip to San Carlos for the Youth in Action.

There were anointings for affliction, which included Brother John Genaro and Brother Joel Gehly for their upcoming surgeries. Brother John, after being anointed, related his testimony about how God had spared his life many times, and how He called him into the Church.

I was reminded of the scripture found in Hebrews, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" The Lord has given us many wonderful testimonies that can even pierce the most dormant souls and bring them unto life. God is good, and His mercy will endure forever! Amen!

## Note of Thanks

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you who donated to my book, *Precious Promises*. My wish is for God's richest blessings for your kindness. God is so good to me. In spite of my illness, each day I praise His name for the strength He grants me. I praise His name for allowing me seventy years in the Gospel. To Him I give all the honor and glory for a full and happy life. He gives me strength and courage to carry on.

With love to all,  
Sister Carmella Mazzeo

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

How do we ever thank each of you for your many prayers and love sent our way? We have four beautiful "miracles," all healthy and perfect. Where would we be without God and our brothers and sisters?

(Continued on Page 11)



Sister Tammy and Brother Eldon  
Rebecca, Ryan, Seth and Nicholas



## Branch and Mission News

### Heeding the Call of the Lord

By Lynne Nieves

On August 25, 1996, Sister Kathy Cook surrendered her soul unto God and began a new life, one in which she will begin to build a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior and strive to serve Him until that great day when she will meet the Master.

During our Sunday service at Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan, in the midst of a morning full of the spirit and inspiration of God, the Lord moved with His miraculous power and mercy. Sister Kathy's daughter Mindy, anointed earlier in the service for a knee injury, had just been blessed with God's healing touch. She stood and proclaimed that the Lord had healed her of the injury that forced her to walk with a cane. As Sister Kathy and her daughter embraced, the Lord spoke to Sister Mary Jo Jones who was seated behind Sister Kathy and her family, "Kathy, do what I have called you to do."

Sister Mary Jo, not knowing who Kathy was, her heart pounding with an overwhelming spirit, leaned forward and confirmed that Sister Kathy was indeed the Kathy of whom the Lord had spoken. Sister Mary Jo told Sister Kathy of what the voice of the Lord had said and that these words were for her.

The meeting came to an end and as we stood singing with the spirit that we all felt that day, Sister Kathy called out that she wanted to be baptized! Brother Larry Champine performed the duties of the baptism and Brother Louie Pietrangelo performed the confirmation of the Holy Spirit.

This beautiful day ended as it began, full of the blessings of God. What's important to note is that Sister Kathy didn't shut out the call

of the Lord. She listened to the Lord and obeyed His beckoning to join The Church of Jesus Christ and become a soldier of the cross.

An example was set on this day to learn from. Fight through the anxiety, fear, and confusion! It too will pass. Listen to the Lord! Become what the Lord wants us to become! Do what the Lord has in store for us to do!

As Brother Larry Champine preached earlier in the service, "True wisdom comes when we seek God's perfect will for our lives."

### A Testimony

By Sister Connie Z. Leopoldo

The November 1996 Editorial in the *Gospel News* reminded me of a wonderful experience I had many years ago. I would like to share it with you.

A sister had offended me. She hurt my feelings badly and I was very discouraged. When it came to the monthly fasting and prayer service, I said to myself, "I'm not going to go to the fasting and prayer service." Actually, prior to this, I was so discouraged, I was not able to pray.

I knew that if I did not attend the service, after these many years in the Church, I would not receive my blessing. So, I practically crawled to the fasting and prayer service. I was convinced that I would not pray. You might say, I was determined not to pray. I asked to be anointed for strength. When I returned to my seat, the Lord spoke to me. He said, "Say, thank you, thank you, thank you." After this experience, I felt prompted and directed to pray.

I still use these words to praise God and our Lord, Jesus Christ. I thank God for His goodness towards me and for granting me the Holy Ghost to lead, guide and direct me.

In that same meeting, the Lord also gave me three songs that the saints of God should sing to His honor and glory. The first was *Oh God Give Strength*, the second was

*Standing on the Promises*, and the third was *I Know Whom I Am Believed*. Since this experience, I have heard these songs many, many times. I heard them in singing, teaching and preaching.

This year marks forty-one years that I have been baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. I was baptized with the following Sisters: Grace Lovalvo, Rosalie Campitelle, Rose Benyola and Rosalie Dipronio. We were baptized by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo at Branch #1, Divine and Hall Streets in Detroit, Michigan. I thank God for everything He has done for me. God bless you all.

### Ordinations in Lake Worth, FL

By Sister Josie Jasmin

Sunday, July 14, 1996 was a special day in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. We gathered to worship the Lord and to witness the

(Continued on Page 10)

### Announcement

For February, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.45%
2 years	5.55%
3 years	5.65%
4 years	5.75%
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:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421

**ORDINATIONS continued . . .**

ordinations of Brothers John Cote and Carmen DiFede into the office of a Deacon and Sister Nancy DiFede into the office of a Deaconess.

Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., read from Timothy, Chapter 3, concerning the office of a Deacon. He also read the duties of Deacons and Deaconesses from the Law and Order of the Church. As Brother John D'Orazio offered prayer that God would bless and consecrate these ordinations, the congregation knelt in prayer.

Brother John Cote had his feet washed by Brother Keith Baldwin and was ordained by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. Brother Carmen DiFede had his feet washed by Brother Scott Monaghan and was ordained by Brother Mike Radd. Sister Nancy DiFede's feet were washed by Sister Linda D'Orazio and was ordained by her natural and spiritual brother, Brother Rocco Benyola. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless our two brothers and sister in their office that God will use them for His divine purpose.

Brother Rocco Benyola opened our meeting and exhorted us and asked the question, "Do we give of our best to the Master?" Brother Rocco stressed how much God loves us and that He gave His only Son for ransom. Our brother spoke beautiful and wonderful words for our souls as he was truly filled with the Spirit of God. He exhorted good words and advice to the newly ordained, to fortify their spiritual needs which

increased this day for them because of their ordinations.

We also participated in the ordinance of feet washing. John, Chapter 13 was read for the benefit of our visitors, so that they would understand the meaning of this beautiful ordinance of feet washing.

It was a blessing to see the families and visitors who came to witness the ordinations and worship with us. May God bless them and all of you. Remember us in your prayers.

**News from Rochester, NY**

*By Sister Carmella D'Amico*

During the past several months, we have been blessed with many visitors in the Rochester, New York Mission. We have experienced the blessings and Spirit of God.

We have enjoyed the visits of Brother and Sister Leonard Benyola and family; Brother and Sister Harold Burge, Sister Peach and Brothers John Genaro and Phil Jackson. Also, Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana have visited and Brother Martorana officiated the graveside services for Brother Ansel (Sam) D'Amico and Sister Geneva Dell.

Brother Andrew Locci was called into God's Holy Priesthood and ordained June 9, 1996 as an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. On this joyous occasion, there were brothers, sisters and visitors from Canada, Italy, New Jersey, Lorain and Niles, Ohio and Lockport, New York.

The Ministry spoke concerning the calling, responsibility and spiritual service required of the Priesthood. Brother Harold Burge washed the feet of Brother Locci and Brother Wayne Mortorana ordained him. Many experiences were related concerning Brother Andrew Locci's calling into the Ministry. We had a wonderful day and experienced a beautiful season of singing, testimony and prayer.

Brother Russ and Sister Lena

Martorana and their granddaughter, Erin, came to visit us on July 7, 1996. Brother Russ chose as his text, Matthew, chapter 3, where John baptized Jesus Christ. During the service, Joanne (Parrone) Clinkscale asked for her baptism. Brother Andrew baptized her, his first, and Brother Russ confirmed her into the Church. During the testimony meeting, Jeanette (Parrone) Clinkscale asked to be reinstated in the Church. She was reinstated by Brother Locci. A beautiful spirit prevailed throughout the service.

We are enjoying wonderful blessings in the Rochester Mission. Come and visit us.

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**Notice**

The Butler, Pennsylvania Mission conducts meetings every Sunday. Meetings are now being held in the YWCA, 120 West Cunningham Street, Butler, PA 16001. The telephone number is (412) 287-5709. Sunday School commences at 9:45 AM. The Worship Service commences at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.

**BAPTISM continued . . .**

examine ourselves and see how God has blessed our lives and what He has done for us. He asked us to offer prayer for others. He encouraged us to send cards to someone, to lift their spirits. Do we realize how important this is? This is sending someone a blessing, knowing that someone is thinking of them. Give your testi-

mony to someone. We are all important and equal in the sight of God. God has not called us to waste time. There is a great work for each one of us. We need to know what our gift is and if we do not know what it is, we need to petition God to find what He wants us to do for Him.

Brother John Genaro followed—Why did Alma petition God for his son and the sons of Mosiah? He saw what they were doing and knew that the only way they could be satisfied spiritually and naturally was to see the blessings of God. Brother John gave his testimony on how he went through many trials during his life. Finding the best way, he chose to stay close to God and follow the Lord. Brother John told how we need to surrender *all* not just a part. The more we give to God, the more He will bless us. Do not hold back from the Lord. Brother John referred to the question Brother Phil asked, “Why me?” Brother John asked, “Why not me?” If there is a God, there has to be a true Church. Why can’t we be members of it? Somebody has to be members of The Church of Jesus Christ who serve God in spirit and truth. Why not us?

Brother Wayne Martorana posed the question, “What will it take for us to listen and to obey what God wants for us in our life?” This lesson is important to us to learn because of the various works God has us do throughout our life.

“There’s no need on the side lines and none on the back lines, but only the front lines are pleading for more.” Brother Wayne talked about the intensity that was evident when Brother Ralph questioned Sister Abby at the water’s edge—the commitment and promise that was being focused on. The Lord invites us to come but He won’t compel us. If we don’t want to have that crown with jewels in it, He will give it to someone else. The best decision we can make is to walk into the waters of regeneration, with that personage next to us, placing that gold crown on our head. It’s not only obtaining the crown, it’s also keeping it.

The evidence of God’s Spirit

was felt throughout the day. We pray that God will bless Sister Abby and others who were recently baptized, that He will make known the purpose and gifts that He has in store for them.

---

### SALVATION continued . . .

even until he had touched them all, and spake unto them as he touched them. And the multitude heard not the words which he spake, therefore they did not bear record; but the disciples bare record that he gave them power to give the Holy Ghost. And I will show unto you hereafter that this record is true.”

### 7. Perpetuality of the Ordinance of Baptism.

The parting command of Christ to His disciples was one that was to carry on until the end of the world. It was to include yet unborn generations. In this command to preach the Gospel with the promise of God’s presence, we note the ordinance of baptism, Matthew 28:19-20, “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. Amen.”

In my final summation, I trust I have been able to impress upon your minds and hearts that baptism is necessary and essential as a requirement for entrance into the kingdom of God. John 3:5, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

It is equally important as to the way we baptize and the early Church taught baptism by immersion. It is also important that baptism must be preceded by the fruits of repentance and must be done with a purpose and followed by a transition from the old man of sin into the new man of Christ.

### MESSAGE continued . . .

Church Conference approved this event for 1999.) The first one had been held successfully in Virginia in 1983. He said the blessings that would be received by all those who would attend would be extremely valuable.

The remarks and comments were important and elevating to everyone, and the resolve was to work even more devotedly in the future.

---

### THANKS continued . . .

May God quadruple His blessings on each of you! Feel free to come and babysit anytime! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to grow!

Love in Christ,  
Sis. Tammy and Bro. Eldon Stowell

---

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

When you are discouraged, He will lift you to higher ground. When you seek Him, you will find Him. When you ask, He will answer. When you knock, He will open the door.

Jesus is the rock in a weary land. He is a shelter in the time of storm. What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear. He loved mankind so much, He gave Himself as a sacrifice for all. He died that mankind would have eternal life provided they follow His commandments and doctrine.

He wipes away your tears. He wipes away all tears. He takes away all gloom and sadness. He washes your garments and makes them whiter than snow!

Jesus Christ did not allow Peter to sink when his faith wavered walking across the water. He will do the same for you. He will not allow you to sink.

The Lord did not permit the Jaredites to journey in darkness aboard their ships. His light was in

(Continued on Page 12)

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Cindy Yvonne Lopez and Lee Pierce Timmons II were united in holy matrimony on August 24, 1996 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Cheryl Lynn Waite and Gregory T. Kocuba of the Butler, Pennsylvania Mission were united in holy matrimony on October 26, 1996 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

**Children Blessed**

Marco James Gogola, son of William and Sharon (Moraco) Gogola, was blessed in Branch #4, Detroit, Michigan on October 27, 1996.

Adam Lee McDowell, son of Annette and William McDowell, was blessed in Branch #4, Detroit, Michigan on October 27, 1996.

Esmerelda Langarica, daughter of Sal and Laura Langarica, was blessed in the San Diego, California Branch on November 17, 1996.

Vanessa Loren DiFede, daughter of Sister Lori and Brother Carmen DiFede, was blessed at the Southeast Region Conference.

Jay Shawn Quinn Ricci Onorato, son of Sharon Onorato and Jimmy E. Moore was blessed on October 13, 1996 in the Brunswick, Maine Mission.

Elizabeth Danese Zaccagnini, daughter of Brother Mario and Sister Sara Zaccagnini, was blessed on September 1, 1996 in the Inner City, Michigan Branch.

Rachel Ann Duane, daughter of Scott and Ann Duane was blessed on July 31, 1996 in the Inner City, Michigan Branch.

**Baptisms and Reinstatement**

Eloy Sanchez was baptized on October 27, 1996 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Sgro and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

Juanita Sanchez was baptized on October 27, 1996 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by and confirmed by Brother Jim Sgro.

Sister Mary (Klingensmith) Savona was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 24, 1996 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

**OBITUARY**

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

JOHN SCAGLIONE

John Scaglione of Monongahela, Pennsylvania passed away to his eternal reward on October 12, 1996. He is survived by his wife, Jean Scaglione; his mother, Sister Rose Scaglione; two brothers, Brother Richard Scaglione and David Scaglione; one step-daughter, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

the stones cut out of the mountain! Christ will be your light if you allow Him.

The Lord never forgot Lehi and his family after they left Jerusalem. He was with them every step of the way. He will be with you every step of the way.

When Lazarus died, he was "called" from the grave by the Lord. He was brought back to life. Jesus Christ will resurrect your soul. He will bring it back to life!

Christ healed everyone that was brought to Him during His visit with the Seed of Joseph. He healed every kind of sickness because He was and is full of compassion. He wants to extend this compassion to you.

In all His pain and anguish on the cross, He took time to forgive the thief by His side. He will forgive you as well.

The world offers sand. The world is sand. It is that other ground that offers nothing. It is that other ground that is sinking and sinking fast!

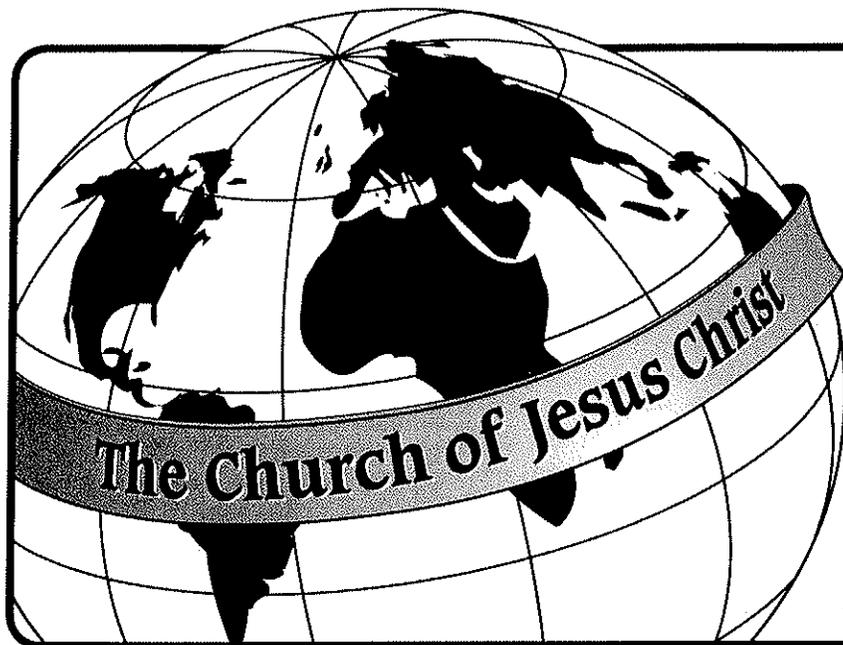
On whom do we rely? On whom are we built? Who is our rock? Who is our foundation? Who is our salvation? The answer is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 1997

Volume 53, No. 3

## Jesus Use Me

By Brother Jeffrey Giannetti

"Jesus use me and oh Lord don't refuse me. For surely, there's a work that I can do . . ."

The words above are from a familiar hymn we often sing in the Church. This hymn along with others like *To the Work, Speak My Lord, If You Would Labor in Zion* and many more, refer to the necessity of working for, or being used by God. In addition to such hymns, the Holy Scriptures are filled with numerous admonitions directing us to the great work of God. In fact, the task of working to bring others to Christ was the last direction given by the Lord to His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Most likely these statements will not generate any controversy and all readers would agree we each need to do all we can for God. The question is "What can I do?" So many times we leave a church service on fire for God and completely ready to work for Him, only to lose the fire in a few weeks as we are unsure of where and how to apply and channel our spiritual energy. This is especially true of our young people who may be even less sure of where and how to be used by God.

In an effort to solve this dilemma for the Church's young people, the GMBA has created a program called Youth in Action or YIA for short. By now, you have probably heard or read about this program over the last three years. The purpose of the YIA is to simply use our young people to evangelize the message of the Gospel Restored and to tell others of the great joy of knowing Jesus Christ. The program is entering its fourth year of activity and thank God, thus far the blessings and successes have been incredible.

Each summer since 1994, numerous young people from all regions of the Church have been sent to various branches and missions with the primary objective of telling others of Jesus Christ. Under the direction of the local Priesthood, the young people have gone door to door, passed fliers, held public concerts, visited the sick, fasted and prayed and worked to bring the message of Christ to those near the branch being visited. In short, they were most definitely being used.

The results of this program have been astounding. Souls have come to Christ, visions have been seen, dreams were had, healings and miracles were experienced and those young people who have participated have become dedicated followers of Christ with a burning love for the

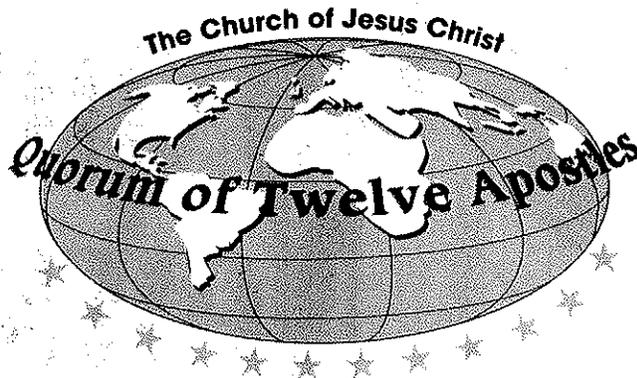
souls of men and women. Along with these results, the branches and missions participating have been greatly blessed by the visits of our young people. The overwhelming response as the tours conclude has been, "How can we get YIA back again next year?"

If you are a young person between the ages of 15 and 25, you no longer need to ponder the question where or how can you be used. YIA is your answer. If you have a desire to work for God and tell others of Christ and until now have not been sure where or how to get involved, this year, YIA can solve that problem.

The key to this program's success thus far, has been the desire and participation of our young people. As news of YIA has spread, the requests from branches to participate as a tour location have been overwhelming. Now, sufficient numbers of volunteers are needed to staff each tour location. As the number of volunteers grows, so will the number of tours, and as a result, the number of people hearing the good news of the Gospel will also grow.

So, if you are a young person and have a desire to work for God, sign up now for this summer's YIA

(Continued on Page 11)



## The Nature of Man

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART I

Many professionals have different views on human nature, and although their works are carefully read and studied, one may still become disconcerted rather than feeling substantially knowledgeable. The determinist has one view; the existentialist has another, and the behaviorist another, ad infinitum. In the religious world, views on human nature are equally divergent, result-



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

ing in a cacophony of dissimilar philosophies and systems.

In this article, I shall endeavor to air my views on human nature, although I do not claim super understanding of human behavior. Also, I do not intend, nor wish to be, in competition with other profes-

sionals, philosophers or theologians. Scripture, combined with years of study and observation, shall be the basis of this paper. I shall also use the term *man*, referring to both men and women, rather than use repetitions such as man/woman, he/she, him/her etc.

Man has been analyzed, psycho-analyzed, criticized, judged, misjudged and virtually dissected, mentally and physically, in the attempt to understand his behavior. But in the final analysis, all attempts to discover his behavior patterns, whether by empirical studies, hypothetical and/or conceptual reflections, still leave him an enigma, a mystery, a being of unsolved equations.

From ages past, man has been the object of scrutiny by scientists, philosophers, sociologists, psychologists and anthropologists. And yet, they have understood very little, about the complex working of the mind (or nature), of this unfathomable, god-like computer system which cannot be replicated by other human beings.

Man has developed art and science, music and medicine beyond comprehension. Science has created technology (machinery and computers) that stagger the mind with their accomplishments. But computers, et al. are cold, unemotional, unrelational and unfeeling, performing only what the mind of man has programmed into them.

But man is not a machine. He is a creation of God with distinct emotions, consciousnesses, impressions and passions. Man is a being created to think and choose for

himself. He feels sorrow and happiness, joy and pain. He cries and laughs; he looks up at the stars and attempts to reach out to them; beyond the horizon, and an em-pelling aspiration is born in him to discover what lies on the other side.

This begs the questions, "Why is man, this noble creature, so easily given to wickedness? Why is he quicker to yield to the enticings of evil than to the ways of righteousness?" If I were to choose a philosophy to understand human nature, I would opt for the words written in one of the Apocryphal Books of the Bible.

In the Book of Esdras, the prophet asked the Lord to reveal to him where the evil heart of man originated. In answer to his question, the Lord sent the angel Uriel who, before responding, asked Esdras three questions: "Weigh me the weight of the fire; measure me the blast of the wind and call me again the day that is past" (2 Esdras 3:1-5). Unable to answer him, the angel, nonetheless, told him what he wanted to know. He said, "For the grain of evil seed hath been sown in the heart of Adam from the beginning and how much ungodliness hath it brought up to this time? And how much shall it yet bring forth until the time of threshing come?" (2 Esdras 3:30).

According to the above, the impulse to commit evil has been transmitted from Adam to his descendants. This opens a new avenue of thinking. If man inherits this evil seed from birth, then the words of Jesus Christ to Nicodemus become revelatory indeed: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.”

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:2-7).

Jesus answered the age-old question asked so many times, “Why must a man be born again?” Suddenly, it all becomes so simple! The doctrine of birth by water baptism and of the Holy Spirit takes on an important and illuminating dimension; one of mystery, yet of beauty and grace.

Although man has a seed of evil transmitted from Adam, God also breathed into Adam a portion of His Spirit, thereby transmitting to him a seed of good. Now there are two warring factions within him, evil and good. However, God gave man the right to choose (free will). This raises him from the status of an animal to that of a reasoning entity, a human being, made in the image and likeness of his Creator.

Man is capable of change, growth (maturity) and transcending himself. From a standpoint of science and sociality, man may develop in maturity, knowledge and wisdom through education and inter-relationship with others. Although education and environment may play a great role in the shaping of his life, true change, moral and spiritual growth and transcendence are achieved only by accepting Jesus Christ. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, man can change, from a lion to a lamb and from a raven to a dove. By obedience to His commandments, he can grow in grace and spiritual stature, and by the gifts of God, he can raise himself from powerlessness to heights of glory; from death to the resurrection even as it is written, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

#### MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Moral development is a gradual, progressive process. Man is generally a product of his environ-

ment and culture (certainly, there are exceptions to this argument). He is not an animal which exists by instinct and learned actions alone. He is not a Pavlovian dog or a trained seal which merely react to certain stimuli. Although made of flesh and blood—as are animals—man has that God-given gift of reason and free will, to choose, whether evil or good, to do or not to do, to act or not to act.

From a physical perspective, I contend that environment, to a great degree, is influential in overcoming inherited traits and characteristics. Also, regardless from which culture one comes, be it North America or other parts of the world; whether it's a culture of poverty, deprivation or affluence, moral change and development are possible. Given the opportunity, man can move towards Idealism: self-determination and a desire for a better life.

From a spiritual standpoint, achieving growth and maturity through Christ Jesus is a certainty. Depending on his desire and determination, man can reach heights beyond his imagination. If he sets his sights on spiritual development, through prayer, fasting, involvement and activity, his very nature can begin to take on the characteristics of the Lord. The genetic seed of evil will be replaced with the heavenly seed of good by being born again of water (baptism) and the Holy Spirit. His nature takes on a new dimension, and the vision of eternal glory becomes constant in his soul. He has been set free from the slavery of sin and degradation through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Man's nature has always craved freedom from oppression and tyranny. For example, the Israelites, in slavery to the Egyptians, and the slaves in the more modern centuries, had one thing in common; a vision of freedom from injustice and persecution; a dream of an idealistic world; an utopian existence, in which all mankind, regardless of race or color, would live in a society of harmonious relationship. The vision of freedom and the right

to live in a world of equality has never been quenched from the hearts of all oppressed people. Some have achieved this, but never without sacrifice of self, even unto death.

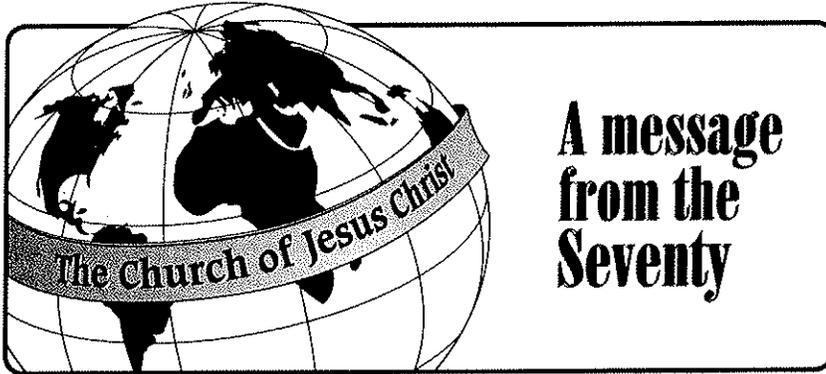
The goal of transcendence in the human heart, however difficult, can be achieved by self-reflection and self-criticism which develops into transformational action. This change can become a reality with the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that without Him, man could do nothing. He meant that the achievement of higher levels of righteousness and spiritual accomplishments cannot be reached by self alone. It is mandatory that man be guided and supported by a higher power, a divine source, other than human provision, to surpass his own limits.

It doesn't take a great deal of psychological dynamics to know that rarely, if any at all, experiments on human behavior and/or moral development are neither positive, inflexible or definite. Illustrations and gradations as graphs and empiricisms given and take on two different individuals seldom, if ever, agree. One can take a population of fifty persons, give them a Kholberg test and come up with one result. Then use another fifty people, give them the very same test, and invariably the results are different.

The reason is obvious. No two—or two hundred—persons are alike. Man is neither a robot nor a clone. When dealing with science (mathematical equations, etc.), one can arrive at the same answer all the time; two plus two equals four. But when dealing with human beings, logic dissolves into thin air. Man is not an abstract entity; he is a creation of God, made in His image; made of flesh and blood, with individual mental and physical responses, with a free will to choose and change.

Man is a glorious, divine mystery, whose potentials will never be thoroughly understood or perceived. Although they try, neither the philosopher, nor the psycholo-

(Continued on Page 11)



## Many Blessings Experienced

*By Brother Steve Champine*

*(Four Church ministers visited our Missions in the nation of India, departing from the United States last November 29 and returning on December 17, 1996. Making the journey were Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, Steve Champine and John Straccia, and they reported that God truly accompanied, directed, and protected them during their travels. Following is a summary submitted by Brother Champine, Assistant Coordinator for India.—Editor's note)*

The best way to describe the recent India visit can be summed up in three words, "Blessings, blessings, blessings." We had the privilege to share the love of God and the close fellowship of the saints in the land of India, as well as witness and feel the outpouring of God's Spirit as it continues to work in that part of the world.

In total, we had the opportunity to participate in forty-three baptisms, the ordinations of six teachers, the blessing of fourteen babies, and the dedication of two new church buildings. In addition, considerable time was spent traveling throughout the Church, teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### FOUR DAY CONFERENCE

A four day General Conference was held at the Madras Branch. It was well attended by the India Ministry. The emphasis of the

conference, as is typical in many foreign fields, was on teaching, and our sessions were inspirational and very fruitful. Topics covered included the love of God, the Lord's Supper, the Restoration, feet-washing, the operation of the Holy Spirit, anointing with oil, the importance of knowing and applying God's Word, and Church structure.

There were occasions to pray and sing together and to enjoy many informal moments discussing the things of God and answering questions. The love, dedication, and desire of the saints in India, who are generally warm and caring people, are quickly learned. In one particular

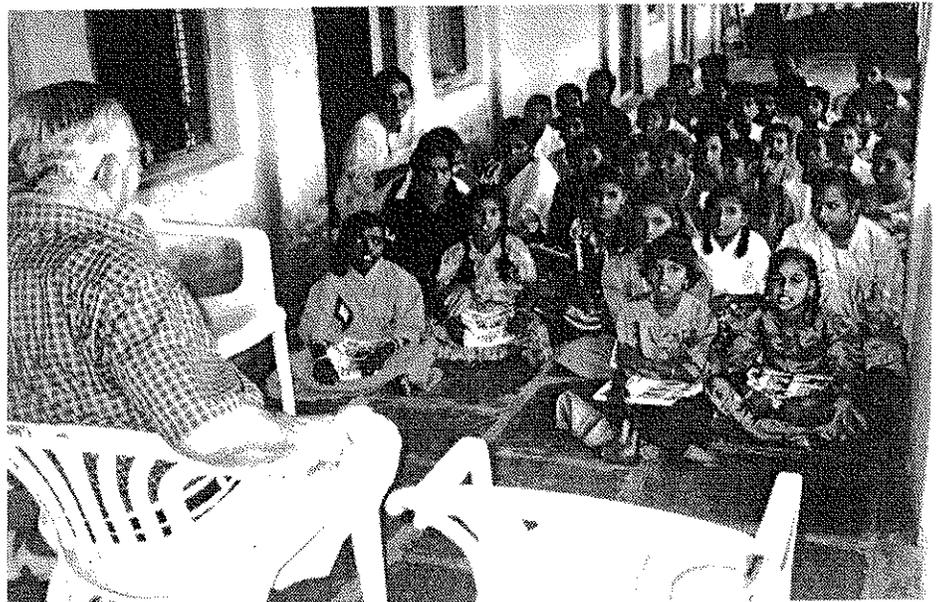
instance, the saints in the conference received news that a second cyclone was ready to come inland in the exact area where Brother Calabrese and I were scheduled to go. Everyone immediately went into prayer concerning this matter, and we were informed the following day that the cyclone had literally stopped and reversed its direction back out to sea. Praise God for His power!

### TWO TEAMS

We split into two teams on December 5. Brothers Palmieri and Straccia traveled south, where they experienced monsoons and much flooding, hampering movement. Brother Calabrese and I traveled north. The four of us reunited a week later and stayed together the rest of the time.

During our trip north to the Tadepalligudem area, we saw the evidences of the early November cyclone everywhere. Huge banyan trees, some twenty to thirty feet in diameter, were toppled like toothpicks. Buildings with missing roofs were commonplace. Power lines were down, and large areas of flooding often slowed our travel to a crawl. This flooding also produced a

**(Continued on Page 11)**



**Apostle Joseph Calabrese addressing a group of orphans in India.**



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

John 13:34-35 states, *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

This love is divine and is excelling. Love, oh what love! Such perfect love! This is the love of God. It is not a pretense! It is not magic! It is genuine! It is real!

Love is defined in the dictionary as "an intense affection for another person based on familiar or personal ties." A commandment is an edict. An edict is "a decree or proclamation issued by an authority and having the force of law." This commandment, this edict was proclaimed by Jesus Christ. He issued this proclamation during the Last Supper.

The love of God is not based on familiar or personal ties. It goes far beyond familiar or personal ties. It has no boundaries. It knows no boundaries. The saints of God have no ties with sinners yet Jesus Christ said we are to love all mankind, including our enemies. We must love the sinner but not the sin. We must love one another.

The love of God overcomes differences between individuals. The love of God overcomes difficulties between individuals. The love of God overcomes personality differences, offenses in life. The love of God overcomes dislike of an individual. The love of God overcomes hatred. King Benjamin instructed his people that they were not to have a mind to injure one another. They were to live peaceably with one another. They were to render to every man according to that which is his due. He also instructed them to teach their children to love one another and to serve one another.

We should remind ourselves there was a time of no contention in the Americas. How is that possible? It is possible! It was possible! The reason for no contention was because the love of God dwelled, it lived in the hearts of the people. The love brought peace, joy and countless blessings. The people were blessed in all their doings and performances.

The love of God is difficult to explain or capture in words. It must be experienced to appreciate it and understand it.

Have you ever heard someone say, "you are different"? Have you ever heard some say, "you look different"? Have you ever heard someone say, "you people are different"? You have heard this said not once but many, many times! Why? Because it is true! It is the love of God that makes us different!

As sons and daughters of Jesus Christ, we understand. Those who are not, do not understand it. That is why the Apostle John said, "therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

A sister of the Church passed away a couple of weeks ago. An interesting conversation took place at the conclusion of the funeral that was conducted in The Church of Jesus Christ. One of the funeral directors visited the family of the deceased and spoke with Apostle Paul Palmieri. The funeral director said, "I have never seen love like I saw today. I have never experienced love like I experienced today." He said he did experience some love in his life. He demonstrated some by holding his outstretched arms about six inches apart. He went on to say, "But today, I experienced this much love." He then demonstrated his experience of much love by holding his outstretched arms as wide as possible! His voice trembled, he was emotional. This is the affect of the love of God. Another funeral attendant said he always feels something different, something special when he comes to the Church, conducting a funeral. He was encouraged to come anytime, not just to conduct a funeral.

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

What do you do when you are really afraid? What do you do when you feel sad and angry because you or someone you love is being hurt? You have a choice; you can fight. You can be angry and pull away or you can try something else. You can take all those feelings of fear and confusion and talk to God. You can cry to Jesus our Savior over and over until fear is replaced by hope.

Two of our Elders, Brothers John DiBattista and Ken Staley just returned from visiting the Church's missionaries in Guatemala. They visited the poor amongst the poor. This is a country, like many others, where the government does not spend money to help poor people.

In Canada and the United States, citizens who are very poor or ill can receive some help from the government. Churches and "drop-in" centers also try to feed and help many desperate people here. But in many countries of the world, people are starving and dying. Our brothers visited a place where there were no jobs available even though people wanted to work. There was no running water or bathrooms.

People build houses of sheets of metal because rainwater does not soak through metal. There are only hardpacked dirt floors, like our pioneer ancestors living in sod houses or cabins had a hundred years ago.

There is no electricity, no television or telephone. People don't have money to spend for pizza, video games or closets full of clothes and toys. They walk a long way to come to our little Church. They work so



hard and have so little.

But the visiting brothers found two amazing things. They found that the people of God there were different from the other poor people. They had love shining from their faces and they had hope in their hearts.

The Bible says in Romans 8:24, "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" In other words, this little band of Church people living in tin huts on a crowded hilltop city in Guatemala, believe in God. They work with God each day to take away their heartaches and troubles and they hope for a better day. They believe and hope in salvation and the coming forth of God's great plan.

This is the kind of faith we each need to have. We need to turn off the television, put away our toys and quietly sit and ask God what to do. When you give God this quiet time, He will bring people to your mind that need prayers. He will remind you of little heartaches or bitterness that you can talk to Jesus and ask Him to take it away. He can give forgiveness to us and bless our enemies if we ask Him.

Fear, anger, self-doubt and hatred can go away when you give it to Jesus. You could be full of love and hope even if you live in a shed-like shelter made out of pieces of metal. Remember our missionaries in all the scattered countries of the world.

Remember to pray for them that their faith and hope and love stay strong. Have your Sunday School

class write them to say hello. Bear one another's burdens, as Jesus taught us and remember, God cannot lie, so have belief and hope in every good thing He has promised you.

With care,  
Your friend, Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

TRY	HOPELESS
HOPE	JESUS
ROMANS	ALWAYS
EIGHT	HEARS
TWENTY-FOUR	YOUR
GOD	CRIES
CAN	HE
TAKE	KNOWS
AWAY	WHEN
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AND	HAVE
SADNESS	HEARTACHES
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## Our Women Today

### The Joy of the Saints

By Sister Suzette Huttenberger

"What is that joy that carries me, What is that glory that I see, A higher plane I see the sign, Oh plant my feet across the line."

Our Atlantic Coast Region Ladies' Uplift Circle met in August at the Metuchen Branch for election of officers, dispersement of funds and program given by the Metuchen Local.

Sister Dottie Benyola, our Regional President, welcomed us and Sister Betty D'Orazio opened the meeting in prayer. Some business was conducted. Sister Dottie then took some time to express for each of us to go back to our Local Circles, encouraging sisters and friends to attend the Circle meetings. She emphasized, as Circle members and members of the Church to have compassion, to love and pray for those who have gone astray. We have to bend upon our knees in mighty fasting and prayer, praying for them to return in our midst. Sister Dottie ended by telling us to take an active role in the Church and do whatever we can to make a difference.

We, as sisters, play an important part of the Church. We have a God-given ability to impact a sister, brother, friend and shine the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Women throughout the ages of time have been used by God as instruments in His hands to affect other people. Take Ruth for example. Naomi possessed something so great that when she told Ruth to go back to her people in Moab, Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whether thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried . . ." (Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi because she had the joy of the Gospel even though it meant Ruth forsaking everything and everyone around her. God blessed Ruth's life for that. Are you a Ruth today in the Church? Do you hunger and thirst for blessings? God must always come first in order for you to reap His gifts. There are precious gifts in the storehouse of the Lord when we put Him first in our lives. There's nothing we can't afford.

The Metuchen sisters followed with a program. The theme was, "The Joy of the Saints."

1. Joy—"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12). What a time it will be when Zion is established and the Church will go forth in power throughout the lands. That is joyful! A better day for the people of God should bring joy into our hearts.

2. Hope—"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:5). We have the hope of the Lord that He will fulfill His promises to those who'll love and serve Him.

3. Faith—"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:22-23). When we exercise complete faith in Him, His word, His promises, we are unshakeable!

4. Peace—"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you . . ." (John 14:27). Jesus Christ has given us a peace, that comfort that He is with us.

5. Eternal Life—"For the

wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). God gave us His best, Jesus Christ, who died that we may live forever with Him.

6. Love—"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16).

When you see your brothers and sisters, give them a firm handshake, not a weak one. Let them feel the joy that Christ has put into your heart. Allow them to feel God's touch in your life.

### Notice

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle will conduct a seminar on Friday, April 18, 1997 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. The seminar is scheduled for 10:00 AM to noon and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference will be held on Saturday, April 26, 1997 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. The Conference will commence at 10:00 AM. For accommodations, contact Sister Terri Bravo, 908-257-3912.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Scalise, Vincent and Mary  
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**M  
B  
A**

 Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## I'll Work for You

*By Sister Mandy Genaro*

"I'll work for you. I want to be your servant. Oh use me, Lord, today." These lyrics, taken from a song written by one of our sisters, became the theme of our Youth In Action trip to the Southwest. Young people from Michigan, Ohio, and Florida traveled to San Carlos, Arizona and Tse Bonito, New Mexico to work on the Native American reservations. The Lord used us and blessed us in our efforts to work for Him.

Our first week was spent in San Carlos where we held Vacation Bible School with over one hundred Apache children. The young people taught the children's seminar classes and aided with singing and crafts. What a blessing to see the smiling faces of Joseph's children—children who are so precious to the Lord. We had an evening program at the end of the week for the children's parents, and all were touched by the songs of praise offered up to God.

Aside from Bible School, Brother Dan Picciuto held various

meetings and seminars throughout the week in which we discussed being a missionary and working for the Lord. Our goal is to have a desire like unto the four sons of Mosiah "who could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble" (Mosiah 28:3). We should be eager to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ "to every creature." God's spirit was prevalent in everything that took place, and we were blessed tremendously.

The second week was spent in Tse Bonito—a Navajo reservation. The young people volunteered their services in painting the church building and doing landscaping. We worked in the day, and in the evenings we prepared for the musical concert to be performed for the community. On the day of the concert, we traveled throughout the city passing out flyers and inviting people to the program. We had a few members of the community attend that evening, and Sister Pam Benyola directed our choir. The Lord filled our meeting with His Spirit, and we enjoyed ourselves.

The last weekend of our trip was spent at the Southwest Area Campout in Gallup, New Mexico. The theme of the camp was evangelism which tied in perfectly with our trip. In our seminars, we discussed the impor-

tance of telling others about Jesus Christ and the duty we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ have to spread the Gospel; the precious gift we have been given is to be shared with the world. Our evening meetings were filled with singing and testimony unto God's goodness and grace. On Saturday night, the Spirit of the Lord entered into our midst once again. The Ministry asked all of the young people to come forward, and they offered a prayer that God would bless us in our daily lives—that we might be strong and steadfast in Christ. After the prayer was

(Continued on Page 12)

## GMBA Campout

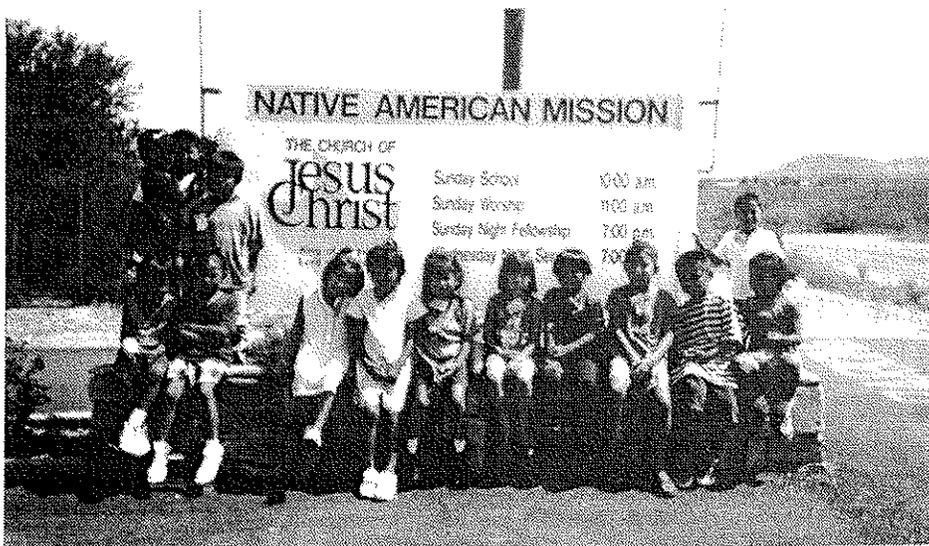
Dear Brothers, Sisters and friends,

"Sound the battle cry, see the foe is nigh, **Raise the Standard High** for the Lord, gird your armor on, stand firm everyone, rest your cause upon His Holy Word."

Through the Restoration of the Gospel came the Book of Mormon and it has grown together with the Bible establishing the truth and standards of our Lord. The Church of Jesus Christ has the commission to take this standard to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. This work starts with the Seed of Joseph (3 Nephi 5:21-26). The Lord has lifted His hand upon this Gentile Church to begin this marvelous work and we must keep the standard where it belongs: high and pure. Through the Restoration will come the Restoration of all the House of Israel (1 Nephi 15:13-19).

The General Missionary Benevolent Association will be hosting this year's camp in Leesburg, Florida from July 12-18. We are looking forward to a week of manifold blessings and unspeakable joy. So come and join us as we will be **RAISING OUR STANDARD.**

Love in Christ,  
Brother Jason M. Monaghan  
Your Camp Director



Native American children at San Carlos, Arizona.



## Branch and Mission News

### Do You Get Excited? I Do!

*By Brother Michael Fraschilla (Age 14)*

First let's ask a good question, getting excited, how do you do it? That is a very good question. I have been baptized for a year. Being in high school and getting excited (getting high on drugs to be more specific) is a very popular thing. I'll admit that I get excited. But, I am different. I get excited by Jesus Christ. I did not realize that until the GMBA Campout of last year.

In high school, it is not rare to be asked if you get high or if you want to get high. The problem is how to answer. I would answer that I do not have any interest in getting high. Saying no to drugs is not easy, especially when most of the people you know do them. When we were little, we were told just say no. It sounds so simple but it is not simple. Saying no is very hard to do, especially when you see it being passed around and smell it throughout your school surroundings.

Earlier I mentioned that I did not realize that I got excited until GMBA Campout. What I mean is being blessed by Jesus our Lord. My sister, Joianne, was going through some difficult times. When she asked for her baptism at the water's edge, I broke down in tears. I was watching my natural sister become my spiritual sister. That was one of the greatest and most exciting moments of my life.

Brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ will tell you that a spiritual blessing is far more intense than any false excitement you may experience in the world. Think about it. Being blessed by Jesus Christ is very, very exciting. The first blessing experience is difficult to comprehend. You are not sure what to feel. When you are blessed again and again, you feel like you can do

anything in the Lord. The more you are blessed, the more blessings you desire. You do not want the blessings to stop. The best part about it is that you are living because of it, instead of dying because of it.

I was once told doing drugs is just a repeat of itself. You do it to make dreams for yourself. After a while, you do them because of the nightmare you have created of yourself. I hope that you get excited too. I just hope you get excited the right way. I do. It's your choice.

### Praising the Lord in the Mississippi Delta

We had been looking forward to our Memorial Day weekend visit to Louisiana from the moment we first discussed the possibility of such a visit at our Southeast Region Missionary Operating Committee meeting. The members in that area had been receiving occasional visits but now this work was under the Region and we felt the Lord directing us to expand our visitation. As any work grows and develops, the southern Mississippi and New Orleans area were due for some changes. It was inevitable that this time would come. So the Region Missionary Operating Committee requested that Friday, May 24, 1996, be a day of fasting and prayer for the meetings to be held that weekend. We knew that the Lord had something great in store for us.

Saturday evening we met in a Holiday Inn. Several brothers and sisters along with their families had traveled from Florida including Brothers Bert Sheffler, Ken Staley, Mark Kovacic and George Kovacic. We hoped that this meeting would prepare us for the Sunday morning service so we spent most of the time singing songs of hope, praise and the glories of Zion. Brother Mark related several experiences he had in Kenya and spoke of the Latter Day work and how there were several healings. We were touched by the testimonies of the members from Kenya and those that traveled many

miles to meet with them. All missionaries depend on the support of the brothers and sisters who assist them. We were thankful to have Brother Skip Swanson and Sister Margie Bortz from the Miami, Florida Branch with us.

Sunday morning, we met at the YMCA in New Orleans. Again we had great anticipation of what the Lord was going to share with us. We began our service with some singing. After some opening comments by Brother George Kovacic, Sister Phyllis Kovacic, visiting from the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch set the communion table.

After the service was opened in prayer, Brother Ken Staley started the meeting, speaking on "being responsible." Brother Ken brought forth scriptures and personal experiences relating to his topic. He stated that throughout the previous evening, the words "be responsible" kept coming to him. He was lead by the Spirit to Matthew, chapter 16, which he read beginning with the 13th verse, "... who do men say that I am?" was the great question that Jesus asked them and the same one we ask today. We have to be responsible for the knowledge that the Lord gives us through His Holy Spirit. Brother Ken also related some very personal experiences that gave insight to how great a God we serve.

Brother Bert Sheffler followed him by relating some of his personal experiences and how they relate to us trusting and obeying the Lord. He encouraged the saints to remain faithful.

Brother Mark Kovacic then spoke briefly about the various levels of responsibility. He expounded on the importance of knowledge, especially of the ways of the Lord and how we should apply that knowledge to our everyday lives.

Brother George Kovacic made some closing comments concerning Lehi's exhortation to his sons. Lehi knew his sons had experienced many manifestations of the Spirit of God so they were responsible as men to follow God's commandments.

**(Continued on Page 10)**

**PRAISING continued . . .**

We then enjoyed a season of testimony and sharing of the Lord's communion. Please pray for the saints in the Mississippi and Louisiana area as we do for all the saints scattered throughout the Americas and the world.

## Elder Ordained in Plumbrook, MI Branch

By Sister Lydia Furnari

The Plumbrook, Michigan Branch was overflowing with saints, family and friends from far and near along with the co-workers of Brother Richard Loffredo on Sunday, August 11, 1996. They were there to witness Brother Richard's ordination into the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Sam DiFalco opened our meeting with prayer. Brother Alex Gentile was our first speaker. He related his experience when he became a Minister and how he put his faith in God. He told us how he left for the airport to go to Pennsylvania to meet with the Ministerial Board. Upon reaching the gate, he realized he left his wallet at home. The plane was ready to take off, but not being discouraged Brother Alex drove home to get his wallet, all the while praying that if God wanted him to be an Elder, He would make it happen. Before leaving home, he called the airport to inquire about the flight. He was told the plane was airborne, but asked the person on the phone to check the gate. The plane was still at the gate! Arriving again at the airport, Brother Alex went to the gate asking the ticket taker to let him on the plane. After being told the plane had already closed the doors, Brother Alex told them the plane could not leave without him. At that point, he was allowed to board the plane. After arriving in Pennsylvania, he called the airport to determine the reason the plane was delayed. He was told there was no reason. Brother Alex went on to say the responsibility of

an Elder is great and he always walks behind his sheep. We should use and respect our Elders.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio followed and told how he felt about the calling of Brother Richard. He spoke about his brother Frank who attended Church regularly but always felt he was "OK," and delayed obeying the Gospel until he realized he would soon meet his God and was not ready. At that point Frank repented of his sins and gave himself to Jesus Christ and was ready to meet the Lord when he was called home. Brother Nephi went on to share with us his experience while going to college. He wanted to receive the Nobel Prize, but God intervened. He was called into the Gospel instead to receive the greatest prize of all. God is a wonderful God. Our lifestyle changes when we serve Him.

Brother Frank Vitto spoke a few words on the calling of an Elder in our Church. Apostle Joseph Calabrese reinforced what was said on becoming an Elder which includes the responsibilities of marrying couples, praying for the sick, administering sacrament and possessing the love to serve. He further emphasized that Elders must spread the Gospel, their actions must not bring reproach on the Church and they must have a clear understanding of all of their duties. Brother Joe petitioned us to pray for one another.

The Ministry then prepared to proceed with the ordination of Brother Richard. Brother Gary Coppa was inspired to wash Brother Richard's feet. As the Ministry formed a circle around our brother, a prayer was offered by Brother Joe Furnari before anointing Brother Richard with the holy oil. Brother Nephi anointed Brother Richard's head with oil and offered a prayer; he ordained him into the Ministry and asked God to be with him always.

Brother Richard was given an opportunity to express himself. He spoke about how he prepared himself for this day and then began preaching a sermon directed at his family and co-workers and spoke about our beliefs, including the Bible and Book

of Mormon. He asked to be remembered in prayer so he could fulfill his duties as an Elder.

Brother Gary Coppa gave some background on how the Elders fasted and prayed together for over two years for God's direction in the calling of an Elder as well as other ordained offices.

Brothers Lyle Criscuolo and Jack Pontillo related their experiences about the calling of our brother into the Ministry. Brother Frank Vitto closed the meeting in prayer. It was a beautiful day as we witnessed another ordination to the honor and glory of God.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

My family and I want to thank you for your love, thoughtfulness, understanding and caring as a result of the recent passing of our parents, Brother Vincent and Mary Mulla. Your prayers, phone calls and cards

## Announcement

For March, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.50%
2 years	5.75%
3 years	5.85%
4 years	6.00%
5 years	6.10%

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

have been a great source of strength and comfort to us during this most difficult time. Your kind expressions of sympathy and love will always be remembered.

We ask that you please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Love in Christ,  
Sister Cathy Mulla

**JESUS USE ME continued . . .**

tours. It only takes a few days of your time and your life will be changed forever. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information about the 1997 tours, please call one of the following committee members: Chairperson, Brother Jerry Valenti, (215) 672-0616, or YIA Secretary, Brother Jerry Morle, (313) 483-5267. And, if you are 25 and older and are wondering how you can help, YIA can use you as well. Since young people from all over the Church can volunteer, transporting them to the various tour locations can be a challenge. So, if you own a van, or like to drive, you can assist the YIA by volunteering your van or as a driver. Again, call either Brother Jerry for more information.

Finally, let us continue to remember the YIA in our prayers for it is the hope of the YIA to continue to use our young people to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**NATURE OF MAN continued . . .**

gist, nor the prophet will ever solve this enigmatic entity. Only God knows him completely. Only He understands the drive which impels and motivates him; the pain he feels, the ambition which burns within him; the anger and hate which consume him, and the love which lifts him to sublime exultation.

(To Be Continued)

**MESSAGE continued . . .**

bumper crop of mosquitoes who were happy to accompany us everywhere we went.

It was typical to spend between six to ten hours each day just in travel time to and from villages because of the terribly difficult conditions. Many of the saints in this area lost their humble homes and were without many basic necessities such as clean water and electricity, but thanks be to God, not one of our people perished. This fact caused our hearts to swell with gratitude when we later heard that sadly 10,000 people lost their lives in this dreadful storm.



Baptism in India

**MANY PRAYER REQUESTS**

Every place we traveled, requests for prayers were often and consistent. On several occasions, we prayed until our bottles of oil were dry; however, the deliverance, healings, and power of God never failed. Despite the temporal hardships, without exception, every branch and village visited (19 villages in all—eight in the north, eight in the south, and three in Madras) brought smiling, happy faces content and thankful for God's mercy upon them and their children.

As our journey drew to an end, it was difficult to leave them. We were encouraged by the progress of the work, as well as the people there. They asked us repeatedly to extend their warmest regards and love to the saints throughout the Church. They hold The Church of Jesus Christ in

the highest regard, which often makes us feel undeserving and humbled, yet honored. With a current membership of 1,200 and the potential for many more, please pray for them, as God continues to move His mighty hand on their behalf.

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

He was told he was welcome anytime. This is what happens to people who come in contact with brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The love of God is visible. It can be felt. It is the sign the world will come to know that the saints of God are His disciples!

Many years ago a sister returned home from a Wednesday night Church service. She was all alone. Her husband was working. When she hung up her coat, she noticed a man hiding in her closet. She pretended she did not see him. The sister was concerned. What was she going to do? She went into her living room and prayed to God for His divine help and protection. The sister then went into her kitchen and cooked a meal for the intruder! Imagine! She called and said, "You in the closet, you can come out now. I prepared you a meal!" The man came out of the closet. He sat at the table and began to eat. As he ate, he began to cry. The sister asked, "What is the matter, don't you like the meal?"

The man crying, responded, "When I came into your home, I was going to rob you and possibly harm you. I don't know what has come over me. I don't know what has happened to me!" He ate the meal and left. The sister was not harmed in any way. What an experience! What a testimony!

What happened to this man? It is obvious what happened to him. The love of God was in the house. Moroni said it best. In Moroni 8:16 it states, ". . . and I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear." Love is of God. It is divine. It excels. Let us love one another and all mankind.

**\* WEDDING \***

Sister Cristy Reynolds of the Simi Valley, California Branch and Antonio Ramos were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 29, 1996 in Thousand Oaks, California.

Josephine Ross, Sue Breschayko and Eleanor Palmieri; son-in-law, Apostle Paul Palmieri; two sons, David DeLuca and Matthew DeLuca; twelve grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren.

MARY McKINNIE MULLA

Mary McKinnie Mulla (ncc Clark) passed on to her eternal reward on June 9, 1996. She attended the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Vincent L. Mulla. Left to mourn are her daughters, Sister Catherine and Roseanne, and her son, Vincent.

**OBITUARIES**

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

RUTH E. MOUNTAIN

Sister Ruth E. Mountain of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on January 2, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elder Melvin K. Mountain, Sr., and a granddaughter, Kristy Nath. Sister Ruth is survived by one daughter, Sister Barbara M. Ackman; one son, Melvin M. Mountain, Jr.; three sisters, Sisters Mabel Bickerton, Sara Vancik and Grace Landrey; five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Sister Ruth is the daughter of the late W. H. Cadman, Apostle and former President of the Church and Sister Sadie Cadman, former President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle.

FILOMENA TADDEO DeLUCA

Sister Filomena Taddeo DeLuca of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on January 19, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Louis DeLuca; a daughter, Deborah D'Antonio; and two grandsons, Ryan Ross and Jared Ross. Sister DeLuca is survived by one sister, Sister Sabina D'Antonio; four daughters, Jennie Ross, Sisters

**Children Blessed**

Joseph Thomas Rogolino, son of Brother Tom and Sister Michele Rogolino was blessed in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch on October 20, 1996.

Victoria Nicole Liberto, daughter of Tom and Lillian Liberto, Jr., was blessed in the San Diego, California Branch on December 22, 1996.

Nephi Ramon, son of Jose and Susanna Gonzales, was blessed on December 22, 1996 in the San Diego, California Branch.

Ashley Nicole Laessig, daughter of Eric and Judy Laessig was blessed in the Brunswick, Maine Mission on December 22, 1996.

Anthony Paul Francione, son of Brother Andre and Sister Lisa Francione was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on December 22, 1996.

**I'LL WORK FOR YOU continued . . .**

offered, a brother heard the word of the Lord say, "I have blessed you, my children. Now, go out and spread My Gospel." Amen! We began to embrace one another, and the spirit of repentance fell on many of our young people. As the Ministry laid hands on different ones for strength, they would jump up and proclaim, "I want to be baptized!" There was so much excitement and rejoicing, and in the midst of the saints embracing and praising God, another one would run up to the front asking to be baptized. One young sister saw a choir of angels outside of the building and we know the angels were surely rejoicing as a total of seven people made their commitment to serve the Lord. Praise God! More souls willing to work for Jesus Christ!

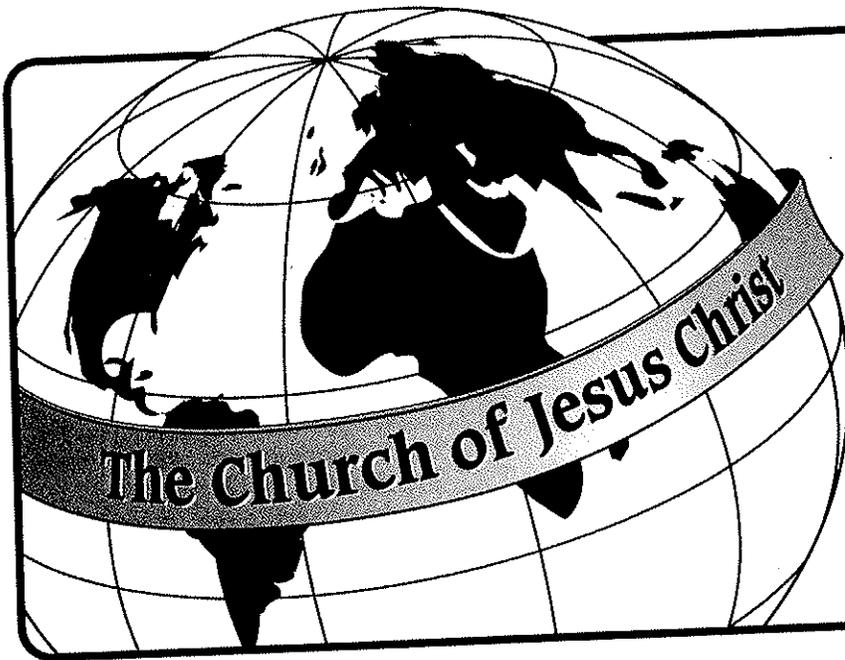
Sunday morning, we gathered at the water's edge to witness the transformation of a sinner to a saint of God. We thank the Lord for such a beautiful ending to our missionary trip. Certainly, we can say that God blessed us in our efforts to practice evangelism and work for Him. "To work for you—it is my soul's desire. I'll answer, 'Yeah, Lord' to your call."

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 1997

Volume 53, No. 4

## Omaha, Nebraska - Bedford, Iowa Mission News

By Sister Dorothy Miller

The establishment of the work of the precious Restored Gospel in the Omaha, Nebraska area continues to bring forth the blessings that God promised some twenty-five years ago. It was then that He assured the four original sisters, by the gift of tongues through Brother Rocco Biscotti, that this was "the land of love," and that there would always be a remnant of this work in this part of His vineyard.

We continue to progress under the able leadership of our Presiding Elder, Brother Clifton Wells with valuable assistance from the Ohio-Midwest Region Mission Operating Committee. For twenty-five years God has kept this mission the same way He has attended His vineyards from the Garden of Eden to these Latter Day times. He is nourishing it with His word and pruning it when necessary. I feel to share some of our mission history and our blessings with the *Gospel News* readers.

The Mission began with the testimony of one sister from Clairton, Pennsylvania who went to three women living in the Omaha

area. The fruit of this testimony resulted in the three women being baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. During the 1970's, the Gospel was maintained here by the prayers of these four original sisters. For over ten years we had no Resident Elder, but we met together as often as we could, depending on the Spirit of God to nourish and keep us in the right way. For ten years we fed upon the visits of many brothers and sisters whom God inspired to come and administer and encourage us.

Many Elders from across the Church have traveled to Omaha to help with the work here; we want to especially mention a few such as:

The late Apostle Frank Calabrese supported and assisted the four original sisters at the beginning of the mission here, both financially and spiritually. He encouraged the members of the Lorain, Ohio Branch to adopt us as "little sisters" and to support the work that was started in the York Nebraska Women's Correction Center from which six women were baptized. He nurtured and protected us with the love of

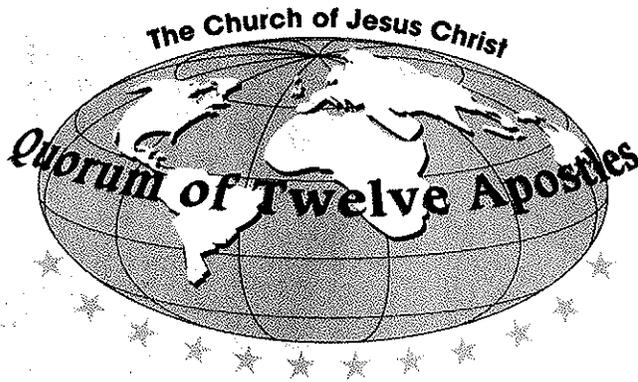
God and taught us the faith and doctrine of the Church.

The late Brother Harry Robinson was our mentor from the beginning. By extreme sacrifice and dedication he traveled to the Omaha area at least once every three months to make sure that we were administered to. He was encouraged and received support from the members of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch who took us under their wings and filled many of our needs to continue in the Gospel. Brother Harry taught us the word of God based solely on the Bible and Book of Mormon which laid the foundation and solidified the unity of our members. At the time of his death in 1978, he was still laboring for the Omaha-Bedford Mission.

Brother Mitchell Edwards labored for and with us in a time of great need. Notwithstanding his call to labor in South Bend, Indiana, he made many sacrifices that our spiritual needs were met and to encourage us to remain faithful at all cost.

During the latter part of 1981, God sent Brother English Webb to Omaha, Nebraska. He brought neither script nor purse, but by tremendous sacrifice, he obeyed the call. He remained with us for two years, teaching only the word of God. This truly established us as a

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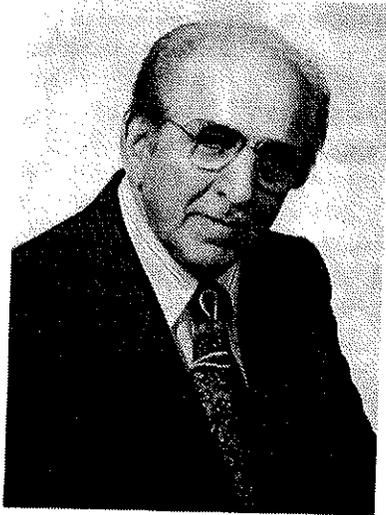


## The Nature of Man

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART II AND CONCLUSION

Many people, as Plato, Aristotle, Freud, Jung, Tillich, Bultmann, et al have attempted (and others still do) to understand the behavior and drive of human beings. No one can deny the contributions made by the above professionals. No denigration, no demeaning or negative criticism is intended or implied regarding their labors. But with all their research and contribu-



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

tions to society, changes in the lives of other humans is slow, tedious and often, frustrating. Therefore, the intent is not to diminish the works of honest men for the good of others, but to exalt the healing and redeeming powers of the Lord, who, through the Holy Spirit, can change

the very nature of man.

Transformation in the life of a human being, in his encounter with Jehovah, is miraculous and often instantaneous. Saul of Tarsus' life was changed when he encountered Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. Nicodemus was certainly changed after his meeting with Jesus. Mary Magdalene's life was altered completely after Jesus cast out seven evil spirits from her. After Zacchaeus heard Jesus speak in his house, he changed instantly, from a swindler and a cheat, to a man filled with desire to atone for his misdeeds. He promised the Lord that he would restore four-fold to those whom he had defrauded. Alma, the Elder, was an altogether different man after his experience with the Lord. When the Spirit of God touches and/or condemns, convicts and convinces a person, he is never the same as before. The Holy Spirit changes, heals and motivates one towards higher levels of righteousness. The Lord is the best listener and counselor in the entire universe. When problems arise, there is no one better to tell them to, than Christ Jesus. He validates with understanding and loving kindness every heartache, every distress, all adversities, all sorrows and all stresses.

Thanks to God, there are answers and solutions, in His Word, to every problem: pre-marriage, marriage, fear, loneliness, distress and a bevy of uncertainties which beset human beings daily. "Come unto me," said the great Counselor, "all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"

(Matthew 11:29).

No one who studies the Word of God can dispute the fact that the nature of man can take on new proportions, by fulfilling the will and commandments of the Lord. The works of the flesh, to which man is often prone to yield, are clearly spelled out by the Apostle Paul: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, dolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

The Apostle also states what happens when one accepts the Lord, and is born again of the water and the Holy Spirit. It is written: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Galatians 5:22-24).

Baptism, per se, albeit an important component in the plan of salvation, was not, and is not intended to change the nature of man, or take away his habits. Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), in a death-like event as recorded in Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Water baptism buries the old man and a new creature emerges, as it is written, "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" (Romans 6:4).

Some habits and negative dispositions are left in the water, but others are shaken off by the constant application of the Lord's commandments and a strong desire to reach out to a level of holiness as it is written: "I beseech you therefore,

brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). Even after his wonderful experience on the road to Damascus, Paul wrote, "... I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31).

For example: If a man had a fiery hair-trigger temper before being baptized, and still has it after baptism, he has to pray and make every effort to get rid of that temper. The Holy Spirit will help him to conquer this weakness. But if he makes no effort to remove this tendency, the Holy Spirit will not help him, because God does not force a man's mind or his will. The choice is always his, to do or not to do, to act or not to act. The Holy Spirit will help to overcome one's weaknesses according to the desire to change.

Higher levels of righteousness are not reached without some sacrifice. Paul the Apostle once

said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Some find it very difficult to keep their bodies (and natures) into subjection. But no one has said, nor is it written in the Scriptures, that keeping one's mind and body pure and holy is going to be a simple task. The pilgrimage from earth to paradise is not an easy road, but it is attainable, by the the help of His Spirit. Jesus said that "the road to heaven was straight and narrow and few are they that find it." But thanks to God, heaven is reachable. Paul said, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Before baptism, some were prolific liars, cheats, thieves, naggers, abusers of wives and children, drunkards, alcoholics, adulterers, drug addicts, etc. But in the new birth, that is, accepting and obeying

Jesus Christ and His commandments, their lives became filled with His love, and the desire to do evil was conquered by their resolution to do good. Their very nature was changed by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

All things are possible to those who believe. Therefore, if one wants to change, the way is through Christ Jesus, our Lord. If God will change the very nature of the beasts (in His kingdom on earth, the Peaceful Reign), of a certainty, He can change the nature of man, if he surrenders unconditionally to His divine will.

To God be the glory, the honor and praise for His power to change man's nature. From a sinful past, man, by following Christ, now has a future filled with joy and happiness, until that day when the Lord will meet him at the portals of heaven, and say to him, "Come, enter into the joy of my rest." Amen.



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## GMBA November Conference

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

We met with anticipation and excitement for GMBA November Conference. This would be the conference where camp directors and assistant camp directors would be chosen to coordinate gatherings for the saints; where officers would be elected; we would hear reports, but I like to count them as blessings of the past year's events.

Our weekend started Friday night with the GMBA Activities meeting. We thank God that many things were accomplished. Following this meeting, the young people were to meet for the Saturday

evening program practice. As someone who participated in the program, I have to admit, meeting the Friday before the program for the first practice had me a little nervous. As usual, a few of us learned a lesson. We left it up to God and He blessed us.

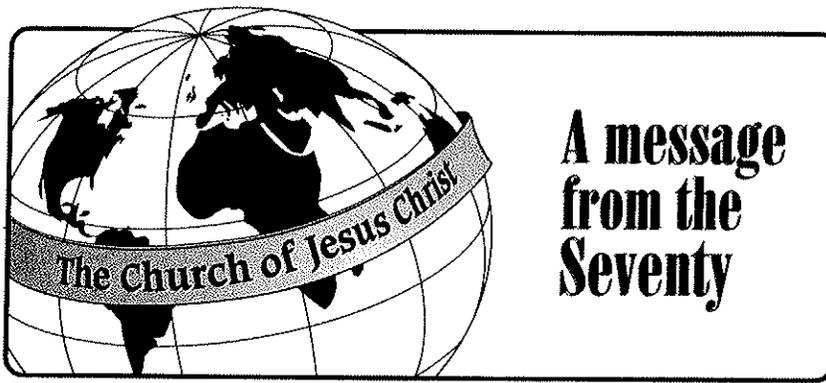
We met Saturday morning for the GMBA business meeting. We heard various reports and experiences from the young people who attended Youth in Action. As each year goes by the blessings seem more in number, as well as the participation. I believe this might have been the largest attended summer yet and we thank God. He has truly blessed this program that Brother Brian Martorana was directed to begin. Following all the Region reports, we proceeded with the election of officers for the upcoming year in the GMBA. We have three new officers: President, Brother Ken Staley; Vice President, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri; and Chaplan, Brother Ike Smith (Florida). Please remember these

brothers in your prayers. They have a great job to do and need God's help and direction. At this time, we would like to thank our previous officers for their hard work and tireless efforts. May God bless and reward all of you for your efforts on His behalf.

Most of the offices remained the same. Brother Jason Monaghan's Assistant Camp Director for 1997 is Sister Carolyn Parravano. The 1997 GMBA Singles Retreat Director is Brother Mike Bashaw. Remember them in your prayers as they endeavor to serve the saints of God.

Saturday night came, which by the way always seems to come too quickly. The program was to be presented by the young people from various Regions, led by Brother Bruce Picciuto and assisted by Brother Jim Draskovich. As I mentioned earlier, there were some nervous moments due to the shortage of practice (which miles would not

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## Trip to Guatemala

By Evangelist John DiBattista

*(Following are some highlights of a report by Brother John DiBattista of a trip he took to Guatemala in January with Brother Ken Staley. This was the sixth time Brother Ken had been to Guatemala but the first time that Brother John had traveled there.—Evangelist Editor's note)*

Brother Kenneth Staley and I were blessed to have been in the Church's mission in Guatemala City, Central America from Thursday, January 16 to Monday, January 20. It was apparent to us from the beginning that this trip was going to be as much, if not more, an inspiration to us, as it would be to those whom we would visit.

Shortly after arrival at the home of Resident Elder, Brother Luis Marroquin and his wife, Sister Darlene, and their children, Charisse and Jared Joseph, and after spending several hours of "catchup" news from the United States and there in Guatemala, we began telling experiences. One after another, we related what God had done for us until finally the Spirit of God prompted us into a season of prayer. It seemed to us as if the windows of heaven had opened and the blessings of God were showering upon us. Each of us offered prayers, as the Spirit prevailed, for the Church's work at the mission there.

### VISITED HOMES NEXT TWO DAYS

For the next two days, we

visited brothers and sisters in their homes. We learned about their desires to serve the Lord, and we prayed with them that God would continue to bless them. Their quest for laying up treasures in heaven was very apparent. Their spirit is unquestionably the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. On Friday, we also visited some friends of the Church at a nearby school and invited them to the Sunday service.

Each evening after arriving back at the Marroquins, we related experiences, had testimony and prayer. The Spirit of God bore witness to their love for the Restored Gospel and their determination to bring it to the Guatemalan people. An informal scripture study was also held Friday evening, during which tears of joy flowed as we rehearsed the Restoration and all its glories: past, present and future.

### SUNDAY SERVICE

Once at Church on Sunday, the children started filing in with their parents. What a blessing to see even the small children singing the hymns in Spanish. Already, everyone could feel the presence of the Lord in our service.

Brother Ken sang a medley, including *Jesus Loves Me* and *Oh, How He Loves You and Me*. The Spirit was already directing the theme for our meeting: The Love of Jesus Christ.

Being directed to St. John, 13:34-35, I read, "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*"

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another."*

I then related several of my own experiences which proved out this scripture. Brother Ken continued on the subject of this spiritual love, and Brother Luis concluded the preaching portion of the service with some encouraging words to the members.

During the testimony period, we sang *First Love* in Spanish. As the testimonies were being given to the honor and glory of God, the Spirit flowed from vessel to vessel. As is sometimes the case, however, the opposition attempted to enter the building, as exterior disruptive noises escalated outside. As the brother was praying for a sister, he said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke this noise." Immediately, the noise stopped and there was peace. The Lord was not going to allow this beautiful day to be disturbed.

### SISTER HEALED

Later in the service, another victory was declared as our dear Sister Ana, a faithful Deaconess in the mission who had been prayed for because she was suffering from nervousness and headaches, was healed. She testified that as she was being anointed a peace came over her and she was healed instantly. Praise God for His goodness!

After heartwarming farewells at the conclusion of the service, particularly with the children, we went to the home of Sister Virgilia. God had shown Sister Darlene the night before that the Ministry should go over her home to anoint Sister Virgilia's son, Bidal, who had been attacked and beaten while away from home and was now mentally and physically impaired. The power of God entered the room. All felt His presence as each of the Ministers felt to pray for Bidal that the power of his affliction would be removed from him in the name of Jesus Christ. As the prayers were concluded, we were confident that the Lord had come that day to

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Are you weary? Are you heavy laden? Are you brokenhearted? Do you feel labored? Do the burdens of life seem heavy, unbearable? Do you feel empty? Do you feel lonely? Does your soul need attention? Does it feel downtrodden? Do you want to overcome the burdens of sin? Do you want to become a new person, a new creature? Would you like a new mind, heart and soul?

All these questions have a remedy, an answer. The remedy, the answer is Jesus Christ. He will see to it that all of these questions are answered.

Jesus Christ states 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."*

A burden is something that is difficult to bear physically or emotionally. A burden is a very heavy load. A burden weighs you down. It is oppressive. It is an emotional overload!

The Lord will bear every burden. He will bear any burden. He will heal your broken heart. He will make the burden light. He will make the blinded eye to see. Jesus Christ will heal your wounded soul. He will lift you up. He will put you on the spiritual mountaintop. The Lord will resurrect your soul.

The prophets of old said He would bear our griefs; He would carry our sorrows. Matthew said the Lord would take our infirmities on Himself; He would bare our sicknesses.

When you serve the Lord you are never alone. He promised He would never leave us alone. His promises are true. The Lord does not and cannot lie!

Those who put their trust in the Lord feel their burdens lifted. Their concerns become manageable; they become bearable. Many times they disappear. Why? Because Jesus Christ carries them. He is always near. He is always there for you and for all mankind.

The Israelites were never alone during their journey of forty years. The Lord was with them everyday. He provided food. It was manna from heaven! He directed them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Their shoes never wore out! Oh What a Saviour!

Every prayer offered by the Brother of Jared was answered. The Lord did not confound their language. He removed a mountain that was an obstacle in their path. He directed their efforts when they built their boats. They were tightly built; they did not leak! These boats were their home for three hundred and forty-four days on their oceanic voyage. The Lord guided them to a new land, a promised land.

Lehi and his family were directed by God as they journeyed to the promised land. They left all their possessions and riches. They were never alone. God directed them with the Liahona, a compass like device which worked according to their faith. It pointed them in the direction to the promised land. It pointed them in the direction to find food. In the wilderness, children were born. The adults ate raw meat and it tasted sweet!

Job lost his children, he lost his possessions. He body was covered with boils and sores. He scraped himself with a potsherd and sat in ashes for relief. He bore a heavy burden. Job remained patient and trusted in God. His burdens were lifted. God doubled his possessions and blessed him with a new family, seven sons and three daughters.

Jesus Christ will do the same for you. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "Jacob Grows Up"

Dear friends,

Can you imagine what it would feel like to be raised in a family where people hated each other and your older brothers tried to even kill another brother? Can you imagine being a little child with older parents tromping all day through the wilderness surrounded by danger and fearing those brothers? Who would carry you? Who would teach you not to touch poisonous snakes or not to touch plants that could make you sick?

This was the childhood Jacob had. For eight years, his father, Lehi; his mother, Sariah; his four older brothers, Laman and Lemuel, Nephi and Sam; and their friends, Zoram and Ishmael and his family, traveled in the wilderness.

These were "city" people used to fine homes, riches and servants. But Jacob's father, Lehi, was also a Godly man. He loved to search Scriptures and pray to God. God had him preach to all the people of Jerusalem to either serve God, or be destroyed by enemies. The people in Jerusalem wanted to kill Lehi.

God told him to take his family and leave before the city Jerusalem was destroyed. He sent them into the wilderness towards the ocean where they would build boats and leave for a new land.

All along the way, Laman and Lemuel fought against going. When the Lord sent them back to get the records written on sheets of brass (a metal that lasts for centuries), they refused. An angel had to speak to



them. Later, they still wanted to turn back. God gave their father or their brother, Nephi, great power to make them obey. One time God gave Nephi the power to shock them, another time powerful words shamed them.

Everytime after they saw God's power, they were sorry for their anger and meanness. But every time they got upset, they tried again to hurt or kill Nephi and return back to Jerusalem. On the ship to the Americas they tied up Nephi. Little Jacob and Joseph and their parents cried and begged them not to hurt Nephi. Finally, God sent a big storm, and they were sorry. They released Nephi and continued on their voyage.

For awhile, after they landed, all was well. But when old Lehi died, the two older brothers again planned to kill Nephi so they could be the boss, the rulers. God warned Nephi to take his younger brothers, his wife, his sister and her husband Zoram and all their children and leave. They did. Again, they went into the wilderness.

They called themselves the people of Nephi, or Nephites. For their new home, they worked hard. Everyone enjoyed building, growing crops and living in peace. Nephi wrote, "and it came to pass, that we lived after the manner of happiness." Jacob and Joseph loved God also and were consecrated to be priests and teachers over the people. Only thirty years had passed since they had left Jerusalem.

As long as these people loved and served God and followed His ways, they were blessed. When they didn't, God allowed their enemy

cousins, the people of Laman, to attack them. Over and over for the next hundreds of years, the Lord continued to work with these tribes who were the chosen ones. They are the descendents of Lehi and Joseph. They were the people God brought

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Great Lakes Regional Spiritual Conference

OCTOBER 20, 1996

*By Brother David Loyalvo*

The Great Lakes Regional Spiritual Conference is an event worth looking forward to each year. On this day, Brother Mike LaSala was to be ordained an Evangelist of The Church of Jesus Christ and join the Quorum of Seventy.

What better way to start the meeting than with the new Regional President, Bro. Alex Gentile, encouraging the congregation to leave our cares and troubles of this life and set aside the difficulties of the day so that at this moment, the Lord could visit us and let His Spirit flow freely. It sounds like an old cliché "to leave our troubles at home" so we can focus on the Lord. But as simple as it seems to be, as humans and needful people, we do need to be reminded and encouraged to do these types of things.

Before Brother Ike Smith opened our service in prayer, he reminded us that we need to count our many blessings—to remember all of the things that we have. It's marvelous to reflect on the wonderful gifts that the Lord has given to us in our lives. It's regenerating to reflect on the goodness and mercy of the Lord and His generosity in handing us salvation.

Just a few thought-provoking suggestions from the Ministry started our meeting on the right track.

As Brother Leonard Loyalvo stood to open our meeting, it was a miracle just to see him alive. Still recovering from a terrible auto accident that almost took his life, Brother Leonard began by thanking the brothers and sisters for their prayers toward his recovery. He went on to say that it was God and the prayers of the saints that led to his astounding recovery. He could feel the power of God and a "constant flow of healing" through the prayers

of the many brothers and sisters.

Thankful for his new lease on life, Brother Leonard was quick to point out the importance of serving God, to do everything in your power to serve the Lord while you have the chance. "Life is short!", our brother said.

As human beings, we know realistically that life is short. But as our brother told us, we have this tendency to think that the bad things in life won't happen to us. Until these things do occur in our lives, we really don't have any idea how short life is. So while we can, Brother Leonard pleaded for us to, "go to Church, tell your testimonies to others, and draw closer to the Lord."

Although a physical healing is a major source of conviction for us in our lives, Brother Leonard sought for us to look at his situation in a different light. "Jesus came to save man from eternal death. He gave His life to pay a sacrifice for the sin of the world. His purpose is that we repent of our sins, live righteously, and then enjoy eternal life."

Brother Leonard's physical scars remind him that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob spared his life. He knows that he owes his life and everything he has to the Lord. The Lord takes great care of us and shows us His concern for our lives. But, as Brother Leonard said to us, "it isn't the physical well being that is important." It was emphasized to us that Jesus came not just to heal our bodies, but to save our souls. It is the spiritual well being of mankind that matters.

Brother Leonard finished his sermon by asking a number of chilling questions. "Do you need a physical healing to convince you that there is a God? Do you need some kind of physical touch that says that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and that He is your God? Isn't it enough for you to see that I am standing here before you to know that God is real and wants you to serve Him? Do you need the kind of personal experience that I went through to convince you of this? I hope not! I know that there are

people here this morning that have felt the healing touch of Jesus both in body and in soul. Their experiences should be enough to convince you of the goodness of God. Those of you who are not baptized today, I would give you very keen and sharp counsel . . . that you make quick the day you surrender your soul unto the Lord."

As the Lord inspired our brother, he appeared as a miracle of God's power and inspired us to not forget the blessings the Lord has given us.

The meeting continued with the ordination of Brother Mike LaSala. Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Chairman of the Quorum of Evangelists for our region, began by speaking of God's choice to call Brother Mike to be an Evangelist. He related the experiences and revelations that had been given by God about Brother Mike's calling into this office.

Brother Nephi proclaimed, "We had to act upon what God was showing us. The calling of an Evangelist is special. It's to do something for God. It's a gift! The choice of an Evangelist isn't based on what they do, but what they will become." In his inspirational way, Brother Nephi behooved us to, "be supportive of the Priesthood and pray for them that they would be able to preach."

The ordination began with the washing of Brother Mike's feet. As Brother Frank Vitto washed Brother Mike's feet, he beckoned the Lord to be with him all the days of his life. He reminded the Lord of His calling of Brother Mike and to cover him with a garment of righteousness, love, peace, and protection.

As the representatives of the Quorum of Seventy gathered around Brother Mike for the ordination, Brother Louis Vitto knelt and offered prayer unto the Lord to unite the hearts and minds of the Evangelists present for the ordaining of our brother.

Brother Joseph Calabrese continued this holy event by stepping

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## Branch and Mission News

### Visiting Brothers and Sisters Bring a Blessing

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Most of us felt when we left the World Conference Center on Sunday, October 13, 1996, that conference was over and that our cups could not be filled any more; we were wrong. The Lord continued to be with us that evening. The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch met for dinner to honor our visiting brothers and sisters from Tijuana, Mexico and California. After a wonderful time of fellowship, we met in the auditorium to hear our visitors express themselves in preaching, testimony and singing.

Joined by many members from throughout the Region, the building was filled to capacity. After Brother Matthew Picciuto prayed, Brother Paul A. Palmieri, Secretary of the Americas Mission Operating Committee, introduced our visitors, Brother Vincente Arce, President of the Church in Mexico, Brother Carlos Rodriguez Ramos, Apostle Tom and Sister Marsha Liberto, Brother Dick Christman, Chairman of the Americas Mission Operating Committee, and Sister Pat Christman, Brother Saul and Sister Eva Betancourt and Sister Martha and Brother Matthew Picciuto.

Our Mexican visitors, including Sisters Sarah Mora Zaccagnini and Alma Palacios (both formerly of the Tijuana Branch), sang *In the Vineyard of the Lord* and *Because He Lives* in Spanish. We were thrilled to hear the testimonies of Brother Arce and Brother Ramos regarding their conversion and the workings of God within their families.

In addition to the singing, we also experienced the gift of tongues which were interpreted to be, "I am the Lord God and I have said this and I am the God of Israel." It was noted that God is here and that this is the

biggest blessing we can enjoy.

Brother Saul expressed that they will take back to Mexico the experiences they have shared this week. The blessing of this week will not end, but be extended to the brothers and sisters in their branches.

Brother Matthew then told us that there are purposes even in our failures; we must realize they are stepping stones. His parents were missionaries, and looking back on the experience he realizes that it was a great heritage through which he developed a love for the Seed of Joseph. His prayer was that the Gospel will excite us. We need to do good with the gifts God has given us and stir up the Spirit of God within us. He admonished us to come to the House of God and strengthen one another, drawing closer to each other, not allowing the things of this world to touch us.

Apostle Tom Liberto stated that he has a heart full of pride because these young brothers and Brother Vincente desire to work among their people. He said that it is a joy to train the young people to spread the Gospel. Brother Dick followed complimenting Brother Arce on his consistency, holding to the rod of iron, unwaveringly. He noted that this is what constitutes a servant of God.

Our sisters also expressed their joy and gratitude for being able to gather in Pennsylvania with the saints. Sister Martha expressed that she truly felt welcome and Sister Alma stated that for ten years the saints in the east have been her family. She and her husband now have a desire to work among the Indians and soon they will be leaving Detroit, Michigan for the west coast. Our prayers and thoughts will go with them.

The neighbors mentioned the next day that the beautiful singing was so lively it could be heard within their homes that cold night. It is our prayer that the Lord heard and accepted our songs of praise to Him for His goodness and mercy toward us. Many wonderful memories were born this night and friendships created.

### Ordinations in Monongahela, PA

By Sister LuAnn Carson

The Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was recently blessed with two ordinations. On October 6, 1996, Sister Ella Mae Pettyjohn was ordained into the office of Deaconess, and Brother Donald Ross was ordained an Elder on November 3, 1996.

God's blessings were evident on the day of Sister Ella's ordination. The previous evening, Brother William Chepanoske, our Presiding Elder, had the thought come to him, "How Great Thou Art." Brother English Webb's face then appeared to Brother Chepanoske. On Sunday morning at the beginning of the preaching service the hymn, *How Great Thou Art*, was called. Brother Chepanoske, along with several others, heard Sister Ella's voice call out that hymn, even though another sister had called it. The meeting was then opened by Brother Chepanoske, who spoke on that topic, "How Great Thou Art."

Before the afternoon service, the deaconesses gathered to ask God to choose a sister to wash Sister Ella's feet. It was given to several that Sister Dorothy Schaeffer would be the one. After opening remarks, Sister Dorothy Schaeffer proceeded to wash Sister Ella's feet. She was ordained by Brother English Webb, who came from the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch for the afternoon to witness the ordination. Brother Chepanoske then knew why Brother Webb's face had appeared to him.

The meeting was opened for testimony and we enjoyed hearing the praises to God. Some brothers and sisters testified that Sister Ella had been doing the work of a deaconess for many years. It was another beautiful day in the service of the Lord.

A large congregation filled the Monongahela Branch, anticipating God's blessings on Sunday, November 3, 1996. Brother Paul Ciotti

opened the morning meeting, exhorting us to remember our calling to labor with diligence, as did Isaiah, Alma and the sons of Mosiah. Several other visiting Elders followed.

After lunch, we reconvened for our afternoon service. It was revealed to Brother Don on his way to Church that morning that Brother Alexander Cherry would wash his feet. Another sister also testified that Brother Alex's face came to her as she wondered who would be chosen to wash Brother Don's feet. Our brother was then ordained by Brother William Chepanoske, who offered a beautiful, inspirational prayer of ordination. The Monongahela Branch has recently experienced the loss of a wonderful brother, Brother George Johnson. We thank God that He has provided us with another enthusiastic Minister of the Gospel. Brother Don expressed himself and related the experiences that the Lord gave him in regard to his calling. Many others testified of God's goodness.

We praise the Lord for His manifestation of blessings. Our prayer is that God will bless our sister and brother in their callings to His service.

## Ordination in Vanderbilt, PA

*By Sister Peggy Stroko*

Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr., was ordained an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on October 27, 1996. There were many visitors from Michigan, Ohio, Maryland and from the various Pennsylvania Branches.

Brother Bob's feet were washed by Brother Carl Frammolino. Brother Paul Ciotti ordained him into the Quorum of Seventy. Brother John Manes spoke on the duties and ministerial role of an Evangelist.

The meeting was opened by Brother Carl Frammolino. He spoke on the tremendous responsibilities

and duties of an Evangelist. Brother Carl especially emphasized the Evangelist's role in the missionary work of the Gospel. Many other brothers spoke during the meeting. They reminded us that we are all "evangelists" and we all have to go out to bear our testimonies. We were instructed to tell others of The Church of Jesus Christ, our beliefs and our doctrine. It was a wonderful and blessed day in the service of the Lord. Remember us in your prayers. We love you all. God bless you all.

## Singspiration in Simi Valley, California

*By Sister Linda Reynolds*

On Saturday night, January 11, 1997, all the branches and missions in California rallied around the Simi Valley, California Branch by having a singspiration. It was sponsored by the Pacific Region Missionary Operating Committee. Brother John DiBattista headed up the program.

There were beautiful piano selections by Sister Nancy Buck and Brother Ralph Frammolino. Beautiful musical selections were presented by the Santa Ana Mission, Yucaipa Branch and Sisters Sue Wasko and Vicki DeBear. We felt the spirit of singing and the Spirit of God in our meeting. The Simi Valley Branch is very grateful to all of those who drove many miles in the rain to attend this blessed event.

The following day, Sunday, we had several visiting brothers and sisters who remained overnight to attend our Sunday Service. We had an inspired Evangelistic meeting, which was another beautiful day of fellowship and inspirational music. We felt blessed in the messages of Brothers John DiBattista, Ed Buccellato and Paul Liberto. The Anaheim Branch honored us with a medley from the Songs of Zion. It was a wonderful two days spent in the service of the Lord. We thank God for His kindness and mercy towards us.

**OMAHA-BEDFORD continued...**  
Mission in The Church of Jesus Christ because he not only taught us the word of God, but also how to be the word of God.

Brother Rusty Heaps visited with us at least once a year until his most recent illness. He would spend at least one week meeting with us and encouraging us within the word of God.

Then there are the trips that Brother Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, made letting us know that he along with the Quorum of Twelve appreciated and supported the efforts of the saints here to spread the Gospel.

Brother Vince Gibson's dedication to the work here was invaluable during the time we were endeavoring to secure a building where we could meet. God used him in many ways to assist us, and the results are evident because we now have a Church building that we can call our own which was dedicated to the work of the Restored Gospel in this part of God's vineyard.

Apostle Paul Palmieri made a memorable trip here and was im-

**(Continued on Page 10)**

## Announcement

For April, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.60%
2 years	5.85%
3 years	5.95%
4 years	6.00%
5 years	6.10%

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

**OMAHA-BEDFORD continued . . .** pressed with what he called the "determination and stability of the saints here."

Brother Wayne Martorana has given and still gives of his time and talents to assist us. The mission members appreciate his wise counsel and his desires for the domestic work of the Church.

We can say even as it is written in the "faith honor roll" in Hebrews, chapter 11, "And what shall I more say?" for time and space would fail to tell of the blessings we received from brothers like the late George Johnson, the late Elmer Santilli, the late Nathan Peterkin, Joseph Bittinger, Joseph Calabrese, Russell Martorana, Jerry Giovannone, Cleveland Baldwin, Eugene Amormino and many more who by their visits to this part of God's vineyard have encouraged us to remain faithful while we labor to tell others of the angel who flew in the midst of heaven, restoring this precious Gospel in these the Latter Days. We appreciate and thank God for each of these brothers, knowing that they have all received their reward of the grace of God for their efforts on our behalf.

Truly we have found The Church of Jesus Christ to be that "Pearl of Great Price" that the merchant man found when he was seeking goodly pearls, even the organism which is the body of Christ. For this knowledge we rejoice even as Ammon rejoiced boasting in the blessings God has bestowed on our mission. God has shielded and protected us, staying the hand of the enemy of our souls saying, "touch not my anointed work."

We, the members of the Omaha-Bedford Mission, have dedicated ourselves to complete the seven steps that the Apostle Peter wrote of in II Peter 2:5-7, from faith to charity. We know that by grace, God has given unto us a portion of the latter day work, that His kingdom might be established on earth as it is in heaven.

We labor here to establish the Church in the Nebraska-Iowa area and we know that we can do the work

solely because God said we could. We solicit the prayers of the Church and the many readers of the *Gospel News*. Our doors and our hearts are always open to visitors in this part of God's vineyard.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Calabrese, Joseph and Vicki  
1958 1/2 County Road 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811  
419-483-7248

Baral, Ram Dr.  
P.O. Box 272  
Itta Bena, MS 38941  
601-254-9643 (h)  
601-254-3650 (w)

**GMBA CONFERENCE continued** permit). For the first time in a few years, the program was in a play format. It centered around a man named Norm. Norm was a brother in the Church and throughout the play, he encounters different events that each of us as saints have also encountered or will encounter. There were appropriate musical selections for each stage of Norm's life. As a participant, I was once again in amazement of God's wonder. By the grace of God, we were successful. We had an excellent Saturday night program. Just from hearing the comments made by different ones, I believe the brothers and sisters were blessed and once again God blessed those who gave all their time and effort for His glory.

Our Sunday morning meeting began with a few musical selections from the program. It welcomed a beautiful spirit into the meeting. Brother Don Ross was the opening speaker. He began by thanking God for His grace and mercy. He then praised God that the saints of God are still holding fast and still in the service of the King. He pointed out that The Church of Jesus Christ is a shelter in a time of storm and a house of love and forgiveness. He encouraged each of us to always seek refuge there. In finding safety there, we must show our gratitude by constantly reaffirming our commitment and renewing our promise to the One who gave His life for us.

Brother Phil Jackson followed. He picked up where Brother Don left off and mentioned the program theme. He warned us how easy it is for complacency to sneak up on us and that many times God must show us where we are and where we could be, whether we like it or not. Brother Phil then said the world stands before the young people and that Jesus Christ wants them to seize the opportunity to shine their light. He then commented that he believes the young people are showing such a desire to strive for righteousness, unlike any other time in the past. Following, he warned that when you strive for righteousness, the evil one

### Notice

Effective January 1, 1997, Brother Brent Dell of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch was appointed to the office of Secretary and Financial Secretary for the Missionary Foundation. Brother Richard Lawson relinquished this position due to other responsibilities. We thank Brother Dick for his dedicated service and his hard work in helping to establish this important missionary funding source.

Brother Brent's address and phone number are:

Brent Dell  
150 W. Queen Ann Drive  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030  
215-943-4134

The Post Office Box for the Missionary Foundation is

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Missionary Foundation  
P.O. Box 80  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

May God bless you and your families.

Apostle Paul Benyola

will also try to strive with you—be faithful and strong. “. . . Be ye not conformed to the world, but be transformed . . .” After Brother Phil concluded his sermon, the congregation sang *Revive Us Again*. The singing was blessed as were the words of our brothers.

Brother Ike Smith of Arizona followed and spoke on the many soldiers of the Church that desire to wave the flags of Zion. He then read the words to *Wave the Flags of Zion* and asked the young people who are willing to wave the flags, to stand and hold up the arms of those soldiers who have gone before us and those who are still fighting today. He then asked those who were standing to sing that same song. Once again, we were overcome with the Spirit of God. Following Brother Ike, a sister got up and expressed that while Brother Don Ross was speaking, she saw the face of Jesus Christ behind him. Also while two young brothers were singing, she saw Jesus Christ holding two books in gold with a white cloth over His right arm and in His left hand He was holding a sword. Thank God for the gifts He gives His people. We then went into our communion service and we felt such a sweet, peaceful spirit.

Brother Peter Scolaro followed, expressing the beautiful feeling that was present during communion. We can never repay the Lord for all He has done for us.

Another GMBA has come and gone but what beautiful memories we have to store and reap from each day. May God bless each of you and the GMBA as we strive to serve Him.

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#### MESSAGE continued . . .

attend to Bidal's needs. We expect that he will continue to improve, as he has after previous anointings, until he is restored to full health. Please pray for him as you are able.

Sister Virgilia had been directed to The Church of Jesus Christ, literally to the Church's front. Shortly after feeling God's convincing Spirit, she was baptized, and her trust is now in the Lord for her son and for herself.

#### EDITORIAL continued . . .

cannot and will not change! He is unalterable! There is no shadow of turning or variableness with the Lord. He is constant and sure. He is unchangeable!

When you make the Lord your choice, He will come to your rescue. He is a haven of rest. Jesus Christ will bring a peace into your life that you will not experience from anyone else. No one else can provide the peace of God. No one else can bear your burdens. No one else can forgive your sins. Jesus Christ is the "great liberator." He liberates us from sin. He liberates our soul from complete and total destruction.

Our Saviour said that you will know the truth and the truth shall make you free. He is the way, the truth and the life. He provides us the spiritual liberty from the degradation of sin and transgression. When you are made free from the burden of sin by the Lord, you become a servant of righteousness. This righteousness is possible only through the Lord. He said, if you love me, keep my commandments. Keeping the Lord's commandments provides you with a new life. A spiritual life as a saint of God.

Jesus Christ will give you a new spirit, the Spirit of God. The Lord said He would provide us with the Comforter. It will lead, guide and direct you in life. It will transform your life. You will think different. You will act different. You will have a new outlook on life. This new view of life will be through the Spirit of God. You will love God above all and your neighbor as yourself. You will love your enemies. You will do good to those that despise you and hatefully use you. You will do to others as you would have them do to you.

Cast your lot with the Lord.  
Cast your burdens on the Lord.  
Make your decision to serve Him.  
The Lord came to heal the broken-hearted, to provide deliverance to the captives and set at liberty those that are bruised. He came for you.

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER continued

from the city of Jerusalem to be saved in the wilderness.

The ancient records written on sheets or plates of metal are called the Book of Mormon. Today we can read them and see the marvelous promises of God that have already come true. We can also see the prophecies of the future of this land. Our job, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, is to also tell every Native American person about God's love for them and their powerful ancestors.

With care, your friend,  
Sister Jan

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#### GREAT LAKES continued . . .

forward and ordaining Brother Mike. He offered a spirit-filled prayer, praising the greatness of God and imploring that He give him the tools necessary to perform this great duty. He continued, "that there will never be any doubt that Brother Mike is an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ and all the world will know that today Brother Mike is called to be an Evangelist!"

Brother Mike addressed the congregation. He expressed his thankfulness for being called into the Gospel. He gave his thanks and love to the Quorum and was thankful to those who were there to witness the ordination. He has worked hard for the Church for many years and begged us to pray for him that he would remain humble so the Lord could do His work through him. Brother Mike has a hunger to bring souls unto God and reminded us that "Jesus was the greatest Evangelist. He died for us! So, I want to give my life that I might be an example for you who represent the Church."

Pray for Brother Mike LaSala and all those who are called to do the work of the Lord. The ordained of The Church of Jesus Christ need our support and love to help them spread the Gospel.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Carla Joann Romano and Sean Erik Saper were united in holy matrimony on October 12, 1996 in the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch.

Diana McIntyre and Dan Altomare were united in holy matrimony on July 13, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

**Children Blessed**

Janelle Marie Taylor, daughter of Sister Rosemary and Channing Taylor, was blessed in the Bell, California Branch on June 9, 1996.

Chandler Dane Obradovich, son of Brother Dane and Sister Kelly Obradovich, was blessed on August 29, 1996 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Nathan John Ford, son of Brother John and Sister Susan Ford, was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on January 26, 1997.

Corey Michael Altomare, son of Cathy Altomare, was blessed on December 15, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Faith Ashley Rabold, daughter of Trevor Rabold and Vicki Hartle, was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on December 15, 1996.

Kyle Nicholas King, son of Tracy King, was blessed on August 25, 1996 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Taryn Alexis Haugh, daughter of Brother James and Sister Mechelle Haugh, was blessed on October 13, 1996 in the Cape Coral, Florida Branch.

Niko Antonio Difede, son of Brother Jerry and Sister Heather Difede, was blessed on January 12, 1997 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Trayvon Keith Roscoe, son of Roy Baldwin, was blessed in the Lake Worth, FL Branch on January 12, 1997.

**OBITUARIES**

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

THOMAS OSWALT

Thomas Oswalt passed on to his eternal reward on July 28, 1996. He attended the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He is survived by his fiancée, Loretta Ricco; three daughters, Karen Gheta, Pamela Surface and Sheila Bowen; one brother, Steve Oswalt; two sisters, Mary Kish and Rose Milano, and five grandchildren.

NELLIE D. BAILEY

Sister Nellie D. Bailey passed on to her heavenly reward on January 22, 1997. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Charles F. Bailey; brothers Russell, Thomas, Lawrence and William Duckworth and Lester Bittinger; and one sister, Elsie Crawford. Sister Bailey is survived by her stepfather, Apostle Joseph Bittinger; one sister, Sister Huldah Stroko, and several nieces and nephews.

DOUGLAS FORD

Brother Douglas Ford passed on to his heavenly reward on July 13, 1996. He was an ordained Deacon and a member of the Meaford, Ontario Mission. Brother Doug is survived by his wife, Sister Bertha Ford, one daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CHARLES J. NARO

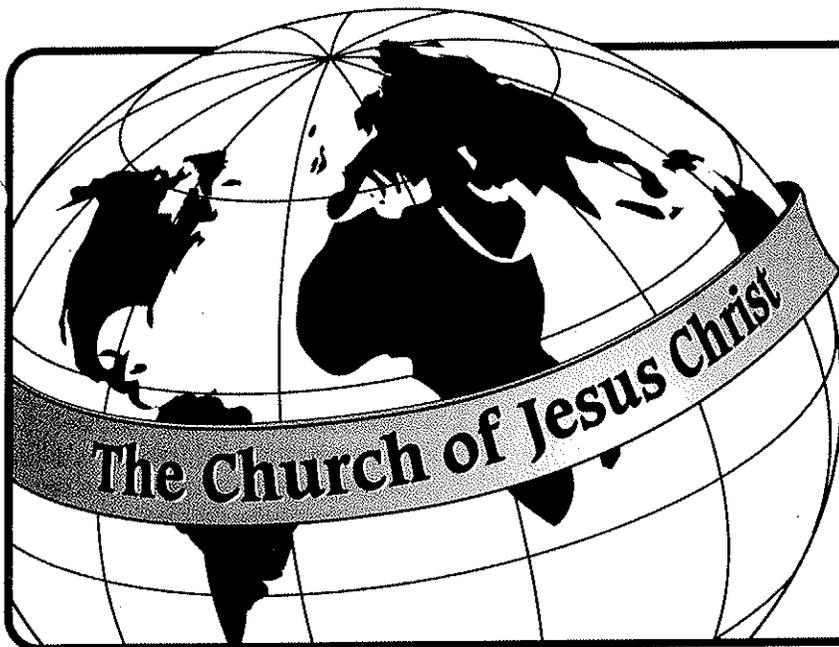
Brother Charles J. Naro passed on to his heavenly reward on August 20, 1996. He was an ordained Teacher and a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Brother Chuck is survived by his wife, Sister Vera; three sons, Brothers Tim, Mark and Kevin Naro; one daughter, Sister Carla King; three brothers, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters, Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 1997

Volume 53, No. 5

## The Valleys Are Green

By Sister Arline Whitton

A picture of Zion came before me as I viewed the breathtaking valleys and mountains that stood so tall. This is Kenya, where the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ live and listen to God's word. Can you imagine listening to God's words preached to you by the Priesthood from the top of the Kenyan mountains? In the village of Itibo, this was a reality. Brother Mark Kovacic stood at the very top of the mountain. Under the Lord's Spirit, he expounded, "This is the Bible, this is the Book of Mormon. These two books are the Gospel and beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ." As I heard these words echo through the valley, the Lord's Spirit covered that mountaintop. In the stillness of that mountain, a gentle breeze came, confirming the words that Brother Mark had spoken. This experience will stay with me

forever. My cup runneth over!

Sister Nina Osaka, who is the wife of Brother Elizaphan Osaka, requested in 1996 when the brothers came to visit Kenya that when they returned in 1997 they bring sisters with them. This became a reality when Brother Frank Natoli informed Sister Lorraine and I of Sister Nina's request. Sister Lorraine and I began to fast and pray for the Lord's

ties including instruction on feet washing and setting the sacrament table.

On Wednesday, January 25, we were to meet Sister Nina for the first time. The excitement and anticipation was overwhelming as we drove up the driveway to her house. She was standing there with her arms stretched out and waving them to greet us.



Deaconesses in Kenya, East Africa

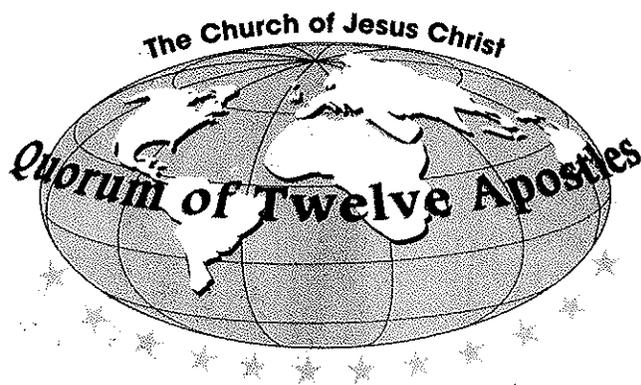
guidance and direction. We learned that the sisters had a desire to organize a Ladies' Circle. We also learned that Sister Nina wanted to meet with all the Deaconesses informing them of their responsibili-

We had lunch together and met Sister Nina's family. We all gave our testimonies. A wonderful spirit was felt in that room. "Love, Oh What Love!" Sister Nina and Brother Osaka's land is very beautiful with all kinds of flower gardens and rows and rows of vegetables and fruit trees of all kinds. The Lord has blessed those valleys with good soil. It is interesting to see and know the Lord knew their needs and provided

for them.

Sister Lorraine and I met with the Deaconesses at our hotel under a cabana in view of the flower gardens that cover the exterior of the hotel.

(Continued on Page 10)



## Do You Know Yourself?

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

You often hear from people, "I don't really know who I am." They are constantly searching for identity even though they have a name and parents. It is as though they were blobs of protoplasm or groups of cells that are arranged in disorderly fashion.

We are the product, however, of a great master plan wherein God, the great architect, instilled within



Apostle Robert A. Watson

every living being a tremendous capacity to love and to be loved, however we make the choice.

At birth we were given a body or as the scripture describes it, a temple: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you" (1 Corinthians

3:16). We have been created in the image of the "body of my Spirit" to appear in the flesh according to the Words of Christ to the Brother of Jared.

Our body is also referred to as a house in which we live: "*Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*" (1 Peter 2:5).

However we find at times that even though this house is built from matter it can be illuminated by the Spirit. Yes, at times we find that the house we live in can be a very lonely place. It appears that the only company we have is comprised of our thoughts and memories.

We constantly wrestle with the inner man and the outer man. We learned ever so soon the difference between the self-imposed purging of the inner man, and the well taught cleansing of the outer man. We became ever so mindful of the two worlds in which we live. We find it extremely difficult to reconcile the many contradictions that living seems to impose upon us; the manifestations of such things as smiling outwardly when being racked inside with pain, speaking words of comfort when we are torn up inside with sadness, shouting to be heard in order to break the deathlike stillness that was within, and we found ourself moving from place to place but inwardly we were immobile. We gave many times in order to over-compensate for a great need we had within. We took from others when there was no real need, only to satisfy our many secret

overindulgences. Yes, we are trying to find out who we really are.

Many young people today say they are trying to find out their true identity. They find it extremely difficult to push through the maze of sophistication fabricated by so-called civilization. Are there any answers to these dilemmas; can someone direct us to the long journey within? It seems paradoxical that man can travel thousands and thousands of miles through space in order to traverse to the moon and perhaps other planets, yet finds it impossible at times to chart the journey within. He is able to measure the distance he travels in miles and the time it will take him to get there. Yet, he is unable to measure the distance from that outer man to the man who lives within. He is unable to comprehend that God has given to man the ability to travel at such a speed that with one touch of that divine energy he can immediately be transported within. He can log and plot the most violent storms and develop instrumentation to guide huge airplanes through turbulence safely to land. Yet the inner storms rage without being charted. The presence of many mental institutions today is stark evidence of an individual's inability to cope with the stresses within.

The journey within however is not one that will end. When we were born, the journey began. When we die the journey does not end; we just continue to travel in another dimension. We leave behind the natural vehicle that has served us for earthly travel. We move out of this house of matter and clay. The real self, the inner person, the soul, the you, the composite of all we have done, said, and thought travels back on the journey that takes it to the place where the original launching began.

In order to start really knowing yourself right now, yes, today, look beyond your faults, and your limitations. Come to the realization that a house divided against itself cannot

(Continued on Page 10)

## Greetings in Christ



Evangelist Mark Randy

### This Is a Mother

A virtuous mother that cares enough  
Is like a jewel, true, priceless.  
Helps the mental and spiritual growth  
By her wisdom, kindness and caress.  
This is a mother.

She has an added gift untold  
Because in her trust children grow.  
She's a special person above gold  
By her children you will know.  
This is a mother.

Her husband sings her a refrain  
Her children will call her blessed.  
Favour's deceitful, beauty is vain  
But mothers that fear God are praised.  
This is a mother.

A mother is among the greatest  
treasures on earth. "Her value is  
priceless."

A mother puts a gleam in the  
eyes of her children and a joy in the  
heart of her husband.

A mother tries her best to  
weave the fibers of life that her  
children can live by; though at times  
the threads don't seem to fall into  
place, since sometimes . . . they  
seem to tangle, but the heart is  
assured that Mother is still trying to  
work out the best design that she can  
with God as her guide.

Not all mothers are given the  
honor of being great or famous.  
Some are thought of being weak,  
some meek, some bold, and some  
strong.

But, we her children know in

our heart that mothers if they could  
weave the loom of life perfectly and  
take all of the tangles and be the  
greatest designer of all, that this she  
could do.

We love you Mothers—both  
past, present and future. I love the  
memories of one who raised five  
children. Memories of the Ladies'  
Uplift Circle meeting every Monday  
night and fasting often; making  
baskets of food for the poor and  
visiting the sick.

Today, they are no less  
blessed, kind and loving. This  
poem is dedicated to you, our sisters  
and Mothers.

If you have not seen me at  
conference, it is because my beauti-  
ful wife has developed Parkinson's  
disease and has endured the agony  
for several years. This is part of  
our life. Please remember us in  
your prayers. God bless each of you.

Brother Mark Randy

### Honour Thy Father and Mother

It breaks my heart today to see  
adult, older children who do not  
honor their parents. The parents of  
which I speak are ones who are  
called the saints of God.

I was once asked concerning  
good and bad children . . . did I  
think bad parents produced bad  
children and good parents, good  
children. I'm sure everyone has  
pondered this question. Of course,  
we will all agree that this could be  
the case many times.

Our nation has become the me  
generation(s). When someone  
violates the moral code, right away  
the parents are looked to, only to  
ponder what did they do to produce  
this outcome.

I think of the saints who are  
most dear and precious, who have  
followed Christ and lived uprightly  
before God yet their children bring  
them down with gray hairs to their  
grave, as Lehi said. Those parents  
who have provided their children

with the most blessed of all the  
earth, the truth of the Restored  
Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ.

My husband was not raised in  
this Church. His father was an  
alcoholic and his family suffered  
much because of this situation. The  
events imposed upon him were  
many times insufferable as a child.  
Yet he honors his father and mother  
and loves them very much.

Growing up, I always felt bad  
when hearing someone curse God's  
name. None of us want that. He is  
our Heavenly Father, He loves us,  
has given us His Son and the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ. How precious! We  
guard His name and call His house  
holy. It is right and good before the  
Lord.

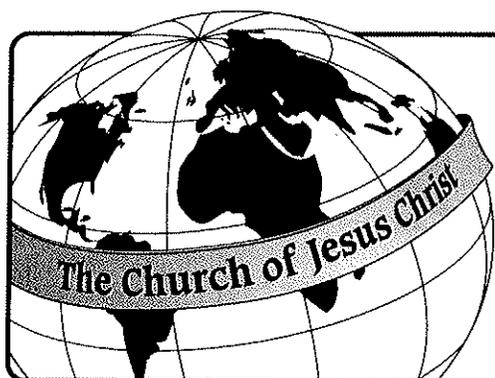
I am a parent and often speak  
with my mother and grandmother  
about what to do as a parent. We  
share our concerns, joys and sor-  
rows as well.

When my children are grown, I  
hope they remember me as someone  
who loved them second to God,  
taking them faithfully up to His  
house and how we praised Him in  
the gates. I hope they remember  
how God healed our family and  
blessed us even though we are  
unworthy.

And if they don't remember, I  
want to be like Lehi. When we look  
back upon Lehi's life, we don't see  
him as a bad parent, one who  
disrupted the lives of his children by  
leading them out into the wilder-  
ness, making their lives hard and  
forcing them to go to church. I see  
them as they really are. A family  
who God used in a great way, yet  
Lehi had two rebellious sons.

Lehi states in II Nephi 2:30, "I  
have spoken these few words unto  
you all, my sons, in the last of my  
probation; and I have chosen the  
good part, according to the words of  
the prophet. And I have none other  
object save it be the everlasting  
welfare of your souls. Amen."

May the children love, honor  
and obey their parents. May the  
parents love their children and teach  
them the ways of the Lord and  
Saviour.



## A message from the Seventy

### Kenya, 1997

By Evangelist Wayne Martorana

The great work of the Lord continues to progress as The Church of Jesus Christ expands throughout the world. Another significant step was taken in this growth when Brothers Joel Gehly, Mark Kovacic, and Wayne Martorana and Sisters Arline Whitton and Lorraine DeMercurio visited the saints in Kenya, East Africa, January 25 through February 8.

Important statistics only begin to give an account of the wonderful blessings we experienced. There were fifty-six baptisms, eleven ordinations (two Elders, two Teachers, four Deacons, and three Deaconesses), eighteen infant blessings and scores of anointings, from which God enabled several to receive answers through His power, grace, and loving kindness.

The prayers and support of all those at home were truly felt and appreciated, as were the concern and interest demonstrated for our families we left behind. God granted us safety in our travels by air and ground, good weather to allow us to visit the villages, and good health to complete the necessary work.

#### SIGNIFICANT IN NUMEROUS WAYS

This trip was significant in numerous ways. The Church's first hymn book was printed in the Swahili language and distributed. The translation of the Book of Mormon from English into Swahili is also

progressing satisfactorily, and we delivered completed excerpts to ordained officers so they can begin to read and understand them in their primary language and teach the brothers and sisters at the villages. Prior to this, only those reading English were able to utilize the Book of Mormon. These Swahili versions will also benefit neighboring Kenyan countries which speak the same language and from whom inquiries have already been received. Finally, under the direction of Sisters Arline and Lorraine, the Ladies' Uplift Circle was successfully established in Kenya, and Sister Nina Osaka was elected its first President. Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka provide solid leadership and general oversight of the Church in Kenya.

Extremely noteworthy were the

ordinations of two additional Elders, Brothers Andrew Ontomwa and Joseph Nyabuto. With membership swelling to three hundred spread throughout nine different villages (the most being established this visit,) the responsibilities of Elder-in-Charge, Brother Stephen Osaka, have become great. We cannot thank God enough for Brother Stephen's tireless efforts in feeding the flock, visiting the villages, and handling the administrative needs of the Church. Now God has called additional laborers who can work together in the Ministry.

The trip was not without opposition, however. We had to overcome three flat tires and a "dropped" exhaust system. Although one of the flats occurred while traveling on the highway at sixty miles an hour, God's protection spared us of any harm. Also, the morning of the conference with the Elder ordinations, a truck traveling the opposite direction on a two lane road came within inches of our vehicle and hit the side view mirror. The impact sent the shattered mirror glass spraying throughout the vehicle. Although we could have been seriously injured, we received only a few minor cuts. Praise God!

#### IMMEDIATE BENEFICIAL TRAINING

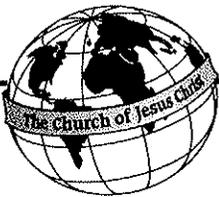
The days following the Ministerial ordinations offered immediate beneficial training for our two brothers. They actively participated in the ordinances of baptism, confirmation of the Holy Ghost, communion, anointing, and blessing of little children. As we felt the Spirit of Christ working through them, we could see how beautifully God had prepared them for this work.

We also interviewed each ordained Teacher and Deacon to better understand how the Lord was using them to serve the Church and fulfill their responsibilities. We are very thankful to God and appreciative of the love these brothers have for God's work and the souls of mankind. Many of them are teaching, praying, and sharing God's goodness



Baptisms at Omosassa Village, Kenya

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What does the Lord want from you? Do you know what He requires from you? Do you know what He asks of you?

The Lord simply wants us to obey His commandments, instructions and teachings. In John 14:15 He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Would it be safe to ask if we do not keep His commandments, that we do not love Him? Please remember that His commandments are not grievous.

How do we define obedience? Simply stated, it is carrying out or fulfilling a request, command or order. It is being dutiful!

What are some of the commandments of the Lord? In Exodus, 20th chapter, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. They still apply to all mankind. Kindly read them again and refresh your memory. You will find the complete and full Ten Commandments very interesting.

The Lord gave other commandments to the human family. He commands everyone to repent of their sins. He commands us to be baptized by His authority and in His name. He commanded us on the naming of His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. He commands us to become as little children by having the humbleness and forgiving spirit of a child. He commands that little children should be blessed and not baptized.

Jesus Christ commands us to love God above all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. He requires us to love one another. He commands us to love our enemies. He commands us to pray for those that spitefully use us.

The Lord commands us to forgive one another. He commands us to take His holy communion, the bread and wine in remembrance of Him. He commands us to watch and pray always, to avoid and overcome the temptations of the devil. Christ instructs us to meet together often, not sometimes, but often. He requires that we forbid no one from worshipping with us. He instructs us to hold up our light. The Lord commands us not to go away from Him, but to come unto Him.

If we are obedient to Jesus Christ, He promised that His Spirit will always be with us. It is that Spirit, the Comforter, that leads, guides and directs us through the journey of life. It allows us to discern good from evil. It constantly reminds us what the Lord did for us and for all mankind. He died for our sins. He set us free from sin! He set us free from the finality of the grave! O grave where is thy sting!

Obedience to the commandments of God results in countless blessings. Obedience brings eternal life with Jesus Christ and God. It brings happiness in life. It brings joy and blessings to you from the Lord. It causes a spiritual excitement in your life! It causes a spiritual exhilaration in our lives! You feel the very presence of Jesus Christ! You are never alone, no never alone!

When you obey the commandments of Jesus Christ, your life is transformed. You become a new creature in Jesus Christ. Your spiritual eyes see a different life. It is very different from a natural life.

The creation and majesty of God is now more than ever visible to you. You see God in all things. The vegetation, the singing of birds, the animals, the earth's vast array of color and especially in mankind.

You now see the goodness in people, not their faults or the flaws in their character and per-

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Dear friends,

Did you ever stop to think about all the adventure there is in serving God? Sometimes when I talk with people who are still choosing the empty, "worldly" way of living, I smile. They say they want to dance or drink or have unusual fun!

I say, once they've danced—what's there to remember? Once they drink, who have they hurt or endangered by losing control or driving drunk? And what is unusual about being at a concert with hundreds of other people—all looking about the same—all paying good money for tickets to make some musician rich? Where is there anything special or unique there? Where's the unusual or lasting fun?

In reality, true service to God is fun and unique. Paul told us we are all a part of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-31.) One of us may have the gift of seeing the future, or seeing ahead, like the eyes. One of us may have the personality to reach out to others like hands. Another may have a gift of loving and be like comforting arms around a desperate friend. Another of us may be like a foot, bringing us ahead, or a toe, providing balance to the whole body. And another may be like a tongue and have the special ability to speak powerful words of kindness and love.

Each person is truly unusual. Each gift, each part of the body, works together to create a whole. Nobody has to pay money. Nobody has to worship or think another part of the body is better than they are. Each part of the body is of great importance to God.

Which part of the body of the family of Christ do you represent? What are your special talents? Do you, for example, find it interesting to meet other people? Would you like the adventure of traveling to a new country, or state, a different city or a beautiful Indian Reservation to meet new friends amongst the saints of God?

In your family, are you willing to have strangers from the Church come visit with you? Because of the love in The Church of Jesus Christ, during my life, I have had many exciting adventures trying out new experiences while living with the saints.

One summer I volunteered on the beautiful White Mountain Apache Reservation to teach math to third graders. Another summer, I joined young people from all around the Church to work with Navajo people in the middle of the desert near Chinle, Arizona. Another time, I helped with Bible Schools on the Muncey Reservation in Canada and Inner City Detroit and made many lifetime friends.

The love of God opened doors. All of our prayers to be used by God allowed us to make new friends and learn that there are many parts of the same body, all doing their jobs.

What is your job? What interests you? Who can you reach out to? Who can you give ten percent of your money to help? Where is there hunger in this world for the word of God, or for food? Where are you needed today?

Is there someone suffering alone in the hospital? Say a brave prayer

for courage and quietly go visit them. Remind them of the love of God. Send them a card just from you or from your branch of the Church. Support your missionaries through prayers or visits.

Save your money and join others in buying Books of Mormon or

(Continued on Page 12)

## WORD SEARCH

adventure	of	feet
in	righteousness	shod
Ephesians	preparation	with
Corinthians	gospel	stand
put	and	therefore
on	peace	pray
the	shield	and
whole	of	watch
armour	faith	be
of	helmet	bold
God	of	be
stand	salvation	God
up	sword	will
to	of	use
evil	spirit	you
truth	let	soon
breastplate		

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S	P	I	R	I	T	B	E	G	D	O	H	S
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O	U	U	O	I	T	A	T	Y	T	O	W	N
I	T	O	L	L	S	I	U	S	W	S	I	A
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A	M	R	C	F	E	L	O	H	W	A	L	H
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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## GMBA Singles Retreat 1996

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

We arrived at the McKeever Learning Center Friday night after dinner time. Is there anything more exciting than arriving at a retreat and patiently (sometimes impatiently) waiting for the others to arrive? Just to see each other again and enjoy that sweet fellowship, what a blessing.

We started Saturday morning with a prayer meeting. A few of us gathered early to approach the throne of God on behalf of our weekend. It was a small group and a cold room, the perfect combination for a humble prayer service. As each person prayed or expressed themselves, there was an overwhelming feeling of humility and thanksgiving.

The seminar I attended was twenty-five and over. I can only speak for the seminar I was in—we had a blessed time of sharing, growing and learning. The reports of the other seminars were positive as well.

In the afternoon, we had the usual retreat atmosphere fun: games, basketball, football, napping and singing. During the afternoon recreation a brother was injured and that night he expressed what care and sincerity he felt coming from the saints of God. That surely gave him comfort.

Saturday night we met for the evening meeting. It was informal, we sat in a circle. In the past we have found it nice to see everyone and to look at their faces as we share the love of God and praise His name. The GMBA officers left the meeting open to whoever felt moved and most of all to the Spirit of God. Automatically, a sweet spirit entered the meeting. It was evident the children of God came seeking with a certain determination to invite the Holy

Spirit into our presence. We were just minutes into our service and we had already sat in heavenly places. During the meeting, a brother got up and approached the brothers in charge of the meeting. He had heard the word of the Lord! This brother has the gift of hearing the word of the Lord and it felt natural for me to write this down. I enjoy taking notes and writing down the events of meetings. The meeting went on and there was no announcement of this brother's experience. I quickly began to question myself if I should just erase it and forget what I did. When I began to doubt myself, I heard a voice quietly speak to me and say, "Sister step out on faith." I could not argue with that, so I left it in my notes and trusted in the Lord. By this time, the spirit of prayer entered our meeting and many came forward with desires to be helped, healed and heard. How quick and sure God hears and answers us. How quickly He comes to our rescue. We then shared a few testimonies of God's goodness. During this time, a brother got up and shared with us that he heard the word of the Lord and it said, "Unity, Unity. Be Unified! Unity." If you remember, earlier in the meeting I had that experience about the word of the Lord. Lo and behold, it came forth and I filled in the blanks. I mention this experience to share with you how God has blessed me as Editor of the GMBA. Many beautiful things happened in our meeting that night. After the meeting, we went to the campfire site where we sang hymns and fellowshiped with one another.

We gathered for our final meeting of the weekend, Sunday service. We had several unexpected visitors; Brothers Ike Smith (Arizona), Phil Jackson and Howard Jackson. Brother Ike Smith (Florida) opened our meeting making reference to the song, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. He requested that the Ministry sing this song for the congregation. It was a great blessing to have the Ministry before us, sending out the beautiful message in this hymn. He exhorted us to serve each other

and how we must be open vessels in order to be used by God. Brother Ike Smith (Arizona) followed with the importance of gathering together often as young people and holding each other up and helping each other to be strong. Brother Phil Jackson followed exclaiming that we need to be unified, a force of one! We must give our entire being to Jesus Christ. Live our life for Him and He will bless your life beyond measure and human comprehension. We may at times come short in our service, but accept that you are human and in your weakness, He is strong. He will make your strong!

We enjoyed a beautiful communion service. I have to admit that from here on, the meeting took my attention and I no longer took notes. It was such a beautiful meeting. The Word of God was a feast that we enjoyed and the spirit of unity was overwhelming. By this point, I needed to sit back and enjoy the Spirit of God. It felt like a warm blanket after coming in from the cold.

### Announcement

For May, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.85%
2 years	6.00%
3 years	6.20%
4 years	6.30%
5 years	6.50%

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:

202 Waterworks Rd.  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-227-2421



## Sixth Generation Cadman Obeys Gospel at Greensburg, PA

The year was 1856 and what excitement! A recent wedding, a somewhat puzzling adventure crossing the Atlantic, a miraculous escape from death, and finally settled, safe at last, in America.

Little did William Cadman know the real thrills he would discover in his life. A discussion about an interesting religious belief resulted in his baptism in 1858 in the, as yet unorganized, Church of Jesus Christ.

In the continuance of this faith, a son, Alma, later found relief from his spiritual burden through The Church of Jesus Christ. A grandson, Russell, followed in his ancestors' footsteps; then a great granddaughter, Carolyn; and a great-great grandson, Timothy Gehly.

A great-great-great grandson, Matthew David Gehly, awoke to a deluge of wintry rain on the morning of January 5, 1997, knowing this was the day of his baptism. At the appointed hour, the sun shone with a brilliant affirmation as this sixteen-year-old was immersed in the chilly waters by his grandfather, Brother Paul Gehly.

Thank God for the power of the resurrection!

## Baptism in Hollywood, FL

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

Sunday, December 1, 1996, was indeed a beautiful day. We gathered at the Church, excited and joyous for the event about to take place. Rudi Weil was going to be baptized. Brother Rudi is the husband of Sister Fay Weil. Our sister has been a faithful member for over nine years and had prayerfully waited for this

moment.

Brother Ken Staley was asked to perform the baptism. At the water's shore, Brother Ken took Brother Rudi's hands and began to speak to him. The sweet spirit falling around us was wonderful! Brother Ken asked Brother Rudi if he would serve God to the best of his ability, to which Brother Rudi answered yes!

As they entered the water, Brother Rudi seemed fearful. As a young child, he almost drowned. I prayed that the Lord would lift this fear and help our Brother Rudi. As Brother Ken took hold of our brother, I could see a change take place in Brother Rudi. A spirit of peace feel upon our new brother as he went down into the watery grave.

Back at the Church, Brother Ken and I had the privilege of singing a duet. Brother Rudi was then confirmed by Brother Dennis Moraco. Brother Staley spoke to us, using the twenty-second chapter of Matthew as his text. We then enjoyed communion and a time of testimony.

Our Brother Rudi is of Jewish heritage and as a child, escaped Hitler's Germany. Our brother was able to flee to England and later move to America. We can truly see the hand of God in our brother's life. Praise the Lord, another soul gives his live to Jesus Christ.

## Service

By Sister Sara Vancik

*"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).*

These words apply to all of us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Every little deed we do is noticed by our Lord. His life was a great example for us to follow as His ministry took Him among many peoples—rich and poor, good and evil. To them as well as His own followers, He showed His love for all mankind.

In our service to Him today, we who have felt His calling to serve others, find a great blessing in

fulfilling our duties even as a Deaconess. I believe my greatest blessing is the feeling of humbleness as I set the table in preparation for the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. "He gave His life's blood for you and me." "Oh What a Savior!"

Our little deeds of kindness each day are many times unnoticed by others but as we show forth His love, we are fulfilling the Scripture where He says, *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

Thus in the words of King Benjamin, as we dedicate our lives to help others, we are "only in the service of our God."

## A Miracle of God

By Sister Peggy Stroko

On November 24, 1996, a Sabbath Day, members and friends gathered at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch for regular services. We conducted Sunday School and the preaching service began at 11:15 AM.

Evangelist Robert Nicklow, Sr. addressed the congregation followed by Brother Richard Lowther. When these two brothers concluded their sermons shortly after noontime, Brother Richard Lowther turned to Apostle Joseph Bittinger and asked, "Brother Joe, would you like to say anything?" There was no answer. A second time he asked, "Brother Joe, would you like to say anything?" Again, there was no response from Brother Bittinger. A third time, Brother Richard asked, "Brother Joe, would you like to say anything?"

The events that followed were overwhelming to say the least. Brother Bittinger's head turned sharply to the right. He made an alarming loud noise, which seemed to be a moan or him trying to speak. His hands were drawn as that of severe crippling arthritis and the right leg swung forward and began shaking. Life seemed to leave his body!

Brother Richard and Brother Bob quickly got to their feet and were instantly near Brother Bittinger.

Brother Richard said to Brother Bob, "get the oil!" Brother Bob anointed Brother Joe as both brothers participated in the anointing. The congregation joined in Brother Bob's prayer.

An ambulance was called and emotions were rampant. It appeared that two minutes or more passed since the anointing. Our prayers were truly answered! Brother Joseph Bittinger opened his eyes. He tried to speak, but was unable to for another minute or so. The ambulance arrived, he was examined and was doing remarkably well!

It is by the "Grace of God" that Apostle Joseph Bittinger is with us today! Please remember Brother Joe in your prayers.

## Baptisms in Branch #2, Allen Park, MI

*By Sister Carolynn Gentile O'Connor*

On November 24, 1996, the Lord blessed our branch with two new members, Sister Marge D'Amico and Sister Marie Hotte. Although their stories are different, they were brought to the Lord and His Church in much the same way. They needed comfort and strength at a very difficult time in their lives. We are so thankful that they chose to lean on the Lord, accept His comfort, and thank Him by giving their souls to Him. They will be a great asset to our branch. I asked them to share their testimonies with all of you.

Sister Marge: "I was born and raised in the Church. I can remember walking to Church with my mother, Sister Josephine, (my father, Brother Alfred D'Amico passed away when I was four) to the old Branch #3 in Detroit, Michigan. We went to Church twice on Sunday, Monday night Ladies' Circle, Wednesday night service, and Friday night MBA every week.

When I was fifteen years old, I attended the GMBA Campout in Nauvoo, Illinois. One night after the meeting, some of the young people

had gone for a walk. I stopped and looked up into the trees and saw a beautiful vision. Brother Gorie Ciaravino was sitting at a desk. Across from him was an open gate with a man standing on the other side. All were brightly illuminated. The man held his arms out to me as I hesitated to walk through. I turned and looked back at Brother Gorie as he nodded his head in approval. He picked up a pen and wrote in a book. That night I asked for my baptism.

I was in the Church for three years when because of some bad choices I made in my life, I found myself suspended. I spent twenty-three years out of the Church.

In 1996, I felt the Spirit of God begin to work with me again, especially after the passing of my sister, Harriet Francione. I attended the Ladies' Circle Retreat in March in Windsor, Ontario and began attending Branch #2. In June, I had a dream that I was in a big building with a lot of people. They were angry with me, saying, "What is wrong with her? What is taking her so long? Why doesn't she just do it?" I looked up and saw a bright light shining through the roof. Two men came up behind me and lifted me up by the arms and we all flew up into the light. When this happened, all of the people that were angry with me began clapping and cheering.

A few months after my dream, I asked to be reinstated into the Church. On November 24, 1996, I was re-baptized. I am truly grateful and thankful that in all my unworthiness, God saw fit to extend His mercy on me and give me a second chance."

Sister Marie: "I was introduced to the Church approximately nineteen years ago by my former husband. I attended church with my family steadily for nine years and then off and on for ten. I did not feel the Spirit of God working with me during the meetings and I got frustrated and stopped attending.

I continued to stay in contact with the brothers and sisters and saw them at special functions. I really loved the people of this Church. I

always believed in the Church and what it stood for, only I had doubts and uncertainties.

In October of 1995, my marriage of over twenty years was completely over. I was afraid and alone. I had never been alone. Members of the Church stood behind me throughout this time and it became a special turning point for me. This was a blessing for me to have support at a time I desperately needed it.

I began to think about going back to Church and finally began attending Branch #2 in the summer of 1996. I wanted to serve God and be baptized. I had always tried to lead a good life, doing the right things naturally. I found that at this time in my life I really needed God beside me. I started praying more and more. I needed emotional strength to get through this trial. I felt like I was falling apart.

I prayed often. God did answer my prayers as to what He wanted for me. I didn't have a lot of faith up until last summer. I realized that if I went to God with a sincere heart and a contrite spirit, He would answer my prayers. He filled a very large hole (void) inside of me.

I kept praying to be called into the Church, all the time knowing this was the true Church of Jesus Christ. I decided after coming for a while, and always being filled with His Spirit, that He was calling me. I had to think it over and analyze it knowing that it would be the biggest decision of my life.

I could feel God encouraging me, asking me what I was waiting for. I was sure that this was what I wanted. After I thought everything out, I called Brother Larry Henderson and asked for my baptism. I was filled with His Spirit from that Sunday to the next. I was feeling so good and so fulfilled that I couldn't wait and I almost ran into the water!

Sister Marge D'Amico was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton and confirmed by Brother Dan Parravano. Sister Marie Hotte was baptized by

(Continued on Page 10)

**BRANCH #2 continued . . .**

Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile.

Please join us in praying for our two new sisters. There is much work to do and we thank God for His sblessings and for sending us two new laborers.

**GREEN continued . . .**

As we began our meeting with the Deaconesses, I could see an expression of humility and willingness to learn, as if to say, "I will do whatever I need to do to serve the Lord and adhere to His instructions, for He is my Almighty Father, and I am His child." Praise the Lord.

Sister Lorraine began washing Sister Nina's feet and we than continued until every sister's feet were washed. Sister Nina was our interpreter, for that we were very grateful as we were able to understand the prayers that were offered while washing feet.

Sister Grace, who was going to be ordained a Deaconess while we were there, was washing her sister's feet and offering a prayer that the Lord would bless this sister and help her to serve Him, take care of her family and that she would have strong faith. After Sister Grace said those words she followed with this statement, "Oh Lord, I don't mean to force you or push you to do these things. I ask of you these requests in love, please hear my prayer." I felt such humility in Sister Grace's prayer. I opened my eyes and looked at the other sisters, all were feeling the love that was expressed in that prayer.

Meeting these sisters and knowing them for a short period of time, the love that flowed from each one of us was God's love in us. It was evident we felt we are the family of God even though there are thousands of miles that separate us. The Deaconesses sang many songs for us. Their music is spirit filled.

We gathered together to organize the Ladies' Circle on Sunday afternoon. There were forty-nine

sisters eagerly waiting to become members of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The history of the Circle was briefly explained to them. We discussed the aims and Pledge of the Circle. We then repeated the pledge together.

"We pledge ourselves to read and search the Scripture and ask God to direct and bless our Ladies' Uplift Circle in every way. We will do our duty in visiting the sick; we will neither find fault nor offend in word or deed, but will be a help to each other and help others to the best of our ability."

For me, it seemed like it was the first time I had read the pledge. It took on a stronger feeling with me. We closed our meeting, forming a circle, singing God's word and prayer. The sisters felt such a sweet spirit. We did not want to leave this meeting.

The last two villages that we visited, I was not able to climb the mountain or jump rocks in the stream. I remained with the van and visited with the children. I could see the stream from where the van was parked. In ten minutes, there were several women with baskets of clothes on their heads. As I watched them wash their clothes in the stream, I thought of my washer and dryer at home. How easy for me on wash day! As the women lay the clothes in the valley to dry, they formed a circle and conversed with one another. I thought, "their own little Ladies' Circle."

Still waiting for the brethren to return from the village, Sister Doris, a Deaconess walked up to the van. She had been walking for three hours in that hot sun to get to the Church meeting. She rested for a few minutes. We began talking. Thank God that Sister Doris could speak English. She told me her husband and child died last year. This did not mean she should give up on her life. She stated the Lord has blessed her with His comfort and strength, that she would be able to take care of the rest of her family. She also mentioned, "I am motivated, look at the land I have, to plant a garden, to feed my family that was given to me by the

Lord." Sister Doris began doing what she needed to do for her family and praised the Lord, expressing her thanks for her garden.

"No need to feel sorry for myself, I have the Lord. I have given myself to Him." Faith as large as that mountain and then some. I asked myself, have I given myself to the Lord with the amount of faith that Sister Doris had?

After Sister Doris left to go to the meeting, I got out of the van, looked at the valleys and mountains. Words are insufficient to describe the scene—peaceful, a quietness, a feeling of closeness to the Lord. I thought this must be what heaven is like. Such a beautiful feeling came over me. This must be the beautiful place my Sister Harriet is enjoying.

How great thou art Lord, your Gospel has reached the saints in Kenya. They surrender all to you with full confidence that you will provide for their every need.

I certainly learned the true meaning of surrendering yourself to Jesus Christ.

**YOURSELF continued . . .**

stand. If you will completely surrender yourself to Christ without making any demands, He has promised to come within, make His abode, and to dine with you.

He will drive out all fears and every shadow of loneliness will disappear. He will take the real you and bring it into perfect harmony with the total entity of life. This includes the removing of the sting of death, the instilling of a hope that burns with greater intensity than the heat that radiates from the sun. If you have not dropped the buckets deep enough within the wells of the heart, mind, and soul, I urge you to do so. Don't punish yourself unnecessarily; don't tear down the house you live in by excessive use of anything that leads to deterioration.

Why don't you take a few moments away from your job, your burdens, your anxieties, and your

frustrations, taking the advice of the hymn that says, "Alone With God the World Forgotten." In the quietness of these moments, rip off all the masks; strip off all the pride; tear down every particle of self-justification; and cut down the unsightly hedges of prejudice, bitterness, jealousy, and hatred. Let Him reach into your inner being, and when you totally surrender, He will make something beautiful of your life. It may take a few journeys into solitude, but you will evolve into a person whose countenance reflects the evidence that God dwells within and that you truly know yourself.

**MESSAGE continued . . .**

through testimonies two to three times a week at their "home" village or neighboring villages, in addition to the regularly scheduled services. We were touched to hear that several of them walk two hours each way to strengthen the brothers and sisters and spread the Gospel.

Particularly outstanding was the further spiritual growth and maturity demonstrated by the members, as God is blessing them with spiritual gifts and revelations. In one village, a sister dreamed that three American brothers were being "carried through the air" to visit her village and several of the surrounding villages. The sister was not aware that the parent Church was planning this trip to Kenya. When we went to her

village, she was the first to testify and thank God for the fulfillment of what she was shown in the dream.

One day, Sister Lorraine was ill and unable to accompany us to the villages. During our journey, we shared her condition with and requested prayers from all the saints. A brother and sister (a married couple) took it upon themselves to fast and pray from that time so Sister Lorraine's condition would improve. They continued their fast throughout the day and night. That night, the brother saw the next day's conference in a dream. He saw that Sister Lorraine had recovered sufficiently and regained strength to attend. The brother and sister indeed praised God when they arrived at the conference and saw Sister Lorraine and that the dream had been fulfilled completely.

**SERVICE IN ENGLAND**

We had the opportunity to fellowship with Brother Patrick O'Callaghan in London, England en route to Kenya. Brother Pat is our ordained Minister representing the Church in his country. Although our time together was brief, it was most enjoyable. The hotel served as our "meeting place" that afternoon for an inspiring service of preaching, singing, testimony, and communion.

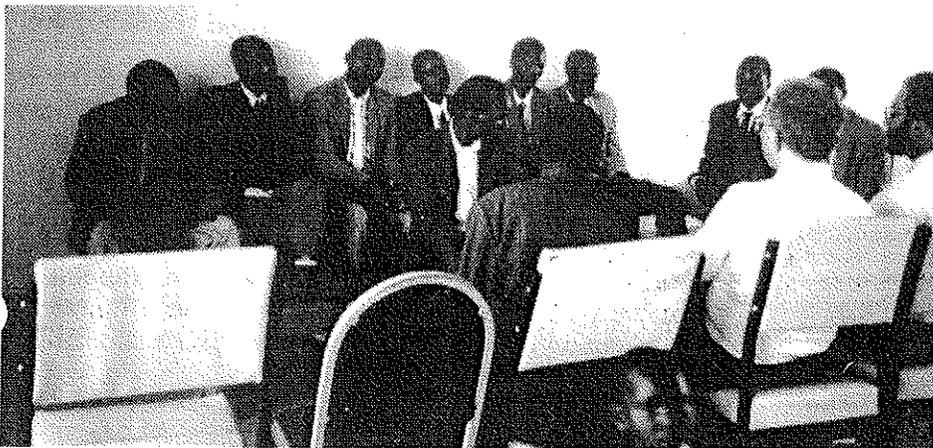
Our faith and hope is that wherever we journey throughout the world, we will be able to meet and fellowship with a brother and sister in Christ.

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

sonalities. You begin to look for good in people. You feel a sorrow for those who do not know the Lord. You feel a sorrow for those who are mired in sin. You feel sorrow for the sinners. You now feel compassion for all people. You share your substance with those who have little if anything at all. You give to the poor. You feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Respect for others is now common place in your heart. Love for all is now common place in your heart, mind and soul. What a transformation! What a newness of life!

Jesus Christ dramatically changes people who obey His commandments. Do you remember the conversion of the Lamanites? It was complete and total. They became a very righteous people. They laid down their weapons of war. They no longer fought against God. They no longer fought against their brethren. Not one soul would take up arms against his brethren. They would not even prepare for war! They took their swords, and all the weapons of war which were used for shedding man's blood and buried them in the earth. The scripture states "they did bury them up deep in the earth." Their testimony was that they would never use weapons again to shed the blood of man. They made this covenant with God Almighty! They were firm in their conversion. They would rather suffer death than commit sin by shedding the blood of their brethren. Reading this account in Alma 23rd and 24th chapters will stir your heart with love and compassion.

In branches and missions, brothers and sisters testify of the goodness of God. These testimonies are the result of obedience to God's word and His commandments. How many times have you heard a simple, "I just want to thank the Lord who died for me that I might live. I want to thank Him for giving me a chance to save my soul." You have heard it many times. You have seen the tears that accompany these testimonies. These actions come from obedience. Obedience is better than sacrifice!



**Seminar with ordained brothers at Mosoch Village, Kenya**

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Joan Stanek and Colin Land were united in holy matrimony on October 26, 1996 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch.

Clarence "Chip" Smith, Jr. and Karen Orr from Herndon, Virginia were united in holy matrimony on September 21, 1996 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Brother Arthur Gehly, Jr. and Mary Hollowell from Herndon, Virginia were united in holy matrimony on October 5, 1996 in Kure Beach, North Carolina.

Brother Joseph Catone, Jr. of the Carolina Mission and Donna Watson were united in holy matrimony on December 29, 1996.

**Birth Announcement**

Stacy Lynn DiNardo, daughter of Anthony and Donna DiNardo of Hollywood, Florida was born on January 7, 1997.

**Children Blessed**

Adam Louis Romanski, son of Karyn (Vitto) and Ric Romanski was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on July 14, 1996.

Shala Rose Visconti, daughter of Beverly and Louis Visconti, Jr., was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on October 27, 1996.

Traci Lyn DiFalco, daughter of Joy and Matthew DiFalco was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on December 22, 1996.

Tyler Wayne Labute, son of Brother Brad and Sister Sylvie Labute was blessed in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on February 4, 1997.

**OBITUARIES**

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

ANGELINE (Angie) CAPPELLERO

Sister Angie Cappellero of the Sterling Heights Michigan Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on December 29, 1996. She is survived by two daughters, Sisters Pierina DiFalco and Elaine Caruso; three sisters, Rena, Annie and Lucy; one brother, John; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

LOUIS BENYOLA

Brother Louis Benyola of the Elkins, West Virginia Mission passed on to his eternal reward on September 18, 1996. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sister Anna Benyola; his father, Brother Louis Benyola; and his brother, Thomas Benyola. He is survived by his wife, Sister Heddie Benyola; one sister, Sister Mary Jane Cervone; three brothers, Brothers Jerry, Ray and Dennis Benyola; and several nieces and nephews.

JOHN D'AMICO

Brother John D'Amico of the Rochester, New York Mission passed away to his heavenly reward on October 29, 1996. He is survived by his wife, Frances D'Amico; one son, Ronald; three daughters, Ruth Hollis, Lydia Auteritano and Elizabeth D'Amico; two sisters, Sister Erma Rossi and Laoretta Maggio; and two grandchildren.

HELEN SYLVIA TEACH

Sister Helen Sylvia Teach of the St. John, Kansas Mission passed away to her heavenly reward on February 17, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elden Teach and a sister, Letha Kunkle. Sister Teach is survived by one son, Gregg Teach; one daughter, Peggy Wacker; one sister, Shirley King; and two grandchildren.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

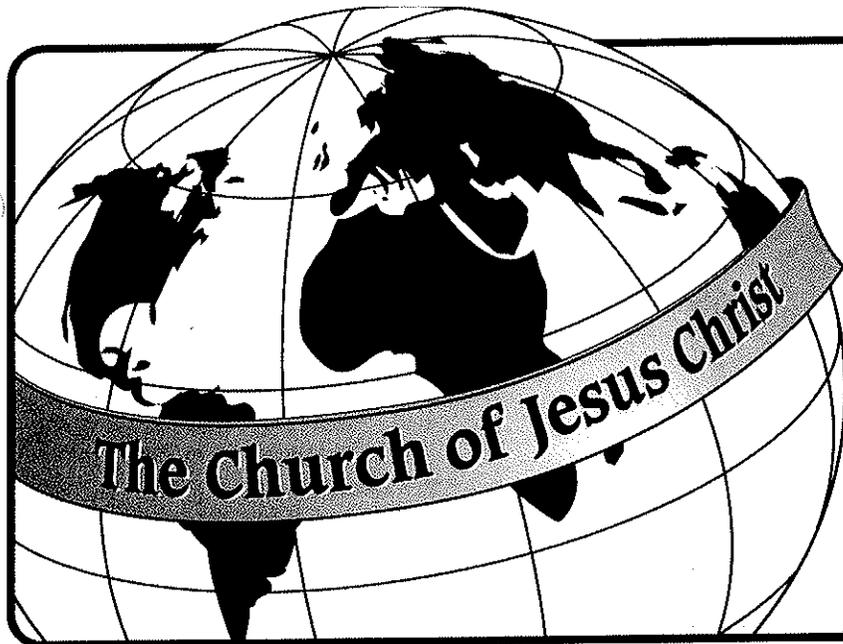
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**CHILDREN'S CORNER continued . . .**

Bibles to send to others. Pray and ask God in the name of Jesus, to send you, to use you to help you discover which wonderful gifts you have and how to use them. Start the adventure in learning where you can fit in this amazing world of ours. When you find yourself in new places, put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:13) and begin your adventure.

With care and respect,  
Sister Jan



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

June, 1997

Volume 53, No. 6

## Study, Study, Study!

*By Brother Stacey H. Light*

The day and time in which we live is filled with many different types of religions and beliefs of the Holy Scriptures. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must be prepared to not only defend our faith, but we also must be ready and able to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its simplicity and purity. This is important for "all" members of the Church, and can only be accomplished through a lifelong, consistent study of the Holy Scriptures, the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Timothy was ordained into the Ministry of the Church during one of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys. He quickly found himself in charge of the Church in his area, living among many that had not been firmly grounded in the Gospel—many that had never heard the simple teachings of Jesus Christ. Timothy was surrounded on all sides by religious men and others who would try and sway him and his flock from the truth. The Apostle Paul continued on with his missionary efforts, but he never forgot Timothy and wrote many encouraging exhortations in his

letters to him. He knew that many would become weak in the faith and fall away or change the teachings of Christ by introducing false doctrines.

"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 in 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. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (I Timothy 4:1-4).

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

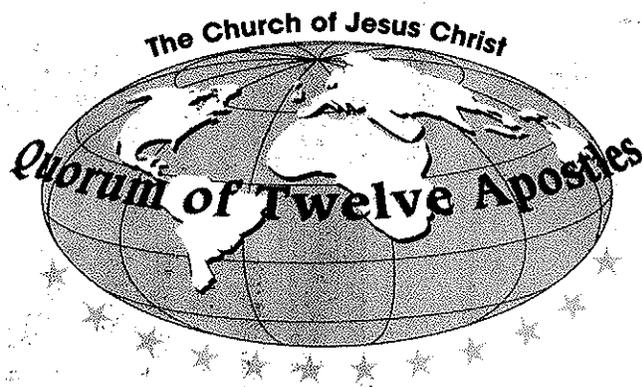
Lehi was a devout man of God and was commanded to leave Jerusalem with his family so that they would be spared from the impending destruction. Not only were Lehi and his family being spared from sin and destruction, but all their generations to follow. He was commanded by God to send his sons back into Jerusalem to obtain the plates of brass which contained all the Holy Scriptures from the time of Adam

until their day. Thank God, Nephi understood the importance of what his father had asked him to accomplish. He did not give up in his difficult task of obtaining the plates from Laban, a man who had the power to command armies to slay him. God eventually delivered Laban into Nephi's hands. When Nephi was unsure if he should kill Laban to obtain the plates, God Himself spoke to him and confirmed the necessity of having the Holy Scriptures with them. If they did not have Scriptures with them on their journey to the promised land, their entire generation would eventually dwindle and perish.

"Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief" (I Nephi 4:13).

Many times the wise religious men of the day and even Satan came to Jesus with questions, trying to trick Him. He did not attempt to debate their questions, but He often responded to them with their own scriptures which could not be disputed. After the Lord had fasted for forty days in the wilderness the evil power tempted Him, but a quotation from the Scriptures could not be

(Continued on Page 10)



## The Declaration of Jesus Christ 2000 Years Ago Versus the Summit Declaration Today in Philadelphia

By Apostle Paul Benyola

In Philadelphia, at the historic site of Independence Hall, Presidents Ford, Carter, Bush and Clinton sat together in front of 3000 delegates to sign a new declaration which reads in part, "Our obligation, distinct and unmistakable, is to assure that all young people have: Caring adults in their lives, as parents, teachers, tutors, coaches . . . Safe places with



Apostle Paul Benyola

structured activities in which to learn and grow . . . A healthy start and healthy future . . . An effective education that equips them with marketable skills . . . An opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service. Two centuries ago, America was founded on the proposition that all people are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, citizenship entails undeniable responsibilities. As each

of us has the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, each of us has an obligation to give something back to country and community . . . a duty to take responsibility not just for ourselves and our families, but for one another. We owe a debt of service to fulfill the God given promise of America, and our children." This Summit called for a spirit of voluntary action by all people to reach out to the needy. The focus is on our children. **The government realizes that they have failed in teaching morality to the youth of this country and the entire world.**

**3500 YEARS AGO GOD ESTABLISHED** a law of morality in the Ten Commandments.

**TODAY THE COURTS** of this promised land are trying to stop the display and implementation of the Ten Commandments.

**2000 YEARS AGO JESUS TAUGHT**, "Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:7-15). **TODAY THE GOVERNMENT** of this promised land does not allow this prayer to be said or any verses of the Bible to be read or talked about in our schools.

**2000 YEARS AGO JESUS COMMANDED US** "that ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). Jesus also said, "Suffer

little children to come unto me" (Luke 18:16-17). **TODAY** the government is asking the people to commit to voluntary action and through this service, the fulfillment of America's promise for every American-child will be met.

**2000 YEARS AGO JESUS** said, "thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." When asked by a "certain lawyer, who is my neighbor," Jesus gave us the example of the "good Samaritan" who helped a man who was beaten and left for dead. The Samaritan paid for his care while two others, a Levite and a Priest, passed on the other side and ignored the man's need. **TODAY** the government has given a "New Declaration." Help our children and those in need.

**2000 YEARS AGO JESUS** taught us to put our priorities in order—God, family and all else. Jesus wants us to help one another and teach our children to put God first in their lives.

**TODAY THE GOVERNMENT** called a volunteerism Summit to encourage people to help one another, keep their neighborhoods clean and to pay special attention to our children. The Summit was indeed a noble gesture to place emphasis on the most important assets in this world, our children. **God recognized this 3500 years ago** and gave us the Ten Commandments to live by in our world today. He also gave us His Son, Jesus Christ, 2000 years ago to show us how to live in love and thus enable us to bring our children up in a God fearing home environment. In America, the government was established on these principles two centuries ago. **TODAY** the courts have replaced God's plan of salvation and morality with laws that favor free speech and support the darkest side of man's mind which is influenced by evil. The government continues to depart from the morality of God's word and supports, through the courts, the moral descent into a vulgar and indecent chasm by

persons who openly defy the word of God.

**TODAY**, The Church of Jesus Christ, restored in 1830, abides by the principals set up by Jesus Christ. In the days of Moroni, when evil was great amongst the land and some were trying to destroy the foundation of liberty to serve God, Moroni 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.**" He prayed, then went amongst the people and called them to remembrance of the principles of Christ. We must also preserve our liberty in Christ today. Some of the same conditions exist in our society today as existed in Moroni's day. This message must go out. We do not have a paid ministry and all of the offices that are staffed from the mission to the General Church level are voluntary. We cannot exist without the great sacrifices by those who freely give of their time and money to further the work of the Gospel in America and foreign lands.

We encourage more participation by all of our members. Some of our brothers and sisters hold more than one office and spend many hours fulfilling their duties while others could help. There are many areas of need throughout our Church and communities. Attending Wednesday and Sunday meetings, although extremely important especially when inviting others to the meetings, is only a part of our service to God.

**VOLUNTEERISM WORKS.** Recently the branch in Levittown, Pennsylvania organized a spiritual marketing committee. They looked at every aspect of the Church starting with the cleanliness inside and out. They recommended that outside lights should be installed to light up the front of our Church so people could see us in our community. Lighted signs were placed at bus stops with different messages inviting others to visit us. A brother had a connection with an advertising agency and a 60 foot lighted bill-

board was placed on Interstate 95 outside of Philadelphia. Cable TV advertising spots were run along with newspaper ads. The members of the branch supported each program. Lethargy was replaced by enthusiasm. Our mission is to plant and water, God will give the increase.

**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.** Through this effort God also opened doors for the Atlantic Coast Region to sing at a Gospel concert as a singing group called The Church of Jesus Christ Gospel Singers. Professional singers were also on the agenda. When this opportunity was presented, our first reaction was to solicit the best singers of the Church. God had other plans. Due to scheduling conflicts, we had to rely entirely on the brothers, sisters and friends of the Atlantic Coast Region. We held one practice and 35 people showed up. We sang well and prayed that God's Spirit would be with us and that we would, through song, give our testimony to over 600 people. We stated that with God's help, we would have twice the volume when we sang at the concert. The concert was to be held in Delaware, a three hour trip for some of the members, on December 7, 1996, (remember Pearl Harbor?). The weather was poor and doubts came into our minds. We were not sure how many members of the group would come, and we were to represent The Church of Jesus Christ. When we arrived, God provided not 35 but 60 willing singers from the age of 6 years up to the age of 80 years. What a blessing it was to be part of such a wonderful group.

The singing was glorious, the Spirit was evident. After we sang three selections, the congregation gave us a standing ovation, not to honor us but to give glory to God. We were taught a valuable lesson, if God is with us we can do all things. (We were the only group to receive a standing ovation with all thanks to God.)

We must continue to reach out to our members, friends, neighbors

and our communities. The Gospel of Jesus Christ should not be kept under the bushel. We must, with God's help, **get the message out of the confines of our Church building to others.** Jesus gave us the "great commission" to do this.

**A New Declaration is not needed. What America needs is to return to the principles set forth in the Bible and Book of Mormon.** We also must examine ourselves to ensure that we are not being influenced by the moral decay that is pervasive throughout the world.

**It was revealed to us that great blessings are coming. Jesus told us that great miracles and blessings come through mighty fasting and prayer. Are we willing to do this?**

## *Note of Thanks*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and comfort in the illness and passing of Sister Esther Santilli. Your cards and love were a source of strength to us all. May God bless you.

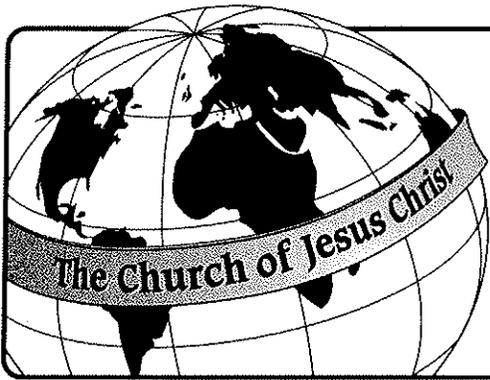
Love in Christ,  
Sister Jean Pusateri and family

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers. God saw every knee that was bent, every head that was bowed and He heard every prayer that was offered on behalf of my husband Clement during his recent cancer surgery. Although he is not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, he was anointed before surgery and felt God's love. Clement is recovering and doing well. The doctor told us he removed all the cancer and the prognosis is very good, praise God! Clement thanks each and every one for your prayers. May God bless you all.

Sister Virginia Surprenant



## A message from the Seventy

### Three Baptisms in Peru

By Brothers Richard Christman and Miquel Bicelis

*(Following is a report by Evangelist Richard Christman and Elder Miquel Bicelis of three recent baptisms in the South American nation of Peru. They were accompanied on this trip from March 14-25, 1997 by their wives, Sister Pat Christman and Sister Melissa Bicelis—Evangelist Editor's note.)*

The recent mid-March missionary trip to Peru was blessed by three converts into The Church of Jesus Christ. The work had progressed there from its beginning with a continued and growing interest in the Restored Gospel. The current predominant religion, which has been exerting its influence for over 400 years, is the religion of 95% of its inhabitants; however, the Gospel was established long before that by the disciples of Jesus Christ and indeed by Christ Himself when He appeared in the Americas.

Knowing the revealed Word of God through the Book of Mormon, we cannot say that the three converts were the first baptisms in Peru; but they are the first after many hundreds of years of absence of the Gospel in this land. Brother Jorge Flores requested the Word of God in Spanish from our missionaries several years ago. He had been reading from it since that time and praying for God's will in the life of his family. He shared this interest with his wife, Nora, and his friend, Jose Gonzales.

The three converts were baptized in an area called Sabandia on the

outskirts of the city of Arequipa in a lake fed by cold mountain water originating approximately 18,000 feet above sea level. The water was clear and the snow covered volcanic mountains rose majestically in the background. (Brother Christman and Brother Bicelis confirmed them at the site.) One of our friends who came to view the baptisms said she felt the Spirit so strongly that it made her knees grow weak and she thought she would collapse.

#### DREAM TWO NIGHTS BEFORE

Brother Gonzales had a dream two nights before his baptism in which he saw himself being baptized. He had been seeking God's direction

in his life and had shown a willingness and desire to be instructed in God's plan of salvation.

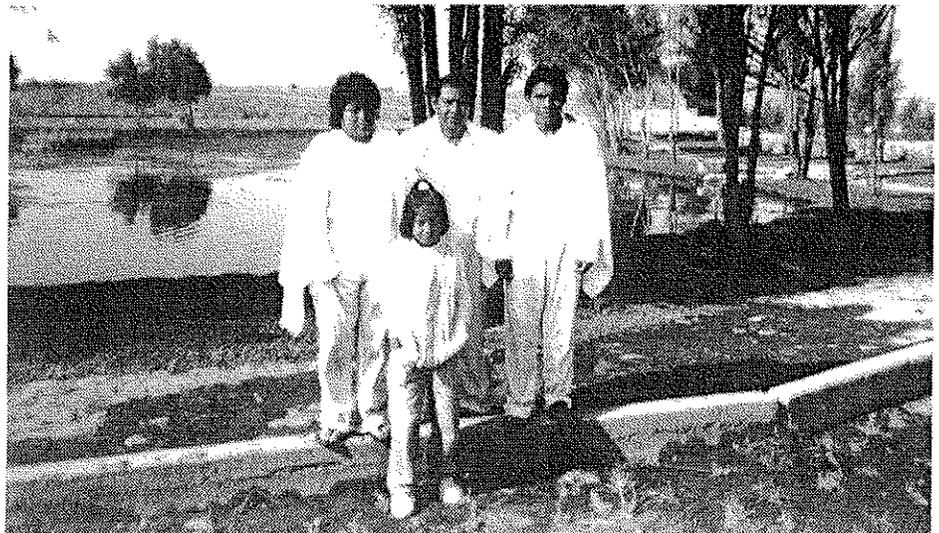
Brother Flores was asked, "Are you sure about wanting to be baptized?" He answered that he was "more than sure" that this is what he wanted. Sister Nora stated that the day after her decision to be baptized she felt very different and knew that it was the Spirit of God.

Others expressed a continued interest in the Gospel and are anxiously awaiting the Spanish translation of the Book of Mormon.

The Nico Paz family have extended the hospitality of their home to our missionaries, and we felt God's blessing in their company. They have a strong desire to improve the lot of the native Peruvians in the outlying areas. They are particularly concerned with the welfare of the people in the Puno area which is economically depressed. Children are not properly nourished, and 60% of the school children test positive for tuberculosis. Also, 30% of the teachers test positive for that disease.

At our first Sunday meeting, there were twenty-two of us gathered together to discuss the scriptures, sing, and praise God. Mr. and Mrs. Paz graciously opened their home for this meeting, and we had a very nice time discussing some of the many

(Continued on Page 11)



Nora Flores, Jorge Flores, Jose Gonzales, and in front, Kelly Flores

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The summer months are on the horizon. Thousands of people will be taking vacations. They will drive to their destination using the latest road map or road atlas to determine the best and possibly the most direct route. Can you imagine taking a journey without a map of any kind? How would you know which way to turn? How would you know which way to go? Without an excellent map, it is practically impossible!

The Apostle Thomas epitomizes this difficulty, this dilemma. We read in John 14:5, *"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"*

The answer came from the Lord in John 14:6 which states, *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

There is no other way to salvation than by and through Jesus Christ. He is the only way. He is the only truth. He only offers life and life more abundantly. There is no other name under heaven whereby men and women can be saved. The only name is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ offers us access to God and His Kingdom if we follow Him.

King Benjamin said it very well. He said there is no name given or means whereby salvation comes to mankind; only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.

It is strange that in spite of the clarity of the Holy Scriptures, many people simply do not know the way. They look to and pray to others instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord instructs us that His Church must bear His name and be built on His Gospel.

Remember the compass? It was called the Liahona. It was a ball or director. It was prepared by the Lord. It was a round ball of curious workmanship. It was made of fine brass. It had two spindles and one pointed the true way through the wilderness. This compass was prepared to show Lehi, his family and followers the course they should travel in the wilderness. It worked according to their faith. If they exercised faith, God caused the one spindle to point the one and only right way. Notice it was "one" spindle. It pointed them in a direct course. It was a straight path through the wilderness.

The Liahona contained a new writing. Although new, it was plain to read. This plainness gave them understanding of the ways of the Lord. The Liahona directed them to food. The Lord would not allow them to go hungry, naturally or spiritually!

We read that it is easy to give heed to the Word of Christ. Jesus Christ is not difficult. He spoke in parables so people could easily understand His message and instruction. As surely as the Liahona directed them to the promised land, if we follow the words and commandments of the Lord, we will also reach the promised land, His Kingdom!

What is the way? It is faith, repentance and baptism. It is putting off the old creature and becoming a new creature in Jesus Christ. It is possessing a broken heart and contrite spirit. This broken heart and contrite spirit is a constant spirit of repentance and humility. If you love the Lord, you must keep His commandments. Those are His instructions. There is no other way!

What is the truth? Jesus Christ is the truth. He cannot lie. His words are truth. He said in John 8:32, *"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* Free from what? Free from sin, eternal condemnation and eternal damnation. We are free from sin and are now the servants of righteousness. Jesus Christ is the Great Liberator! Lehi said redemption comes in and through the Holy Messiah; for His is full of grace and truth.

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## God Fights for Elisha and Israel

Dear Friends,

One of the many mysteries about serving God is seeing how He works in a person's life. He heals us, He brings us through hard times, He comforts a broken heart and teaches us how to forgive and love each other.

Often when one person truly dedicates himself to God, he receives great power.

This power is not usually the power to be rich. It is usually the power to do great good for other people. In the history of Israel in the ancient days, holy men of God, called prophets, were sent to reach out and guide the people.

In II Kings 2:6, the king of the great country Syria warred against Israel. The king of Syria had thousands of soldiers armed with spears and arrows. He had fierce war horses and fast chariots to chase down the soldiers of Israel and kill them.

In secret, the king of Syria moved his army to a camp in a hidden place. In those days there were no airplanes or radios or quick ways to spy out an army sneaking up. But there was and is something better. It's the spirit of God. And God told His prophet Elisha about the ambush. And Elisha warned his Israelite people. Twice this happened.

Then the king of Syria became angry and suspicious. He called his soldiers together and said they must have a traitor amongst them. But his



you, or give you fear, pray. Give God your problem. Ask in Jesus' name. He will hear you. He will save you.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

ELISHA	WITH
COMFORTED	THEM
SAYING	BEHOLD
FEAR	THE
NOT	MOUNTAIN
THEY	WAS
THAT	FULL
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MORE	AND
THAN	HE
THEY	SMOTE
THAT	THEM
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soldiers answered saying "... the prophet Elisha is in Israel. The [secret] words you speak in your bedchamber are heard by him and he warns his king."

Amazed, the king of Syria said, "Go and spy where he is, that I might send and catch him." His men told him that Elisha lived in Dothan. So the king of Syria sent his chariots, horses and a great army by night to surround the city.

When Elisha's servant rose early to go for food, he saw the huge army and ran to tell Elisha, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

Elisha responded, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." And Elisha prayed, "Lord, open my servant's eyes so he can see."

And the Lord opened the young man's eyes and he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots here around about Elisha. And Elisha prayed, "Lord, smite these enemies with blindness," and God did.

Then Elisha went up to his enemies and said, "This is not the way; follow me and I will bring you to the man you hunt for."

But he led the Syrian army instead to the king of Israel. He asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them?"

Elisha said, "No. Feed them and then send them back to their master." And the king of Israel did as Elisha said. And when this great army returned to their country, they never again came to attack Israel.

The enemy who came to conquer God's people was conquered by God. Our mysterious, powerful God fought for His people. So when things hurt

G	O	D	S	E	T	O	M	S
W	T	H	A	T	M	E	H	T
A	N	D	W	I	T	H	E	D
S	N	L	I	W	A	S	E	N
T	I	O	T	A	H	T	L	A
O	A	H	H	A	R	E	I	H
I	T	E	G	O	D	S	S	T
R	N	B	F	T	O	N	H	E
A	U	M	Y	H	F	E	A	R
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## Our Women Today

### Are You Leaving a Mark?

By Sister Jan Cornell

"Are you leaving a mark?" This is the question asked by Apostle Paul Palmieri in our Sunday Service at the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region Ladies' Uplift Circle Retreat held on March 15-16, 1997 at Linden Hall in the beautiful Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.

"How do we respond to this question asked by our brother?" The topic of our retreat for the weekend "... becoming a woman of excellence," certainly enhanced our understanding and the personal requirements necessary to make an impact, not only in our missions and branches, but all those we come in contact with in our daily lives. Our seminar chairman, Sister Joyce Ross outlined seven topics to consider in this quest:

Surrender  
Obedience  
Discipline  
Discretion  
Gentle, Quiet Spirit  
Purity  
Wisdom

During the weekend we were able to go over some of our history. Our Area is relatively new, having been organized in May of 1985. We have met twice a year since then, usually holding a retreat in the spring and business meeting at one of the local branches in the fall. We also try to have a Mother/Daughter Banquet each year. Monongahela will host this year's on May 10. We welcome all those who would like to attend. Our locals include: Aliquippa, Fredonia, Imperial, Glassport, McKees Rocks, Roscoe, Spartanburg and Vanderbilt.

Area officers are:

President: Joyce Ross  
Vice-President: LuAnn Carson  
Secretary: Jacqui King  
Financial Secretary: Becky Tarbuck  
Treasurer: Karen Progar  
Cardsender: Carol Monaghan  
Editor: Jan Cornell

Auditor: Dora Rossi  
Historian: Lucetta Scaglione  
Librarian: Mary Buffington

Our main missionary effort the last couple of years has been orphans. We have raised funds to support the orphans throughout the Church into the thousands of dollars. This was an area where we felt directed by God's Spirit to help. We truly desire to receive His direction to assist those in need. We thank God that through the Circle we have been not only able to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but also to "leave a mark" by helping with the missionary endeavors of the Church.

There were many highlights this weekend spent together, but we were truly blessed to have our General Circle President, Sister Arline Whitton, who was able to share her experiences on her recent trip to Kenya. Our next meeting is September 6, 1997 in Imperial, and we are truly looking forward to 1998 when another General Circle Retreat will be held in Charleston, South Carolina. Plan now to attend. The blessings and the love of the sisters are something not to be missed.



## Branch and Mission News

### News from Cape Coral, FL

By Sister Theresa Palermo

The New Year of 1997 had a special start for the brothers, sisters and friends of the Cape Coral, Florida Branch as they broke ground for their first Church building. The first meeting was held in Cape Coral, Florida in December of 1968. Over the years, the meeting place moved from home to home and community room to community room. Then in 1987, with the foresight and assistance of the late Brother Raymond

Cosetti, the Branch (then a Mission) purchased a 1.2 acre parcel of land in what was then a remote area of the city. Today that parcel lies within close proximity to the new path of progress in Cape Coral. After years of fund raising, planning, and much prayer, on Saturday, January 4, sixty-five members and friends of the Branch attended a ground breaking picnic hosted by the branch teachers, and an outdoor service. Among those attending were several members of the Jumper family, Native Americans from the Big Cypress Reservation.

The service was held on the exact site of the proposed Church building, with the congregation singing that favorite hymn #177, *Our Church*. Brother Bert Sheffler, First Counselor and faithful supporter of the branch for many years, read from Matthew 7:24-27, "... a wise man,

which built his house upon a rock." Brother Bert reminded us that even this church building, although it be a physical project, the intent for its use is built upon a solid rock—Jesus Christ—and all other ground is sinking sand.

Evangelist Dennis Moraco, First Counselor of the Southeast Region offered the first prayer, asking God to bless and protect those involved in the forthcoming building process. Mr. Steve Pansing, a representative of the building contractor, said that of the fourteen churches his firm has built, even though we are the smallest congregation they have built for (we currently have eighteen members), he has noticed a great unity among our group. He further commented that he felt very welcome at the ground

(Continued on Page 8)

## CAPE CORAL continued . . .

breaking services even as a stranger.

Brother Frank Rogolino, Chairman of the Southeast Region Board of Trustees, addressed the group and praised God for the way in which He has moved recently within the Cape Coral Branch, bringing to culmination years and years of hopes and dreams of the members here.

Finally, one by one, each of the Cape Coral Branch Trustees took a shovel full of dirt and turned over ground, signifying the official start of the building process. After we closed in prayer, the contractor noted that the place where the ground was broken was exactly where the pulpit will stand once the building is erected.

The following day, many of our visitors worshipped with us at our usual meeting place, the Cape Coral Yacht Club. Brother Dennis Moraco was the opening speaker, reminding us of God's calling to us as members of the everlasting Gospel, "to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelations 14:6).

Brothers Joe Catone, Sr., Mike Radd and John Griffith all followed on the topics of grasping hold of the Gospel as did the earlier pillars of the Church and developing a strong relationship with the Word of God.

We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new church building. Several years ago when we had our building lot cleared of vegetation, the stranger clearing the lot told of how a voice spoke to him saying, "These are my people. Treat them well." Surely God is allowing us to realize this dream of our own Church building because His plan includes the furthering of the Restored Gospel in this part of the vineyard.

Please pray for our small group. Pray that God will grant us His divine guidance and direction as we look with vision toward the day when we dedicate our building, but more importantly, to a day soon thereafter when our building is filled with newcomers!

## Ordinations in Windsor, Ontario

On Sunday, August 18, 1996, we gathered in the Windsor, Ontario Branch to witness the ordinations of Brothers Matthew and John Collison into the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We were honored to have with us Apostle Joseph Calabrese, Evangelists Nephi DeMercurio, Alex Gentile, Frank Vitto, Tony Lovalvo, Tony Gerace and Elders Bob Stanek, Dick Lobzun, Don Collison, Lyle Criscuolo, Steve Champine and Rodney Dyer.

Brother Tony Gerace opened our meeting in prayer. As Sister Kay Vitto set the Communion table, we sang that beautiful hymn, *Blessed Assurance*. Praise God for the beautiful spirit of singing!

Brother Joseph Calabrese was our opening speaker. He used for his text, Alma 13, and spoke on the Priesthood after the order of the Son of God. Brother Joe emphasized that this Ministry does not go to colleges and seminaries but is called by the gift and power of God the Almighty. As Aaron and his sons were called by God, so are our young men called today to preach and teach the Word of God. Brother Joe stated the rewards of the Priesthood cannot be bought with silver or gold. The Priesthood has been set up to feed the flock of the Lord! He stated that the Lord needs each of us to further His work.

We enjoyed participating in the Sacrament of the Lord. What a blessing! After Communion, Brother Alex Gentile read from the Scriptures in III Nephi when Jesus chose twelve disciples on the land of America. All of us are a ministry to those in the world. Things that we do are therefore more important than the things we say. He went on to say that when you are in the service of your fellow man, you are in the service of God. Brother Alex stated, "Be ye one another's servant."

Brother Steve Champine sang a beautiful hymn in honor of the

occasion. Brother Don Collison read the experience of the calling of his son, Brother Matthew. How wonderful and secure this calling into the Ministry is since it is of God, not of man. The Lord's choosing is done in perfection.

Brother Dick Lobzun read an experience confirming the calling of Brother John Collison. The Spirit of God was truly felt by all who were assembled in the building.

Brother Don Collison washed the feet of both his sons. There was a confirmation given by God to Sister Faith Lobzun that this was the way it should be done. Words cannot express the beauty of this scene! As Brother Don knelt to wash his sons' feet, the Spirit of God was abundantly manifested to all. Brother Sam Cuomo saw the past Ministry of the Windsor, Ontario Branch standing behind the Ministry on the rostrum.

Brother Matthew was ordained by Brother Dick Lobzun and Brother John Collison was ordained by Brother Frank Vitto.

The meeting was then opened to Brothers Matt and John Collison to express themselves. Brother Alex Gentile asked the entire Collison family to come to the front of the Church. As we saw the Collison family gather together, our hearts were filled with joy as we observed several generations, the result of love and teachings of two parents, Sister Adrienne and Brother Don Collison.

After we closed the meeting, approximately one hundred and twenty-five attendees enjoyed lunch and fellowship together. We thank God for a wonderful and blessed day! Remember us in your prayers. May God bless you all.

## News from Santa Ana, CA

By Sister Santina M. Mercuri

On February 1 and 2 of this year, an invitation was extended to all of our Hispanic members to join us in a gathering of song and worship. We enjoyed the blessings of

God in both our Saturday program and Sunday service. Several of our Hispanic members came from surrounding areas as well as from Tijuana. The Santa Ana Music Ensemble, composed of two guitars, a bass fiddle, and a violin, played a few selections. Similar to Psalm 150, we praised the Lord with our stringed instruments.

Brother and Sister Clarence Kirkpatrick of Yucaipa sang beautifully with the guitar accompaniment. The Tijuana choir raised their voices in praise with Brother Ullis' guitar adding to the melodious voices of the group. Brother Ullis also sang us a wonderful solo with his guitar accompaniment.

Brother Rudy Trujillo presided over the Saturday program. Brother John Vela, both of these brothers are from the Yucaipa, California Branch, was also present and spoke briefly before offering the closing prayer.

On Sunday, our Brother Vicente Arce spoke on the greatness of America and the coming forth of the Restored Gospel and the gathering of the House of Israel. Brother Sal Azzinaro spoke in English, continuing the same theme, ending with Matthew 11:28, "answering the call of God and serving Him with all of our hearts and souls to the best of our ability." Brother Ullis ended the Ministry's comments by saying what a blessing it was to be part of the House of Israel.

We then enjoyed fellowship with one another over lunch. We also wish to praise God for blessing our members, who in spite of language difficulties, have been blessed on their natural jobs. Please pray for us as we endeavor to serve God to the best of our ability.

## Ordinations in Monongahela, PA

*By Sister LuAnn Carson*

Sunday, March 9, 1997 was a special day in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Brothers,

sisters, visitors, friends and relatives gathered to witness the ordinations of Brother Karl Kirschner into the office of a Teacher and Brother Dexter Carson into the office of a Deacon.

Our preaching service was opened by Brother Jonathan Olexa, who spoke about the Church being the body of Christ. As members of the Church, we must work together as one body in unity doing the work of God.

Brother Alma Nolfi followed, reminding us that as we partake of the Communion, we are partaking of the body of Christ. We all partake, and each part makes up the whole.

After enjoying lunch along with the fellowship, we reconvened upstairs for our afternoon meeting. Our service was opened by Brother Fred Olexa, who read from I Samuel, chapter 9. Saul felt unworthy to sit and eat with the prophet Samuel, asking, "Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?" Even though Saul felt unworthy, the Lord saw fit to make him a king. Brother Fred exhorted our two brothers that in their humility, God called them into these offices, not because of their abilities, but because with God's help they will be able to fulfill their duties. Brother William Chepanoske then related some experiences relating to our brothers' callings.

The duties of an ordained Teacher and a Deacon of the Church were read by Brother Chepanoske who asked Brother Karl and Brother Dexter if they were willing to accept the responsibilities of their respective offices. Answering affirmatively, both of them prepared to have their feet washed. Brother Karl had his feet washed by Brother Fred Olexa and was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti. Brother Alexander Cherry washed Brother Dexter's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione.

A season of praise and testimony was spent. A sister related that while the two brothers were having their feet washed, she saw the Lord standing on the rostrum watching.

Also, when the prayers were being offered, she again saw the Lord looking on in approval. Our prayer is that God will bless our two brothers that they may always fulfill their callings.

## By Faith We Receive

*By Sister Eva Moore*

Brother Jim and Sister Jean Moore and myself planned this trip to San Carlos, Arizona for January 10, 1997. Sister Becky Tarbuck was driving us to the airport to purchase "stand by" tickets. She said, "I called the ticket office and there are no available seats." I said, "Becky, do you remember when we went to the Spartanburg Mission? They said there were no seats available and we bowed our heads in prayer. After everyone boarded the plane, we sat quietly praying. Then a man called out our names. We will do the same this time." As we were driving along, a big white truck drove right in front of us with a sign saying, "IN GOD WE TRUST." I said, "There it is, we will get on the plane!"

When the time came to board the airplane, we were left sitting there praying that we would all get on board. We waited, then a man came out and said, we have three "Moore" seats and we boarded thanking God. We must have been put into first class seats because we got first class service.

When we arrived in Phoenix, Arizona, Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto were waiting for us. After a two hour drive, we came to the Church mission house and I felt at home. This was my fifth trip to San Carlos. There are three families who are really workers for the San Carlos Indian Mission. They are Brother Dan, Sister Dolores, her mother Nellie, Brother David and Lori Picciuto, Tina and Erryn Picciuto.

Our first Sunday, January 12, we had an attendance of eighty-two. It was like a homecoming because we

(Continued on Page 10)

**FAITH continued . . .**

already knew some of the old faithful Seed of Joseph, the "American Indians." Then Sister Linda and her husband, Brother Larry Snake arrived from the Muncey Reserve in Canada. They drove on treacherous icy roads to be with us for eleven days.

Sister Lori and Sister Tina take little babies and children that need a mother and they fulfill Isaiah 49:22-23 which states, "*Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.*"

*"And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me."*

They have two babies at this time who are very sick—Lehi, who is five years old and Jonathan who is two years old. There are three teenagers, Curtis, Erryn and Jonelle, who pitch in and help anywhere they are needed.

There were two instant healings while we were there. Sister Ophelia James called for the Elders and they anointed her for a severe hemorrhage. She was taken to the hospital and the doctors could not find anything wrong. The next day she was in Church and attended all nine meetings. A little baby was anointed and then taken to the hospital with spinal meningitis. The doctors sent it to a second hospital and they said the baby does not have spinal meningitis. So, we again praised God for His care of His people.

This is an exciting place—someone always coming for prayer or counseling and the phone keeps ringing for help. I will tell you, it takes patience and most of all charity to care for and love the Seed of Joseph.

Our weekly attendance was very good with lots of wonderful singing, testimony and preaching. Sister

Linda sang, *Send Hunters and Fishers* and several other songs relating to Israel. Our second Sunday, we had visitors from Anaheim, California, Mesa and Pinetop, Arizona. Our attendance was eighty-seven.

Most important was that God's Holy Spirit attended our services and when we were ready to come back home, we felt that God accepted our effort to help The Church of Jesus Christ way out in the desert with the "People of God."

**The Church of Jesus Christ**

*Editor's Note—The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in The Daily Republican of Monongahela, Pennsylvania in the July 6, 1942 issue. It vividly captures the spirit, love and experience of a visitor, in fact all visitors to The Church of Jesus Christ.*

The Editor,  
The Daily Republican  
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

It is my sincere desire to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Elders and the Congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ, in your city, for the invitation and the spiritual administration at a conference meeting on July 5.

As a Jew, I have visited and attended services in Synagogues and Christian churches of various denominations. Never in my life have I found greater inspiration and spiritual value than I have in The Church of Jesus Christ. I would be enriched with glory to be able to live a life such as I have witnessed in the surroundings in this sanctuary, and I can say that those who have a desire to live as true followers of the principals of Jesus of Nazareth, there can be no greater institution that houses these principals and imparts them to its constituents in a manner that every adult and child can understand and conceive in spirit of its administration.

Among a membership of about

300 there can be seen men, women and children of all nationalities and color. I have seen a few negroes of whom one is one of the Elders of the Church and there were a number of Indians, who acclaim their origin from the Tribe of Joseph and profess to be Israelites who centuries ago were lost from their brethren in Egypt.

The church makes no distinction in color or race among its membership and there is no collection made except wilfull donations by anyone who wishes to donate. Inside, the church presents a sober and humble appearance and a Godly atmosphere with no decorations or colorful regalia or any image of saints or standards such as it is being commonly entertained by other religious sects and by practically all other churches.

I can say that I feel convinced that there is no other church known to me that can impart a greater spiritual value to men than The Church of Jesus Christ, which I have visited for the first time.

Emil Huttner

**STUDY continued . . .**

disputed.

"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:3-4).

During His first visit to the synagogue as recorded in Luke, the Lord stood to read a verse from Isaiah, which was familiar to the Jews having only the Old Testament as Scriptures. He then used this quotation to establish His identity to all those in attendance:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives,

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18).

"... This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21).

He was not accepted by those at Nazareth, being the mere son of a carpenter, but He was surely noticed by them from that day forward.

The Bible and the Book of Mormon were inspired by God and we are privileged to have access to the word of God in such a simple fashion. The Scriptures contain messages for everyday life, inspiration for troublesome times, instruction for our children, and defenses against the evil power, and more. The Scriptures are not only for the Ministry to study and explore, but they are for "all" the followers of our Lord and Savior. We can see that even the holy men of old, who were inspired to record these sacred records, used them to maintain their faith as well as their followers. Without the Scriptures, God has said that a nation would dwindle and perish in unbelief. History has proven to repeat itself over and over again if we do not learn from the mistakes of the past. The message to all who have chosen, and those who desire to follow the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is therefore: Study, Study, Study!

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

miracles God has performed in our lives. We had several inquiries about why we came to Peru, and we related several of the experiences received by various brothers and sisters about the Gospel's being started there.

#### DEPEND UPON CONTINUED PRAYERS

We depend upon your continued prayers that God will bless the growth of the Gospel in Peru, for we know of a certainty that, as people turn to God, He blesses them both spiritually and naturally if they first seek His Kingdom.

Importantly, we brothers spent

many hours in teaching and instructing our converts. Brother Jorge and Sister Nora have a young daughter, Kelly, who was very attentive to the Word of God and to the music given by God to His people. We felt that God had gone before us and are very thankful for the prayers of the saints.

One morning while Brother Bicelis was praying for assurance for all we were doing, and in particular the baptisms, the voice of the Spirit spoke to him and said, "Nephi had seen this day."

We are especially grateful that God provided individuals in Peru who helped us with transportation, the obtaining of communion cloths and utensils, and a place to stay.

Truly, the harvest is great but we need to provide the laborers and financial resources. Our contributions, prayers, and support are just as pleasing to God and necessary as the missionaries in the field!

#### EDITORIAL continued . . .

What is life? It is eternal life with Jesus Christ. He said that He is the resurrection and the life. He that believes on Jesus Christ, though he were dead naturally, he shall never die! We shall resurrect in and through Jesus Christ by keeping His commandments.

Jesus Christ said, He is the bread of life. There is no other bread of life that can sustain us and keep us from spiritual hunger and despair. When you eat of His bread, you will never hunger. You will be full!

Jesus Christ said that He is the door. There is no other entrance into salvation. There is no other way to enter into heaven. If we try to enter into His sheepfold by some other way or means, we are as a thief and a robber. He is the only door.

Jesus Christ said He is the light of the world. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we will not abide in darkness. He that follows Christ shall not walk in darkness. He shall have the light of life. We will live in His light. His light will light up the

New Jerusalem. He is the only light and example to follow to gain salvation. There is no other light. It will never fail! It will never burn out! His light is eternal!

Do you know that Noah's ark had only one door and one window! Noah's family and all the animals could only enter by one door. There were not multiple entrances to get inside the ark. That door was eventually closed by the hand of the Lord prior to the flood. One window to allow in the light of Jesus Christ! They were never in darkness. They had the light of the Lord with them during their entire journey. He would not allow them to travel in darkness. He was their light. The ark had three floors and many rooms. It could accommodate all!

The Church of Jesus Christ bears His name. It can and will accommodate everyone. It can and will accommodate millions! It offers the way, the truth and the life. Come and see!

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Lovalvo, Anne  
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Saline, MI 48176  
313-944-9004

Lovalvo, David and Darlene  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
810-264-1957

## Baptisms

Nancy Murillo was baptized on December 1, 1996 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri.

Joseph Bogle was baptized on July 14, 1996 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr.

Joyce D'Antonio was baptized on January 5, 1997 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri and confirmed by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

## Children Blessed

Evan Jon Kogler, son of Brother Chuck and Sister Joyce Kogler was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on February 23, 1997.

Austin Donovyn Kavals, son of Theresa Rattenni and Robert Kavals was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on March 2, 1997.

Alan Thomas Yoder, son of Eric and Angela Yoder was blessed on January 2, 1997 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch.

Vincent Edward Thompson, grandson of Sister Jesse and Brother Fred Hall was blessed on April 6, 1997 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Guadalupe Perez Lopez, son of Silvio and Clara Lopez was blessed on January 12, 1997 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Dominick Christopher Bilardo, son of Christopher and Janeth Bilardo was blessed on March 9, 1997 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

Francesca Rose Dino, daughter of Sister Doreen (Schmitt) and Ross Dino was blessed on March 30, 1997 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

Noah Ross Ondik, son of Brother Joel and Elizabeth Ross Ondik, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on March 30, 1997.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ESTHER SANTILLI

Sister Esther Santilli of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on March 6, 1997. She is survived by one sister, Sister Jean Pusateri; two brothers, Brothers Richard Santilli and Mario Santilli; and several nieces and nephews.

### MOLLIE BROWN

Sister Mollie Brown of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on January 3, 1997. She is survived by her husband, Willie Brown, Sr.; three sons including Elders Willie Brown and Jim Crudup; one daughter; four sisters, Sisters Betty Crudup, Carrie Clancey, Geri Littlejohn and Lottie Reid; two brothers, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### EMANUELA VELLA D'ANGELO

Sister Emanuela Vella D'Angelo of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her eternal reward on March 8, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank D'Angelo. Sister Emanuela is survived by a brother, Peter; a sister, Bambi; two sons, Brother Louie D'Angelo and Aldo D'Angelo; two daughters, Jean Bindas and Nina Hagan; and two grandchildren.

### RUTH (D'ANTONIO) JUMPER

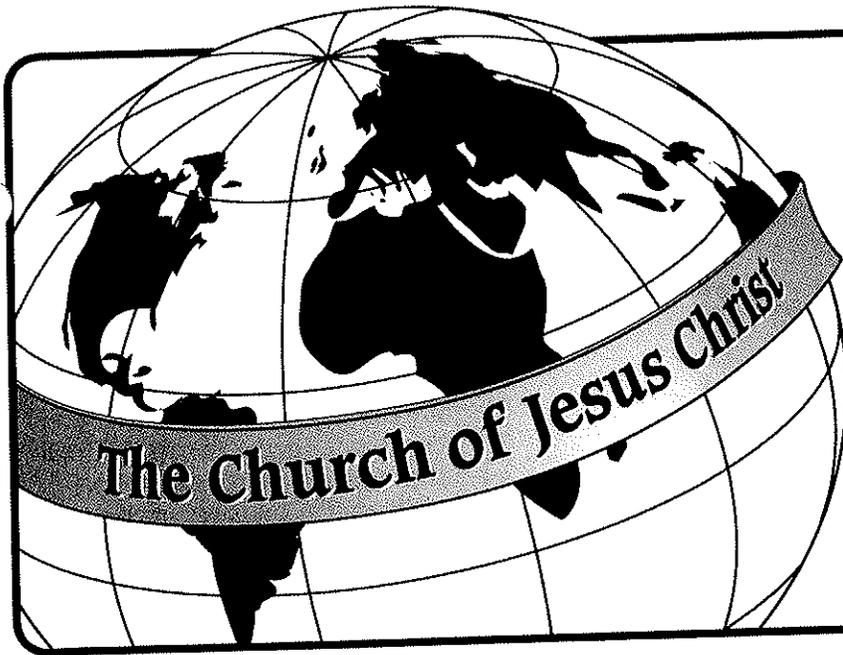
Sister Ruth (D'Antonio) Jumper passed away to her heavenly reward on April 7, 1997. She was a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Ruth is survived by her husband, Elder Chuck Jumper; one son, Bruce; three daughters, Sisters Joyceann, Carol and Rhoda; her mother, Sister Sabina D'Antonio; and five sisters, Sisters Joan Gibson, Mary Tamburrino, Betty Eiler, Sarah Palmieri and Eva Ondik.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters, Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 1997

Volume 53, No. 7

## General Church Conference April 1997

A large congregation of brothers, sisters and friends gathered at the World Conference Center on April 19 and 20, 1997 for The Church of Jesus Christ Spiritual Conference held in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. It was indeed a spiritual conference. There were several experiences during the two days and the spirit and love of God was felt by all. The representation of attendees was from various locations throughout the United States and Canada. We were privileged to have brothers from the countries of England and Nepal. We are rapidly becoming a worldwide Church.

The Saturday session, April 19, 1997, was opened in prayer by Apostle Tom Liberto. He asked the Lord to bless this Conference, and we can say that the Lord answered the request. Apostle Dominic Thomas, President, made a few opening remarks. He acknowledged and welcomed Elders Pat Y'Callaghan from England and Ram C. Baral from Nepal. Brother Dominic then turned the meeting over to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve

took charge of the meeting. He welcomed all to the meeting and to The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joe introduced the speaker for this service, Elder Jim Crudup of the Freehold, NJ Branch.

Brother Jim Crudup read from I Corinthians 11:24-30 and spoke on the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion. He emphasized what Christ did for us and we must dedicate ourselves to His Gospel. Brother Crudup reminded the congregation of Christ's great sacrifice. He instructed all that we must serve Him by our action, not by our words. He pointed out Christ's love and he said we must be focused on Him and no other. Brother Jim said, "We must show our love, even to those who are against us for any reason. Our life must exemplify what we preach, and we must not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He went on to say that "Jesus Christ must be the apple of our eye." Before concluding, Brother Jim extended an invitation to the unbaptized to come into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While Brother Crudup was preaching, Sister Geraldine C. Littlejohn had a vision. She saw the

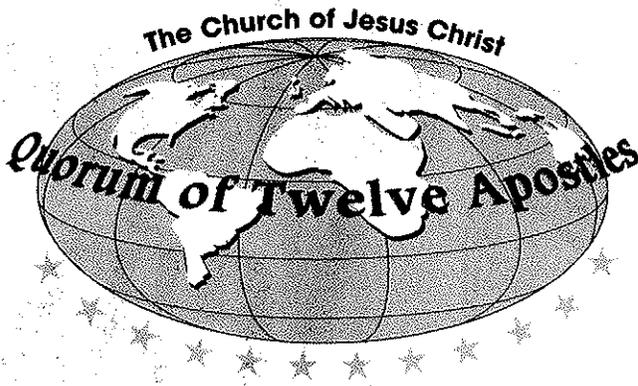
Lord carrying His cross. He fell, and then He looked back at the multitude and said, "I am doing this for you!" Sister Littlejohn said she saw and felt this scene over and over again. Her comment was, "Even though He was alone, we are not alone, because He is with us."

Brother Joseph Lovalvo introduced the ordinance of Communion. He told an experience which occurred in the Modesto, California Branch during a fasting and prayer service. They were inspired to pass Communion and a vision was seen of Christ kneeling at the table with the Elders.

Brother Lovalvo called several members of the Priesthood to participate in the passing of Communion. Represented were Apostles, Evangelists and Elders in this ordinance. While prayer was being offered on the communion, Sister Angela Reyes saw a light that shone with multitudes of people coming to it. A vision was also seen by Brother Mike Nuzzi as the wine was being served. He saw the Lord hanging upon the cross with His blood dripping down. As the blood hit the ground, it turned to gold!

Brother Dominic Thomas commented on the sanctity and reverence that was shown by everyone as the Lord's Supper was being

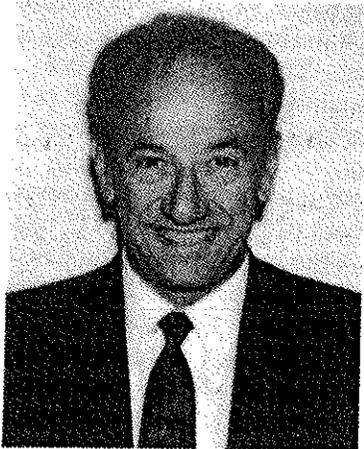
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## The Age of Golden Days

By Apostle Thomas M. Liberto

Hymn #118 in the Saints Hymnal, *Happy the Souls That First Believed*, causes us to reflect upon our forefathers and the joy they felt in serving God. Each time I sing the chorus, "O what an age of golden days! O what a choice peculiar race," I can picture the excitement and enthusiasm that they exhibited in their living for Christ and how they conspired to raise their ceaseless sacrifice of praise. We could feel cheated that we did not live in those



Apostle Thomas Liberto

days to speak and think the same as they did; however, that would be an injustice to ourselves.

Their sacrifices and love for the souls of mankind provided a heritage for the generations of the saints of God. Each generation can truly believe that they are living in the age of golden days. The opportunities are as great today, if not greater, to

be excited and enthusiastic in living for Christ and sharing the message of love and salvation. The blessings of God are prevalent in our lives and many testify of God's goodness and mercy upon them.

Whenever I have questioned Region Presidents or Presiding Elders about their greatest challenges or concerns, they say, "To have the saints committed so they will be faithful in keeping their covenants and fulfilling their callings." Considering this challenge, it appears that the problem lies in a lack of commitment to the covenants and individual callings we have received to serve and strengthen others.

A truly committed follower of Jesus Christ, one who merits the title of saint or disciple, could not be casual or complacent in their approach to service in the Church nor in keeping covenants and commandments. They would not simply go through the motions in fulfilling their responsibilities.

To believe we are living in the age of golden days we must feast at the Lord's table and find the same joy today in our service to God and others as our forefathers did when they first believed. We must fortify ourselves before we can ever hope to offer spiritual nourishment to others. Once we have nourished ourselves with the words of Christ and personally feasted at His table, becoming well equipped, we can

invite others to the spiritual feast. The Lord said to the Apostle Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

If we are obedient to the Savior's command given to Peter, we will focus our attention on the spiritual growth and development of those living in these the latter days. The duty to invite others to partake of the Gospel feast does not rest solely on the shoulders of the Ministry or missionaries. This duty belongs to every member of the Church.

From the inception of The Church of Jesus Christ, through all the ages of time, we have been compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses who believed their time was the age of golden days. The scriptures and church history document the excitement and enthusiasm they exhibited in promulgating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our time is certainly in the age of golden days. We can do so much to promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ if we are committed to do so. We have a story to tell to the nations. The Gospel is restored. The gifts and blessings are with us. We are experiencing healings, the gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, dreams, revelations and visions. The missionary endeavor of the Church is blossoming, constrained only by limited financial resources. Several are being baptized. The auxiliary units of the Church are active and productive. It continues to be time to get all excited and tell everybody that Jesus Christ is Lord. We do not have the luxury of waiting for a big event to happen for us to be actively involved. Although big events are expected in the future, the biggest event in our lives happened when Jesus called us into His service. We must be active and committed now, in these our age of golden days, to labor for Him.

There are negative elements also that tend to bring us down but focusing on the positive elements will lift us up and keep us with a higher spiritual mind. Our forefathers also experienced both the

negative and the positive but they chose to accentuate the positive in spreading the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ. They all were of one heart and soul, and only love inspired the whole.

I Peter 2:9 states, "*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 called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" The followers of Christ are identified, categorized and directed. I hope you find comfort in realizing you are or can be included.

O what an age of golden days, free to joyfully and enthusiastically do God's will. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is restored, never to be taken away. It is now up to us to commit, recommit and continue in our firm commitment to labor for Jesus Christ, for His Church and with each other in this our age of golden days. We must all be involved to the best of our ability. Let's give now the best of our service to the Master, the best of our time, the best of our talent, liberally of our financial resource and our ceaseless devotion of praise. May God richly bless you is my prayer.

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#### CONFERENCE continued . . .

served to the membership. He described how he personally wept when he himself had seen in a dream, Christ's suffering on the cross. Our morning service was closed with prayer by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

The afternoon meeting was opened with prayer by Apostle V. James Lovalvo. The congregation was addressed by Brother Dominic Thomas. He read three dreams which were the basis for the recent letter sent to the Branches and Missions designating the week of April 6 for fasting and prayer throughout the Church. The dreams were accepted at the October 1996 Conference. Brother Dominic related the events which transpired during this meeting and how the

brothers were inspired to express their love for one another. He thanked the Church for participating in the week of fasting and prayer.

Apostle Paul Benyola announced the theme for the afternoon meeting: "Relating the blessings of God in the Church around the world." He introduced the first speaker, Evangelist Leonard A. Lovalvo.

Brother Leonard thanked God for sparing his life. He was in a very serious automobile accident last year. He thanked everyone for the prayers, cards and calls from the saints of God. Brother Leonard said it was wonderful to stand and view the assembly. He described the power of love and what it can accomplish. He closed by saying everyone should strive to be more compassionate, understanding, forgiving and that there should always be the spirit of unity.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., followed and thanked God for sparing his life from a recent stroke. He also thanked everyone for their support through prayers, cards and calls. While lying in the hospital bed, he heard a humming sound which he thought was a machine. His inquiry to the nurse determined there was no humming. He listened intently and he began to make out the words to the hymn, *For You I Am Praying*. Brother Nicklow was anointed four times and each time one of his incapacities was removed until he fully recovered.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, introduced the individuals on the rostrum who have been out in the mission fields. He described the high level of missionary activity taking place within The Church of Jesus Christ. He thanked everyone for their support, both through prayer and their financial donations. Many of the brothers fund their own trips, but "more, much more financial support" is needed to continue the missionary efforts of the Church.

Evangelist Fred Olexa talked about his trip to Venezuela. He said

they were warmly greeted by a group at the airport. They held meetings with over thirty people and taught them the Restoration. Those who came said they knew that there was a better way and were seeking it.

Evangelist Joseph Perri spoke of the recent trip to Ghana, West Africa. He related a brother there was "poisoned," and said his good-byes to his family. He was anointed and it is now two years after the poisoning and the man is alive! A young wife could not carry a child. She was prayed for, anointed by Brother Ford of Ghana and was healed. She bore a child!

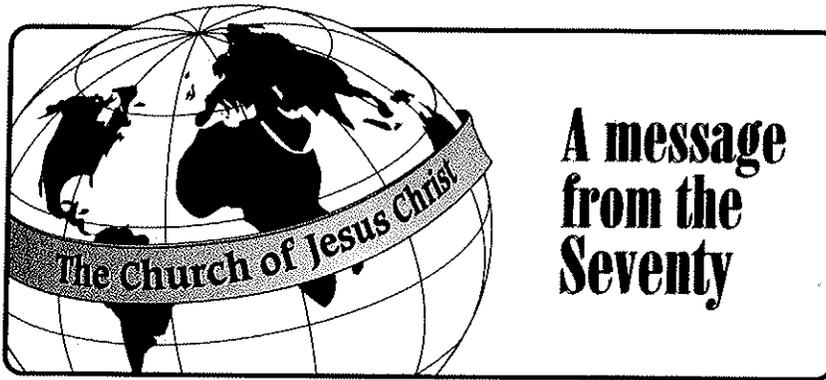
Evangelist Joel Gehly talked about the work in Kenya, East Africa. He spoke of the love of God in that country. He described how thirty-two people were baptized during a severe rainstorm. Their meetings experienced many blessings.

Elder Pat O'Callaghan from England talked about the gift of charity, love. He stated the Gospel will go to all nations. He described that while he was being reinstated into the Church, he had a vision. Three pure gold figures appeared. Then a fourth appeared next to his wife. He said it showed him that he will never be lost. He closed by saying, "If we all would say a prayer for each other, each day, what a wonderful world this would be!"

Elder Steve Champine spoke of the recent trip to India. He stated that someone there had a dream of a fast-growing tree, bearing much fruit. He said it was felt that the Church will continue to grow in India and bear much fruit.

Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Sr., spoke about the trips to Guatemala. He had a dream eighteen years ago which depicted a map filled with pins which marked the locations of The Church of Jesus Christ. He told of the love of the brothers and sisters there and the many blessings and healings being experienced in Guatemala.

(Continued on Page 7)



## Trip To Ghana

By Carl J. Frammolino  
Evangelist Editor

Evangelists Joseph Ross, Joseph Perri and Richard Lawson traveled to Ghana, West Africa, February 27 and returned to the United States on March 20. The last three days were spent in Poland with our members there.

The brothers reported that much progress has been made and many blessings were experienced. Particularly noteworthy were the ordinations of Elders, the near completion of a new church building and the dedication of a new school. As an aftermath, forty-one baptisms were performed in Ghana after the brothers left.

The excitement for the Gospel and the desires for the Church were evident everywhere. The ordinations of the four new Elders, Brothers Joseph Fordjour, Paul Attiah, Wilson Agbenorwu and Samuel T. Millar, took place on Sunday, March 9, at the Church Center. Brother Ross opened the meeting, using Luke 12:13-16 and had good liberty. Six new wine decanters for sacrament, which had been brought by the brothers, were also consecrated.

### FIRST SUNDAY

The first Sunday, March 2, the brothers drove to the village of Anyinamso for the service. After the Sunday School, Brother Perri spoke and some members gave their testimonies. Brother Ford Boadu,

Evangelist and President of the Church in Ghana, closed the service.

The following day, they went to Apromase where they were surprised with the progress of the construction of a new church building. The members sold maize (corn) and used the money to finance the portion which was done. Arrangements were made for completion of the structure, which will cost an additional \$3,500.

Immediately thereafter, the group traveled to Odumasi to look at the new school and church building under construction. The school was completed and the church was almost done. The children were excited to see them, and, as always, they were a blessing to the brothers. Grades are P1-P2-P3 and are held in the two new school buildings. New desks are still

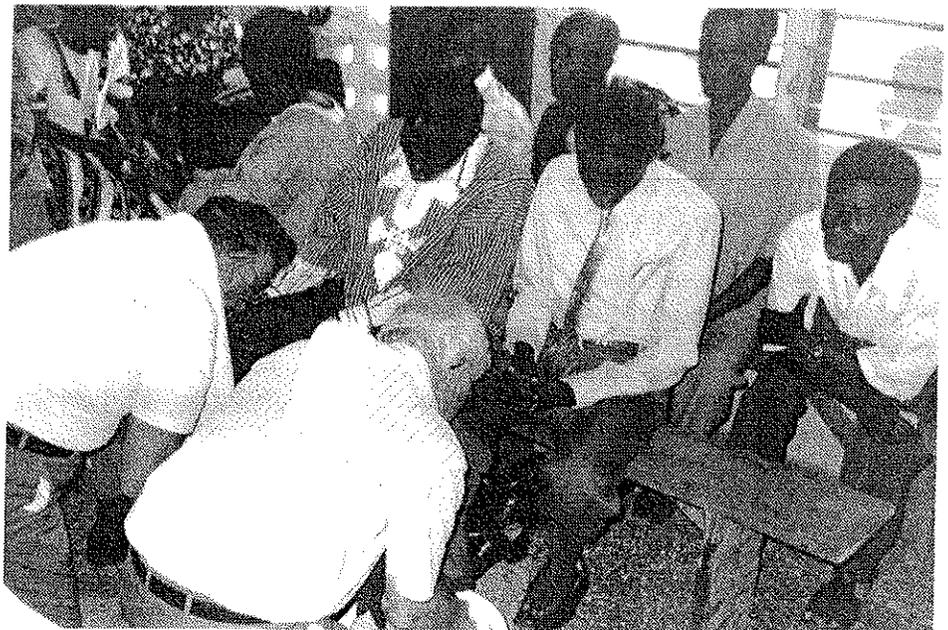
needed and they will cost \$400.

The local government has pledged to support the school also. The pre-school and kindergarten classes are held in the old building for now. The John Ross Preparatory School, named after our late Evangelist who had been the liaison to Africa from the General Church, was dedicated on March 11.

### MANY AT DEDICATION

There were many people at the dedication—the school children and their families, the Chief and his counselors, and Church representatives. Brother Joseph Ross, present liaison for the Church and Brother John's brother, spoke on behalf of the Church and many children participated. Many of the parents came and put a small donation in a collection box after their children finished. The scripture of the widow who gave her two mites came quickly to mind. The brothers said, "This was something very different and very nice." The villagers appreciate the school and know the Church will be there on a continuing basis with future plans to expand as funds become available. The program lasted 2-1/2 hours.

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From left to right: Brother Joe Perri washing Brother Paul Appiah's feet and Brother Dick Lawson washing Brother Joseph Fourjour's feet.



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*Editorial Viewpoint . . .*

Are you ready? Do you know what the word ready means? Ready is defined as, "prepared or available for service or action; willing." Does this word define you as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? Does it have a special meaning to you?

Hymn #401, *Ready*, has been heard and sung many times by most who attend The Church of Jesus Christ. It is usually sung during an ordination. Take a few moments and read this hymn. Is it possible this hymn applies to the entire membership? Yes!

Are you ready to go? Are you ready to stay? Are you ready for service, lowly or great? Are you ready to do His will? Everyone should answer yes to each question. No is not an acceptable answer. Maybe is not an acceptable answer. Remember, being lukewarm is not acceptable to the Lord.

Are you prepared for His service? Do you fast and pray to be prepared? Do you fast and pray that God will use you for His honor and glory? Do you ask God to use you? If the Lord asks you today to go and tell someone about the Gospel, are you ready? If it meant leaving your home, your job, are you ready? This readiness was not only for those in the time the Lord was here on earth. This readiness is for our time as well; it is also for us.

Are you available for Him? Hopefully, your answer is yes. If it is not, why are you not available for the Lord? How can you not be available to help spread the Gospel? What if the Lord were not available when you prayed to Him, when you need His help? Thank the Lord, He is always prepared and available for us. He is always near!

What is more important than being prepared and available for the Lord's service? There is no other priority. We may think there is, but there is no other priority in life. What if the Lord was not prepared and available to sacrifice His life? You would have no hope. There would be no meaning to your life, absolutely none! The grave would forever have power over you. It would possess you. No hope, no resurrection, no paradise and no eternal life. This is not life. This is misery! Thank God that His Son, Jesus Christ was prepared and available to sacrifice Himself for all mankind. What a Lord! What a Saviour!

The Church of Jesus Christ is growing and its growth is rapid. The growth will continue to be rapid. The growth will not slow down. It will accelerate! Remember how many were baptized on the Day of Pentecost? Three thousand souls joined The Church of Jesus Christ on that glorious day!

Just think of it. The Church in your lifetime is in Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Germany, Poland, England, Italy, India and throughout the United States. Soon, it may be in Nepal! Communications are being received from around the world! People from several different nations are inquiring about The Church of Jesus Christ. From countries like New Zealand, Liberia, Venezuela and others, people are writing to learn and hear about the Restored Gospel. They are looking for the truth! They want to be free! Soon, very soon, every nation, kindred, tongue and people will hear about the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. How exciting! How marvelous! How glorious! Are you ready? Are you prepared and available?

Ready does not apply solely to the Priesthood. It is applicable to every member, regardless of age or gender. All have a responsibility to be active members in the Church. Active means more than attending Church. It means helping spread the Gospel.

How do we help spread the Gospel? There are a number of ways we can help spread the

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,



Don't you know the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth, to show Himself strong in taking care of those whose heart is perfect toward Him? You have done foolishly. From now on, you will have wars."

Asa was angry. He put the seer in the prison house. A short while later he was diseased on his feet. For some sad reason, he didn't go to the Lord for help, he only went to his physicians. He died, and the ruling of Judah was given to his own godly son, who walked in the ways of the Lord.

Remember friends, God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He truly loves you, His children, and will fight for you. All you must do is love and serve him in the name of Jesus and ask Him to help you.

With care,  
Sister Jan

In the Old Testament days of the Bible, God was constantly searching for and rewarding those who called on His name. He hated idol worshipper's, praying to plants and statues or believing in magic.

When Solomon was king in Israel, he made the mistake of taxing his people too high. When he died, his son, Rehoboam raised the taxes even more. Ten of the twelve tribes of Israel were angry. They decided to form their own country, called Israel and leave Jerusalem and Judah, for King Rehoboam.

Many years of wars and bloodshed followed between the two countries of Judah and Israel and their enemies. Judah was the smaller country but it had the capital of Jerusalem. It also had the blessings of God because it's kings were descended from David, Solomon's father. And God had promised that someday, the Messiah, Jesus would be from David's relatives. God blessed David's lines of relatives year after year, when they called upon him. Solomon's grandson Asa, became king of Judah. Asa ruled for forty-one years. He made it against the law to worship statues and false gods. He broke down all the idols and cut down groves of trees where people sneaked out to worship statues. When his mother worshipped idols, he removed her from being queen. God rewarded Asa and his country, for ten years they had peace.

Then, out of Ethiopia came a powerful enemy named Zorah. King

Asa had an army of a half a million soldiers with bows and arrows and spears. But their enemy from Ethiopia had twice as many soldiers and also thousands of war chariots.

King Asa cried out to God. He prayed, "It is nothing for you to help us whether there are a lot or a few. Help us. We rest on thee and in your name we go against this huge army. O Lord, you are our God. Don't let any man win against you."

So the Lord attacked the Ethiopians. We don't know if He used a storm, or sent a spirit of fear among their enemies like He had done before. But their enemies began to run away. King Asa and his army destroyed them and carried away rich and expensive equipment and the belongings that had been owned by the dead enemies. And the fear of the Lord came upon all the enemy cities around Judah.

Asa's next battle did not occur until fifteen years later. It was against Israel and the other tribes. Their king, Baasha blocked off the road to Jerusalem and made plans to attack the city of King Asa.

This time Asa made a mistake. Instead of turning to God for help, he hired the Syrian army from the far side of Israel to attack King Baasha. When they did, King Baasha gave up blocking the road to Judah and left to fight the Syrians.

God sent His seer (prophet) named Hanani to Asa and said, "Didn't God save you from the huge armies of the Ethiopians? You trusted God and He saved you."

## WORD SEARCH

STAY	AND
GOD	ASA
FOUGHT	CRIED
THE	OUT
BATTLE	AND
AGAINST	GOD
HUGE	HEARD
ETHIOPIA	HIM

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



## Our Women Today

### General Circle Conference

By Sister Karen L. Progar

There was a feeling of excitement in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch as the General Circle met in conference on Saturday, April 26, 1997. Sisters from all over the country came together to conduct the business of the Circle and enjoy each others company. Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, welcomed the sisters and informed everyone that there was very little business to conduct, so we would have sufficient time to enjoy the spiritual aspect of the conference.

Our Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, chose Alma 26:12-16 as her scripture. She reminded us to glory in the Lord and praise God forever.

Under items of new business, the assembly was informed that donations could still be made in memory of deceased loved ones. The fund will be called the "New Missions Fund" and as decided at our

last conference, the money will be used to assist in funding new missionary efforts of the Church.

Sisters should mark their calendars for the 1998 General Circle Retreat, which will be held in Charleston, South Carolina. The retreat will begin on Thursday, July 16 and conclude on Sunday, July 19. A feeling of excitement permeated the atmosphere as Sister Arline discussed the wonderful experiences which were had as the tentative arrangements were made.

Area presidents from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast presented reports on activities held during the past six months. Sister Lynette Huttenberger, Financial Secretary, presented our next report. The Circle collected \$7,611.47 in the last six month reporting period. What a marvelous job our sisters do at fund raising!

Because of the dedication of the various home Circles, Sister Lydia Link, Treasurer, reported that \$2,300.00 will be sent to assist with the publication of a Spanish Book of Mormon, \$1,866.99 will be given to the work among the American Indian. In addition, we were able to donate \$284.00 to each of the following six General Church works and funds: India, Italy, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and The Missionary Foundation.

A brief report on Sister Arline

and Sister Lorraine's trip to Kenya followed. Our sisters will have a slide show ready for our October 11, 1997 Conference (to be held in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.) The brothers whom they accompanied on the tour will take part in the presentation.

After an enjoyable luncheon prepared and served by the sisters of the Freehold Branch and brothers from the Atlantic Coast and Pennsylvania, the Atlantic Coast Circle presented a program entitled, "Circle of Love." A jigsaw puzzle was constructed by the sisters as they spoke of the attributes necessary to create this circle: potential, gentleness, unity, humility, mercy and meekness.

Our afternoon was concluded with a season of testimony. The sisters in attendance from Maine to the Pacific Coast shared beautiful experiences and testimonies with the conference.

Special thanks is extended to all of those who housed the saints, prepared the meal and made the day so enjoyable for all the visitors. We look forward to seeing many of our sisters in October. Remember, there will be no conference in April of 1998 due to the retreat, so make every effort to meet with us in October. You will be blessed. We certainly were!

#### CONFERENCE continued . . .

Evangelist John DiBattista reported writing to a sixty-nine year old geologist in New Zealand who had requested a copy of the Church's history book. Brother John sent the man the book. After reading it, he proclaimed The Church of Jesus Christ has the authority of the Restoration. He also stated that his home was open to any missionary that would come to his country.

Evangelist Paul Liberto related how God has spared the lives of some of the brothers in Mexico. These brothers are now determined to give their all for the Lord and His Church. Elder Ram C. Baral, from the

country of Nepal, gave his testimony. He stated he is convinced that the Bible and Book of Mormon are the truth. He was instrumental in translating the Bible into the Nepali language and is currently working on translating the Book of Mormon. He asked everyone for their prayers.

Sister Arline Whitton, President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, spoke about the recent trip she made to Kenya, along with Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President of the General Circle. She was impressed with the love and humility of the sisters. Sisters Arline and Lorraine organized the Ladies' Uplift Circle in Kenya.

The last speaker, Apostle V. J.

Lovalvo, related the story of Jesus at the wedding of Cana in Galilee. He highlighted the part where Mary told the men to do what Jesus told them to do. He said those who have gone out on missionary work did what Jesus told them to do and that we must also do what Jesus told us to do. He referred to the 28th chapter of Matthew where Christ instructed His disciples to go to all nations. Brother Jim requested that we give all the financial support that we can for the missionary work of the Church along with our prayers for their safety and success.

Apostle Paul Benyola closed the

(Continued on Page 8)

## CONFERENCE continued . . .

service by saying, "We have just taken a fast trip around the world to some of the nations where the missionaries present had been. The reports give us a view of what is going on and how the Lord is blessing us as we labor." He urged everyone to back the missionary efforts.

The Great Lakes Regional Choir presented a musical program in the evening under the direction of Sister Carolyn Parravano. Many beautiful and wonderful selections were sung to the honor and glory of God. The World Conference Center sounded beautiful, the words were beautiful and the singing was wonderful. Praise God for His goodness and mercy! The meeting was closed with prayer by Evangelist Carl Frammolino.

The Sunday Service was opened by Apostle Joseph Calabrese. As Brother Joe rose from his seat, Brother Mike Nuzzi had a vision. He saw three personages in brown robes help Brother Joe up and were standing behind him on the rostrum. They said that whoever would desire to see them should pray to God and He would allow them to be seen.

Brother Calabrese said he was excited to be part of the work of the Lord. He said no one can do anything without Him. Acknowledging the presence of the three Nephites, he said we are in a very "adult situation," meaning we are in a period of time for which great men had waited a long time.. He stated we are born to die, but we must strive, while living, to reach the Kingdom of God. His text was taken from Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, also to the Greek."*

Brother Joe continued by saying the three Nephites are here to help us to bring souls to salvation and that there is power in the Gospel. Indeed, the power of God, that was available in times past, is still available today. He noted there is more

hunger, spiritually and naturally, in foreign fields and perhaps we may require personal experiences to shake us to the realization of what we can do. In closing, he pointed out there is more overall excitement and positive thinking today of what can be done.

Our next speaker was Apostle Joseph Lovalvo. Before speaking, he was anointed for his affliction. He has had two heart attacks and was told by the doctor to slow down and stop preaching. He told the doctor he would never stop preaching. He stressed the change that comes upon a person when Christ comes into their life. He recalled several portions of Scripture in which people were changed when they truly got to know the Lord and he said that no one can keep all the commandments of God unless they are born again. He

*"Go to the highways  
and byways of life and  
compel them to come in."*

identified early saints who were not ashamed of the Gospel and were willing to die for Christ. He traced the history of the Gospel to the Restoration and how God used Joseph Smith, a young boy. Brother Joe cited the time he was challenged by men of another faith who attacked the Book of Mormon. Then, Brother Sam Cuomo stood and said, "Thus saith the Lord, this is My Church!"

Brother Lovalvo stated that experiences revealed in advance that the three Nephites would be there at the debate. The brothers who accompanied him supplied him with the Scriptures as he was presenting his case. At the conclusion of this meeting, the attackers apologized for their errors and conduct. Brother Joe also told how some of his own relatives had turned against him when he came to the Gospel. He noted that eventually his father and mother did join the Church. He related some wonderful experiences. He concluded by imploring the Priesthood to

carry on and to remember the authority and power that are present. As Brother Lovalvo was concluding his sermon, Brother Ram C. Baral stood and said, "Go to the highways and byways of life and compel them to come in."

The last speaker was Brother John DiBattista. He recalled the time of Moses and the plagues upon the people. He said there is a plague of sin engulfing the United States and the world. Brother English Webb stood and said, "Preach the word and the plagues will stop."

Brother John likened the sin and transgression today to the plagues long ago. He said we can eliminate these plagues by preaching with boldness and the power of God which we have received in The Church of Jesus Christ and by proclaiming the Bible and Book of Mormon. He cited Brother Paul Gray, who through trial and severe affliction, continues to preach the Gospel with boldness. Brother John said there are obstacles in preaching the Gospel, but we must overcome them.

Brother Dominic Thomas concluded the meeting with a number of remarks. He asked everyone to pray for the children of the saints as well as for many who need our prayers. Each region, he reminded us, has a fast and prayer day during the week and he read the various reasons for these fasting and prayer days. They were in a letter he had sent on May 10, 1988 and reiterated in August 1992. Brother Thomas said that his recommendation at that time was that each region set aside one day a week to fast and pray for God's help. He emphasized that these days are in addition to the Church wide fasting and prayer services held the last Saturday of every month in all Branches and Missions. He reminded all to pray for those who have been presented to Conference for prayer. He said we all want the Church to grow; thus, "he gave an urgent appeal for financial support and encouraged everyone to work for the Church."

Conference was closed in prayer by Brother Pat O'Callaghan.



## Branch and Mission News

### SW Region and Phoenix, AZ Branch Co-Host the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

The Southwest Region and Phoenix, Arizona Branch served as co-hosts to the General Church Quorum of Twelve Apostles as February 1997 came to a close. The three day event, spiritually inspired from beginning to end, developed as a central special message, "The Lord's Commandments."

Apostle Paul Palmieri centering his remarks on Christ's commandments stated, "We feel better when focusing our thoughts on the Lord and loving each other. That should always be our objective." He spoke on the miracles that occurred on their past missionary trip to India, especially when the manifestation of God intervened as a huge cyclone roared off the ocean toward the mainland. He testified, "We were in a direct line with no way out. We turned to 'fasting and prayer' and the storm as it reached the shoreline did a 180 degree turn, an unknown occurrence in past history, heading back out to sea." Brother Palmieri continued, "Holding to the Lord's commandments is the key." He called on the young people to love one another and place their faith in Jesus Christ. He emphasized there is a special message in the commandments and the world will know you by the love you have for each other. He added, "Follow and praise Him, let it be a genuine love."

Apostle V. James Lovalvo reminded all of the significance of the cross and that after His victory, Christ said, "Follow Me!" There was something majestic about Jesus. Consider what all the disciples gave up to follow Christ, he reminded the congregation. "Servant, No! They had a closer relationship, a friend, a brotherhood each could understand," he explained. Living a life of

righteousness is the only way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Brother Jim concluded by saying, "Without total acceptance of God and the keeping of His commandments, it will not happen."

Apostle Paul Benyola stressed committing ourselves to what we believe and then let our light shine beyond our Church walls into the communities in which we live.

Eight Apostles, including President Dominic Thomas, gathered in Phoenix on Saturday night where they welcomed the beautiful weather of the Valley of the Sun. It's been nearly two decades since the Quorum of Twelve first met in Phoenix. Absent due to illness were Brothers Joe Bittinger and Joseph Lovalvo. Our late Brother Nick Pietrangelo who passed on to eternal glory was remembered by General Church President Dominic Thomas. Prayer for our absent leaders and the sick within the Church was led by Quorum President Brother Russell Cadman.

Brother Dominic noted the makeup of the Saturday night crowd which represented a wide geographical region. Six regions from which the migration came were recognized: Great Lakes, Atlantic Coast, Southeast, Ohio Midwest, Penn-Mid Atlantic and Pacific Coast. Most members identified with the Southwest Region. His request was that each member in the congregation welcome a neighbor seated in his or her pew, and the congregation followed by singing, *His Name is Wonderful*. Brother Dominic concluded by saying, "Let us be led by the love of God, allow it to become the controlling spirit, and respect our leaders."

Apostle Joseph Calabrese led prayers for the Ministry. Five congregational members stood when Brother Cadman sought recognition of those whose descendants dated back to the foundation of the Church. The first open meeting ended with prayer following the anointing of four sisters currently having physical problems.

Apostle Bob Watson opened the

Sunday meeting with prayer after Brother Ike Smith, Region President, welcomed everyone to the Papago Elementary School in Phoenix, a site selected because of the large number attending the service. A number of musical selections were sung by a quartet which consisted of Brother Tim Scolaro, Arthur and Austin Landrey and Herb Hemmings. Sister Elaine Jordan was the soloist and sang, *It Is Well With My Soul*.

Excitement was felt throughout the gatherings, talking of the missionary involvements undertaken by the Church, especially the new openings developing in Kenya, Russia and Peru. Brother Dick and Sister Pat Christman of the Phoenix Branch were anointed as they prepared for a third missionary trip to Peru. Brothers Dan Piccuto and Herb Hemmings, both ailing missionaries working among the Arizona Native Americans, received the anointing of the Church leaders.

The gathering came to a close. What a beautiful weekend! May God bless our leaders and use them for His honor and glory.

### A Healing Miracle in Warren, Ohio

By Evangelist Frank D. Giovannone

For over twenty years, I have been going to the same optometrist to have my eyes examined for prescription glasses. About two and a half years ago, this optometrist told me that a cataract was forming in each eye. He also told me that a scar had formed in my left eye from when I was a young child. When I went for my annual examination, in the spring of 1996, I told the doctor that my vision was blurred and I sometimes saw double. After the examination, he informed me that the cataract had increased in each eye, and that I would need surgery to remove them. He recommended an eye surgeon in Akron, Ohio that specialized in

(Continued on Page 10)

**WARREN, OH continued . . .**

cataract removal. I told my doctor that if I had to have surgery that I would have to wait for the winter months. I had so much to do in the summer that I could not take time off for the surgery. The longer I waited, month after month, I knew the problem was getting worse.

Around early December 1996, my neighbor, who was eighty-three years old at that time, had the same surgery in one of her eyes that I was to have done. When she found out that I was to have the same surgery, she recommended her doctor to me that performed her surgery. She assured me there was nothing to this surgery, that it was quite easy, like a piece of cake! Shortly after talking with her, I contacted her doctor for an appointment to see about having surgery done on my eyes. We made an appointment for March 20, 1997.

On March 15, 1997, the Ohio-Midwest Regional Church Conference was held in the Warren, Ohio Branch. The Conference began in the morning with about a half hour of prayer. I felt the Spirit of God so prevalent among us that I asked to be anointed at that moment. I wanted to ask God to help me get through this surgery. I was told to come up front to be anointed and a few brothers gathered around me. Apostle Paul Palmieri felt he was to anoint me. As Brother Paul was praying over me, he asked God if He would perform the surgery on my eyes so that the doctor would not have to perform it.

When I went to the doctor on March 20, I prepared myself to go through with the surgery. After a two hour long examination of numerous tests, the doctor asked me, "Who told you that you had cataracts?" I said, "The optometrist that I have seen for many years told me two and a half years ago that I had cataracts in both eyes." After telling him this, he assured me that there was not a single trace of cataracts in either eye. Just to make sure he was correct, he wanted to run one last test that was rarely done on cataract patients. He wanted to make absolutely sure that

there was nothing there before turning me away.

He warned me that this last test would be very painful. They needed to dilate, open my pupils as wide as possible with a certain solution. After my pupils were fully dilated, a bright beam of light was shown into my eyes. It was so bright, I felt as if my eyes were going to burn up. After this was over, he said there was nothing in my eyes except the scar in the left eye that I would take to my grave.

I am very thankful, brothers and sisters, that God is still on His throne. We need to put our faith and trust in Him and He will help us in our hour of need. I often think of the words in a song, "He washed my eyes with tears, that I might see." We are sure that God can perform surgery without using a knife. I know that I will never be able to repay my God for what He has done for me. May God bless all of you in my humble prayer.

## Live For Others

Lord help me from day to day  
In such a self forgetful way,  
That even when I kneel to pray,  
My prayers shall be for others.

Help me in all I do  
To ever be sincere and true,  
And know that all I would do  
For Thee must needs be done to others.

Let self be crucified and buried deep  
And all in vain my efforts be  
To rise again to be with Thee  
Unless I live for others.

And when my task on earth is done,  
May my work in heaven begin,  
May I forget the crown I have won  
While thinking still of others.

Others, yes, Lord, others,  
May this my motto be,  
Help me to live for others,  
That I may be like Thee.

Author Unknown

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Perri, Joseph and Mary  
89 Peppergrass Dr. S.  
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609-722-8958

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## MESSAGE continued . . .

After the program, the Chief of Odumasi and the Chief of the village nearby cut the ribbon for the school.

On March 4, Brother Ross was not well, but Brothers Perri and Lawson went to Odumasi and Apromase with Brother Boadu. They observed that the church building is progressing satisfactorily even though there is a shortage of adequate tools to complete the tasks involved. For example, a worker used a ball peen hammer to drive ten penny nails into the roof beams.

After returning to the Mission House for dinner in the afternoon, they went to Anyinamso for a crusade. Many of the members have come into the Church as a result of crusades. There were at least 400-500 villagers, including children, assembled for the video. Brother Ross began the speaking, followed by Brothers Lawson and Perri.

Brother Boadu started conducting crusades some time ago. The Elders and members go to a village and take a portable generator, speakers, monitor, VCR, and some lights with them. They show a religious

video. Brother Ford will stop it after a while, and the brothers speak on the subject and explain the Church to the people of the village. This approach has been very effective in introducing the Gospel.

The next night, they journeyed to Anyinamso for their Wednesday service. Brother Lawson opened the meeting, using Matthew 14:33. He was followed by Brothers Ross and Perri.

March 6 was Independence Day for Ghana. It was forty years since the nation gained independence from Great Britain. That evening, a crusade was held in Sarabusu, a new village a half hour beyond Anyinamso. It was estimated there were 1,000 people including children

a wide range of topics. The young brothers asked many good questions, and they are very knowledgeable about the Scriptures. Excellent beneficial discussions were reported by the visiting Evangelists.

Separate meetings were held with the Elders where various things were discussed and updates on plans were given. The conclusion reached was that "... this group of men will be a good force for the Church in Ghana."

Our purchase of the Mission House was explored with the owner who is desirous of selling it. Rental already paid would be applied against the price. The remaining balance which must be raised is \$20,000.

The brothers also met with some

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

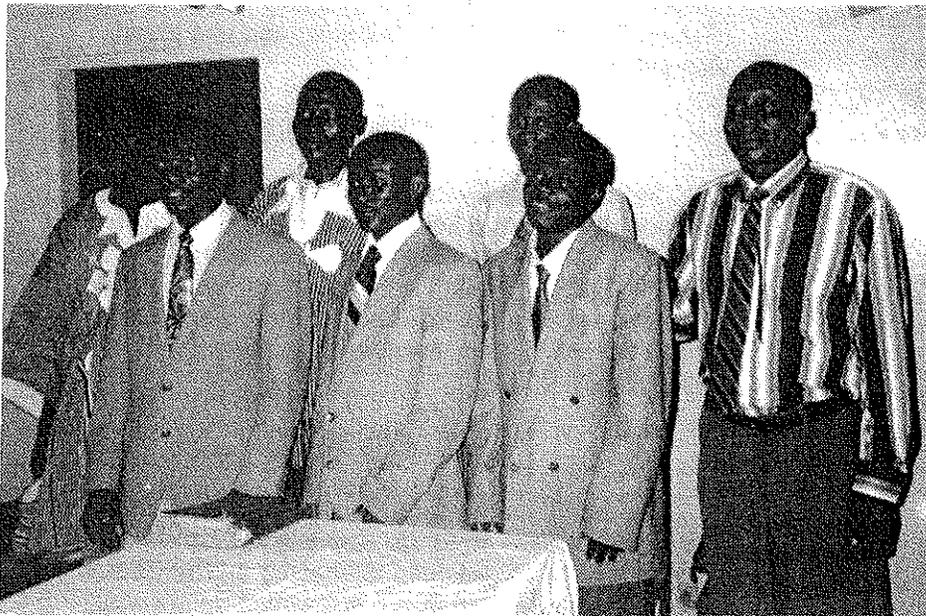
message of the Lord and His Church.

We help by offering our sincere prayers for the souls of the entire human family. Prayer does and will move the hand of the Lord. That is one way to help. It takes more than prayers. It takes more, much more than prayer.

We help through our financial generosity. We must be generous in our donations. The Church, especially the missionary fields, need our financial support. The missionary fields need our "generous" financial support and help. The Church needs the "spirit of giving." It depends on you. This "spirit of giving" depends on you. The "spirit of giving" helps you empty your pockets, purses and wallets. You must possess it. Do you know that most of the missionary trips during the past few years have been financed by those taking these missionary trips? They and others who will take missionary journeys need our help. They need all the financial help we can give them. This financial assistance is not for them. It is for the Lord, His Gospel and His Church. It is for those who want to hear the Restored Gospel message.

We help by bearing our testimony. If you keep a light under a bushel, it will never be seen. If you do not bear your testimony, it will never be heard. If you do not tell someone of the Restored Gospel, chances are they may never hear it. Without your testimony, the possibility exists that your neighbors, family and friends would never hear that the angel has flown.

The membership of The Church of Jesus Christ is vital to the spiritual growth of the Gospel. It is through the unity and love of the membership that the Gospel will reach out to all nations. Just think of it, the Lord wants you to help in reaching every nation, every nationality, every race. All must hear. All will hear. The Ministry needs your help. The Lord needs your help. The world needs your help. Will you answer the call? Are you ready?



**Elders of Ghana, West Africa. Brother John Addo absent.**

in attendance. Brother Perri spoke, followed by Brothers Lawson and Ross.

In the March 7 meeting at Kumasi, Brother Perri felt prayer should be asked for rain as it had been so dry and the need for the moisture was very great. Just about everyone prayed, and there was a "sweet spirit in our midst." Brothers Ross, Perri and Lawson also expressed themselves.

A seminar was conducted the next day at the center for the ordained officers. The training covered

other interested people in Medina, which is about half an hour from Accra, on March 16. Brother Perri opened the meeting on Matthew 14, after which Brothers Lawson, Ross and Boadu followed. Questions were asked which our brothers answered. They explained our beliefs and gave a short synopsis of the Restoration. There was genuine interest and there are hopes that these individuals will come into the Gospel. A first time visitor from Liberia asked questions and was very attentive to the message delivered by the brothers.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Tina Buffa and Brother Joe Giannetti were united in holy matrimony at Branch #1 in Chesterfield, Michigan on March 22, 1997.

Brother Alfred Mendenhall and Sister Tammy Wingle were united in holy matrimony on March 20, 1997 in the Inner City Branch, Detroit, Michigan.

**Children Blessed**

John Zachary Bordeaux, son of John and Mildred Bordeaux, was blessed in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on December 22, 1996.

Dominic Stelzer, son of Hank and Sister Diane (Romano) Stelzer, was blessed in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on January 19, 1997.

Kelsey Marie Lubienski, daughter of Dan and Becky (Whitton) Lubienski, was blessed in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on September 29, 1996.

Caleb Kenneth Calabro, son of Brother Rick and Sister April Calabro, was blessed on May 4, 1997 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

**Baptism**

Denise Romano was baptized on December 1, 1996, in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Loffredo and confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**OBITUARIES**

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

HETTIE BENYOLA

Sister Hettie Benyola of the Elkins, West Virginia Mission passed on to her heavenly reward on March 29, 1997. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Hettie was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Louis Benyola and several of her children. Sister Hettie is survived by five children, twenty-one grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

GEORGE B. BOKULICH

George B. Bokulich passed on to his eternal reward on March 10, 1997. He attended the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. He is survived by his wife, Virginia M. Gibson Bokulich; one daughter, Darla Davis; two sons, George H. And David P. Bokulich; and two granddaughters.

JUANITA TORIBIO

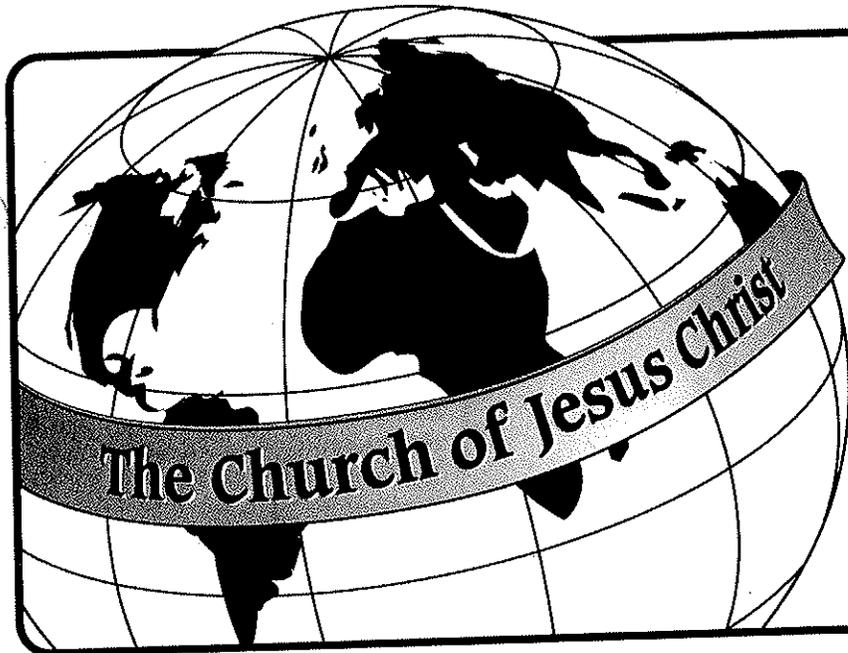
Sister Juanita Toribio of the Santa Ana, California Mission passed on to her heavenly reward on September 30, 1996. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Toribio was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Alfonso Toribio. She leaves to mourn seven children, twenty-one grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

T. DOM BUCCI

Brother Timothy Dom Bucci of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on April 23, 1997. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Bucci is survived by his wife, Sister Mary; two daughters, Sister Phyllis Kovacic and Marlea Frentzos; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

ANGELINE BISCOTTI

Sister Angeline Biscotti of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on March 8, 1997. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Angeline was preceded in death by her late husband, Apostle Rocco Biscotti, who was the President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Representing the Quorum of Twelve at her services were Apostles Russell Cadman, Joseph Calabrese, Paul Palmieri and Dominic Thomas. Sister Angeline is survived by two sons, Matthew and Robert Biscotti, and one daughter, Kathleen Cole.



# The Gospel News

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Volume 53, No. 8

## Native American Legends and The Book of Mormon

*By Evangelist Richard Scaglione*

The similarity of many Native American legends and prophecies to the Book of Mormon is quite remarkable. It is not only fascinating but also edifying when we consider the source of both are actually the same, the Seed of Joseph.

After reading a Book of Mormon sent to him by an individual interested in learning more about the Hopi, Thomas Banyacya, a Hopi interpreter and spokesman, remarked, "It's true the Mormon Book teaches many things similar to the Hopi teachings. In fact, some places it's the same. But Hopi has been warned against accepting or falling for any other kind of religion that may come to them. They were to hold fast to the teachings that were given them by the Great Spirit."

The Hopi speak of being converted to the Great Spirit before the great star appeared in the sky (see III Nephi 1:21). "After they were converted, they took all their weapons used in the shedding of blood and buried them deep in the earth. When their enemies came, they would not take up weapons to

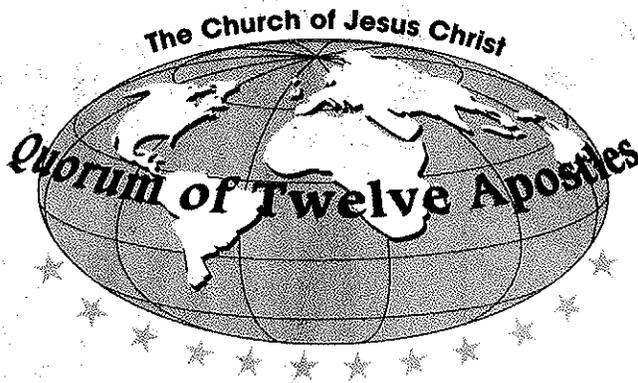
defend themselves. Many were killed. This made their enemies ashamed, and some of the aggressors joined the peaceful Hopi and buried their weapons also" (see Alma 24:15-20).

After many years, the Hopi people migrated to another land where they could be alone and live in peace. They say the Great Spirit spoke to them from the clouds above, "When a Great Star appears in the sky that is brighter than all other stars, wherever you are, stop and build houses like the homes your people lived in before they came to this country." The Hopi obeyed and built a village. An observer was amazed at how the streets and houses of Hopi villages resemble those of Old Jerusalem. Years later, the Hopi decided to search for a suitable location for their second village. As they searched, they met a white man who walked toward them with open arms. He said, "I am your True White Brother that has come to lead you forward and to teach you of my ways." He stayed with them for several days and taught them the things they must do to be saved.

The White Brother gave the Hopi a beautiful pink marble stone tablet. They were taught how to read the ancient writings on the stone which contained prophecies regarding the last days and commandments. The prophecies were to come to pass just before the White Brother returns to the earth. After insuring that the Hopi memorized the stone, word for word, the White Brother broke the stone into two parts. He gave them one part and kept the other. He said, "When I return, I will have this stone with me, and the writings on my stone are the same as you have. I will be able to read your stone, and you will be able to read the one I have. If they will interlock where I had separated them, you will know for sure that I am your True White Brother coming to lead you forward into life everlasting." The Hopi religious leaders can still read the stone. It is kept in the Kiva (house of worship), and very few outsiders have ever seen it (see Omni 20-22 for the stone tablet).

When the White Brother, whom the Hopi call Massauu (Messiah?), told them he must leave them, they begged him to stay. He told them to follow his teachings, practice them daily, and to fast and pray. He then blessed their babies, healed their sick, and performed many miracles

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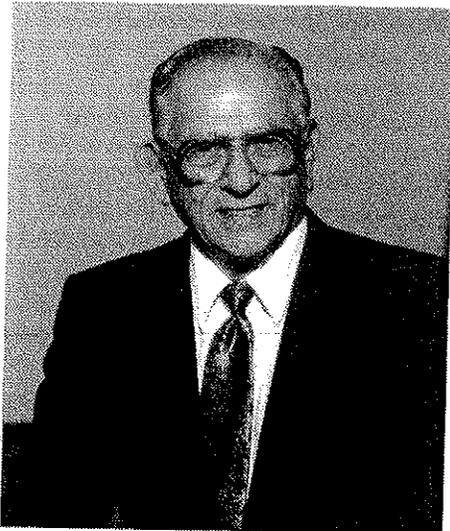


## Who Hath Believed Our Report?

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

**Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? (Isaiah 53:1).**

The prophet Isaiah was one of the greatest prophets God ever had called. He was known as the "The Silver Tongue Prophet." God guided him as he wrote the above words in the form of a question. He no doubt knew that very few out of the millions in this world would believe him. Let us explore this



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

scripture further:

V.2 "For He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him."

V.3 "He is despised and

rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not."

V.4 "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted."

V.5 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

Indeed the balance of the chapter deals with how Jesus came, suffered and died for all mankind.

The last part of Verse 1 says, "to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed." The prophet Isaiah wondered, no doubt, if this that is recorded in the verses above is true, who would have a chance to receive salvation including the House of Israel?

History has now proven that Jesus did come, suffered, and died. It has been said that God was cruel to do this to His Son.

The fact remains had He not sent His only Begotten Son to pay the ransom, mankind would not have hope for the present or future (see John 3:16-17).

Did I say including Israel? Who today believes that? Only the ones to whom the arm of the Lord is revealed.

Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1820 wondered which church is the true

church? He had heard Christ is here and Christ is there (see Joseph Smith's testimony). However, not until the arm of the Lord revealed to him while he was reading James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." He was totally confused! The arm of the Lord continued to reveal (read Revelations 14:6-7).

V.6 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

V.7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him that made heaven, and earth and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

The angel in verse 6, whose name was Moroni, came to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on May 15, 1829 and laid his hands upon them both, ordaining them into the Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God (see Alma 13:1-9 in the Book of Mormon).

The arm of the Lord continued to reveal itself. After the martyrdom of Joseph Smith in 1844, he chose another, namely William Bickerton (see Isaiah 66:1-2).

V.1 "Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest."

V.2 "For all of those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been made, saith the Lord: but to this man [William Bickerton] will I look even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

The choosing of William Bickerton took place in 1851.

Much more can be said, however, who will believe our report?

The Church of Jesus Christ expects a deliverer to come, a "Choice Seer"—a person likened unto Moses (see Romans 11:26), "And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written. There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall

turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

Who hath believed our report?

As many did not believe when Jesus came (and many still do not), neither do many believe today that an angel has come (Revelations 14:6-7), nor that a deliverer is coming. However, time will prove that this is true.

Our prayer is that as we enter into the dawning of another century of time, that many will believe our report, that the true Gospel has been restored.

Yes, the Choice Seer will be used with others to convince both Jew and Gentile that Israel will return. The arm of the Lord will be revealed.

Great is the task that lies before us, but we trust in one divinely strong.

Note: The personal testimony of William Bickerton and other literature can be requested from The Church of Jesus Christ Print House, P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030.

## LEGENDS continued . . .

among them (III Nephi, chapters 17 through 28). Finally, he walked eastward and ascended into the heavens until he faded out of sight. The Hopi never fail to say a prayer as the sun comes up, facing east, giving thanks to the Great Spirit and the White Brother. They, like nearly all Indian tribes, are watching and waiting for the White Brother to return from the East. From the hogans of the Navajo to the openings of the teepees of the Plains Indians, the doorways face east in order to see the White Brother approaching them when he returns. They consider him the same White Brother who walked and talked with their ancestors hundreds of years ago. No doubt, this was the reason Cortez and the Spaniards were so readily accepted and honored by the Natives of Mexico and Central America.

Mad Bear Anderson, a Tuscarora (one of the Six Nations of

the Iroquois Confederacy), related an ancient prophecy of his people. A spiritual being they called Deganawida spent time with the Iroquois, teaching a life style based upon peace and love. Before he left them, he warned them of what would befall them in the future because they would become wicked and accept false teachings and promises. Fighting and destruction would come, choking the life's blood out of the Indian people. They would desire to renew their faith and the principles of peace that Deganawida had established. When they would become very humble, they would await the coming of "a young leader, an Indian boy, who would be a Choice Seer. Nobody knows who he is or where he comes from, but he will be given great power and would be heard by thousands. Deganawida said that as the Choice Seer speaks to the Indians, he would be heard by all at the same time. Also, a great light, many times brighter than the sun, will come from the east. It would blind those fighting against the Indian people, causing them to become frightened and leave, never to be seen again. Deganawida said that he would be that light, and he would return to his people. When he returns, they would be a greater nation than they ever were before" (see II Nephi, chapter 3, the Choice Seer).

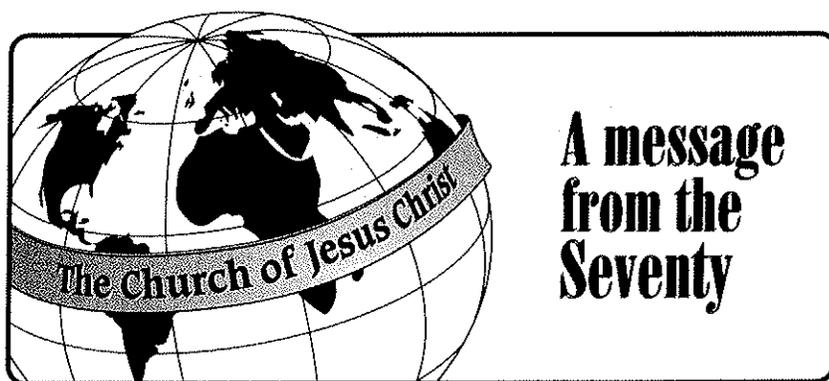
A Native prophecy of the Yakima tells a similar story. It was told as follows: "A young Native leader will take his people up on a high mountain. They will be joined by a small group of whites. The earth below will suffer a great destruction by fire, which will purify it. Together, the Natives and the whites will be led from the mountain by this young leader, and they will build a city and inhabit it in peace and harmony." The young man who related this prophecy stated he had never heard of the Book of Mormon.

In 1735 at the Seneca Indian town of Conawagus on the Genesee River, an Indian boy was born who was later to become one of the

greatest Indian prophets and teachers of recent historical date. This Seneca was given the title of Kaniatario, or Handsome Lake. As a young man, he was everything but a religious teacher (see Mosiah 27:8-32 for the story of Alma, son of Alma). After years of drinking the white man's firewater, Handsome Lake became very ill, so ill that for four years he lay an invalid, not able to rise from his bed. At the end of the fourth year, he walked from his cabin and fell to the earth, seemingly dead. His body was dressed in ceremonial clothes, and he was prepared for burial. As relatives gathered for the death ceremony, he surprised everyone by sitting up, or as his followers said, "Came to life." He related that three messengers of the Great Spirit (see III Nephi 28: 4-40) had come to him during his "death." They told him that the Creator of mankind had chosen him to tell the Iroquois people how they should live and worship. From time to time for the next fifteen years, the Three Messengers visited and instructed Handsome Lake with the wishes of the Creator. A fourth Messenger also appeared to him, bearing scars in the palms of his hands and a wound in his side. He said he would return at the end of Handsome Lake's life and would lead him to the "Land of Happy Spirits."

The teachings of Handsome Lake were divided into 130 sections and provided natural and spiritual instructions that were to govern the lives of the Iroquois. This resulted in a letter from President Thomas Jefferson to the Chiefs of the Six Nations, praising the teachings of Handsome Lake and advising the Iroquois to follow them. For the next sixteen years, Handsome Lake preached and taught this religion. To this day, in the Longhouses of the Iroquois, especially the Seneca, the "Code of Handsome Lake" is recited during the Strawberry Festival as they thank their Creator for their harvests.

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## Native American Outreach Seminar

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The Americas Missions Operating Committee held a Native American Outreach Seminar for the eastern sector of the United States in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on Saturday, May 31. It is also being planned to schedule the same program at one location for all branches and missions west of the Mississippi River in the fall.

There were three meetings during the day. The first two consisted primarily of seminar sessions, while the evening service was devoted to worship and fellowship.

The AMOC, under its Chairman, Evangelist Richard Christman, sponsored the day to inform members of possibilities which exist in further reaching Native Americans, God's chosen people. It offered participants the ability to visualize how to expand our horizons and presented the various options that are available to do so.

Apostle Paul Palmieri, General Church First Counselor, gave the inspiring keynote address. He encouraged the participants to help spread the Gospel of Christ. Apostle Joseph Bittinger offered a special prayer for the labors among the Seed of Joseph.

### INTRODUCTORY LETTER

An introductory letter from Apostle Robert A. Watson was read. Unable to attend, he is the General Church Second Counselor and the

liaison person to General Church for the AMOC. He stated, in part:

"The work of The Church of Jesus Christ among the Native Americans is the outgrowth and the direct result of a covenant executed by God through Abraham a few thousand years ago. Let me draw your attention to this covenant as recorded in the Book of Genesis, 17th chapter, verses 2-4, ' . . . And I will make my covenant between me and thee [Abraham] and will multiply thee exceedingly. Abraham 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. '

"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 and that through them all the nations of the world will be blessed. ' . . . I will show unto them who fight against my word and against my people who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I covenanted with Abraham that I would remember his seed forever' " (II Nephi 29:14).

Apostle Dominic Thomas, General Church President; Evangelist Leonard Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists; and Evangelist John Griffith, Missions Operating Committee Chairman, sent their best wishes and letters of support for this important work.

### THREE SEMINAR GROUPS

Three seminar groups were formed and rotated, so that all attendees could absorb all the very important subject matter and participate in the interaction. The phases included review of the history of the Native Americans, effective ways to reach them, and the future goals among them. General and specific information was offered.

The Church's long standing activity among Native Americans was documented. Our presence on reservations, near reservations, and in urban areas was spotlighted to indicate where we are today, where we must go to achieve our goal, and how we can accelerate our pace.

Statistics on Native Americans or "First Nations" were given. The decrease in population from the arrival of Christopher Columbus to the present was analyzed.

Basically, focus was on the Church's Commission, the labors of our missionaries on reservations, and the formation and progress of the General and Regional Urban Native American Committees, as well as the Native American Outreach Program.

It was pointed out that it is necessary to understand the beliefs, culture and traditions on both reservations and in urban areas. Knowing these essentials and applying them will permit the individuals with whom we speak to more fully understand our genuine interest in them.

Tribal leaders and their responsibilities were mentioned, as were the legends and prophecies which are similar to our beliefs. Some of these were also explained.

Presenters were Evangelists Richard Christman, Fred Olexa, Thomas Everett, Richard Scaglione, and Robert Nicklow, Sr., and Elders Robert Nicklow, Jr. and William Chepanoske.

### GATHERINGS

There are many public gatherings that are conducted by Native Americans throughout the land.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Lord is full of divine compassion. He is a compassionate God who loves and cares for those who believe in Him, those who follow Him. He wants to extend His compassion to all. Do you know what compassion means? Compassion is the deep feeling of sharing the suffering of another, together with the inclination to give aid or support or to show mercy. Does this describe you? Is this the spirit that you carry and convey to others? Do you aid those in need of help? Do you offer support to those in need of encouragement? Are you merciful to your fellow beings?

Our great Lord is compassionate. His compassion is divine. When Jesus Christ was on the land of America visiting His people, He showed great compassion.

We read these words of the Lord in III Nephi 17:6-7, *"And he said unto them: Behold, my bowels are filled with compassion towards you. Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; My bowels are filled with mercy."*

What did the Lord do? Jesus Christ healed everyone that was brought to His presence. He denied no one! Every affliction was healed by Jesus Christ. He felt their suffering and sorrow. He felt their pain and anguish. He did not turn His back on anyone. He was not partial or discriminatory. He bore their burdens. What compassion!

On many occasions the Lord extended compassion to individuals and even multitudes. There were two blind men sitting by the wayside. They cried out to Jesus Christ for mercy. All they wanted was to see. They did not ask for riches, just their eyesight. We read the Lord had compassion on them. He touched their eyes. Their eyesight was immediately restored and they followed Him.

The Lord had compassion on a multitude and healed their sick. He had compassion on another multitude of four thousand men, besides their women and children. Imagine this throng of people. They were following Jesus Christ. They wanted to hear His words, the words of life. Those in authority must have been stunned by such a gathering of people. Can you imagine the authorities standing around, talking among themselves, trying to figure out what to do, what to say? This multitude of more than four thousand had followed the Lord for three days and had nothing to eat. The Lord would not send them away fasting, He would not send them away hungry. He had compassion on them. His disciples gave Him seven loaves and a few fishes. Jesus Christ blessed the food, broke the loaves and fed the multitude. Everyone was fed; men, women and children. No one left hungry. There were seven baskets of food left! What a miracle! What compassion!

David tells us in Psalm 78 that in spite of Israel's transgressions, the Lord had compassion on them. We read the Lord being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them. Many times the Lord turned His anger away and did not stir up His wrath.

The Lord had compassion on Jared and did not confound his language. Jared did not even ask the Lord to preserve their language. He asked his brother to pray to the Lord to preserve their language and avoid confusion. The Lord blessed Jared and his brother. He had compassion on both of them.

Alma asked the people if they were willing to mourn with those that mourn. He asked if they would comfort those in need of comfort. They answered that this was the desire of their hearts. This is the spirit that possesses an individual who has faith, repents and is baptized. This is the spirit that possesses an individual or a multitude that follows the Lord,

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## He's There in the Darkness

Dear Friends,

It was dark and 11:10 at night. My daughter and I were driving home alone from visiting Detroit Plumbrook Branch and we were tired. All of a sudden I noticed the inside car lights weren't bright. My daughter, Leah, reached over and tried to turn them up. They were up.

Then I realized our headlights also looked pale and I knew something was wrong. I began to cry out to the Lord in my mind as I quickly started thinking about the road ahead. Which exits had a service station open late at night? Which exits were in dangerous neighborhoods where I knew there'd been trouble? In between were miles of farm fields, weedy ditches and fences that I knew I couldn't crawl over because of a spine injury. I didn't have a car phone but I did have the Lord.

"What shall I do Lord?" I called out in a scared voice. "Leah! Start praying! Something's wrong with the car!"

"I already am mom," she replied quietly.

I could feel the car slightly slowing. Farmland and trees edged the highway. Just as we saw the sign for our next highway connection, EXIT 1 Mile, the car jerked, putt-putted five times and slowed more. We prayed together and the car continued. "Only 3 or 4 miles more Lord, please . . ." I whispered as the speedometer dropped twenty miles down.



Two women alone on the highway wearing church dresses and sandals, I thought. If the car stopped, how would we push it far enough off the road? Leah could walk to a phone but it would be so dangerous to split up. We didn't have a car phone so how could I call road service? These thoughts dashed through my mind as the car slowed a little more and other vehicles zipped around us. Slower and slower the car moved along.

Four miles, three miles, two, and then there we were at our neighborhood exit! I slipped into neutral to pick up speed going down the ramp, praying, "Lord, let the light change at the top of the rise. Let that car ahead move quickly out of the way so we don't die right here on this three lane exit!" The light changed, the other car moved, and we coasted right into our safe neighborhood. I pulled hard on the wheel to bring the car over as it stopped dead. We could walk home in the dark from here!

"Thank you Lord! Thank you Jesus!" we said with all our hearts. He'd kept us safe again. The car repairman was amazed and said that with a broken alternator belt we were lucky that we'd come so many miles. I told him, "No, not luck. We prayed and I thank the Lord."

How many times has He answered your prayers? How many times has He helped you and your family through dangerous or scary places? Do you remember to first call on Him? He will give your mind ideas of what to do. He'll protect you.

Remember God's words spoken

from the seer Hanani to King Asa, "Don't you know that the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth, to show Himself strong in taking care of those whose heart is perfect toward Him?"

He sees you. Even if you are upset or ashamed and hope to hide your thoughts from Him, He loves you. He knows you. If you've done something wrong, quickly ask for forgiveness. Accept the Lord's help. Let your heart be perfect towards him. He cares for you.

Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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## GMBA Conference May 1997

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

"Cast your lot and choose your people, stand today and be a man. Time is fleeing, night's approaching, work the vineyard while you can" (*Songs of Zion, One Last Pruning*).

Brother Ike J. Smith, the GMBA Chaplain, opened May GMBA Conference Saturday morning. He used III Nephi 21. It speaks of Jesus Christ establishing Zion. He encouraged us to do our part. A fraction of that part is bringing the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. There should be a burning desire to bring back Joseph's scattered nation, that they would have the opportunity to sit under the sound of the Gospel and to raise their children in the ways of God. The building of that great city Zion is just a part of the work, for once that city is built, "... then shall the work of the father commence."

Following Brother Ike, the officers began the business portion of the weekend. We heard reports from the GMBA officers and different committees. Brother Joel Calabrese reported on the new F.E.N.C.E. program, a program developed to better equip those that teach the young children. Let's remember this program and Brother Joel in our prayers, for the youth of the Church are the future. We also heard a good report on the 1997 GMBA Campout. Our camp director this year, Brother Jason Monaghan, solicited the prayers of the saints, that everything that would be done would be directed by God. The theme this year is "Raising the Standard." Our brother reminded us that we should raise the standard every day, not just the week of camp. So as we endeavor to raise the standard of Jesus Christ, let us also raise our GMBA camp commit-

tee up in prayers. Following our brother's report, the GMBA congregation voted on next year's campsite. Next year we will be heading west to sunny California, so start preparing and saving. We are looking forward to going to the Pacific Region and fellowshiping with the saints.

Sister Dana (Lowe) Smith and her husband, Brother Robert Smith, catered our lunch once again. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to them for their hard work.

We covered many different topics and issues of business for the furthering of the GMBA. Our business was complete and we were anxiously awaiting the Atlantic Coast program that evening.

The Atlantic Coast Region blessed us with a beautiful program of singing and testimony. Intermingled throughout the various songs were the testimonies of some of the brothers and sisters. They were beautiful and uplifting, for we learn that even in trials and down times, the Lord lifts us up and blesses our lives. We were truly uplifted. We thank them for all their effort and time. God's blessing surely saw them through all their hard work.

Brother Chuck Jumper opened our Sunday morning meeting with prayer; he also expressed himself regarding the support and love of the brothers and sisters through the loss of his wife, Sister Ruth. God has been by his side as well as with his daughters. Let us remember those families who have lost a loved one, that the joy and strength of the Lord would live with them daily.

As the sisters set the Communion table, the privilege of partaking of the Lord's Supper was laid before us and our hearts turned to Jesus Christ. A beautiful spirit of peace entered the room.

Brother Tony Calabrese, from the Lorain, Ohio Branch, opened our Sunday meeting by calling the hymn, *Is Your All on the Altar?* As we began singing this hymn, we could instantly feel that the Spirit of God was present. As Brother Tony approached the podium, we could see

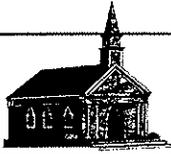
the Spirit of God in him as he prepared himself to preach the Word. He proclaimed that we need to live in the spirit and as we do so, the more the Lord will see us through anything we stand in need of. You cannot have full peace if your all is not laid on the altar. If our all is on the altar, the Church will move forward. If you trust God totally, He will let you in on His "plan." Brothers and sisters, the signs of the times are upon us and we must live close to Jesus.

Brother Fred Olexa followed and he allowed us one spiritual excuse; as humans we have a tendency to hold back from God, in most cases, giving Him little to work with. If you give Him your all, with no walls, no barriers, He will use you completely. God wants to bless His children and He wants them to live in peace. Elisha desired a double portion of God's spirit. He held nothing back, he exposed himself to the will of God. We need to place our lives in the hands of God and leave the rest up to Him. Brother Fred urged us to not let God out of our sight, keep Him always before you. He never changes, He's always the same. We need to request of Jesus Christ a double portion and let the mantle of God fall upon us—let Him use us, let Him completely consume our lives.

Brother Jeffrey Giannetti added to the beautiful words of our brother, reminding us that we can chose the flesh or the spirit. Do not put off the Lord. If you chose Him, He will give you power and authority. He will fill your life with joy! We die daily to the flesh, as we chose the spirit. While Brother Jeffrey was speaking, Brother Joe Genaro spoke in the gift of tongues.

Praise God, the spirit of preaching was in our meeting and the spirit was so sweet. We then heard from Brother Alma Nolfi. He exclaimed that if we stand in the realm of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that the blood of Jesus will wash away our sins and cares. Let His death not be in vain. He also urged us not to loose sight of

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## Branch and Mission News

### Out of Gas and Nowhere to Go!

By Bobbi Jo Gensburg

*I am Evangelist Frank D. Giovannone's granddaughter from the Warren, Ohio Branch. My mother is Sister Judi Gensburg. I am a sophomore at Youngstown State University, in Youngstown, Ohio, pursuing a bachelors degree in education, majoring in Physical Education. On Monday, September 30, 1996, God gave me the following, touching experience.*

It was Monday evening and I woke up late for school. I got ready and had twenty minutes left to get to school and get to class. When I got to my car, I only had a little bit of gas. I knew that it would be enough to get me there, but on the way home, I would have to stop at the gas station. When I started down the road, the red "check gauges" light came on to tell me to look over my gauges. I was really low on gas, but I knew that I could get to school with no problem, so I continued on to school. I did not want to be late for my new class that I was starting that morning. I traveled the eleven miles to school, and arrived there safely. After class was over, I went home because I had a four hour break between classes. Two miles from my home, I had remembered that my gas gauge was way past empty! I did not feel like turning around to go back to the truck stop to get gas, so I decided that I would leave early to get some on my way back to school. Well, I left my house late again for school and had forgotten about getting gas! I remembered as I was traveling back to school. I was hoping that I could at least get there and I would fill up on campus after school. I told myself that I would have to remember or I was going to run out of gas for sure.

By that time, I had gone thirty-three miles with the red light on telling me to get gas!

After my evening class, I could not wait to get home. I was tired and I had a lot on my mind, but it was not on getting gas for my car. Coming home on Route 680, there was about three miles of construction in the driving lane. I was stuck in the passing lane and there was no room to pull over, if I was to run out of gas. I was between exits when I realized I had not gotten gas as yet! I said to myself, "What do I do now?" By that time, I was about two and half miles from the next gas station and I began to pray. I closed my eyes for a moment and said, "Please Lord, get me to Route 46 so I can get gas." I began saying, "please, please," over and over again. At that same moment, I looked down at my gas gauge and it began to rise! It rose one eighth of a tank of gas and the red light went off! I could not believe my eyes! I could not wait to get home to tell mother. Later in the day when she returned home, I told her my exciting story. She told me that the Lord was with me, watching over me every day.

I went to Church the following Sunday, October 6, 1996, and did not know if I had the courage to get up to give my testimony. The next thing I knew I was on my feet, sharing what had happened to me during the previous week. I could feel a warmth come around me as I was standing there with tears in my eyes. As I began to sit down, Sister Annabel Santilli, also from the Warren Branch, stood up and looked at me with a look I have never seen before. She said that the power of the Lord had come upon her to give me a message. The words of the Lord were, "That was my power. You come in my house every chance you get and you shall see more!"

I know that this was not the first time that God has kept me from danger. In 1991, I was involved in a terrible accident that most of you will remember. During that time, God made me forget the terrible trauma that I went through and spared my

life. Even though I lost the vision in my left eye, I am thankful that I am still alive. I am not baptized in the Church yet, but I am glad that God has given me this experience. I hope to one day go to the water's edge and serve my God all the days of my life. May God bless all of you and your families is my prayer.

### News from Cottageville, SC Mission

On November 21, 1996, a number of brothers, sisters and friends from the Atlantic Coast Region took a trip to The Church of Jesus Christ, Cottageville, South Carolina Mission. This trip was focused on distributing food and Thanksgiving dinners to needy families.

Before leaving on our trip, a prayer was offered that the Lord would prepare the way for us. It is our hope and desire that it will not be long, a matter of time, before the people we visit will become members of the Gospel.

We reached the mission safely and unloaded the groceries so generously donated by all of you. We were greeted by Brother Tony and Sister Theresa Vadasz and Sister Edie Blazer. The kitchen at the mission had the aroma of freshly baked pies. Someone in our small group wondered why there were so many baked goods. Our answer was to come later.

We went shopping with funds donated to the Caring and Sharing Program to fill the remaining ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner to be brought to the thirty families made up of mostly Native Americans and other local people in need.

We loaded the van with some food that day to visit a few of the families. The majority of the families would be visited the next day. The first day of our food distribution, we stopped at a young woman's home, her name is Doris, to deliver the meal which would be her family's Thanksgiving dinner. When we arrived, she

started to cry and she explained that she had just paid all of her bills and did not know how she would provide a holiday meal for her family. She thanked and praised God. Brother Ralph Lee Heunng, from the Cottageville Mission, asked if she and her family would like to visit and attend the meeting to be held that Saturday night at the mission. Doris said she would like to come. We delivered meals to her mother, her sister and another member of her family while we were there. She said that her heart was full when we pulled up to her home. Doris stated she knows that we always come down about this time of the year. Praise God for the little bit that we can do to help someone. We continued to invite everyone as usual to our Church meeting.

Much to our surprise, all that we had prayed for came true. For that Saturday night meeting, Gene Davidson, a ninety-three year old Native American, his daughter and her husband joined us for dinner and stayed for the meeting. Then Doris, her mother, her sister, daughters and niece came to the meeting. We were so happy to see them, thank God! A few minutes later, John Muckenfuss, his wife and daughters came to the meeting. The Church was full! Most of the visitors even testified. Gene Davidson said that he did not know that the meetings were like this. He would come back. John Muckenfuss knows the Church and has even been to conference. He testified that what we have is truly the Gospel. He said he would like to bottle up all of the love that was at conference and spread it all over South Carolina.

After the meeting, we had those freshly baked pies. We were thankful to God that there was so much and that our sisters had been inspired to make them. God bless our sisters for all they do. Our hearts were filled with joy! We just could not believe it. What we had worked towards for so long had finally happened. We were taken aback. There was a total of fourteen visitors.

Brother Bob Plahovinsak, newly baptized in the Edison, New Jersey

Branch, had a wonderful experience while he stayed at Brother Ralph's home. The following is Brother Bob's experience.

"On Saturday night, November 23, 1996, my wife and I returned to the home of Brother Ralph, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Cottageville. We were very tired and retired to our room around 11:00 PM after bidding our brother good night.

"At approximately 3:00 AM, I heard a whisper in my ear, '*You will be a witness to my testimony.*' After hearing that, I thought my wife was talking in her sleep. Then I heard it again but this time a little stronger. Finally, I heard it a third time, only this time it was a booming sound. I found myself looking down at the place where they baptize. I remember thinking my feet will get tangled in the moss of the trees. I continued to look and saw a group of people gathered on the shore, watching two people being baptized in the river. I then looked over my shoulder and I saw the Lord and He spoke these words to me, '*Now two more will join my flock when an Elder visits.*' Even now as I relate this story, tears come to my eyes, for the Lord saw fit to let me see a vision of things to come to The Church of Jesus Christ in Cottageville, South Carolina."

God is so good. He is always on time. We continue to ask for your prayers on behalf of the Cottageville Mission. We are starting to see the hand of the Lord move there. Again, we thank you so much for all of your support.

## Easter Morning at the Plumbrook, MI Branch

By Sister Lydia Furnari

On March 30, 1997, Easter morning, what better way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ than with the surrendering of a soul. Brother George Rice was baptized on what started out as a misty, rainy morning. As Brother Gary Champine brought him into the waters of

baptism, and as the Lord has shown His power so many times before, the rain subsided.

The confirmation of our new brother was led up to by a beautiful spirit brought forth in testimony and song. Brother Richard Loffredo petitioned the Lord and laid hands on Brother George for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

As the meeting continued, Brother Gary Champine delivered a beautiful message of how the world is seeking for what we already have and enjoy in our lives. Brother Gary continued by saying, "Therefore, we must embrace and enhance the light within us and enjoy the Gospel. We have the tools [God and The Church of Jesus Christ] to lead a full and successful life."

Brother Nephi DeMercurio followed by illustrating how much love God had for each of us. He went on to preach, "We are not to treat sin with sin, but rather with love." "The prescription for sin is love," he declared.

The meeting continued in testimony, song, and prayer. The Spirit of God was present and had manifested itself to the brothers and sisters on this glorious day.

We are so thankful to the Lord for another soul and we welcome Brother George into the beautiful family of God. May the Lord bless Brother George on his new journey of life.

## Branch News from Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

We are thankful in Freehold, New Jersey for the many recent visitors that have come to our branch to offer their testimonies, experiences and share with us the joy of being a child of Jesus Christ.

On April 13, 1997, our Presiding Elder, Brother Joe Perri who had recently recovered from illnesses

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**FREEHOLD continued . . .**

derived from his recent trip to Africa, returned to the branch along with his natural brother from Lake Worth, Florida, Brother Eugene Perri. Apostle Paul Benyola visited us this day as well. Brother Eugene spoke to us regarding the evil that is present upon this land, which was set up as a land where people must serve God or be swept off. He brought out the Book of Mormon prophecy regarding the fullness of the Gentiles which is rapidly approaching and admonished us to take a stand for the truth, now more than ever. Brother Paul also preached to us regarding the necessity of keeping our identity and that the day has arrived that The Church of Jesus Christ is being ostracized by the Christian world because of the Book of Mormon. We must be ready to take a stand!

The weekend of April 26 and 27 brought the General Ladies' Circle Conference to our branch. Sisters from all parts of the country were in attendance, as they enjoyed upliftment, fellowship and the blessings of God. The whole weekend went very smoothly and the sisters remarked there was a beautiful spirit of unity. On Sunday, Brother Dan Buffington from Imperial, Pennsylvania was in our branch. During our morning MBA, Brother Dan gave an inspired testimony of his life to our young people. He related to them the struggles he went through with addictions and with sin. He told them that the day finally came when Jesus Christ changed his life completely. During the service, he spoke from the 35th chapter of Isaiah regarding the day that is coming when the Lord will bring home all His children on the highway of holiness, regardless of what part of the world they are in. He spoke about that beautiful kingdom that they will come to, the kingdom of Zion upon this land.

On May 4, after a weekend of meetings with the Foreign Mission Operating Committee in our Region, we were blessed to have in our branch, Brother Malcolm Paxon from

Atlanta, Georgia; Brother John DiBattista from Anaheim, California; Brother John Genaro from Niles, Ohio and Brother Richard Onorato from Maine who came to perform the blessing of his little cousin, Caleb Kenneth Calabro, son of Brother Rick and Sister April Calabro. Brother Ken and Sister Sandy Murray, Sister April's parents, were also visiting with us as well as several visitors from Maine. The meeting was filled with the Spirit of God, from Sunday School when Brother John Genaro gave his remarkable testimony to our young people, on throughout the meeting. The gift of tongues came forth during the preaching. During the blessing of Caleb, a sister had a vision of a light come down onto the baby. She then saw many little children walking down the aisle, up to kiss little Caleb. We truly had a blessed day.

We have had many visitors in our midst recently and God has been performing healings and blessings upon them. On Saturday nights, we have been rotating with the New Brunswick Branch to have Spanish meetings which has been a forum for learning about the Gospel in their own language. It is a blessing to see how many visitors are coming to hear week after week! In addition, we have been visiting a nursing home in the neighborhood once a month after Church. Many of the patients there have asked us to anoint them and to pray for them. Often times we feel like we have been more blessed by the visits than they have!

Our desire is that God will bless you as together we all press our way forward to that better day that awaits us. God bless you all.

## The Lord is My Shepherd

*By Denise "DiFalco" Alderson*

Since my head-on car collision of March 3, 1997, I have received such an outpouring of love and concern from all the branches of the Gospel in the United States. I am

astonished by the cards, letters, and well wishes coming in from brothers and sisters I have never met. This has touched me. I am so blessed to be a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. Please accept my sincere and humble thank you for all of your prayers. I am still recovering from a severely sprained neck, minimal spinal cord damage and some short term memory loss, which is a somewhat slow healing process. However, thank God I know that in time I will be whole again. All my doctors have agreed that I am very fortunate to be alive. God has been very good to me!

In real life I have become a very independent and active individual—dependent only upon the Lord for the strength to carry out daily responsibilities. Prior to my accident, I saw myself in a dream and I was confined to my bed. In the dream, I kept worrying about finances and how things were going to get accomplished as far as my daily routines. I have a full-time job as a substance abuse worker. In the dream, I was bedridden but did not know why. I saw myself crying because I was in excruciating pain whenever I tried to move. All at once, I saw sisters and neighbors coming into my house to do my daily house chores. I saw that I was receiving all the help I desperately needed. Financially, I was being provided for from work. I saw that everything was being taken care of.

When I awoke, I did not understand what this dream meant, so I passed it off as nothing and got ready for work. Three days later, I was in a car accident. That was seven weeks ago and since that time everything in the dream has come to pass, exactly the way the Lord showed me! I thank God for the wonderful sisters and relatives who take turns helping me. This is a tremendously humbling experience for someone who wants to do everything herself. Lovely neighbors and friends visit to keep my spirits up. God has blessed me with everything I need and more! He is always so good to me. Behind every negative in my life, He has

provided many positive outcomes. When we rely on Him, He pulls us through; no matter what the trial or tribulation.

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**Notice**

The price for *Book of Mormon Reflections* by Brother V. James Lovalvo has been reduced to \$14.95. This is a wonderful book to purchase for oneself or to give as a gift. If interested, contact the Print House at 313-429-5080.

**LEGENDS continued . . .**

While preaching and teaching at Tonawanda, Handsome Lake was visited by the Three Messengers and told to go to Onondaga to complete his mission. They told him the Fourth Messenger would come to lead him to a spiritual land. This proved to be true, for Handsome Lake died there on August 10, 1815.

Numerous Scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon tell of conditions in the last days. An ancient Choctaw prophecy of the seven fires represents seven dispensations of time in man's history. The seventh fire, according to the prophecy, will be a time of much turmoil

among the nations of the world. Evil will be rampant, but it will cause all good people to draw together in unity, including the Indians. This will culminate in a final warfare between the forces of good and those of evil. The Choctaw feel that the world is in the dispensation of the seventh fire, and the end times are fast approaching.

A Yakima prophecy concerning the last days is even more remarkable. It gives the sign of the last days as a time when an eagle lands on the moon. This remained a great mystery, something that seemed virtually impossible. However, on July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon. The Apollo II spacecraft released the lunar module carrying the astronaut to the surface of the moon. It was named the Eagle. "The Eagle has landed!", was the message transmitted to earth.

No doubt there are many more Native American prophecies that are related to incidents in the Book of Mormon. As we seek them out, we have a greater appreciation of God's concern and dealings with His ancient covenant people.

**MESSAGE continued . . .**

Finding out about them and obtaining more details about them comprised one of the seminars. Obviously, it is most helpful to contact the leaders or coordinators of these functions to gain the insights about what may be involved.

Selectivity and adherence to the rules of the gatherings, whether they be Pow-Wows or other events, were stressed. Observance of the correct protocol was also discussed.

Publications which carry the schedules for the events were displayed. These resources can be researched for discovering the dates, times, places and contents of the get-togethers. This information will be available through the AMOC.

Church brochures were developed and displayed and will be

available for distribution at future events. They are designed particularly for Native Americans, including listings of our local and regional Church locations, phone numbers, and contacts for people.

**MAJOR ENLIGHTENMENT**

Perhaps the major enlightenment which came from the day was that there are numerous opportunities for all members of the Church to interact with Native Americans. This can be done through various means, whether on one-on-one day-to-day contact or at special occasions where many people can be reached.

By taking advantage of these opportunities individuals can aid the Church tremendously in Her overall efforts.

(Editor's Note—The following Saturday, June 7, the Church was invited to have a booth at the Native American Pow-Wow at the Gibraltar Trade Fair in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The day was very successful with a lively interest shown in both our booth and the Book of Mormon.)

**Announcement**

For August, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.80%
2 years	6.00%
3 years	6.20%
4 years	6.25%
5 years	6.30%

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

## Children Blessed

Trent Lee Siebert, son of Randall and Sister Robin (Cartino) Siebert was blessed in the Warren, Ohio Branch on April 30, 1997.

Logan Jeffrey Koeth, son of Jeffrey and Lori Koeth was blessed on December 11, 1996 in the Warren, Ohio Branch.

Kacie Marie Santilli, daughter of Brother Richard and Teresa Santilli was blessed in the Warren, Ohio Branch on December 11, 1996.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Goldie M. Hixon, formerly of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch, now residing in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on August 3, 1997.

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### EDITORIAL continued . . .

that keeps His commandments. This is compassion. The Apostle Paul instructs us that if someone is overtaken in a fault, those that are spiritual are to restore this individual in the spirit of meekness. This is compas-

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sion. He tells us to consider ourselves, lest we be tempted! The Apostle Paul continues this instruction that we are to bear one another's burden. When we do this, we are simply fulfilling the law of Jesus Christ. This is compassion. We should never think we are something when we are nothing. If we think we are something, this is human delusion. We are deceiving ourselves.

It was compassion by Pharaoh's daughter that Moses was spared and eventually led Israel out of Egypt. Pharaoh's daughter understood her father's decree. She knew the danger, she knew the penalty for disobeying the decree. She was full of compassion and saved the life of Moses. This is the compassion of the Lord!

Compassion helps us understand who we are, what we are and what we were prior to surrendering our life to Jesus Christ. It allows us to comprehend what we were prior to becoming members in The Church of Jesus Christ. It allows us to understand what we must do for those in need. The need may be spiritual or natural. It does not matter. What matters is our compassion to those around us, our families, our neighbors and our brothers and sisters.

Are you compassionate? Do you feel others' pain and anguish? Are you willing to bear someone's burden? Do you feel others' suffering and sorrow? Remember, we must share the suffering of another, extend aid, support and mercy to those who need it. This is compassion.

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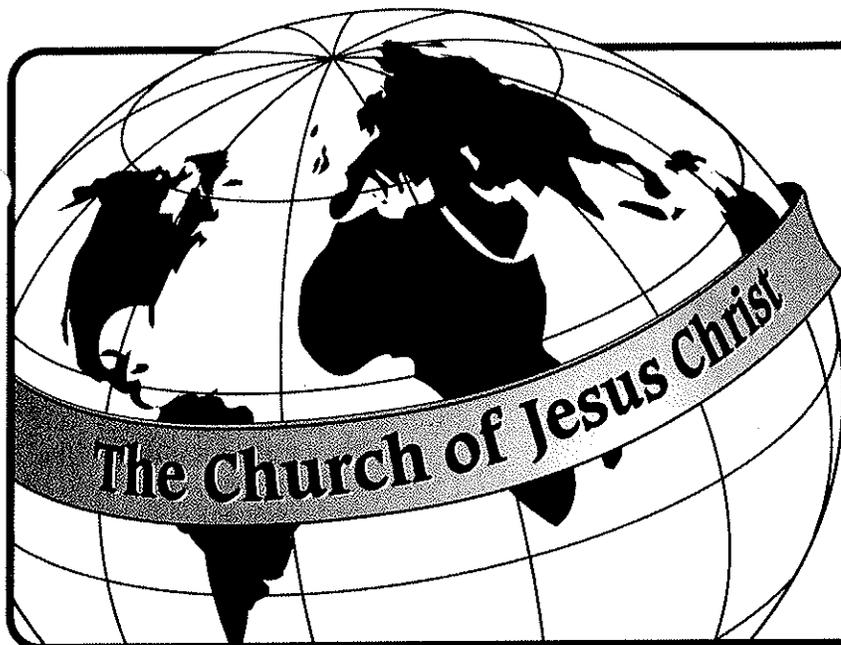
### GMBA CONFERENCE continued . . .

the love of God. During this part of the meeting, a sister from Glassport, Pennsylvania had a vision. She saw the Lord looking toward the Ministry, then He held His hands out, palms toward heaven. The Communion table appeared under His hands; there was a pure white cloth on the table. She saw each one of them clearly. We thank God for His gifts. We later heard that a few weeks prior to conference, another brother had a similar vision. We thank God for this confirmation.

We experienced a beautiful spirit of humility and thanksgiving while the brothers passed Communion. Praise God we were fed by the spirit!

The GMBA would like to encourage you to keep the Youth in Action program in your prayers. There will be several sites visited this summer. Let us support the Church's young people in prayer. Let us also remember the GMBA Campout in our prayers.

"One last time for one last pruning, God would have a people true. Nothing vile, no unclean being, none to mar fair Zion's view." We thank God for a wonderful and blessed weekend.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monroeville, PA, USA

September, 1997

Volume 53, No. 9

## The Art of Sacrifice

*By Brother Paul Gray*

I would like to say that I now consider myself an authority on the issue of prayer. I have become an expert, but not as you might think. I do not claim a monopoly nor expertise in the act of prayer. My expertise has been achieved as a recipient of prayer. My authoritative position comes by being on the receiving end of prayer. God has allowed me the privilege of learning some wonderful lessons by enrolling me in a very special curriculum at the University of TBA, Trial by Affliction. My special course study was that of cancer. It has been a hands-on lab course in practical application, no text books. I am hoping to earn a masters or doctorate degree. It appears I will successfully complete the course due to the help of countless number of tutors, counselors, and friends that have facilitated my achievement.

I begin this dialog with some brevity that I hope you will appreciate. However, I do not want this to dilute the thoughts that I would like to share with you. My primary reason for writing this is to express my great appreciation for The Church of Jesus Christ. When I

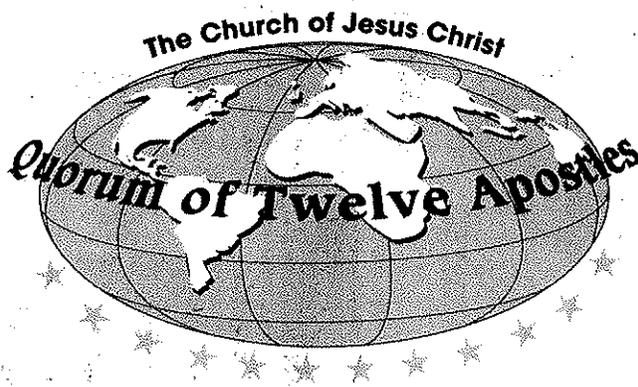
say, "The Church," I am referring to the membership, Priesthood, ordained and elected officers and the very organization itself. Allow me to digress for a moment.

I was a young man, an Elder in the Church. I had a prevalent thought in the back of my mind that I was not fully aware of until I found that I had cancer. This thought was that I would live forever. Having been through many afflictions, but surviving each with God's grace seemed to give me a feeling of invincibility. When word of the "Big C" (cancer) came, I realized the attitude quietly dwelling within my mind. In addition to being told I had cancer, a very fast growing and spreading type, I had no health insurance. Word of my condition seemed to spread as quickly throughout the Church as did the cancer spread within my body. I began to work feverishly to find a research facility that might accept my case gratuitously. Among the institutes I contacted was The City of Hope. They declined my application, as did all of the others, and said they would not be able to help me. I was unaware of the miracle that God had in store for me. I attribute this miracle to the art of sacrifice put into practice by the saints of God. I believe through the power of prayer, God acted out a wonderful miracle.

God used a man by the name of Mr. Robin Blumer as an agent to perform this miracle. Though The City of Hope had turned me down, Mr. Robin Blumer acted as an advocate, an intercessor, on my behalf. Through Robin's contacts with The City of Hope, my case was reevaluated. Within a few days of explaining my dilemma with Robin, I received a call from The City of Hope and was told to come in for an evaluation. To the great joy of my wife and myself, we were then informed that The City of Hope would provide me with the care I needed. I was told this type of reconsideration is quite rare. It was then evident to me that God was involved with this matter, the success of the art of sacrifice being proven yet again.

Through this experience, or education as I had previously mentioned, God had reminded and taught me anew some valuable lessons. First, in realizing that I am not invincible, I relearned the absolute importance in depending upon God for every aspect of my existence. Solomon's words are true, in that, "life is but as vapor." Our existence on earth in this mortal flesh is for such a short period of time and it is only by the grace of God that we are

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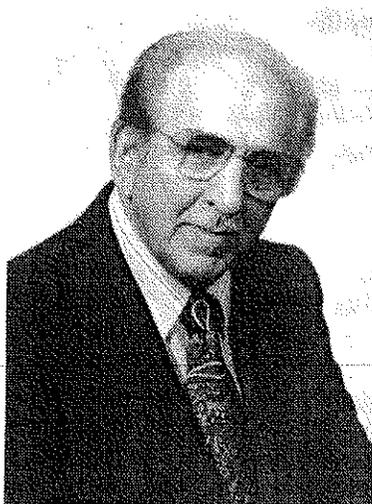


## Choose Ye This Day Right Choices: Rewards Wrong Choices: Consequences

By Apostle V. J. Loyalvo

### PART I

"Should I or should I not eat one of those?" Shyly, but not without some trepidation, Eve looked at the tempting fruit on the forbidden tree. "If I eat of it, I shall be wise," she thought. She also remembered the stern commandment



Apostle V. James Loyalvo

of God who had created her, "Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." She also remembered the flattering words of the wily serpent, "Ye shall not surely die." Satan merely added one word, *not*. Stretching forth her hand, she plucked a fruit, looked at it, and slowly put it to her mouth, taking a small bite.

What were her thoughts at that crucial moment? It's delicious? It's good? How could she make those comparisons? She didn't know the difference between good and bad, or sweet and sour. She did know that all which was in the Garden tasted good, for that which God had created was good. But this was different! She had tasted the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Now she knew the difference, not knowing however, what a terrible price she would have to pay.

Nonetheless, rejoicing in the delicious taste of the fruit, she sought out Adam. Finding him, she exclaimed with new-found enthusiasm, "Look, Adam, look at what I have eaten." With horror, Adam perceived the difference in his mate. "Come, eat of this fruit," she said. "It's wonderfully sweet."

"But God told us not to eat of that tree."

"I know, but the serpent said we would be wise, and we wouldn't die because God is gracious and forgiving."

Looking at his beautiful mate, he succumbed and ate of the fruit also. Immediately, a consuming guilt came upon them; a shame of indescribable degree. They looked at each other and realized they were naked. Hurriedly, they took some fig leaves and covered themselves and covered their nakedness.

The next morning the voice of God called out, "Adam, Eve, where are you?" He knew where they were, but He wanted to hear them speak.

"Here we are Lord, behind this tree," came the wavering voice of

the man He had created.

"Come out where I can see you."

"We can't, because we're naked."

"Who told you that you're naked?" came the stern voice of God. "Have you eaten of the tree which I forbade you to eat?"

They came from behind the tree, and shamefully confessed their sin of disobedience. Adam, of course, blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Which one was God to punish? Eve, because she was the first to eat of the forbidden fruit? Or Adam, who had yielded to his mate? Or would He punish the serpent (Satan in disguise) that had deceived the Woman? Which one would you (the reader) have punished, if you were asked to make that judgment? If it were up to man, he probably would have punished the serpent for his deception. Or maybe Eve for being the first to break God's commandment. Or perhaps Adam, who should have been the role model and refuse to succumb to temptation. But, thankfully, man is not God. The Lord punished all three of the culprits. His judgment is clearly spelled out in the Bible:

"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

"And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:14-18).

What is to be learned from the above story? Very simply, that God gave our first parents the right to choose, and they chose to disobey Him. The consequences of that transgression has followed mankind since that fatal day. However, the question arises, "Why did the Lord put that tree of knowledge of good and evil, in the Garden of Eden?" The Book of Mormon answers this question:

"And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter.

"Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other.

"And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; wherefore, he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God.

"And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind. Wherefore, he said unto Eve, yea, even that old serpent, who is the devil, who is the father of lies, wherefore he said: Partake of the forbidden fruit, and ye shall not die, but ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil.

"And after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth" (2 Nephi 2:15-19).

Underscore the words, "Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other" (v.16). There it is! God gave man(kind) the gift of choice; the right to choose what he thinks is best for him. God gave man a certain amount of reflexive instincts, but most of all, He gave him reason. Animals act and react by instincts, humans act by a God-given reason, which is the gift of *freedom of choice*. This is because He breathed into man a portion of His Spirit, which gives him wisdom, understanding and the potential to transcend himself by choosing that which is good, i.e., God's commandments.

A cigarette smoker knows, by scientific analysis and empirical studies, that the habit will someday harm him and/or kill him. He has a choice to stop smoking and live a healthier life, yet he chooses to continue to smoke and gamble with his life. In the late 1890's, God gave The Church of Jesus Christ a revelation addressing the use of tobacco (whether smoking or chewing), saying, "Put away this evil from among you." Some believed this revelation, but many did not. Approximately one hundred years later, medical science proclaimed that the use of tobacco, especially in smoking it, was harmful to the body.

A compulsive eater, will dine on food that is harmful to his system, yet continues to eat indiscriminately, knowing that it will subsequently hurt his body. He has a choice to make; eat the proper food which will enhance his health or continue to eat that which will eventually harm him. The choice is his. Even if one would pray, asking God to bless the food and spare him any harm before eating improperly, it's not going to help, because God gave him the right to choose; *to do or not to do*.

Prisons are filled with people who have made the wrong choices. Some, after spending some time

behind bars, come to their senses and bemoan their fate, but it's too late. They chose the life of crime rather than a peaceful and law-

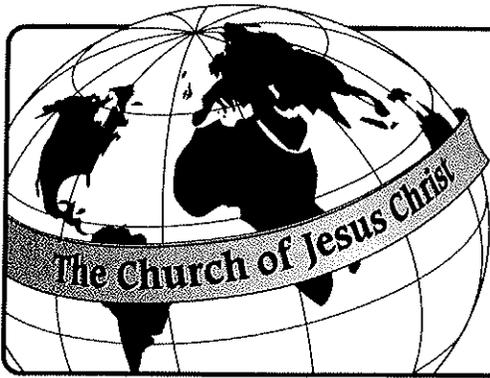
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## Note of Thanks

I wish to say thank you, but there aren't words enough to express my feelings toward the brothers, sisters and friends during my recent heart attack. I want to thank you for your cards, calls, gifts and especially for your prayers. God is so merciful. He truly spared my life and I will never forget it. Also, a special thank you to my friends who I met on the street and at the restaurant which I often frequent. They also were praying for me and were concerned for my well-being. God bless you all.

Love,  
Sister Libby Rosemeier

Branch Editor's Note: Sister Libby had her heart attack on Saturday morning, May 17, 1997 at a hotel in New Stanton, Pennsylvania just before the GMBA Conference. It was truly miraculous how Sister Libby's life was spared, but it was equally as miraculous that God arranged everything so neatly for her survival. Prior to leaving his home; one of our Elders was prompted to come prepared to anoint, the Lord provided a hospital able to perform the lifesaving procedures which she required, He arranged for the EMS crew to be almost across the street from the hotel, and many more of what the world would call coincidences, which have enabled our sister to bear the testimony she does today. Even a sister from her branch was given an experience in which she was told that the Lord was taking care of Sister Libby, who lives alone. God is good, and what is wonderful about our God is that He allows us to have personal experiences which constantly display that goodness.



## A message from the Seventy

### General Church Correspondent's Report

By Evangelist Richard Lawson, General Church Correspondent

*(Evangelist Richard Lawson is the General Church Correspondent who handles inquiries and information requested from outside The Church of Jesus Christ. He has served in this capacity for sixteen years, succeeding Apostle Joseph Calabrese, who held this office for fifteen years. In fulfilling this position, the correspondent receives the inquiry and then communicates with the individual or individuals to satisfy their requests. If further action is required by a Church committee or group, he will forward the matter to the appropriate party or parties. Many people have come into the Gospel through this procedure. Following is a report he was asked to write about this important position.— Evangelist Editor's Note)*

It has been a pleasure serving as General Church Correspondent for the past sixteen years. You never know where the next letter will come from or what the writer will inquire.

Some people write because they have heard about the Church somewhere or they have read about the Church in the Book of Denominations and want additional information. Some writers state they never knew we existed! While that statement hurts, it is also very true since many people have not heard about The Church of Jesus Christ. We must change that!

Some inquiries are from high school and college students who want

material for term papers they are writing. Literature and information are always provided since one never knows where this may lead to in the future. All letters are answered, even when we think they may have been written to another organization.

Communications are also received from other denominations who want to know something about The Church of Jesus Christ. We always tell them because we want to let the world know about the Church. The message must go out and this is one way, through the General Church Correspondent's office, this can be accomplished.

#### STATISTICS

The following statistics will provide the reader with some idea of the effort involved. Since 1981 through this June 30, 1997, we have replied to and corresponded with over seven hundred individuals. It is safe to assume the previous correspondent, Brother Joseph Calabrese, wrote to a comparable number or perhaps even more in his fifteen years in this position. While 1,400 people might not appear to be very much, it should be remembered that at least these 1,400 people who did not know about the Church now do!

A primary function of this endeavor is to not only answer the letters, calls, or other correspondence received but to send information on our Faith and Doctrine, as well as

our history.

Telephone calls are also received at the headquarters of the Church in Monongahela, Pennsylvania and we respond by letter or by telephone. With both the increased usage of facsimile machines and the advent of the internet, it is conceivable that many more inquiries will be forthcoming.

We have written to almost every state in the United States and to twenty-nine foreign countries. Some of those we have written to are now our brothers and sisters in Christ. In some cases, the Church has been established in areas where we were not before. The work in Kenya and Germany, for example, began with letters requesting information.

Correspondence has been received from such distant places as South Africa, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, to name just a few. We also received a request for a Book of Mormon from a man in Northern Ireland.

Letters are received and answered from people in prisons who, of course, also need the Gospel. Sometimes communication is carried on for a long period of time. One man in Florida corresponded with me over a period of ten years. Another long-time communicator wrote for five years. He was the leader of his church and told them about the Book of Mormon. I believe he passed away, because my last letter to him was returned. The letter that takes the cake was one received a few years ago from Sara Lee in Texas.

#### ALL HELPING

This work could not be accomplished without the financial support from you, our brothers and sisters; thus you see we are all helping to spread the Gospel message. It may be in a small way, but it certainly is not insignificant.

Slowly, but surely, the Church is making progress. We need to continue and to increase our efforts as much as possible so we may hear

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The character of a saint goes far beyond moral and legal correctness. It is not produced by self effort. The character of a saint is produced by the Holy Spirit. It manifests itself in the fruits of the spirit. There are nine of these fruits. You will find them in Galatians.

Galatians 5:22-23 states, *"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

Some say that love, joy and peace represent character as an inward state; longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness represent character in expression toward the human family; and faith, meekness and temperance represent character expressed toward God and Jesus Christ. It is a certainty they are all intertwined.

Kindly consider the importance of love. Jesus Christ said that by the love you show one towards another, shall all the world know that we are His disciples. It is through this love that the world will know who we are, who we represent.

All of these fruits present the beautiful portrait of Jesus Christ. All of these fruits must represent our saintly portrait. Do they? Are you a fruit-bearing tree?

In a recent Vacation Bible School class, attendees were instructed of three important elements of God's plan. They are faith, repentance and baptism. It was also stated that "if we are following God's plan, our lives should show the fruits of the spirit."

It is important as we strive for our salvation that we bear these fruit. Jesus Christ instructed us to bear fruit. He informs us that He is the true vine and His Father is the husbandman. Christ goes on to state that every branch that is in Him that does not bear fruit will be taken away. Every branch that does bear fruit will be purged to bring forth more fruit. The Lord tells us that a branch cannot bear fruit by itself. It must abide in the vine, it must abide in Him to bear fruit.

The Lord states in John 15:5-6, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."* When you read this discourse on fruit bearing in John 15: 1-6, please note the Lord said you will bring forth fruit, more fruit, much fruit. When we abide in Jesus Christ, our fruits increase, they multiply!

King Benjamin makes it very plain the natural man is an enemy to God. Man must yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit which will make him a new creature, a new person, a saint of God. King Benjamin states that a saint possesses and conveys these fruit. He tells us to become a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord. He tells us to become as a child; submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love and willing to submit to Him like a child submits to his father. This is a graphic description of a saint of God.

Alma instructed his brethren on more than one occasion to convey and bear these fruit. He told them to be humble, submissive and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and longsuffering; being temperate in all things. Alma also instructed them to be diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times. When we allow Jesus Christ to abide in us, when we keep His commandments, we bear much fruit!

Jesus Christ was plain when He answered the question posed by His disciples, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? The Lord used a child as the example and the answer

(Continued on Page 12)

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

## God Sees Our Secrets

Dear Friends,

Today all of us especially our fine young people, must learn how to battle the new tricks the old devil is using. I was at the video store looking for a movie to watch. One movie after the other that I picked up had a bad rating, "R".

I heard myself thinking, "Oh well, what's wrong with a little killing or violence? I've seen that stuff before. It won't really bother me. What's wrong with a little swearing? I'm a grown-up. I've heard that before." Then I looked at the bad picture on the outside of the video. Part of me was curious. But part of me was very disturbed.

I knew that I shouldn't even be holding those videos and tempting myself. I knew they were crummy stories that I would think about later. I knew that they'd make me scared to be alone or make me think my life should be like the movies and something was wrong with being good.

These aren't for us. We are children of God. Sin is still sin even if I am a grown-up. Swearing is never good! I want God to hear me when I call His name in prayer or when I need Him, not when there's swearing. The bad relationships the grown-up actors pretended to be in made me feel upset as well. They gave me bad thoughts.

The Bible warns us in Proverbs 6:16. "These six things does the Lord hate; these seven are an abomination: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth [makes up] wicked imagina-



tions, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaks lies, and he that soweth discord [causeth problems] among the people of God."

The movies I was looking at were full of people doing those seven abominations. We should not be watching shows with actors lying, killing, tricking each other, fighting and swearing. Don't even watch cartoons that show these things. Don't bring in movies about magic, witchcraft, good or bad witches or wizards, or aliens destroying God's world.

God is in charge. What we do in secret, he sees. Jesus said to us in Matthew 6:23, "But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness . . . no man [or person] can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other. You cannot serve God and the things of this world."

Listen to your conscience. If it tells you, "Be careful. Don't do this," listen well. What you do in secret will be found out. It does affect you and the people you love. If you are struggling to change, pray and do what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:8 "Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just [right] whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and of good report, if there be any virtue, if there is anything praiseworthy, think of these things."

Don't be afraid to be God's peculiar people, the salt of the earth. The world needs you and me to be good and show them how God loves us back.

Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

PHILIPPIANS	LOVELY
FOUR	GOOD
EIGHT	REPORT
WHATEVER	PURE
IS	THINK
TRUE	ON
HONEST	THESE
JUST	THINGS

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N	I	A	O	S	H	S	H
K	H	O	N	E	S	T	T
W	P	L	O	V	E	L	Y

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie J. Rossi

On Sunday, May 25, 1997, the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission was blessed with the baptism of our new brother, Anthony Paternoster. Brother Tony came to the Spartanburg Mission on April 7, 1997. However, Brother Tony was not new to The Church of Jesus Christ.

He was born and raised in the Church all of his life and attended Branch #1 in Chesterfield, Michigan. He was attending Life College in Georgia for six months where he was studying to be a chiropractor. But, Brother Tony has testified that he was not completely satisfied with Life and believed the Lord was leading him to Spartanburg.

In February, Brother Tony visited Spartanburg to check out Sherman Chiropractic College as a possibility and while in Spartanburg, he attended the Mission with us. He had a dream in March and was seeing both schools, Life and Sherman. He

saw Sherman as a "family" and where God eventually led him to go. The Lord not only guided him in this decision but also gave him a "family" at the Spartanburg Mission. Brother Tony has truly been a blessing to us all at Spartanburg; always with a smile on his face and a fresh new hope and outlook on life.

On Sunday, May 18, just as Brother Harold Littlejohn completed his morning message, Brother Tony "shot up out of his seat like an arrow," confessed to be a sinner who needed repentance and asked for his baptism. What a joy to our hearts! So on May 25, we witnessed another soul come into the family of God. That morning, rain was a threatening factor with heavy showers all morning. But prayers went out to the Lord and just before the baptism, the Lord cleared the skies and we had a beautiful baptism.

Brother Mike LaSala, Brother Tony's uncle from Branch #1, had the honor of baptizing his nephew that morning witnessed also by his mother, his brother, his aunt and his eighty-six year old grandmother whom God blessed with strength and endurance to make the long trip from Michigan to see her first grandchild baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. We then proceeded back to the Church where Brothers Harold

Littlejohn, Darrell Rossi and Mike LaSala laid hands on our new brother for the confirmation of the Holy Spirit. What a glorious day we had in songs, testimonies and fellowship.

Brothers and sisters, please pray for our new brother in the Lord that God will bless him in his studies during the next four years. And as he presses forward to his new career ahead, may God use him as a mighty witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

### Baptism in Branch #4 Redford, MI

On March 30, 1997, Brother John Buffa brought Nicole Ficyk into the waters of baptism. It was a beautiful Easter morning.

Sister Nicole testified saying, "Before I came to the Church, I wasn't quite sure if it was the right thing for me to do. I came from a strong background of a Ukranian Catholic family. I was raised in the Catholic Church. It was very difficult for me to ever change the beliefs I have learned and grown up with. I believed in God and Jesus. I prayed every night before going to sleep from the time that I was a little girl. God always seemed to help me when I needed Him. I always knew that He heard all my prayers. Why and how I would ever change to another church was very frustrating. I heard about all the wonderful blessings and all about The Church of Jesus Christ from a friend.

"One night I prayed to the Lord to please show me His true church. I asked for an answer because it was very important for me to know. I asked God to show me which church to go to; which church was the right one.

"I never knew that a prayer could be answered so quickly. I dreamed that very same night that I was walking into The Church of Jesus Christ. When I walked through the door, I saw a woman who turned



From left to right: Brothers Harold Littlejohn, Mike LaSala, Darrell Rossi and Tony Paternoster

(Continued on Page 8)

**BRANCH #4 continued . . .**

around and looked at me, her face glowed so brightly. She was a short woman with bright hair. As she looked and smiled, I felt a strange feeling fill me up inside. I felt that God had touched me because I felt an overflowing power of warmth and love. It was the most uplifting experience that I had ever felt. My dream went on all night.

The dream made me feel so happy that it is hard to explain. But, I surely knew that God had answered my prayer and wanted me to go to The Church of Jesus Christ. He showed me that it was the true church by His abiding love. When I went to the Church, I tried to find the woman in my dream. I couldn't find her anywhere. Then all of a sudden, I saw a woman coming through the front door. When I looked at her, I knew that this was the lady in my dream. It was Sister Louise Bruno! I was truly blessed and finding The Church of Jesus Christ was the greatest of all blessings for me."

**Come All Ye That Thirst**

*By Sister Lynne Nieves*

We began this day with the anticipation of at least one baptism, because earlier in the week, Gregory (Gary) Vitto had mentioned his desire to a member of his family, but had not formally asked for his baptism. We were enjoying our congregational singing after Sunday School when our Presiding Elder, Brother Tom Everett, left the meeting open for testimony.

Gary Vitto rose to his feet, praising and thanking God. Gary had just recently experienced a healing from what could have been a serious bout with cancer. He expounded on the fact that he was born and raised in the Church and had a father and two uncles who were Elders and set great examples for him throughout his entire life. He knew what he needed to do, and that was to surren-

der his life to Christ, and try to serve Him to the best of his ability. He concluded his testimony by saying, "It is time now, I want to be baptized." The whole congregation was overjoyed to hear those long awaited words from our Brother Gary. And that was just the beginning!

Immediately after Gary sat down, his sister, Paulette (Vitto) Griesbaum, got up and began to bare her testimony. She spoke of how the Lord has been there for each and every time she's called on Him. The loss of her father, Brother Paul Vitto (Evangelist), had been weighing heavy on her heart. She knew his whole life was about serving God. She then said, "I just can't wait any longer, I want to be baptized." She didn't get a chance to sit down and her husband, Daniel Griesbaum stood up to testify for the first time in his life. He has been coming to Church steadily since he and Paulette were married twenty-four years ago. His testimony was that his job as an athletic coach has prompted him to preach "commitment" to his players and that it is the important part of team participation. He said he just couldn't sit in Church week after week preaching commitment to his students, not living up to his own words. He said, "I too want to make that commitment to the Lord and be baptized."

The spirit was just filling everyone with such joy. To see those that seemed to be standing around the fountain, but refusing to taste the waters of life finally surrender their souls to God, we could hardly contain our happiness. Brother Tom called hymns and offered a few words while the three converts were preparing to go to the water's edge. In his comments he asked, "If there is anyone else who feels to go down to the water, don't hesitate to ask. We can wait for you to get ready. The water is just outside our doors." We have a free flowing pond on our church property which we use for baptisms. We continued to sing praises to God and in between songs, others gave their testimonies. All of them related to the fact that it is so

wonderful to see those that have known the Lord and the Church their whole lives surrender themselves to the Lord.

Brother John Impastato got up and testified that the Lord had given him a dream. In the dream he saw Brother Paul Vitto (Gary and Paulette's dad), and he shook hands with him. He said Brother Paul looked radiant. Brother Paul said to Brother John, "John, I have a message for my children. Tell them to think about their souls!" Brother John replied, "I can't tell them that." Brother Paul told Brother John, "You know what the Lord can do for them and you. Don't worry, you can do it." As it happens, Brother John felt it best to wait and reveal this experience as a confirmation.

We continued to sing while waiting for the converts to get ready. Once again Brother Tom Everett extended an invitation to anyone else who would like to make that commitment to feel free to ask. Those words struck Judy (Dix) Harkovich so strongly that with every ounce of strength she had, she stood and said, "I just can't wait any longer either, I want to be baptized," and sat down. What a blessing!

This isn't the end of the Lord's marvelous work on this day. Our deacons were trying to contact the other branches and family members with the wonderful news, so consequently, the phone was in constant use. Meanwhile, Larry Perkins, husband of Sister Kathy (Scolaro) Perkins had been trying to call the branch. He had been coming to Church with his wife for many years, and had been contemplating baptism, but just wasn't sure if this was the Lord's time for him. After fifteen attempts to get through to the branch, he said to the Lord, "If this is my time, I will try one more time. If I get through, I'll ask for my baptism." He dialed the phone and Brother Tom Everett answered. Larry asked, "What's going on there?" Brother Tom replied, "We are having four baptisms." Larry asked, "Would you like a fifth?" Brother Tom replied, "Are you serious Larry?" Larry

said, "Yes!" Brother Tom said, "We sure would like a fifth; we will wait for you to get here." Brother Tom got off the phone and told Brother Larry's wife, Sister Kathy the news. She was so overjoyed, surprised, thankful, grateful, and happy, she could not speak. She had been praying for such a long time for this day. She had put her faith and trust in the Lord that some day this would happen and the Lord rewarded her faith.

All five candidates were baptized and confirmed that day, April 27, 1997. Many years of prayers and tears did not go unanswered, because just like the first song that was sung that day, *For Those Tears, I Died*. The theme of the day could certainly be summed up by saying, *Come All Ye That Thirst, There's No Need To Perish!*

## International Memorial Day Weekend in New Orleans

By Brother Mark Kovacic

Let me start by saying, "Praise the Lord." Or how about saying it in Nepali, "Prabhu-ko stuti hos," or in Chinese, "qt dao shang di." This statement quickly sums up our Memorial Day weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana on May 24 and 25, 1997. Our purpose was to minister to the saints in the New Orleans area and attempt to expand the work of the Lord. The Southeast Region's visitation program scheduled Brother Tom Jones and myself for the weekend. We were joined by two other Ministers, Brothers Ram Baral, our Nepalese brother living in Mississippi and Joel Gehly from Erie, Pennsylvania.

More importantly, we had additional visitors from national and international locations. Internationally, we had Brother Ram's family from Nepal; a friend of his from Nepal; another friend from China and the husband of one of the sisters from England. Nationally, we had members from Oklahoma, Georgia and

Mississippi. From the New Orleans area we had members and their families. In total, we had twenty-one adults and three children for the weekend's meeting. We enjoyed the addition of two souls rendering themselves to Jesus Christ.

On Saturday afternoon we gathered at the YMCA in New Orleans for seminars and a fellowship meeting. The first seminar was taught by Brother Ram on the topic of authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He used Ezekiel 37:16-19, stating that "two sticks together are stronger than each one separately." He then gave his testimony of how he came to know of the Book of Mormon and experiences related to it. Brother Ram finished his seminar by discussing how he was translating the Book of Mormon into the Nepali language. He said we need to recognize that the Book of Mormon "is not just an American religious book" but it is for the whole world.

After a break, we continued our seminars with Brother Tom reviewing historical aspects of the Book of Mormon. He also reviewed the printing of the first Book of Mormon and the manuscripts that were used. Brother Tom then changed subjects to discuss various Church ordinances. He started with the anointing of "aprons." He discussed the use of anointing garments and handkerchiefs, encouraging the members to request it when so inspired.

As a confirmation to his topic, Sister Hilary Gipson revealed that as she and her sister, Sister Vicki Magills were on their way to the seminar, they were discussing the anointing of a handkerchief for a troubled teenager in the psychiatric hospital where she works. We all felt that both were inspired of God and so we anointed a handkerchief for her to take back to the young woman.

As we waited for dinner to arrive, we learned our foreign languages. Brother Ram taught us to say "Praise the Lord" in Nepali, "Prabhu-ko stuti hos" (phonetically written.) After practicing it a few times, we had Brother Ram's friend,

Chun Lu Guo, affectionately called Lucy, who was born in mainland China and raised in Hong Kong, teach us the same in the Chinese language. In her language it was "qt dao shang di."

After dinner, we held our evening meeting with singing and many wonderful testimonies. Brother Ram sang us a few hymns he wrote in the Nepali language. His voice was melodious and the music beautiful. You could feel his sincerity and love for the Restored Gospel. He even explained how he incorporated the word "Hallelujah" into the Nepali songs. Brother Ram's wife, not a member yet, whose name is Kusun, which means flower in Nepali, offered her testimony of when Brother Ram was converted and the great difference it made in their lives.

Sunday morning after many obstacles, heavy rains, phones not working, windshield wipers not operating and more, we made our way to Lake Pontchartrain at 10:00 AM for two baptisms. By the time we reached the site, the rains had stopped and the sky began to break into a beautiful morning. Brother Joel Gehly performed the baptisms of Brother Mitra Baral, the brother of Brother Ram, and Brother Robin, whose full name is Amjad Khan Miya. Brother Robin was a Muslim and may be the first to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

We returned to the YMCA for our worship and confirmation services. Brother Tom spoke on the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and after prayer, Brother Mitra was confirmed by Brother Ram and Brother Robin by Brother Joel Gehly. As a confirmation to the baptisms, our new Brother Robin related a dream he had Saturday night. He saw himself at a river and he wanted to cross but did not know how. He saw a crowd along the shore and recognized Brother Joel. He asked Brother Joel to help him across the river and that he would pay him whatever it cost. However, Brother Joel responded that he did not want money, but that

(Continued on Page 10)

## WEEKEND continued . . .

Robin must believe in God and Jesus Christ. Brother Joel reminded us of our responsibility to pray for our new brothers, particularly Robin because of possible persecution from Muslims.

We thank the Lord for all His blessings and everyone's assistance making this a wonderful, spirit filled weekend.

## A Brother in Prison

By Henry Grant, Jr.

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Families and Friends,

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Henry Grant, Jr., from the Arizona Branch on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. I was baptized in 1992 into The Church of Jesus Christ. I was baptized by Brother David Picciuto on an Easter Sunday. Before my baptism, I attended Church for almost a year.

I was touched by the Word of God and the preaching of the Book of Mormon by Brothers Dan Picciuto and his son, David Picciuto. I have never been to a church that is so sincere and teaches the Bible and the Book of Mormon as one.

I just want to share my short letter about myself and my testimony to all of you. I like reading *The Gospel News* and enjoy reading the testimonies and baptisms written by brothers and sisters throughout the land.

I believe that our dreams will come true in the future. I know God has a plan for me as well as for The Church of Jesus Christ. Everyone of us has a gift from God, whether we drive a Church van or are ordained a Deacon, Deaconess, Elder, Bible school teacher or even as President of the Church. I especially enjoyed visiting the saints, visiting the sick and afflicted and watching the laying on of hands. To those that are not in

the Church, I have talked to them about the Restored Gospel. I look forward to that sweet day when many will be standing at the river's edge, waiting to be baptized.

Another purpose of my writing is because we sometimes make mistakes—we say and do things that are not right before God. The point I am trying to make is that I was cast into the Federal Correctional Institute for breaking God's law, the Word and the commandments. God knows all situations. It is between God and me. I give all my trials and tribulations to Him by praying and trying to be patient. We ask Jesus to forgive our sin. Every time we go down on our knees, we ask His forgiveness. If we continue to sin, over and over again, God will ignore our cries and cut us off from Him. He may even say, "I never knew you."

Jacob 2:17 tells us to think of our brethren like unto ourselves and be familiar to all and free with your substance that they may be rich like unto you. Brothers, sisters and friends, don't go on a roller coaster that goes up and down, over and over again, like I did. Let's be Christlike.

Meditate to Him (God), day and night. Not just on Sunday or Wednesday only, but every day. Pray to Him without ceasing, give the glory and honor to Him and thank Him for everything, in Jesus' name.

Jeremiah 16:16 states, "*Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.*" The third chapter of Ecclesiastes tells us that 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 that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up and so forth.

Brothers and sisters, I want to share my words with you. I look forward to my release so I can speak to others about the Restored Gospel. I hope and pray that God will touch

my heart and give me the words to preach to the Seed of Joseph, my people, God's people. I want to tell them about repentance and surrendering to Jesus Christ.

As a people, Native Americans, we are one tribe, one people, a special people. We are God's people, the Seed of Joseph. We have been hiding in mountains and valleys since day one from God.

We are scattered throughout the land, the choice land, that God has given to us and our forefathers. Our people back then roamed the land to hunt, fish, plant and praising to God, our Creator.

Yet, now, we still try to change our lives, to convert, but fail. We go to Church often and keep on breaking the law. I know we can do it by being strong in faith, hope and believing in God, who gave His Son for our sin.

Maybe some, like myself, need to be reinstated, renewed, so we can be in the family of God again, forever and ever, amen. God bless you all.

From your brother,  
Henry Grant, Jr.  
Native American,  
One Tribe  
One People

P.S. Please remember me in your prayers. I would be glad to hear from you, brothers and sisters. Write back soon. Thank you.

Editor's Note: Brother Henry's address follows. Please write to him.

Mr. Henry Grant, Jr.  
41999-008  
P.O. Box 9000  
Safford, AZ 85548

## News from Lockport, NY

By Sister Antoinette Giansante

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA chartered a bus, and a large contingent of brothers, sisters and friends journeyed to our part of the vineyard

here in Lockport, New York. They toured Niagara Falls on Saturday June 7, 1997 and visited our mission on Sunday, June 8, 1997.

On Sunday, June 8, 1997, Brother Dominick Rose opened our worship service. He spoke a wonderful sermon on the love of God and unity. Our Italian speaking members enjoyed his sermon very much as he translated for them. Brother Dominick was followed by several of our visiting Elders that were in attendance.

After feasting on God's blessings, we enjoyed fellowship and a lunch with the saints who traveled many hours to visit our mission. We hope many others who travel through the area will stop and bring "a little corn" for us as we certainly love to share God's gifts. Remember us in your prayers. We love you all. God bless you.

## Announcement

A good Sunday School, MBA or Lady Circle project to consider is donating a book or other literature from the Church Library to your community libraries. This missionary effort could make someone aware of The Church of Jesus Christ and its Faith and Doctrine.

The Print House

## SACRIFICE continued . . .

here. In realizing my subliminal thought of invincibility, God helped me to relearn the necessity of humility. I still had elements of pride that needed to be purged from me. As much as the chemotherapy drugs have helped to kill the cancer cells within my body, God's Spirit has killed, if you will, the cells of pride within me.

The next thing that became apparent to me was the great love of

the Church for even a person like me. My condition became known in November 1995. To this date, my family and I continue to receive cards and phone calls filled with expressions of love that have been an indescribable source of strength and hope. More than any human cures provided, these expressions of love from throughout the Church have been medicine to our souls. Many may never realize how such a simple thing as a card just saying, "I am praying for you," can bring calm and healing to the soul of one in need of a blessing. I have been one of the many souls in need and the saints have sustained me.

One of the richest things God has helped me to know and experience is the power of prayer. I think of this as the great art of sacrifice. God called for the children of Israel in times of old to bring and offer sacrifices before Him. The aroma of the burnt offerings ascended to the very throne of God and perfumed His court. Those offerings of a sincere nature, given from the first born of their flocks and prime of their harvest, touched God such that He could not withhold His blessings from His people. He could not help but to respond to the plea of those learned in the art of sacrifice. For one who takes time to pray for another requires the sacrifice of one of the most precious commodities we have, TIME! To think of how busy most of our lives are, caring for family, responsibilities of job, focus for education, desire of recreation, need for rest, free time is a valuable item.

And to think that with all of the hustle and bustle of life, what a blessing it is for just one soul to sacrifice a moment of their time to pray for another. Just think of God's delight when many unite in the art of sacrifice.

I wish I could adequately express my feelings of how you, the saints of God, the Church, have affected my life and that of my family. God has shown me that the unity of the saints in prayer is a force second to none. As the saints of God unite in prayer, the very foundation

of satan quakes and God moves on our behalf. I think it is accurate to state that I am a miracle and I attribute this miracle to the saints of the Church experienced in the art of sacrifice.

Your prayers on my behalf have created a problem, however. I am now so indebted because of your love and sacrifice, I will never be able to repay the Church for all of your kindness and support. I can say that now, more than ever, I am a captive of the love of Christ. You, as His ambassadors, have strengthened this captivity that I feel. Through your prayers, not only do I believe God has healed me, but you have helped me to cling to the many hopes afforded to us in the Restored Gospel. Thank you, thank you, thank you! You have turned cancer into a blessing! I send you all much love.

## CHOOSE YE continued . . .

abiding existence. Bad choices have their consequences; good choices have their rewards.

In the beginning, Cain was faced with two choices; to emulate his brother Abel and serve God faithfully, giving Him the best that he had, or kill his brother and probably escape any punishment. He chose that which brought him exile and misery; he slew Abel.

King Saul had a choice of keeping the commandment of the Lord when he went to battle, which was to slay all living creatures, human and animal, but he chose to bring back what he thought was the best of cattle to offer up to God as sacrifice. As a punishment for his disobedience, God took away his authority as king as well as His Spirit from him, so that he could get no answers from God, either through dreams and visions or through the prophets. Eventually, he was reduced to go to the witch in the city of Endor (read I Samuel ch. 15ff). What a terrible punishment!

(To be continued)

## Children Blessed

Lauren Marie Botwright, daughter of Shelly and Thomas Botwright, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on June 22, 1997.

Nickolas William Krajec, son of Judy and Denis Krajec, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on May 11, 1997.

David Anthony Williams, son of Sister Barbara and Brother David Williams, was blessed on June 15, 1997 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Palamba Jyasmin Watson-Gordon, daughter of Paul and Stephanie Watson-Gordon, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on June 15, 1997.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Lucy Campitelle Hemp of the Anaheim, California Branch celebrated sixty-two years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in July, 1997.

Sister Mary Campitelle Dichiera of the Anaheim, California Branch celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in July, 1997.

## Baptisms

Alicia Kaplan was baptized on March 16, 1997 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dennis Moraco and confirmed by Brother Ken Staley.

Wayne Stevens was baptized on July 20, 1997 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Alexander Cherry and confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

### MESSAGE continued . . .

these wonderful words from our Saviour, as recorded in Matthew 25:21, ". . . *Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*"

### EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT continued . . .

to the question. He told His disciples that except we are converted and become as a little child, we cannot enter into His Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven. He went on to say that whoever humbles himself as a little child, this individual or person is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ further stated that whoever receives one such little child in His name, receives Him. When we bear fruit, when we receive His saints and accept His saints, we receive Him, the Lord and Saviour.

The Lord told the Nephite people to beware of false prophets. He said they would know them by their fruits! Jesus Christ told them a good tree brings forth good fruit. An evil tree brings forth evil fruit. Every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.

We are known by our fruits. They are visible. They cannot be hidden. The Lord said, "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them." We come into contact with people every day. On our jobs, in our neighborhoods, we are in daily contact with people. They see who we are, they see what we are. They can tell by our walk, our talk and our daily actions. They can tell what kind of tree we are by the kind of fruit we bear. Let us be good trees and bring forth much fruit! This fruit is sweet, is exceedingly white and makes your soul leap with joy. The world needs this sweetness and joy! Let us give it to them.

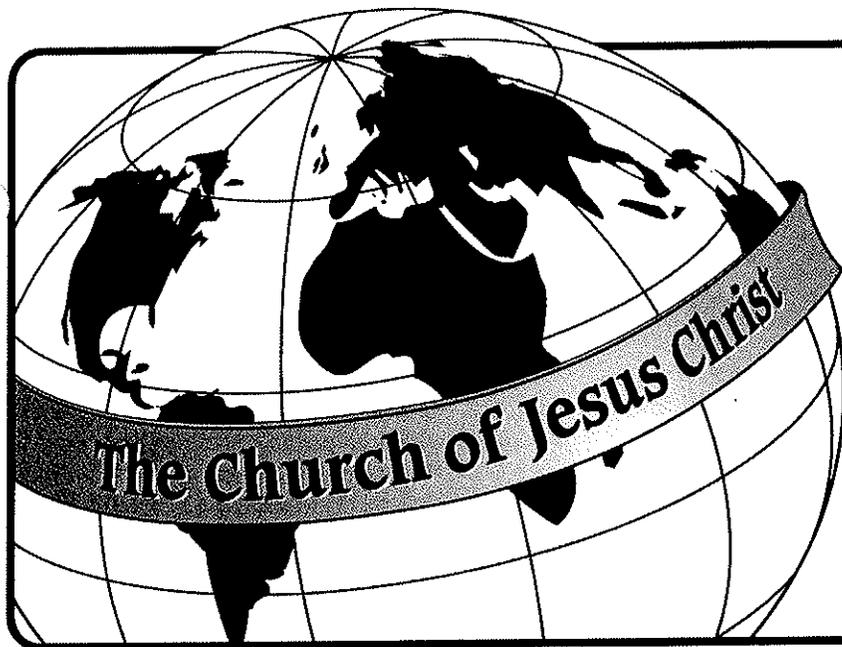
We must be full of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Remember, against such there is no law! The world needs these fruit. The world needs us to possess, convey and share these fruit. They all represent Jesus Christ. They all represent the saints of God.

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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 1997

Volume 53, No. 10

## My Testimony

By Brother Ram C. Baral

I was born in Nepal into Hinduism's highest caste, as a Brahmin. My father and forefathers were Hindu high priests in the "Royal Palace" of Nepal, the only Hindu kingdom in the world. But, although I first worshipped Krishna and studied the Vedas, Gita, and several Hindu scriptures and labored diligently in the Hindu religion, I felt strangely empty of the truth.

I quickly saw that the Hindu religion with its emphasis on Karma and the endless cycle of reincarnation was not the answer to eternal life. I searched to find the one true God. My quest took me from Hinduism to Buddhism, Lamaism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Islamism, Sikhism, Judaism, and all kind of religions. Beside the religions, I have studied palmistry, astrology, soothsaying, hypnotism, enchanting, snake charming, magics, necromancing, and all of the various offerings of idolatry, but found them all deadly and wanting. Still I did not know about the lifegiving Gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Finally, after studying in Nepal and India, I found a Bible and

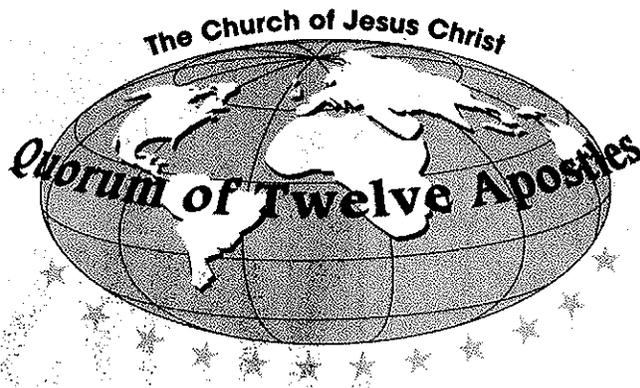
began to study about Jesus Christ in 1980. I discovered the truth of Jesus that I am not righteous just because I was born a Brahmin. In fact, I was a sinner! Then I discovered that Jesus is loving and the forgiver of sins and His reward is eternal life. I found Jesus in my heart when I knelt down and prayed, confessing my sins and by asking for His mercy and atonement to cleanse my sins. Thus, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord on May 25, 1980 without any human help. I knew I did not choose Him but He chose me and I wanted to share His truth with my family and friends. After my discovery of Jesus and His truth, I was disowned by my parents and family members. On July 27, 1989, I was visiting my father in a hospital where he was deathly ill. The doctors declared he would die any minute due to lung cancer. I got a chance to speak about Jesus to him. He heard the message so well. He believed the Word of God, "Arise, take up your bed and walk." He left the hospital, completely trusting in the Lord. He never died of cancer. He is still alive. Through continuous prayer, love, faith, and by studying the truth, my mother, brothers, and sister and some of the neighboring relatives, one by one, also believed the teachings of the Lord. I searched the Scriptures

daily, pouring over the words that became life to me. I took advanced evangelical training in Singapore and studied theology in Korea. Beside this, I studied advanced Greek and Hebrew to translate the Bible in the Nepali language. It took three and a half years to translate the Bible. Consequently, I had to face prison because of my efforts to translate the Bible into the Nepali language.

One day I was walking on the street to get the underground subway and I got a Book of Mormon on my way to an outdoor preaching of Jesus Christ. I did not want to ignore the Book of Mormon without reading it. I took it and read it thoroughly. I found no mistake in it. It is all about the glory of Jesus Christ for us in this last dispensation of time. It opened my eyes to know the fullness of the Gospel. It opened my eyes about the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ upon this earth against growing apostasies, confusions and infusions.

I went to Nepal with a number of Books of Mormon. Our Nepalese people accepted the Restored Gospel without hesitation. Our groups began to learn and grow in the Restored Gospel. Still, I was confused with the teachings of other Restoration groups. I did not experi-

(Continued on Page 3)



## Choose Ye This Day

Right Choices: Rewards  
Wrong Choices: Consequences

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART II AND CONCLUSION

The Scriptures are filled with men and women who made the wrong choices when faced with the principles of good and evil, and the stern commandments of the Lord. The consequences they suffered were terrible. To name a few:



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

Achan stole a Babylonian garment and a wedge of gold, contrary to God's commandment to all of Israel's army that no one should take anything from the enemy who they battled. But in his greed, Achan forgot God. His punishment? He and all of his family and goods were destroyed (Joshua ch.7).

King David, who was once the

apple of God's eye, committed adultery, by taking another man's wife (Bathsheba) and having her husband (Uriah) murdered, suffered dire consequences. Their first-born child died, and God told him through the prophet that he (David) would never build His House because he had bloody hands (read II Samuel 11-12 chs). David was never the same man after his shameful behavior.

The Book of Mormon tells of a certain Sherem, a learned man and an eloquent speaker who confronted Jacob the brother of Nephi on theological matters. He knew the Scriptures well, yet had chosen to debate the man of God, simply to confuse him. But God was with Jacob, and by His Holy Spirit confounded Sherem. Later, Sherem confessed that an angel of the devil had deceived him. He had the opportunity to choose the word of God, but rather permitted Satan to seduce him. The choice was his; either the Lord or Satan. He made the wrong choice. For that, he died (Jacob ch.7).

And there was Korihor, called an anti-Christ, who challenged and debated Alma. He later admitted that he knew there was a Christ, but the devil had deceived him. He too, had a chance to choose the Lord, but didn't, with the result that he was trampled under the very feet of those whom he had deceived.

One of the greatest exponents of making the right choice was Joshua, who before all of Israel said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether

the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of Amerites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua could say this with certainty, because he had seen the consequences that fell upon the Israelites when they chose to do evil in the sight of God. He had also seen the manifold blessings which befell those who kept His commandments. There are also choices to make between evil and evil and good and good. Sounds strange? Well, read on. First example: A man walks in a bank, threatens everyone by brandishing a gun, and demands money from the tellers. One foolishly brave guard pulls out a handgun to shoot the robber. The thief has a choice to either aim at the guard's heart or his gun hand. Robbing the bank will net him a long term in prison, if caught; killing the guard means a life imprisonment or possible death sentence. He opts to shoot the gun out of his hand. Both actions are evil, but one is lesser than the other.

The second example is a Biblical one: Jesus visited the house of Martha and her sister Mary. Martha began to busy herself probably to prepare something to eat for the Lord. Mary, who used to help her sister with preparing dinner when guests were present, chose this time to sit at the feet of Jesus Christ and listen to His words. What Martha was doing was good. Who wouldn't want to have Jesus as a dinner guest? Seeing Mary with Christ upset her somewhat, so she complained to the Lord. The Bible records, "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10: 41-42). Both acts were good, but Mary chose the better of the two.

Choices are made every day. When one awakens, there are some choices presented: to get up or stay in bed; to take a shower or not; to

go to work or not; to eat breakfast or not; to be nice to the boss or not; to be grouchy to the employees or not; to give them a raise or not; to have dinner at home or not; to be nice to one's mate or not; to go to Church on weeknights or not; to go to Church on Sunday or not; to be hospitable and invite someone to one's home for dinner after Church meetings or not. The list is endless.

Here is an example of the principle of *freedom of choice* to Church members. When one member feels offended at another, there is a choice to make. Does he/she say nothing and hold a grudge against that person or put the 18th chapter of Matthew in effect, which is the *Law of Offenses*, and immediately seek a reconciliation? Is it worth keeping a festering feeling in the heart or meeting with the alleged offender and talking it over as Christians should, to create peace and tranquillity? The proper thing is to put into effect the Word of God; seek peace. To do or not to do. That is always the question, isn't it?

When men and women are courting, even with a thought of marriage in mind, there is a choice to make: should there be pre-marital relations before the wedding or wait until the nuptial night. The answer should be obvious: wait until the Minister says, "I now pronounce you husband and wife." Don't be deceived by anyone. Pre-marital interludes (to say it like a gentleman) is adultery! Marriage does not wipe away that pre-marital sin. Only Godly repentance will move the heart of the Lord to forgiveness.

The Apostasy appeared on the scene because of the choices which were made by the leaders of the Church. The options were many: should baptism in open running waters continue or shall baptism in fonts suffice? The choice was fonts, the wrong one. Next, should communion be continued by serving bread and wine—as the Scriptures commanded—or serve a wafer, called transubstantiation? The wafer was chosen, the wrong one. The rest of the ordinances, feet-

washing, laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit, etc. were the product of wrong choices.

The choice of breaking or changing the commandments of the Lord or adhering to them unquestionably is always present, either by the individual or by the leaders of the Church. One should always remember the words of the prophet Isaiah. It is written: "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:5). It is also recorded: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

No individual can prosper unless the right choices are made. There is always the right one to make, if one prays and permits the Scriptures to guide and direct one's life. Opposition is forever present. It's up to the person to choose what is good. It's easy to hate someone, but that is a choice. Jesus' instructions were:

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

"For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" (Matthew 5:44-46).

The community of God should always be aware that there will be opposition in all things. *To do or not to do* will constantly bombard the heart and mind. At times, there will be easy choices to make, and at other times, some very hard ones. But with righteous living and the help of God's Holy Spirit, one can make the right choices which will bring happiness and contentment, and of a certainty, be a help to others.

Likewise, the Church has to consider its options, primarily by

keeping the sovereignty of His Word, recorded in the Scriptures. Tensions and oppositions will always arise. What the Church opts for, will either enhance its beauty and fame, or reduce its spiritual luster to a tarnished entity. But the pilgrimage of The Church of Jesus Christ must be to reach out for communion with the Lord, keep His commandments, until it becomes the Mountain of the Lord's house, established on the top of the mountains and exalted above the hills (Isaiah 2:2).

In the final analysis, everything comes down to the principle of the God-given right to choose; *to do or not to do*.

## Note of Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends who remembered me with cards, telephone calls, flowers, and most of all, your prayers, during my recent illness. I appreciate all the cards from individuals, Ladies' Circles, Sunday Schools, branches and the giant card from the GMBA Campout. I continue to improve daily. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

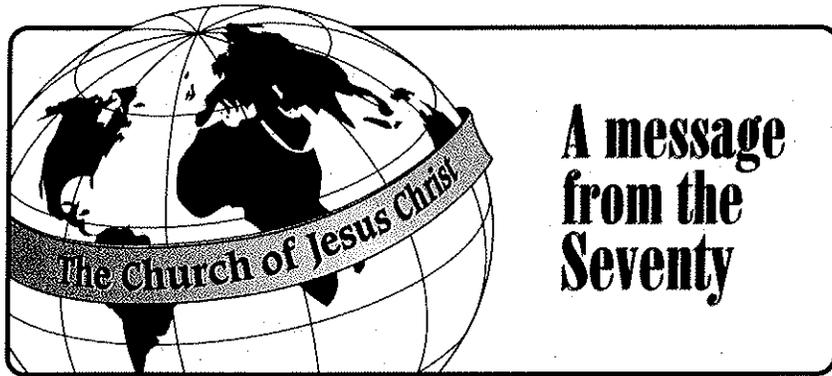
Brother Fred Olexa

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## TESTIMONY continued . . .

ence the love and Spirit of God. I started to investigate the history of The Church of Jesus Christ. I found how Sidney Rigdon was brushed aside, even though he was the First Counselor of the Church. I was shocked to know this history. I prayed again to know the truth and direction. God spoke to me through the writings of Sidney Rigdon. I decided to join The Church of Jesus Christ, headquartered in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Consequently, the Spirit of God led me to hear the

(Continued on Page 11)



## “Praising the Lord” Theme at Conference of Americas

By Brother Paul J. Ciotti, Jr., Assistant Secretary, AMOC

“Praising the Lord” was the theme of the annual Conference of the Americas held in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, August 6-10, 1997. The theme was taken from Psalm 135:3, *“Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.”*

Fast and prayer, spirit-filled services, missionary reports, seminars, and sessions for ordained officers were on the agenda. Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to mission reports and the significance of the reporting process. A worship service was conducted on Wednesday night and a seminar on “How to be a Better Pastor” was presented by Evangelist Daniel Picciuto.

### FRIDAY SERVICE

The Friday morning session began with singing hymns of praise to God. Reports were given by each mission in Mexico reflecting their status. It was edifying to hear how each location reported growth and the blessings of God. A report on the work in Guatemala was also given. While Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., (Chairman, Guatemala Sub-Committee) was relating that, even though the war in that nation was over, a spiritual warfare exists there between The Church of Jesus Christ and the enemy of our souls, Brother Matthew Picciuto spoke in the gift of tongues.

Evangelist Paul Liberto, who presided over the conference, felt that the Ministry should offer prayer for Brother Luis Marroquin, who is the lone Elder in Guatemala. Apostle Paul Palmieri laid hands on our brother and asked for God’s blessings upon him and his family and that He would fortify and encourage Brother Luis in his labors.

As each location reported growth, they expressed a need for more laborers and for the financial means required.

In the afternoon, Brother Hector Gastelum Carlon led a seminar for the Elders and Teachers. The topic was “Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy.” At the same time, Apostles Joseph Lovalvo and Paul Palmieri conducted a seminar for the Deaconesses on the duties of a Deaconess. The remainder of the afternoon was opened to all for congregational and group singing.

On Saturday morning, the service was turned over to the Apostles in attendance, Joseph Lovalvo, Paul Palmieri and Thomas Liberto. They answered questions submitted to them by the Ministry.

In the afternoon, The Church of Jesus Christ of Mexico Board of Directors (Founders) held their elections and conducted their business. This is a requirement of the country of Mexico. A slide presentation was also made by Evangelist

Richard Christman, Chairman of the Americas Missionary Operating Committee, of the new work which has been started in the country of Peru.

The evening meeting was turned over to the General Missionary Benevolent Association officers who were in attendance: Elders Paul A. Palmieri, Vice President, and Isaac Smith, Jr., Chaplain, along with the GMBA Youth In Action participants. Brother Smith opened the meeting by reading from the Book of Alma. The young people were given time for singing and testimonies. The Spirit of God was felt as they praised God. Elder Jim Sgro spoke under the Spirit, “Thus saith the Lord, The power of God is here.” Five individuals asked for their baptisms. Several experiences were also related. Brother Joe Lovalvo talked to the young people and offered prayer for God’s blessings to rest upon them and for God to protect them from the enemy of our souls.

### SUNDAY SERVICE

Many songs of praise were sung before the Sunday meeting. The Tijuana choir and the children’s choir offered several selections.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., was the opening speaker. He read II Nephi 33:6 and spoke about the plainness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the truth which is found in Christ, and that Jesus is the Redeemer for souls. Brother Paul reminded everyone of the joy we felt when we came to know Jesus Christ and that we must continually praise Him for this. He used the example of when Christ visited this land after His resurrection and how the people rejoiced when they met Him.

Many brothers also spoke, being filled with the inspiration and power of God. As Brother Joel Mora was describing the children of Israel’s coming out of captivity and returning to their own land, he mentioned that they picked up their instruments and began to play and to sing praises to God again in their land, Brother

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Have you ever considered the vast separation between light and darkness? The separation is so great, it is so important that God caused this division of light from darkness on the very first day of the Creation:

Darkness causes uneasiness. It is dismal and produces gloom. It is evil, wicked and sinister. Darkness causes a lost sensation. It is difficult to see where you are or where you are going. Try turning out the headlights of your car on a dark country road. You will not know where to go or how to proceed. It is an awful feeling. You feel absolutely lost.

Light is necessary for seeing. It allows us to see our way, the path or road we are taking or should take. It is necessary to avoid getting lost. It eliminates groping or feeling your way. Light brings a feeling of exhilaration like the dawn of a new day. Light creates a feeling of life. It is spiritual awareness, spiritual illumination. It is life!

It is not difficult to understand why the devil is the prince of darkness. It is not difficult to understand why Jesus Christ is the "light of the world." You can sense the difference.

Joshua used the light of the sun and the moon to overcome the enemy of Israel. We read in the Book of Joshua, 10th chapter, that the sun and the moon stood still at the word of Joshua. The sun stood still in the midst of heaven and did not go down for an entire day. There never was a day like this before in the history of the human family. The Lord answered Joshua's request. The Lord fought for Israel.

The Lord will fight for us. The Lord came to provide us the way to overcome the enemy of our soul. He lights up our path. His light is everlasting. His light is brighter than the noonday sun. He lights up the world!

His birth was announced with a new star in the heavens. The new star hovered over the birthplace of the Lord. It provided guidance to the wise men who were seeking Him. Are you wise? Are you seeking Him? This new star, this light, will provide you guidance for life. It is the light of Jesus Christ.

David declared in Psalm 27:1, "*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*"

There is no fear with the Lord. He overcomes the sinister nature of darkness. He overcomes the evil and wicked character of darkness. Jesus Christ overcomes the fear and sting of death. He is everlasting life, an endless life. Abinadi said it eloquently and with power. In Mosiah 16:9 he said, "*He is the light and the life of the world; yea a light that is endless, that can never be darkness; yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death.*"

The Lord told Nephi that He would be their light in the wilderness. He prepared the way. Jesus Christ told Nephi that if he kept the Lord's commandments, He, the Lord, would lead them to the promised land, a choice land.

Nephi told his brothers that the Lord their God, their Redeemer, led Israel through the wilderness. He led them by day with a cloud. He led them by night with a pillar of fire. The Lord gave them light through the darkness of night.

When Jesus Christ appeared to the Brother of Jared, He said, "In me shall all mankind have light." During His appearance on the land of America, the Lord said, "I am the light and the life of the world."

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Dear Girls and Boys,

Can you imagine how it would feel if someone you knew in The Church of Jesus Christ started being bad? How would it feel if you heard them mocking the Lord, Jesus Christ, and all the Church people?

What would you do if you knew that they and several others were secretly going around causing trouble? Or what if they were very good at speaking and started teaching things not in the Scriptures, trying to lead people away? How would you stop them? What could you do? What if they had powerful parents in the world, or Church, and much more money than you did? How would you go about stopping them? Or, what would you do if it was your own brother, or cousin or best friend doing this? This is what was happening to the seven churches in the land of Zarahemla.

Trouble and arguments began. The devil entered in where there was confusion and more problems arose. The young men doing this were Mosiah's sons, the grandsons of the famous old King Benjamin. They were joined by Alma, one of the sons of Alma, the Chief Judge and high priest in charge of the Church.

God had done many mighty miracles for the parents and grandparents of these rich young men. He'd taught Alma's father how to set up His Church. When the wicked King Noah tried to kill Alma and his followers, the Lord brought them to a safe place in the wilderness. Then when their Lamanite enemies discovered them and enslaved them, and killed them, again the Lord delivered

them. He brought them through the wilderness, up and down wild mountain passes and through the South American jungles to the land where King Mosiah ruled and a land where they could serve God and love one another.

Now this next generation who had known peace were spending their time rebelling against God and leading others away also. It was time for this to stop! King Mosiah and Alma knew what to do. They asked the people of the Church to talk with God in mighty prayer and beg God to stop this evil and confusion from continuing.

God heard. He sent an angel with a booming voice to shake the earth and stop the troublemakers. The angel told them if they continued in their trouble making ways, that they would be destroyed instead. Young Alma fell unconscious and the three sons of Mosiah were also totally repentant and sorry. They shook with the fear of God and carried their unconscious friend back to the city. The whole Church leadership was called by Alma the father to pray. For two days they fasted and begged God to deliver young Alma.

And God did. When young Alma awoke, he was a new man. He was deeply sorry for the trouble and evil he had done. Immediately, he and the sons of Mosiah began traveling around the Church. They confessed all their lies and told of God's wonderful power to heal and forgive. Many people believed them and were baptized. But many other times, their old group of friends now turned on them and tried to beat them up and

attacked them. These men never gave up.

God preserved their lives. The sons of King Mosiah, Ammon, Omner, Himni and Aaron became great missionaries. Filled with love and the power of God, they traveled and preached to their enemies, the Lamanites. Many thousands of souls believed and were saved over the years because of the Spirit of God carried by the sons of Mosiah.

Alma followed God always. His son Helaman became a great man of faith and a leader. During future wars, Helaman led the two thousand stripling young warriors in protecting God's people. Alma's other sons, Shiblon and Corianton were also missionaries and men of God.

(Continued on Page 12)

## WORD SEARCH

THE	ALMA
PRAYERS	OMNER
OF	HIMNI
ALMA	AMMON
AND	AARON
KING	GOD
MOSIAH	SENT
CHANGED	AN
THE	ANGEL
EVIL	SHOOK
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## Our Women Today

### Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Circle Gathering

#### Loving, Forgiving, and Healing

By Sister Suzette Huttenberger

We were privileged at the end of March to have Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio spend time with us. Each Local was well represented and we waited for God's blessings. The Spirit of God was felt by all.

"Is there some pity for those who have fallen? Is there some mercy for those lost in sin? Is there forgiveness for those who have hurt you? Then you can enter in." This song we sang poses some direct questions we must ask ourselves from time to time. Brother Nephi expounded on this process in his sermon on loving, forgiving and healing. All of these are essential for us as the saints of God to possess in order for Christ to use us, His chosen vessels to work for Him. The following excerpts are from Brother Nephi's sermon.

*Love* is the most important attribute we must possess as God's children. "... wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing..." (1 Nephi 26:30). Christ does not ask us to love each other. He tells us that we must love one another. Love is not something that has conditions. It is unconditional. Love bears all things. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father..." (John 14:21). The Lord was the greatest example of love. Love is patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful or proud. Love is not rude, self-seeking, easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not

delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope, *love never fails!* Christ's life and teachings set the foundation for us as the people of God to know what true love is about and to have it be a basic principle of His Gospel. When we invite our families, friends and neighbors to the Church, what do we want them to feel and experience? The love of the saints. How many times have we heard testimonies saying the love of the saints is what drew people to the Church. Our actions toward one another have a tremendous impact.

*Forgiveness*, an act of God's grace to forget forever and not hold people of faith accountable for sins they confess. Peter asked the Lord how many times should he forgive his brother who sins against him. The Lord's response was seventy times seven! As saints of latter days, we must have unlimited forgiveness. No matter what we face from others, we need to turn the other cheek and show the pure love of Jesus Christ. It does not mean keeping in the back of our minds what this person did to me or said to me. This is Satan's tool of discouragement. He will tear us down however possible if we are not united in love, one mind, and one accord. We need to confess our sins and faults, offenses to one another especially when we know we have done or said something we should not have done in order for the Lord to bless us abundantly as He always has.

*Healing* is how God works through instruments and ways He chooses to bring health to a person physically, emotionally and spiritually. Healing starts by loving, which is not an easy virtue. It can only be given when we desire to love. Women can offer this because of who we are. As sisters, we can project this love by God's grace that others may see the Lord's goodness and mercy in our lives.

Brother Nephi mentioned his relationship with his children. Things started to change when he saw what was required of him and what was wrong in the relationship, for

him to say he was wrong. He never anticipated this power of healing till years later when he and his family returned to the United States from Africa and recognized everyone had a hurt. He thanked God that his family was not destroyed. Things started to change when they listened to each other, allowing the Lord to step in by placing the situation into His hands.

We must first be the example of what we want others to be. It must begin with each one of us. We are not to pray, "God change this person," but rather "God change me!" Pray for yourselves, that is where healing begins. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him as he is; that we may have hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure" (Moroni 7:48). Brother Nephi talked about his relationship with his son and how God spoke to him one day and said, "Nephi, if you want me to work with your son, you must get out of the way!" He moved, and that is when he started to see miracles. God was able to take over. There is enormous power in love and forgiveness. We are in a healing stage that can only come from loving one another.

The Church of Jesus Christ is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. He gave us a wonderful gift, which is love.

### Notice

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## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings in Branch #4, MI

On Sunday, April 13, 1997, the Lord manifested His Spirit as we had many visitors that attended the service.

After the preaching service, Sister Louise Bruno asked to be anointed. The Elders gathered around her and Brother Tony Gerace performed the anointing. Brother Mike Nuzzi saw a flock of white doves flying around the Elders. As Brother Tony prayed on Sister Louise, a white dove landed on her right shoulder and a rainbow circled all the Elders. As the service continued, others were anointed and a white dove would land on each person's right shoulder. As Brother Mike Nuzzi pondered on this vision, it was given to him that each was being healed as the white dove landed on them and the rainbow was the promise that God had made to His people. Sister Judy Salerno spoke in the gift of tongues and there was a beautiful manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for His goodness and His many gifts. Remember us in your prayers. We love you all. God bless you.

### Ordinations at Branch #2 Allen Park, MI

*By Sister Carolyn Gentile O'Connor*

On March 2, 1997, the members, family and friends of Branch #2 gathered together for a very special occasion—the ordinations of three young brothers, Brothers Jim Lambert, David Loyalvo and Dino DiMelis into the office of Deacon.

Brother Jerry Benyola, visiting from Branch #1, opened our morning service with Genesis, chapter 1, the Creation. He expressed the magnitude of the beginning of this earth.

Brother Jerry exclaimed, "We cannot fully comprehend the magnificence of the Lord saying, 'Let there be light' and there was light. He is the Supreme Creator, the Great I Am." He continued by mentioning the short time that we have on earth to grasp the Gospel. "Our lives move very quickly but the God that we serve is eternal."

Brother Jerry continued with Alma 30: 44 where Korihor is asking Alma for a sign that there is a God. Alma answers Korihor saying, "Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God?" He continues to mention the signs that Korihor has seen such as the testimony of the brothers, sisters and holy prophets, the scripture, and the heavens and the earth. "I don't need a sign," Brother Jerry exclaimed! "When I look outside and see the trees in the winter turn, bringing forth leaves in the spring, I know that there is a God." Brother Jerry explained that he sees a sign in our faces when we glorify God and he praises God that he believes through faith.

Brother Joel Calabrese, visiting from Lorain, Ohio, followed saying that "We have the opportunity today! We believe because of faith. We cannot outlive God. What do you want from God and what are you going to do to get it?," he asked the congregation.

Our building was filled to capacity with visitors from around the Great Lakes Region as we gathered for the afternoon meeting to witness the ordinations of Brothers Jim, David and Dino.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Dan Parravano read from Acts, 6th chapter, expounding on the characteristics of a Deacon. "They must be brave," he said. "Not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, having faith and a pure conscience, blameless and boldness in faith. Their wives must also hold to these characteristics."

The brothers came forward and the ordinations began. As their feet were washed, the congregation joined in a silent prayer for the Lord to grant them the gifts that they will

need to perform their new duties. Brother Dino's feet were washed by his father, Brother Emil, Brother Jim's feet were washed by his father, Brother Jim, Sr., and Brother David's feet were washed by Brother Phil Buffa.

Brother Alex Gentile offered a word of prayer as the Elders encircled the three brothers before they were ordained. A beautiful spirit was felt by everyone who was there to witness the ordinations. Brother Dino was ordained by Brother Dominic Thomas, Brother Jim by Brother Dan Parravano, and Brother David was ordained by his father, Brother Leonard A. Loyalvo.

Brother Dominic Thomas then read from the 4th chapter of I Corinthians, on the duties of a Deacon and asked the new Deacons to give their testimony. They all expressed a great enthusiasm for their new positions and asked us to remember them in prayer as they take on the new responsibilities of a Deacon. They felt honored to be chosen and exclaimed that they would strive to accommodate the needs of the brothers and sisters of Branch #2, both spiritually and naturally.

Brother Dominic then asked Brother Dino's wife, Sister Christina, Brother David's wife, Sister Darlene and Brother Jim's fiancée, Sister Lynette Thompson, to give their testimonies. All three expressed a great love for the Church and rejoiced over the wonderful blessing that they received that day. Each asked for the prayers from the brothers and sisters as they support their husbands with this new responsibility and gift.

### A Thank You To My God

*By Sister Sandy Murray*

I wish to thank God by telling my brothers and sisters what He did for me. Long ago, I had promised the Lord that if He ever chose to heal me of my affliction, I would tell all every chance I got of His mercy

towards me.

For eighteen years I suffered with terrible headaches—tension, cluster, and migraine headaches. I had forgotten what it was like not to have a headache. I was never without one or several, every moment of the day and night. I learned to adjust my life around my headaches which at times were mild, at other times bad, and at other times severe, but always there.

During the last eighteen years, I have been anointed many, many times. I have seen many doctors. I have tried many pain drugs. But, I never received. I always went back to two over the counter medications that were the only help I could get, taking sixteen tablets of each a day for most of the past eighteen years. As time went on, those medications helped less and desperately I would continue to get anointed and see different doctors, but again, to no avail.

I was taught long ago to never question God and to accept whatever our lot might be, knowing that He has a purpose to all things. Although I would hear many times of someone receiving a healing from headaches after being anointed, I never lost faith that God could heal me. But, I accepted that it was not my time yet and might never be. Many wonderful saints have born their afflictions to the grave and I always prayed that if this was my lot, that the Lord would give me strength and courage to do so, and that in no way would I shame Him. I know a sister who is so afflicted and yet her smile is always on her face, her contentment is always in her voice, and her courage is always a testimony to her faith. Could I do less? I pray not.

Recently a kidney doctor discovered that my kidneys had been damaged by the years of medication for headaches. My test results showed my protein count was well beyond the maximal level of 300. It was 800! She told me to immediately stop the medication. I panicked. I again was anointed and this time I received! For the first time in eighteen years, I had no headaches! I

cannot even begin to describe my joy! I went back to the doctor and my protein count was still 800. She ran some more tests and had me come back. I was anointed again. When I went back to the doctor, my protein count was 80! Again the Lord healed me! The doctor could not explain it. She did not know what happened because she had given me nothing to improve my kidneys! I told her it was a miracle! God was good to me! God had blessed me! But she just stumbled with her words. The knowledge of man is foolishness to God!

I have learned many lessons from the past eighteen years—accept what comes our way in this life, bear our burdens with meekness and humility (someone may be looking to us), never question the Lord, never lose faith, never lose hope, weary the Lord (this is pleasing to Him) and wait, wait, wait!

There is a certain sister who rejoiced to hear of my healings! This sister who has born the heat of the day, who has born so much sorrow in her life, rejoiced for me as though it was her own deliverance that had come! This is the secret! If we can rejoice when the hand of God moves to deliver someone else, even though we must bear burdens that have not been removed, there is a strength that God gives to those who He has chosen to set the examples for us.

## A Celebration of Ordination at Greensburg, PA

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28). When Brother Dennis Gehly severely burned his entire hand on boiling sugar syrup in April 1995, he did not know it would be the beginning of something good.

Prior to April Conference, a brother had an experience where he very clearly saw the back of a young man in a vision and heard a voice saying that he was supposed to tell

this young man, "The Lord wants to use you." The brother replied that there would be so many people at conference and inquired, "How will I know him." At that moment in the experience, the young man turned around and the brother saw that he had his arm in a dark colored sling. He did not recognize him as anyone he knew.

A few days later at Conference, the brother saw this person with his arm in a sling just as in the vision. Not knowing him personally but knowing the revelation of God, a great blessing unfolded.

July 20, 1997, the experience was fulfilled as Brother Dennis Gehly was ordained into the office of Teacher, having his feet washed by his father, Brother Paul Gehly, and ordained by his grandfather, Apostle Russell Cadman who stated the family has had an ordained officer in the Church for one hundred thirty-five years.

A portion of the revelation of God given to His servant John was

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For October, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.75%
2 years	6.00%
3 years	6.10%
4 years	6.15%
5 years	6.25%

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

**GREENSBURG continued . . .**

brought forth as found in Revelation 19:6-9, enlightening us to the fact that as great as the celebration was which we had just witnessed, how great would be the celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb. "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

As brother and sisters from Imperial, Aliquippa, McKees Rocks, Fredonia and Herndon honored us with their presence, so also will we be honored to be numbered with the faithful in the Kingdom of God.

**Blest Day in Gastonia, NC**

*By Sister Margaret Iorio*

July 20, 1997, was a beautiful Sabbath Day in Gastonia, North Carolina with perfect weather and many brothers, sisters and friends in attendance. Brother Jon Molinatto welcomed everyone and was very happy to see so many in our meeting. Brother Molinatto opened in prayer and then turned the meeting over to Apostle Russell Cadman.

Brother Cadman spoke on the blessing of children and that the Lord stated that children did not need baptism. Scripture was taken from Matthew 19:13-14 where Jesus

receives and blesses children. He then called for his great-granddaughter, Madison Hamerick, six months of age, to be brought up to be blessed. Madison was scheduled for a serious operation and her grandmother, Sister Ellen Larimer, asked the mission to pray in her behalf. So many prayers ascended to the throne of God and our prayers were answered. When the surgeon performed the surgery, only minor surgery was required.

The service continued as Brother Russell Cadman called Brother Joe Catone, Jr. to the front to be ordained into the Ministry. Brother Catone's wife and their five children were present. Brother Russell also read Revelation 14:6-7 to Brother Catone.

Brother Joe Catone, Jr. then spoke and said that he would need the help of all the brothers and sisters. He expressed his love for the Church and his desire, with the help of God, to fulfill his duties. We sang that wonderful hymn, *Jesus Never Fails*.

The meeting was opened for testimony and each one testified to the blessings received today and how thankful they were for our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. Sacrament was passed by Brother Joe Catone, Jr. and the closing prayer was given by Brother Russell Cadman.

During lunch, we enjoyed the fellowship with each other. We felt so blessed that we hated to part.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave us support from Ohio for so many years and we are looking forward to blessings with the support we receive from Pennsylvania. We are so grateful for all their efforts. Please remember us in your prayers. God bless you all. We love you.

**An Experience**

*By Brother Louis DiLuca*

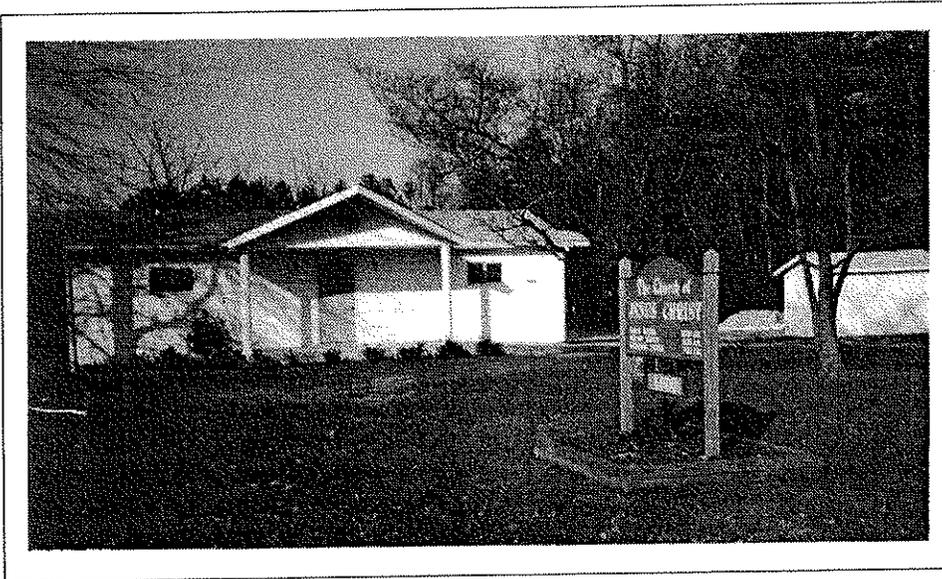
In the late summer of the year 1932, after a lengthy period of unemployment and no income, I did not know where to turn. My wife and I were very much concerned about providing for our five children.

One evening as I retired to my bedroom, I poured out my heart to God in prayer asking for His help and providence. While still praying, I felt a tap on my shoulder, and I heard a voice say, "Fear not!" This greatly encouraged me.

The next day I went to the employment office of a local steel company to inquire if there were any job openings. The employment officer called me out of a group of men and led me into his office and said, "Mr. DiLuca, I had a dream that I should give you a job!" I was offered a job as a bricklayer which was my trade. I was happy and thankful to God to be back at work and thus able to provide for my family again.

My family, as well as the brothers and sisters, rejoiced with me. Even my co-workers and friends were pleasantly surprised at my good fortune in getting employment at a time when jobs were hard to come by. I praise God for His favor and providence.

*Editor's note: Brother Louis DiLuca, deceased, was a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He held this job until he retired over thirty years later from his date of hire.*



The Church of Jesus Christ, Gastonia, North Carolina Mission

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**TESTIMONY continued . . .**

Gospel from Brothers John Ross and Paul Francione. I was baptized by Brother Dwayne Jordan in Arizona. Before 1990, our fellowships were held in an underground situation, behind the iron curtain. At the same time, my Nepalese nation was in need of the Scriptures. So, as I translated the Bible into Nepali, I also translated the testimony of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon in the Nepali language. The Nepali version of the Book of Mormon has not been published as yet. In addition, I was privileged to help in the translation of the Book of Mormon into a Hindi version. Still more translations about Church literature remains to be done. After a long search, I found the true love and Spirit of God in The Church of Jesus Christ. Shortly after joining this blessed Church, I had a vision. I saw heaven opened, with a ladder leading to it. The ladder was available to all lost sheep, like me and my nation. God bless you all. Please write when you have an opportunity. My address is:

P.O. Box 272  
Itta Bena, MS 3894  
601-254-9643

**EDITORIAL continued . . .**

We sing a beautiful hymn. The words say, "Once I was blind, but now I can see, The Light of the World is Jesus." Remember the man that was blind from his birth? The disciples wanted to know who sinned, the man or his parents. The Lord told the disciples that neither the man nor his parents had sinned. The works of God would be made manifest in this man's blindness. The Lord spit on the ground, made clay and anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. The Lord then instructed the blind man to "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." The man obeyed and received his sight! The Jews did not believe he was blind from birth. They asked his parents. The parents said that he was blind from birth. They continued by responding that he now sees, how they did not know. They also said they did not know who opened his eyes. The parents further told the Jews to ask their son, he was of age. The Jews said to give God the praise, because this man, Jesus Christ, was a sinner. The man answered that he did not know if He was a sinner or not. The man declared, ". . . one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see."

When we reach the age of accountability, we are blind, unless we yield to the marvelous light of Jesus Christ. Many testimonies of the saints of God declare, "God took me out of the world of darkness and placed me in a beautiful light." Whose light? His light!

Samuel the prophet asked, ". . . how long will ye suffer yourselves to be led by foolish and blind guides? Yea, how long will ye choose darkness rather than light?" To those who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ, you have a choice. You can choose the light. You can choose the darkness. The choice is up to you. What do you think is the best choice? In whom do you want to place your trust, your soul? Your decision is crucial. For your soul's salvation, you must choose the Lord, the Light of the World. There is no other choice!

**Publication Notice**

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**MESSAGE continued . . .**

Matthew Picciuto spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation, received by Brother Ulises Cardenas Ruiz, was Isaiah 54:5:

*"For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy one of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."*

A beautiful spirit was felt as Communion was being served. Elders from the United States and Mexico participated in this holy ordinance.

The meeting was concluded by some songs from individuals and groups. These selections very fittingly ended the entire beautiful time together and emphasized again the joy that is felt in "Praising the Lord."

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Jason Ray Marquis and Michele Lee Dickson of the Lorain, Ohio Branch were united in holy matrimony on July 12, 1997 in LaGrange, Ohio.

Brother Ernest Alessio and Sister Helen Tisler were united in holy matrimony in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on July 5, 1997.

William Henry Brown and Deanna Lynn Murray were united in holy matrimony in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on July 5, 1997.

**Children Blessed**

Mellicent Marie Costarella, daughter of Brother Adam and Tina Costarella, was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on July 27, 1997.

Kyle Ameer Hamja, son of Katye Cintrin and Ramjanali Hamja, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on May 18, 1997.

Haleigh Christine Colucy, daughter of Harry and Robin Colucy, was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on July 6, 1997.

**Baptisms**

Gregory (Gary) Paul Vitto was baptized April 27, 1997 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Frank Vitto.

Paulette Catherine Griesbaum was baptized on April 27, 1997 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Daniel Griesbaum was baptized on April 27, 1997 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Judith Marie Harkovich was baptized on April 27, 1997 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Michael LaSala and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Lawrence William Perkins was baptized on April 27, 1997 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Anthony Scolaro.

**Obituary**

RUTH N. CARR

Sister Ruth N. Carr of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on August 6, 1997. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sister Janice Brown. Sister Ruth is survived by her husband, Elder Jesse Carr; a daughter, Wilma Osterwise; two sons, Brother Paul Carr and Timothy Carr; a sister, Sister Anna Dreer; two brothers, Brothers Charles and Isaac Smith; seventeen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

**CHILDREN'S CORNER continued . . .**

Shiblon was one among the first of the Nephites who built great ships and departed to the land Northward to settle.

All of this good would have been lost if people had not prayed. If people had just let young Alma and the sons of King Mosiah continue in their rebellious ways, their souls would have gone to hell. All of the hundreds of thousands of people touched in the future by the godly ways of their children would also have been lost. But constant, faithful, beautiful prayers changed their hearts. Prayer can change your heart and mind. Prayer is the key to starting over and for bringing goodness to others. Don't forget. We believe in a God whose son, Jesus Christ, taught "pray for one another." Start praying for someone and watch for the change.

With care,  
Sister Jan

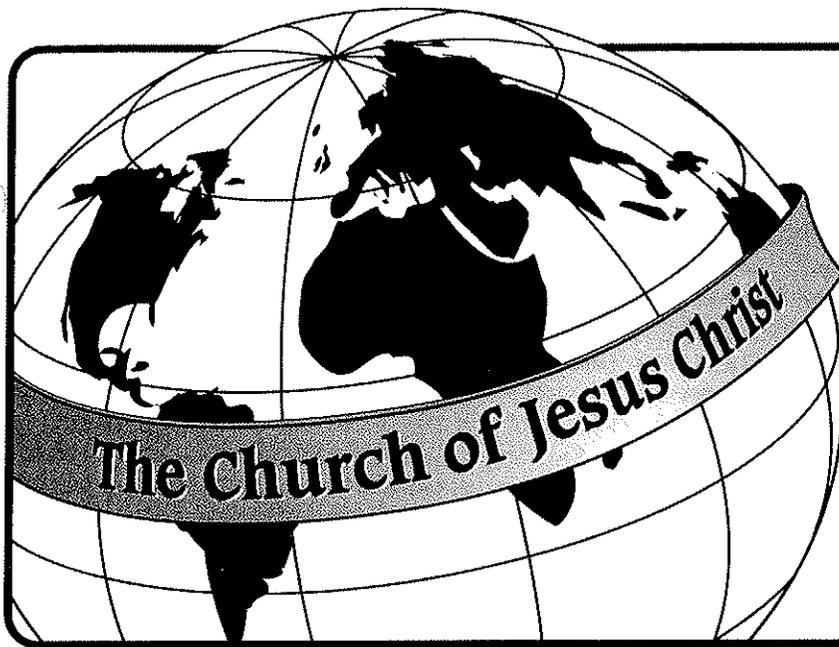
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 1997

Volume 53, No. 11

## More Baptisms at Branch #2 Allen Park, MI

*By Sister Carolyn Gentile O'Connor*

The Lord has been very good to our Branch. Our congregation is growing rapidly and we have had the opportunity to add two new names to our membership.

The first candidate is Brother Daniel Buffa. Brother Dan is currently a sergeant in the Marine Corps. He has had the opportunity to travel home on a few occasions in the past few years but has kept in touch with the Branch through letters and conversations with his parents, Brother Phil and Sister Carmen Buffa. He recently made the greatest and most important decision of his life, giving his life to Christ. I asked him to share with all of you, his testimony.

**Brother Dan:** "I was born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ. I can remember my mother and father stressing the importance of going to Church even at a very young age. I grew up attending the Saline Mission. From there my parents moved to Allen Park where we attend Branch #2.

"Growing up, my father used to take me to Muncey, Detroit Inner-City, or just on the street with

the poor. My parents took my sister Tina and I to campouts, conferences, and MBA on Friday nights.

"As time went on, I was a normal teenager and wanted to do the things teens do growing up. During high school, I do not think my family or the brothers and sisters ever got off their knees on my behalf. Thank God for that! Shortly after school, I left for the Marine Corps boot camp. After completion, I came back home and pretty much realized that all of the things my parents were trying to teach me were the right way. During my short stay at home, I had the chance to stand on my feet and thank God for all of the things He had done for me.

"After I left to return to North Carolina, I received orders to 29 Palms, California. I was there for two months. From there I was sent to Okinawa, Japan. Taking God wherever I went, He blessed me and protected me.

"I had many experiences while I was there. One particular time, I went swimming with a friend who was not a very good swimmer. I took the challenge of taking him out

with me anyway. I'll do my best to explain to you how it was that Saturday morning. There was an island about three quarters of a mile out that sat off the coast where my base was. This is where I would snorkel and dive all of the time. On our way to this island, my friend started to drown. Knowing in my mind that there was nothing to hold on to (we were already more than halfway there), in the heat of the moment, I wrapped my arms around him and kept his head above water. In my mind, I was praying and asking the Lord to help me. After a short while, he calmed down and we were able to continue forward. As we were approaching the island, he began to drown again! I held on to him, swam my very best, and made it to the island, exhausted! I did not know how I was supposed to get back. I made it a matter of prayer and asked the Lord to get me back safely with my friend. After our long rest, we had to return.

"While we were swimming, he started to drown again. By this time, I was completely worn out. As I was holding him, I was praying again and realized there was nothing I could do. I let him go and looked under the water for something to stand on, but there was nothing. I grabbed a hold of him again and said one more

**(Continued on Page 3)**

## Christians or Saints Who Are We?

By Evangelist Phil Jackson

Have you ever wondered if there was a difference between a Christian and a Saint? Should we be called by one name or the other? If you have ever questioned this before, let's look at these words and the word of God and see what we can learn.

The word Christian appears in the Bible three times. The formation seems to be Latin, meaning "adherent of Christ." Adherent means, a supporter of, thus meaning a supporter of Christ. The ending of the word Christian, "ians" denotes a soldier, or slave of the one whose name it was compounded, such as Christ's slaves.

Acts 11:16, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Antioch has an important place in the early history of the Church. One of the original deacons was Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch. The first Gentile church was founded there. Many followers scattered there at the death of Stephen. Barnabas was sent there by the Church in Jerusalem to assist in the work. After working there for a while, he summoned Paul from Tarsus to assist him. Paul made three missionary journeys to Antioch. The city was well known for its invention of nicknames, so it's no surprise to see the name Christians for the first time. The verb used for "were called" (disciples "were called") is a Hebrew word, *chrematisai*, which means to be directed by God as if by divine oracle. Could it have been that the name Christian was divinely given? But the verb could be used more loosely, and perhaps means no more than that the name came into popular use in the first city where a distinctive name became necessary.

Acts 26:28, "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Agrippa recognized that to believe what Paul preached would make him a Christian.

I Peter 4:16, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

In the Book of Mormon, the word Christian appears four times:

Alma 46:13, 15-16, (Moroni waves his rent garment) "... and he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren, so long as there should a band of Christians remain to possess the land. And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come. And therefore at this time, Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians and the freedom of the land might be favored."

Alma 48:10, "And thus he [Moroni] was preparing to support their liberty, their lands, their wives, and the children, and their peace, and that they might live unto the Lord their God, and that they might maintain that which was called by their enemies the cause of Christians."

In these verses, we are led to understand that the term Christians was used by those that took on the name of Christ. One commentator says that Christians was a word used by the Gentiles and adopted by the disciples of Jesus.

The word Saint, on the other hand is in the Bible ninety-five times, and the Book of Mormon twenty-nine times.

In the King James Version, the word Saint is used to translate two Hebrew words, *qadosh* and *hasidh*. The root idea of the first is separation. In a religious sense, it means that which is separated or dedicated unto God and therefore removed from secular use. The word is applied to people, places and things, as: the temple, vessels, garments, the city of Jerusalem, priests, etc. The root of the second word is personal holiness. The emphasis is on character. It has a strong ethical

connotation. These words are used either in the plural or with a collective noun. The reason for this is that a person's standing before God is regarded as a matter of his belonging to a larger whole, such as the Church, his larger whole standing in covenant relationship to God.

I Corinthians 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints . . ."

I Nephi 14:12, "... I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God . . ."

I Nephi 14:14, "And it came to pass that I Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, . . ."

The Church is comprised of people called out of the world by God, to be His own people. All who are in covenant relation with Him through faith, repentance, and baptism, are regarded as His saints. Objectively, the saints are God's chosen and peculiar people, belonging exclusively to Him. Throughout the Bible and Book of Mormon, the saints are urged to live lives befitting their calling.

Mosiah 3:19, "... unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."

We as Saints have a high calling of God to perform many duties while here on earth and a higher calling in the life to come in Christ's kingdom.

I Corinthians 6:1-3, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this

life?"

If we walk worthy of our calling, then Christ has promised His saints a blessed life. He also tells us that He will make intercession for us to God (Romans 8:27).

Some people feel a Saint can only be a person that has passed on to heaven to be with Christ. It is true that in the Scriptures, many places refer to the resurrected beings as Saints, but it never tells us to pray unto them or worship them.

Many times the word of God says, "the blood of the saints cry unto me," meaning these are mine, beloved of the Lord, and I will repay. So God truly honors those who are righteous and avenges that righteousness upon the heads of those that do not serve Him.

II Nephi 9:18, "But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever."

Amen! Amen! Well I hope through this study you have seen the difference between a Christian and a Saint. I am glad that the word Saint is not as loosely used as the word Christian is today. Many people today claim to be Christians. Maybe you have too from time to time. Are they a slave to Christ? Are you? I would much rather be called a Saint of the most high God, knowing that I stand in a covenant relationship with Him.

I would like to end this study with the words of hymn #81 in the *Saints Hymnal, Rejoice, Ye Saints of Latter Days*

Rejoice ye saints of latter days,  
Lift up your heads and sing;  
With one accord unite to praise,  
Your everlasting King.

For it's good to be a saint of latter days;  
For it's good to be a saint,  
For it's good to be a saint,  
For it's good to be a saint of latter days.

### BAPTISMS continued . . .

prayer. Out of nowhere, there appeared a rock that stood out of the water. It was within arms reach. This rock was as big as a spaghetti dinner table filled with brothers and sisters. All the way back to land, there appeared rocks to stand on. The Lord put those rocks there for me and I thank Him for that. We made it back safely!

"The Lord blesses me all of the time. Towards the end of my tour in Japan, my grandmother, Sister Eleanor Buffa was passing away from cancer. My parents sent for me to come home for a while. I had the chance to tell her that I loved her. I had to return to Japan to finish out my remaining tour. She passed away a few days after my return. I thank God that I was able to spend that time with her.

"After leaving Japan, my orders were to North Carolina, where I have been stationed ever since. Through my Marine Corps career, the Lord has never left my side. I thank Him every chance I get.

"Recently on February 16, 1997, I asked for my baptism. I had come home for a weekend of R&R (rest & relaxation). I had been thinking about asking for a long while, but every time the chance came up, I did not ask—until that Sunday when I was sitting in Church with my good friend and sergeant, Elijah. I brought him home with me for a long weekend to show him what I had been talking about for so long. On that Saturday night, we went to visit Brother Kenny and Sister Louise Bruno. They were always asking me why I am not baptized. My answer has always been, 'Because I'm waiting to get out of the Marine Corps.' They then went on to tell me there is nothing wrong with being baptized while in the service.

"The next morning, Sunday, while sitting there and listening, I felt like the sermon was being preached directly to me the entire time. I was waiting for the meeting to open for testimony. My chance

finally came. I stood up and thanked God for always being with me and I asked the Ministry to pray on me for strength. While they were praying for me, the Spirit of God came over me so strong, I could not stop crying. When Brother Larry Henderson was through praying on me, I reached up to hug him and he hugged me real tight and whispered in my ear, 'Just let go Danny, let go,' and that is when I asked for my baptism.

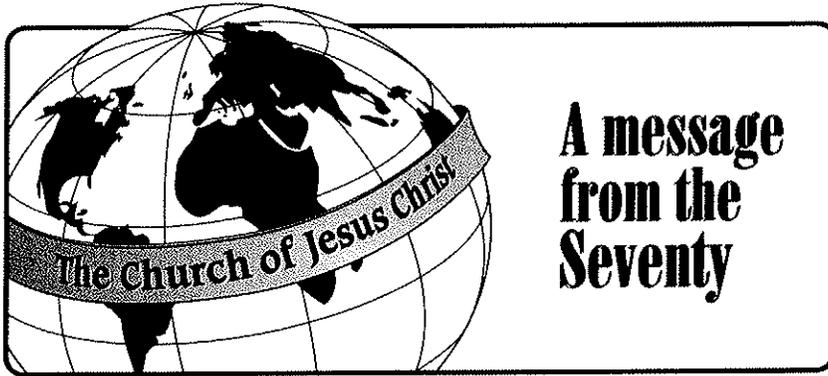
"I wanted my uncle, Brother John Buffa, to baptize me. They called him at Branch #4. We all met at the river a few hours later. Brother Jim Lambert, Sr. and a few of the other brothers were just finishing cutting the ice with a chain saw. At the water, my uncle John explained to me what would be happening. As we were walking across the ice, he said to me, 'Did you feel that?' I said, 'Yes, it got a little warmer.' He baptized me! While walking to the car, the brothers and sisters were wrapping me in blankets. That afternoon I was confirmed By Bro. Dan Parravano. They asked me to give my testimony. I thank God for that day and all the days He has been by my side.

"Currently I am in Spain and Greece and will continue to travel throughout the Mediterranean. I will be out here in this part of the world through the end of October. In January of 1998, I return to the United States. I will be ending my career with the Marine Corps. I am glad that I had a chance to tell you my testimony and thank the Lord for

(Continued on Page 10)

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

To All Our Readers



## Venezuela Trip

*(Six church people from the United States went to Venezuela in August to help in efforts to spread The Gospel of Jesus Christ in that South American nation. The travelers were Apostle Thomas Liberto, Evangelist Richard Christman and Sisters Marcia Liberto, Patricia Christman, Heylen Bicelis and Julie Scolaro. A summary of the report submitted by the brothers is as follows.--Evangelist Editor's Note)*

Upon arriving on Friday, August 15, the group was met by six members of the Bicelis family (Sister Heylen's relatives) who transported them to the hotel in Caracas where two Sunday meetings were scheduled. They also had prayer with a family that was to undergo a difficult task the next day about which they were very concerned.

Saturday was a preparation day, contacting and inviting friends to the first Sunday meeting, practicing the hymns in Spanish, and becoming accustomed to the keyboard. It was challenging and difficult to have adequate music for the service because it was necessary to adapt it to the Spanish language.

### FIRST SUNDAY

The first Sunday service was well attended. The meeting room was "more than adequate." The music turned out well. Sister Julie played the keyboard, Johnny Perez supplied the sound system and played the guitar, and Brother Liberto assisted with the harmonica.

Brother Tom opened the service, speaking on joy and love in serving God. Prayer was offered for some, others were anointed, and the Spirit of God was felt. Several touching testimonies were given by individuals in the congregation. There were twenty-six people in attendance. The warmth and sincere attentiveness were very inspiring.

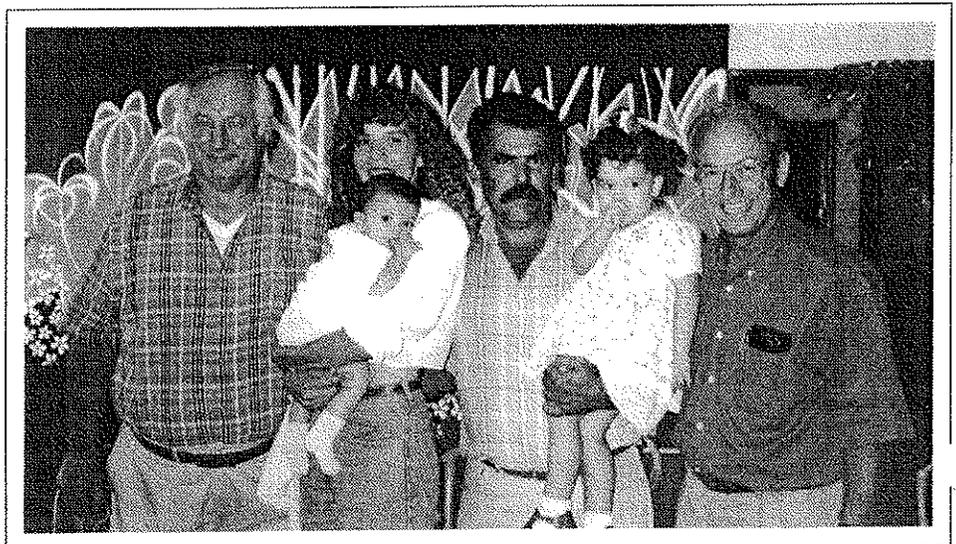
During the week, the group was quartered at an apartment provided by Diva Ramirez, Sister Heylen's aunt. Interested people came to visit and were accorded hospitality and much information about the Lord and The Church of Jesus Christ. Some of them asked the brothers to lay hands on them for various reasons. These requests were for direction in their daily lives, involving their service to Him, their education, their occupation, and decisions they would have to make. At times, they also sang

*Songs of Zion* and had very fruitful spiritual discussions.

These welcomed visits permitted everyone to become more acquainted and presented more liberty in speaking about the things of God. Sister Heylen, who was born and lived in Venezuela before moving to the United States, was able to tell her relatives and friends how her immediate family and she had met and come into the Church in Florida.

On Tuesday, August 19, William Bicelis Sr., along with his daughter, Sylvanna, and her husband, Aldemar, came to see them. Sylvanna stated that on the prior visit made to Venezuela by our people, she was expecting a child and was anointed. She said that in the prayer, Brother Christman had asked God to protect her and help her through the pregnancy. She also stated that she understood the prayer in Spanish even though Brother Dick was praying in English. During the pregnancy, Sylvanna experienced medical difficulties, but she remembered the prayer, relied upon it, and was thankful that God did take care of her and her baby girl. The couple asked that their children be dedicated to the Lord. Brother Tom offered the prayer of blessing upon the baby, Sylvanna, and Brother Dick did likewise for Barbara, who is two

(Continued on Page 11)



Left to right: Evangelist Richard Christman, Sylvanna Victoria (baby), Sylvanna (mother), Aldemar (father), Barbara Rafaela, Apostle Tom Liberto.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

We are nearing the end of 1997. Our national holiday, Thanksgiving, is a couple of weeks away. All of us can be and should be grateful and thankful on a daily basis for God's rich blessings and mercies during the year. Our tables are full!

Many of us, actually all of us, have experienced the mercies of God—some natural, some spiritual. Many were baptized, many children were blessed. Those who passed away received their glorious reward. Branches and missions are growing. All mission fields are growing. These include domestic, foreign and the Seed of Joseph mission fields.

We serve a great God who remembers His people. He remembers those who love Him and serve Him in spirit and in truth. He sees our need. He knows our need. He fills our need. The Lord clothes those that need clothing. He provides shelter for those that need shelter. He feeds the hungry. There is no doubt Jesus Christ provides and cares for His people. This is substantiated by the following Thanksgiving experience of the late Sister Helen Campitelle of Detroit, Michigan. It is found on page 183 in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ*.

"It was in the year 1928. My husband was out of work because of sickness. As it was the night before Thanksgiving my children wanted me to go to the store to buy food for a Thanksgiving dinner. I did not have any food in the house except beans. I told my children I was very sorry that I was unable to make a dinner for them as their father was out of work, and they would have the beans which I had in the house. It was seven o'clock in the evening and my children were discouraged.

"I told them not to be discouraged as the Lord could bless us just the same with beans. At seven thirty we heard someone knocking and my oldest daughter, Rose, went to answer the door. She found a man there and he asked for Mrs. Campitelle. While my daughter was talking to him, she saw a white car in front of the door and he said to me, 'Mrs. Campitelle, what is the reason you don't want to give a Thanksgiving dinner to your children?' I told him the truth, that I wanted to, but as my husband was out of work I was unable to do so.

"He looked at my face and smiled; then he said, 'Mrs. Campitelle, I have brought a Thanksgiving dinner for your children.'

"He then went into the car (which I did not see), and brought out all kinds of groceries; fruit which looked like it had just been picked, fresh dressed chicken, which was still warm, and many other things.

"When I saw all the groceries and food he brought, I asked him his name and address, as I wanted to remember him for what he had done for us. But he said, 'Mrs. Campitelle, you don't need my name or address now.' He looked at my children and said, 'You have wonderful children and a wonderful family.' Then he left.

"The next day at dinner time, all the food was prepared, and we were seated around the table. Brother and Sister Framilin were with us. While Brother Framilin was asking the blessing on the food he saw the same man come in and stand near the table; and he said, 'I fed my people in the time of Moses and I will feed them today too.'

"We all felt the presence of God with us so that we could hardly eat the food because of the great blessings.

"Every time I testify of this experience, the Lord is my witness."

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Dear friends,

Who is your favorite person to read about in the Book of Mormon or Bible? Has this favorite choice changed from who it used to be? When I was growing up, my family served God by what we did. We also served God by what we didn't do. For example, we did not drink alcohol, or swear. We did not lie or steal. We also did not go to movies or shop on Sunday.

This was noticed by my friends. Sometimes I was worried about being left out of things with them. Other times I was happy and felt deep inside that we were living the right way. Many times they got quiet and wondered about God. Many times I prayed with them or for them.

This was one of the reasons I loved the story of brave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were Jewish boys kidnapped by soldiers and taken to a far away country where people did not understand about God. But these boys and their friend, Daniel, did not forget God.

As they grew up in the king's palace, they did not do as the others did. They did not drink the king's wine or eat his rich, high-fat food. They prayed and studied and served God. They were even healthier than the others. The king noticed they were different. He saw something special about them. He chose them to be important in helping run his country.

This made the other young men angry and jealous. But, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego weren't doing anything wrong. They weren't sneaking around or breaking any

laws. Their enemies kept looking for some way to make them look bad in the king's eyes. They finally thought of something.

The king was planning a big celebration. He had a huge statue of himself made of gold and declared that everyone would have to bow down and worship it. But the three brave Jewish young men refused. They were like us; they did not believe in worshipping statues. They were told by the angry king to either worship the statue or be prepared to die in a huge furnace filled with fire.

They quietly answered him, "King, we are not afraid to answer you. Our God that we serve is able to deliver us from the burning, fiery furnace. He will deliver us if He wants. But, if not, we still will not serve your gods or worship the statue that you have set up."

The king was so furious that he told his strongest men to tie up the three Jewish believers and to carry them to the furnace to toss them inside. Fuel was added so that the furnace was seven times hotter than normal. As the strong men came near the furnace carrying Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the heat of the fire killed them.

But God spared the lives of His followers. Inside the furnace were four individuals, not three! King Nebuchadnezzar declared the fourth person that appeared in the furnace was "like the Son of God." They were not burned at all! Everyone was astonished to see the three Jewish men and the fourth person walking in the flames. The king came near the furnace and called for them to come out. He praised God

with great praise and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him . . . I make a decree (law) that every people, nation, and language which speak anything against this God shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be turned into nothing but dirt, because there is no other God that can deliver in this way!" Then the king promoted these three young men to have even more power in his kingdom.

Everyone could see the power of God because three young men were willing to live the right way, and even die to defend the right way of serving God. We, today, serve that same powerful and loving God. He is also a jealous God. He tells us each not to worship things made of stone (statues or crystals or "lucky" stones.) He tells us not to worship things made of wood (fancy buildings or carvings, even of little figures that

(Continued on Page 12)

### WORD SEARCH

SHADRACH	KINGS
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## Our Women Today

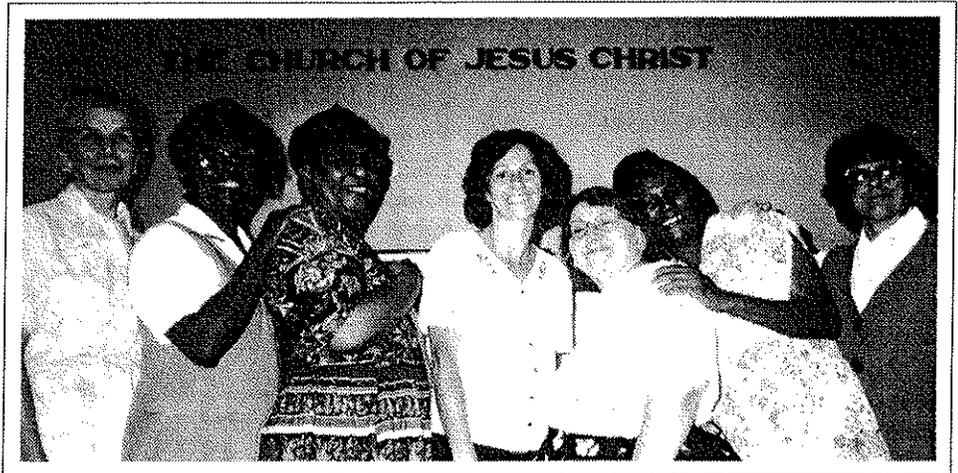
By Sister Judy Coppa

On July 26, 1997, the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch was the gathering site of about sixty-six sisters from all over the Great Lakes Region. Our purpose was to meet and enjoy the fellowship of our three sisters who traveled from Spartanburg, South Carolina. We began our meeting with prayer and singing at noon, which was followed by a luncheon. After lunch, we returned to the Church auditorium for praying, singing and testimony.

Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, and a member of the Great Lakes Region, welcomed everyone and introduced our visiting Spartanburg sisters. Sisters Shirley Gray, Jessie Hall and Mamie Means were asked to share with us their experiences of how they came to know the Church and how they feel about their membership in the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Each sister relayed to us their personal contact with the Lord and how each of them were seeking the true Church. They were directed by God to the truth of The Church of Jesus Christ. These sisters expressed strongly that no where else, but here with the saints will you find the "true love of God." Sisters Shirley, Jessie and Mamie also sang several hymns for the congregation. Their singing was filled with love, faith and enthusiasm for serving the Lord. Throughout their testimonies and singing, everyone could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. This feeling was confirmed by the visual experiences of two of the sisters sitting in the congregation. Sister Connie Leopoldo saw a beautiful Personage of the Lord behind each sister as she gave her testimony. Sister Sally Dubreuil saw a bright light around each sister as they were speaking.

During the meeting, we also enjoyed the singing and piano playing of Sister Kathy Natoli who sang, *His*

## Great Lakes Region Ladies' Circle Hosts Visit from Sisters of Spartanburg, SC



Sisters Lorraine DeMercurio, Mamie Means, Shirley Gray, Cindy Henderson, Joann Cotellesse, Jessie Hall, Arline Whitton

*Strength is Perfect*, and Sister Roseanne Champine who sang a song she has written, *The Melody of Salvation*. Both of these songs carried the same beautiful spirit we were experiencing throughout the day's gathering. As we ended our afternoon, Sister Arline explained some of the arrangements that have been made for the General Circle Fellowship Weekend to be held in Charleston, South Carolina, July 16-19, 1998. The sisters of Spartanburg will be our hosts and they invited the Ladies' Circle members and others who attend, to come to Charleston next July. Our sisters are eagerly awaiting our visit. They also invited us to come before next July and visit all the members of the Spartanburg Mission. The amount of love which was felt among all of us as sisters cannot adequately be explained in words. Everyone in attendance felt an immeasurable amount of God's blessings.

This fellowship and singspiration event culminated a year of enjoyable activities in our Great Lakes Region Ladies' Circle. Last March, we held a Ladies Informational Day where we were treated to lunch and many speakers on different topics of interest to women. In the spring, we enjoyed a fund-raiser fashion show

which was well attended. A mother and daughter banquet followed in the month of May and in June we visited, as a group of forty, the Harrison, Michigan Mission. Through these activities, as a Region, our sisters and Circle members have become closer in natural friendship. They have developed a more spiritual bond with the Lord and also one another. May God continue to bless our Ladies' Uplift Circle.

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank my brothers and sisters for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during my recent surgery. I know that God heard and answered your prayers. I am doing very well. Thank God.

Sister Teresa Locci and family

\* \* \* \* \*

Our family, Bucci's and Kovacic's, would like to express our heartfelt thanks to those who called and sent cards with the passing away of Brother Tim D. Bucci. Blest be the tie that binds.

Phyllis Kovacic



## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism in Lockport, NY

*By Sister Antoinette Giansante*

We had a glorious day May 18, 1997 as visitors came from New Jersey, Erie, PA, Rochester and Niagara Falls, NY to witness the baptism of Sister Dianne Rosati. Our morning service was opened by Brother Joe Perri. Using Enos as his text, our brother spoke on the joy of the saints. As our new sister was to experience, nothing brings greater joy than turning one's life over to God. The baptism was performed by Brother Leonard Benyola. She was confirmed by Brother Joe Perri.

Sister Dianne is attending college in Florida. She began visiting the Hollywood Branch with her aunt, Sister Louise Rosati, who was spending the winters in Florida. In time Sister Dianne began to feel the Spirit of the Lord calling her to repentance and baptism. Her desire was to join the Church and return to Lockport for her baptism so that her family could share this wonderful event.

Sister Dianne is attending the Hollywood Branch while finishing her education.

### Baptism in Monongahela, PA

*By Brother Richard Nath*

On July 20, 1997, the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch started off the Sabbath Day the best way possible, at the river's edge. Many brothers and sisters gathered to witness the baptism of Brother Wayne Stevens who is seventy-six years of age. His late mother, Sister Clara Stevens, was a member of the Church many years ago and attended the West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

Branch. Brother Alexander Cherry performed the baptism.

We returned to Church for Sunday School. After Sunday School, we gathered for our morning preaching service. Opening prayer was offered by Brother Don Ross. The Elders then encircled Brother Wayne for the confirmation of the Holy Ghost. Brother William Chepanoske (Chip) led the brothers in prayer and asked God to choose one of them to confirm our new brother. Brother Wayne was then confirmed by Brother Don Ross. Due to an illness which prohibits Brother Wayne from staying at Church all day, Communion was administered to him by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Our preaching service was opened by Brother Chip. His topic was food and how important it is to us, not only the natural food but the spiritual food as well. He told how he became ill from a fast food restaurant in the past, but he said the food here in the Church is good food. He read from John 21 where the disciples were fishing all night and did not catch anything. Then, when they saw Christ in the morning and He said, "Cast your nets on the right side," they caught so many fish they could not carry them all. When they got to shore, Jesus had fish on the fire and He had bread. "Jesus had made it," Brother Chip said, "and at the baptism our brother took in the fish and the bread Jesus prepared." Brother Chip said Jesus has made the food and is ready to serve it. Jesus said to come and dine and the food is here for us to be spiritually healthy. He said that just as the body needs to be exercised to be healthy, the soul needs to be exercised as well, and we can do that by praying, meditating, studying the Scriptures and doing the things God wants us to do. Brother Chip then said, "We must eat to live naturally, so we have to do it spiritually as well. God prepares good food and good things for us and we are always welcome." He referred to Alma 5:34-35 and mentioned how we all need the Bread of Life to have a good spiritual life. This comes from Christ who set up the Church, not

men. Brother Chip extended the invitation to all to come and dine and keep eating the good food Christ prepares for us. He then referred to Alma 5:26 and stressed that we all need God everyday and we need to hold on to our identity. If we put God first, He will help us anywhere, anytime and with anything. He concluded by saying the most beautiful meal is here in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Richard Scaglione followed by asking if we have any meat in our spiritual refrigerator. We prepare and stock it with testimonies and sermons. The disciples did not have any meat and Christ was tempted with food after fasting for forty days. "Man can't live by bread alone," he said. "We must keep our spiritual refrigerator stocked so we do not run out when hard times come (i.e. illness, affliction, etc.). He concluded by saying that to have Christ in us, we must partake of sacrament and that we have meat today in the Scriptures.

This day was a very beautiful and blessed one for all of us. We hope and pray that all of us can start every Sunday at the edge of the water. God bless you all.

### Youth in Action Hosted by Spartanburg, SC Mission

*By Sister Connie Rossi*

The Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission was recently blessed by having the Youth In Action group visit us from July 30 to August 10, 1997. The young people attending the summit were Sister Julie Schroeder from St. John, Kansas; Sister Heather Onorato from the Maine Mission; Jared Bright from Levittown, Pennsylvania; Brother Dan Cornell from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania; Brother Osbaldo Reyes from Freehold, New Jersey and Brother Rich Nath from Monongahela, Pennsylvania. They were accompanied by Sister Cindy Bright and Brother Jerry Valenti of Levit-

town, Pennsylvania and Brother Mike Nuzzi of Niles, Ohio. A week after the Youth In Action group arrived in Spartanburg, we had other brothers and sisters along with visitors attending the summit from Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan. They presented seminars attended by the youth group and other members of the Mission.

The visiting youth along with the youth of the Spartanburg Mission did many exciting things together including passing out flyers of the Church by going door to door in local neighborhoods, visiting and singing at nursing homes, attending seminars at the Church and making crafts. While the young people were here, they experienced many blessings from the Lord in their prayers and activities with each other.

At one prayer meeting that the youth had on their own one night, Brother Rich Nath recalled an experience that another brother had in which he felt the Spirit of the Lord in a cool breeze and asked, "If that's you Lord, then why was it a cool breeze and not a warm one?" The Lord answered him saying, "If it was a warm breeze, you wouldn't have thought it was Me." So Brother Rich prayed asking the Lord that if He was with them to send a breeze and the Lord sent a steady breeze that kept blowing during the rest of the prayer meeting.

At another prayer meeting with the young people at Brother Harold Littlejohn's house, they were outside and the dogs were barking. Brother Rich Nath said a prayer asking that the dogs would stop barking and disturbing the meeting. They did stop for the duration of the meeting.

During a prayer meeting held at the Church, Sister Carmella Madison of the Edison, New Jersey Branch was praying for the children of the saints and Brother Mike Nuzzi looked at the sign in front of the Church that said, "The Church of Jesus Christ." He saw the wall open up and saw the children marching in the sky. Brother Jerry Valenti and Sister Cindy Bright both had similar dreams that we were having a meeting at Church and they

both saw three young people from our Mission signing up for something. At the end of the summit, one of our young people, Sister Sheniesha LaShawn Spruill-Hill, nineteen, asked for her baptism. We believe that is what our brother and sister saw in their dreams, that three young people were to ask for their baptisms. One already came forward and we believe there are two more that the Lord is calling. We ask that you would keep these young people, and all the children of the Church, in prayer that each one will render obedience to the Gospel and will be baptized into the Church one day.

We truly enjoyed having the Youth In Action visit the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission and the many blessings they have brought to each and every one of us. We ask everyone to pray for them daily and that the Lord will continue to use our youth to further the work of the Church and His Kingdom.

## Baptism at Branch #1 Chesterfield Township, MI

*By Sister Lynne Nieves*

For those of us from Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, not able to take part in the joy of Campout this year, we were able to taste some of the fruit of the beautiful spirit felt there. Tiffany Impastato had asked for her baptism at the Campout and was baptized on July 27, 1997 at Branch #1. Several experiences were had on this day and several days leading up to this glorious event.

On the morning of the baptism, Brother Tom Everett felt directed of God to baptize Tiffany. Not saying anything about what the Lord had revealed to him, Tiffany later asked Brother Tom to perform the baptism, confirming the Lord's direction.

We met back in our building and celebrated the baptism in song as we waited for Sister Tiffany's confirmation. The Ministry gathered around our new sister and knelt in prayer to

ask the Lord for inspiration as to who would perform the confirmation. As the brothers encircled Sister Tiffany, Sister Denise Alderson saw Brother Jerry Benyola standing behind Sister Tiffany with his hands on her head and praying for her confirmation.

When the brothers rose from their knees, Brother Jerry approached Sister Tiffany and confirmed her that she would now have the Holy Ghost within her. As Brother Jerry performed the confirmation, Sister Denise thought, "Why is Brother Jerry confirming her twice?" She then realized that the Lord had shown her who would confirm Sister Tiffany. Sister Denise related this experience immediately after the confirmation.

Sister Lorraine Thomas then stood from her seat and related a dream she had a week earlier. In the dream, Sister Lorraine was greeting all of the young people in the Church when she saw Tiffany walking towards her. She kissed and hugged her, and asked her if she had gotten baptized. Tiffany, with a big smile on her face replied, "Yes."

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For November, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building fund are as follows:

1 year	5.70%
2 years	5.90%
3 years	6.00%
4 years	6.10%
5 years	6.20%

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 1 continued . . .**

Brother Edward Palposi then stood up and said that as the brothers were confirming Sister Tiffany, he saw the Lord place His hands on Tiffany's head, and he heard the Lord say, "I will watch over you child for the rest of your life." We thank God for His many blessings, confirmations, and manifestations of His Spirit. Pray for our new sister in Christ.

**Identity**

I saw a sister, who is no longer a sister,  
But certainly not of her choosing.  
She loves the Church and knows that  
the Church  
envelopes the truth that she's losing.

For the Lord did show me, of this sister  
you see,  
and how that she lost something great.  
Her IDENTITY ailing, her fidelity  
failing,  
He warns us to steer clear of this fate.

It's a parable, you see, of something  
terrible, you see,  
Of what would soon come upon us.  
And if you continue to read, you can  
caution and heed  
And knowingly save yourself from it.

I first saw two tables, two distinct  
tables,  
two churches—ours and theirs.  
They each had upon them the things  
that belong to them,  
The things that belong to their heirs.

Behind their table stood a minister;  
a man representing that church.  
And behinds ours stood the woman;  
The woman—in Revelations; the  
Church.

One church built on the precepts of  
mammon,  
One church established through Christ  
Two distinct tables; two churches.  
One on the left and the right.

He said, "You must not feed from

two tables.  
You must not partake what's not yours.  
You must stay to me and what I've  
provided for thee."  
A warning to heed or ignore.

And then He foretold of the outcome  
If you should choose to ignore,  
Your IDENTITY begins to be covered  
And you're not who you were anymore.

You become like a ship in the water  
When barnacles attach to a boat.  
Their thoughts and their ways attach  
to you,  
a covering much like a coat.

And your IDENTITY begins to be  
covered,  
UNKNOWINGLY because you'll deny  
That the food that I eat does not  
effect me  
But you know it's not true—so do I.

Sister Becky Tarbuck

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Benyola, Christina  
1390 Northgate Circle #102  
Oneida, FL 32765

Benyola, Philip Sr., Linda, Philip Jr.  
14567 El Paseo Drive  
Seminole, FL 33776  
813-517-9236

Flanagan, Chris  
22805 Grove #25  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
810-771-5987

Gennaro, Betty  
12252 S.W. 102 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33186  
305-598-8907

Gibson, Brett  
810 Plate A-101  
Rochester, MI 48307  
248-608-6780

Grosbeck, George Jr.  
30635 Quinkert Apt 102  
Roseville, MI 48066  
810-775-6769

King, Jacqueline  
612 Heron Court  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
412-695-3004

Lowther, Richard  
208 N. 3rd St.  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
412-628-2327

**BAPTISMS continued . . .**

all that He has done in my life."  
Please continue to pray for  
Brother Dan. He still faces many  
trials in his service to the Marine  
Corp. We have been praying for him  
for many years and are so grateful  
that he had the wisdom and courage  
to give his life to God.

The second new addition to our  
membership was Brother Peter  
Prechel. He is the son of Sister  
Marge D'Amico. You may have  
already read her baptismal testimony  
in the May issue of the *Gospel News*.  
We are so thankful that they both  
chose to serve God for the rest of  
their days. I asked him to share his  
testimony with all of you as well.

**Brother Pete:** "About one year  
ago, Sister Cindy Parravano asked  
me if I planned on getting baptized. I  
told her that I did, but that I was  
confused about what it means to do  
so and when do you know if you are  
ready. She answered me saying,  
'Some people think they have to be  
cleansed first and then get baptized.  
What these people do not understand  
is that being baptized is the cleansing  
and the loss of confusion occurs after  
you have already been baptized.' As  
I found out a year later, she was  
right.

"About two months after talking  
to Cindy, Sister Jan Steinrock asked  
me a similar question and I gave her  
a similar answer. She then asked me  
a question no one had ever asked me  
before. She asked me if I had ever  
prayed about it. The answer was no.  
As silly as it seems, I never even  
thought about doing that. For the  
next several months, I began to pray

for the understanding of baptism as well as other things such as holy communion, why we say grace before eating, fasting, why the Book of Mormon is not recognized by all Christian churches and the meaning of the gift of tongues. Slowly but surely, the Lord started to reveal these things to me in many ways.

"The main reason that I was so apprehensive about being baptized is that I had a bad experience in another church and was very confused. Most of the members of that church were simply going through the motions of attending a church and did not have the spiritual or emotional connection with God. Because of this, it was very important for me to know exactly what it meant to give your life to Jesus Christ sincerely, spiritually, and by premeditated conscious choice. Thank God, that is exactly what I have done.

"I do not know if this is rare or not, but the Lord was very specific while instructing me when the right time was. Over the summer of 1996, I had many dreams of Brother Leonard Lovalvo bringing me into the water. This was strange at the time because Brother Leonard was slowly recovering from an accident and he still had an apparatus under his arm for support. I knew that it would be a while before he was healed enough to baptize me.

"During the first week of March 1997, I heard that a favorite performer of mine was going to be in town. I had a very strong feeling to attend this performance. There were some obstacles in my way and I felt that I may not be able to attend. The feeling that I must somehow get there was with me continuously. I was unsure just why I felt so strongly about attending but I knew that I must. Many of the obstacles were quickly removed. Everything fell into place and I did make it to the event. This was a leap of faith for me as I have never really followed a strong feeling such as I had. I was so filled with the Holy Spirit before, during and after the performance even though it was not exactly a religious event.

"During the course of the evening, I began to ask God for certain things that I desired in my life. I had an overwhelming feeling that God would help me obtain these goals if only I would give myself to Him. I was amazed. All at once in a single statement, months of confusion suddenly became clear. Right then and there, watching this performance, I knew that I would have to commit myself to the Lord.

"This was not the end however, because I still had to ask for my baptism. Little did I know that I would have to wait five weeks with this knowledge inside me. Branch #2 was undergoing some major renovations and we did not have a meeting for several weeks. I was honored to be the first person to ask for my baptism in the newly restored building on April 13, 1997, although I was a little confused because Brother Leonard was attending Six Nations that day and I knew that this was the day. I asked for my baptism and the Elders prayed about it. I was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Bro. Paul Whitton. The most ironic part was how and where I made this decision to serve God. This is absolute proof that the Lord does work in mysterious ways."

The Lord has certainly blessed our Branch with many new members. We are all very grateful for His goodness to us. Please continue to pray for us as we plant the seeds in our area.

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### MESSAGE continued . . .

years old.

#### OTHER WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Sunday service was also well attended with twenty-four visitors, bringing the total to thirty. *Songs of Zion* were sung in English and Spanish. The scripture topic was "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of Heaven," presented by Brother Dick. Brother Tom followed and enlarged upon the topic. He also related how his grandmother had sought first the

Kingdom of Heaven and was instrumental in bringing her family and several generations to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Another of Sister Heylen's aunts, Josephina, encouraged her brother, Estafan, to have hands laid on for God's comforting Spirit, as he was mourning the death of his son. Others were prayed for and anointed. Numerous testimonies were given, with some saying that they had enjoyed the meetings and felt the Spirit of God. Others expressed their appreciation for the services.

The brothers stated, "We felt that God was working with several individuals and some who have the potential for assisting in establishing the Gospel in Venezuela. We felt the trip was very worthwhile." They are hopeful that the brothers from the Miami area can make a return visit by mid-November.

There were many inquiries about Evangelist Fred Olexa and his health, and several asked when he would be returning. He had been to Venezuela in the past and was scheduled to make this trip, but he could not because of affliction; thus Brother Christman went in his place.

Sister Heylen performed the task of translating for the services and the discussions, Sister Julie assisted with some of the translating and provided the musical accompaniment, and Sisters Marcia and Pat gave evidence of their many years of faithfulness in The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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### EDITORIAL continued . . .

What a meal! What a feast! It was fresh and warm! Where did it come from? Who was the chef? It was provided by and prepared by our great and wonderful Lord. It was even delivered in a white car!

This meal that the Lord provided for Sister Helen Campitelle was shared with others. Originally, all she had was beans in her home. That was the extent of her family's natural

(Continued on Page 12)

## Children Blessed

Connor Charles Zurek, son of Christie and Charles Zurek, was blessed on July 20, 1997 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Nicholas Andrew Pratt, son of Lisa and Michael Pratt, was blessed on July 20, 1997 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Donte Francis Dalfavo, son of Vidi and Michele Dalfavo was blessed on July 27, 1997 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Brian Joseph Crump, son of Frank Crump and Janice Frammolino-Crump, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on August 10, 1997.

Brendan Geerts, son of Lisa (Boccomino) and Jeff Geerts, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on August 24, 1997.

## Baptisms

Paoline Grosse was baptized on December 15, 1996 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Mark Joseph Cotellesse of the Saline, Michigan Branch was baptized on July 16, 1997 at the GMBA Campout. He was baptized by Brother Douglas Obradovich and confirmed by Brother John Buffa.

Jennifer Lynn Conger of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was baptized at the GMBA Campout on July 16, 1997. She was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Larry Henderson.

Dominic David DiBattista was baptized on July 27, 1997 at Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Jim Fortunato was baptized on September 10, 1997 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ron Genaro and confirmed by Brother Joe Genaro.

Michael McGuire was baptized on September 14, 1997 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Alexander Cherry and confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

food. They had nothing else to eat! Sister Campitelle shared the love of God with another family. She shared her bounty and experience with Brother and Sister Framilin (Frammolino). There was no selfishness, just a desire to share the blessings of God. This is "Thanksgiving."

We have to be quick to thank our God for all He does for us, for everything He gives us. Ammon said it so well. We read in Alma 26:37, "Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen." May our joy be in the Lord. May our thanksgiving be great and our thanks expressed to God forever. May our thanksgiving never cease.

His meals are pure and lifegiving. He is truly the bread of life. When we participate in the feast of the Lord, we are never hungry. We are spiritually full! There is a feast of good things for those who love and serve the Lord. There is a feast of good things for those who give their lives to Jesus Christ.

We can all sing the following short hymn. It simply states, "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!" Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

### CHILDREN'S CORNER continued . . .

people call "angels"). We are not to worship anything created by the hands of men and women. But we are to worship the one true God in our hearts and in our lives and in the things we do to help each other. Don't be afraid to stand up for good and for God's ways.

If you slip and fall and make a mistake, remember, our God forgives us over and over. Tell those who are watching that you made a mistake. Ask, in the name of Jesus, for forgiveness from your sin or mistake and start over. Through watching God work in your life, many will see and believe. Trust the Lord; He cares for you.

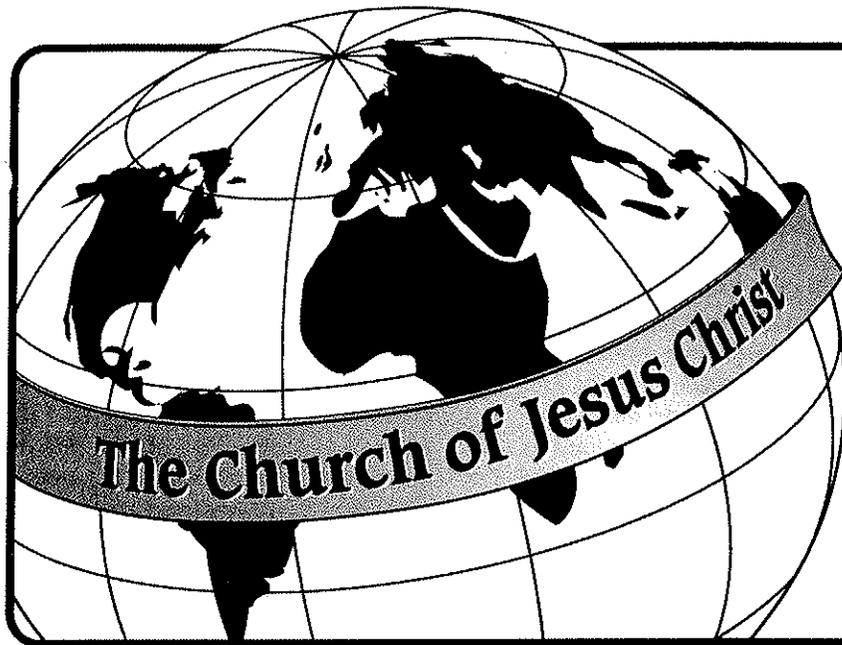
With care,  
Sister Jan

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

December, 1997

Volume 53, No. 12

## The Birth of Jesus Christ

### “Out of Obscurity”

By Brother Alexander Cherry

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).*

This passage by the Prophet Micah establishes at least two things: the eternal non-changing existence of Jesus Christ, and that He would come out of a place that was historically significant but had faded into just another small town. The name Bethlehem means, “House of Bread.” How fitting that He who was and is the “Living Bread,” should be born here. Historically it was the place where Jacob had buried his beloved Rachel. It was here that Ruth lived when she married Boaz. Above all, it was the home and city of David. All these were in the ancestry of our Lord. It was here, then, that the Jews expected their Messiah to be born.

There is nothing by chance in God’s world. When Augustus Caesar decided to tax and take a census of the world he ruled, he caused the mother of the Saviour to

be forced to return to her and her husband’s city of their tribal lineage. Mary and Joseph, two more pilgrims lost in the crowd on that dusty road to their destiny. How many people, we wonder, saw with pity the young wife “great with child” as she and her anxious mate toiled along with them; she bearing her distress as best she could. Then ahead, lights, Bethlehem!

Joseph seeks shelter for Mary, but in vain. At last, an animal shelter, carved out of the hillside to form a small cave room. Joseph finds a small oil lamp and by the dim glow of light, acts the role of midwife and comforts his young wife in her travail. At last, labor is complete and the boy child promised them by the angel Gabriel comes forth. His tiny voice, which will forever alter the lives of mankind, is first heard. He lives! Tenderly his father cleans Him and places Him in His mother’s arms.

Nearby, shepherds sitting on the hilltops tending their sheep, are enjoying the tranquility of the night. What’s that? Who is that? A man, a being, stands before them and light, brilliant, bathes them. They shrink

back in fear. Then he speaks, “Don’t be afraid, I bring you news of great joy. Today is born unto you in David’s city, the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Go to Him. You will find Him in newborn’s clothing, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly the sky was filled with the angels of God, praising God, and declaring on earth that peace and good will had come.

The shepherds hurried to the city below, passing by the inns and homes and searched the stables they knew so well. There, they found Him, then left, telling all around them the words of the angel concerning the Christ child. Then they returned, praising God for His Messiah.

Wise men came, called Magi, ranking on a level with the Jewish Priesthood in their own land. Why did they come? They knew the prophecies as well as the Jews, but the star which led them was not a mystery to them. They knew the events of the times, plus the appearance of the new star heralded the coming of a “King of Kings.” Because of their very nature as learned scholars, they had to see for themselves. The star defied all the laws of nature as men perceived it. It moved!!

It guided them to the house where Mary and Joseph had taken residence. No question for them! This was the

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## Apostle Peter A. Scolaro

### New Apostle's Reflections on the Office

*Newly ordained Apostle Peter A. Scolaro is the youngest member of the Quorum of Twelve, born on May 7, 1947 to Brother Anthony and Sister Angela Scolaro of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1. Brother Peter was baptized on May 19, 1963 at a GMBA Conference in Youngstown, Ohio by his father and confirmed into the Gospel by Brother Paul Vitto. A member of Branch 1 all his years in the Church, he was ordained a Teacher on October 29, 1972, an Elder on May 27, 1979, and an Evangelist on November 5, 1989. Brother Peter and his wife Sister Marilyn have two children, Brother Chris, twenty-four, and Sister Julie, twenty-one.*

As Brother Peter learned of his recommendation for ordination as an Apostle some months before conference, he has had time to reflect on the calling and to prepare for the work ahead. When asked about this time of reflection, our brother expressed: "I quickly undertook a brief review of the scriptures to refresh myself on the original Twelve plus the Apostle Paul. I cannot put into words the feelings that came over me as I read of these early Apostles and their walks and talks with the Lord. I visualized twelve chairs, originally occupied by men whose calling came in the form of the Lord's voice, in the flesh, as He hand-picked them.

"Things like the writings of Matthew, John, Peter, and Paul, which comprise the greater part of the New Testament—Paul's missionary accomplishments and support, no matter what circumstances enveloped him—the revelation given to and shared by John—the collective and individual courage shown in the face of persecuting Jews and Romans—all serve to emphasize my own humanity and frailty in comparison to the possibilities of the Lord's expecta-

tions. Consider, if you will, being certain of the Lord's calling (as He has been clear enough to me in His revelation) while simultaneously recognizing the great manifestations of God's Spirit through the Apostles who have preceded me—both long ago and in more recent history. I have found myself in an almost constant state of prayer, seeking to put and keep myself in readiness to receive the greater portion of God's Spirit which I am convinced is needed to close the gaps between what I am and what I need to be. Be assured that all who support me in their prayers are humbly appreciated."

Insights on the calling and the office have come to our brother on



Apostle Peter A. Scolaro

different horizons. He remarks on another aspect of his reflection, "I feel tremendous gratitude and anticipation over the opportunity to be used by the Lord. I recently encountered a verse in Paul's writings to the Ephesians (Chapter 3:8-9). Although I frequently refer to this passage, I never before felt the empathy with Paul that I do now in truly sensing the grace afforded us in the privilege of preaching 'the unsearchable riches of Christ' and making 'all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which . . . hath been hid in God.' "

Brother Peter continues, "Although I've been in the Priesthood for over eighteen years, my sense of grace and privilege in doing the work of the Lord have never been as great as now.

Perhaps because I understood that 'whosoever will may come,' I just took for granted the opportunity to come into and grow in the Church.

"From the time I was a small boy I have always been excited by the workings of the Church. I grew up close to brothers whose lives were dedicated to serving the Lord and His Church. I loved to go places with my father, an Elder in the Church, and often had the opportunity to sit quietly while brothers discussed challenges, successes, and opportunities as the Church encountered them. These discussions made indelible impressions on me. As I grew up, contemplating the success of the Lord's Church became an integral part of my thought process. I thought it only reasonable to grow spiritually and naturally within the context of the Church over time.

"Now, however, this calling has shaken the parameters of what I had formerly taken for granted. Although I have always acknowledged God's blessings and have never considered myself worthy, I have never before felt quite so unworthy as I do now of the blessings I've already experienced, nor have I realized the privilege I've already had in preaching God's word as much as I now realize in considering the opportunity to serve as an Apostle in His Church. My desire is to be a contributor to the furthering of the Gospel, to the strengthening of the saints, to the bringing forth of Zion. If the Lord will bless me so, I hope to be instrumental in helping others to seek Christ's unsearchable riches and to see the fellowship of the mystery. Again, please remember me in your prayers."

While reflecting on the significance this ordination holds for him personally, Brother Scolaro also states, "I am fully aware that the calling of an Apostle is a matter 'for the perfecting of saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4:11-12). As such, I know that setting aside personal priorities for the greater good of the Church must be anticipated. I

(Continued on Page 11)

## Apostle Isaac D. Smith

Brother Isaac D. Smith was born in 1933 at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania to Brother Isaac and Sister Gertrude Dreer Smith. When Brother Ike and Sister Gertie married, they each brought six children, seven girls and five boys into the combined family. Brother Isaac D. Smith was the only child to their marriage. The family attended Church at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch where he was blessed as a child. Brother Ike grew and was spiritually nurtured at the Glassport Branch where he attended all services. His father, along with such pillars of the Church as Brothers Charles Ashton and James Curry, were great influences in his everyday living.

Coming from a spiritually rich heritage, Brother Ike's family's affiliation with the Church began in the early 1860's prior to the official incorporation. Sister Gertrude was an ordained Deaconess. Her grandfather, William Bacon was the first secretary of the General Church and was an ordained Apostle. Brother Ike's father, Brother Isaac Smith, Sr., was ordained an Apostle in 1911 and an uncle, Fred Smith, was an Apostle around that same time. The Smith home was continually filled with family, saints, friends and neighbors. Many throughout the Church can no doubt recall visits in that home which possessed that special love of the saints of God.

At the age of twenty-three, he was drafted into the U. S. Army. While stationed at Ft. Ord, California, he had a strong desire to attend Church and found Apostle Joseph Loyalvo holding house meetings in nearby Monterey. The Lord touched Brother Ike's heart that day, July 1, 1956 and Brother Joe Loyalvo baptized and confirmed him into The Church of Jesus Christ.

After his discharge from the service, Brother Ike returned to Pennsylvania. He attended Church at his home branch of Glassport, Pennsylvania. He was involved with many Church activities. While attending a

General Church Conference, he met Sister Bonnie Calabrese, daughter of Apostle Joseph and Sister Vicki Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio. While courting Sister Bonnie and attending a meeting in Lorain one Sunday, the Priesthood gathered, including visiting Apostle Rocco Biscotti. The Priesthood felt the power and inspiration of God and took a pause in the service. While the congregation continued with singing, the Ministry took Brother Ike aside and told him they felt he was being called into the Ministry.

Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie were married in Lorain, Ohio on October 17, 1959 by her uncle, Apostle Dominic Thomas. They resided in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania and



**Apostle Isaac D. Smith**

were members of the Glassport Branch. Brother Ike was called to be an Elder by the Glassport Ministry and ordained October 22, 1961. Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie have five children. They are: Isaac Joseph, Brian Reed; twins, Thomas Lon and Tamara Dawn; and Brent Aaron.

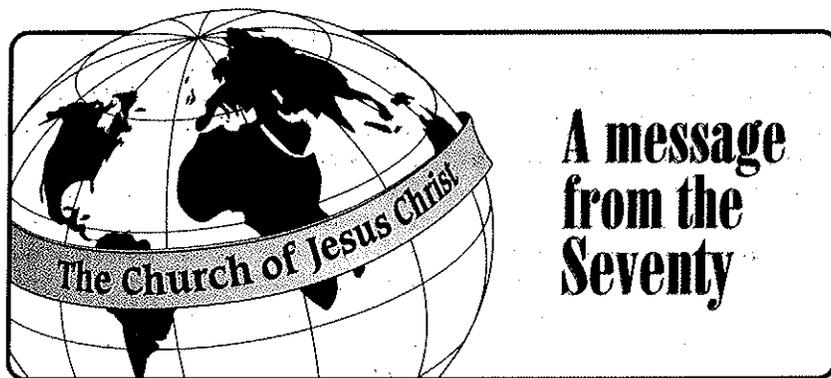
Brother Ike, Sister Bonnie and family moved and began to worship at the headquarters of the Church, Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Worshipping in Monongahela afforded the opportunity of observing and working with such pillars of the faith as Brothers William and Alma Cadman, George Neill, John Olexa and many others. Brother Ike served as Presiding Elder in Monongahela and continued his service to the Church by way

of many committees and offices within the General Church.

Involvement in the MBA became a focus. Brother Ike served with the late Brothers Joseph Milantoni and August D'Orazio as well as Brothers Dominic Thomas and Paul Palmieri. His late sister, Sister Ruth Akerman, was the secretary at the time. He was dedicated to the Restoration and the Church. It was during this time, the GMBA inaugurated the Campout concept. The camp gatherings were so well received that since 1967, they have been held annually as week-long gatherings. A love for the young people has always inspired Brother Ike and with the inception of campouts, the focus was on the youth of the Church. The purpose of campouts was one of fellowship and learning more of the Church in a sheltered atmosphere. Throughout the history of campouts, many have been able to put their lives in focus toward the Gospel and chosen to serve God in His Church, through repentance and baptism. This has been a realization of a dream for Brother Ike.

In April 1967, Brother Ike was called into the Quorum of Seventy and ordained an Evangelist on April 16, 1967 by Brother Alma Cadman. As he was ordained, he rose and spoke in the gift of tongues and has carried this gift until this day. Brother Ike participated in the Board of Missions. A renewed spirit of missionary work was prevalent in the Church at that time. Brother Ike and his wife, Sister Bonnie, had a great love for the Restoration and the Church. It manifested itself in a love for God's Chosen People, the House of Israel, primarily the Seed of Joseph, commonly known as Native Americans. Traveling through Arizona on a visit with Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto in San Carlos only served to reinforce their conviction for the work—a work the Church promoted as our first and foremost responsibility within the Restoration. A desire to do this work grew until it became paramount in their lives. In early 1969, this love

(Continued on Page 11)



## Four New Evangelists Called, Deceased Brothers Remembered, Apostle President Speaks at General Meeting of Seventies

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Four new Evangelists were called, two deceased brothers were remembered and Apostle Joseph Loyalvo spoke at the Semi-Annual General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists Conference Meeting at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Thursday, October 9. Many other important matters, including missionary reports, also occupied the agenda.

The four Elders who were recommended and approved by the General Conference two days later to be ordained Evangelists were Jim Huttenberger, Mark Kovacic, Kenneth Staley, and Jerry Valenti. They have been involved in various missionary activities, besides being active in Branch, Region, and General Church functions.

Brother Huttenberger, who has been in the Ministry for fifteen years, has been instrumental in formulating and supporting goals and objectives of missionary activities in the Pacific Region. He has traveled extensively throughout the region in these endeavors.

Assistant Coordinator for the nation of Kenya, East Africa, Brother Kovacic has traveled there and has spent time in reaching out to Native Americans on various reservations in North America. Along with his brother, Brother George Kovacic, he was involved in starting a newsletter directed to Native Americans, entitled

the True Vine Journal. Brother Mark has been an Elder for sixteen years.

Brother Staley, ordained into the Ministry eleven years ago, has visited and served as the Vice Chairman of the Guatemala Sub-Committee. In addition, he is presently the President of the General Missionary Benevolent Association and was the Editor of *The Gospel News* for five years.

Also a Minister for eleven years, Brother Valenti has been very devoted to working with the young people of the Church through the GMBA Youth-in-Action Program, being chairman of the Y-I-A Committee. He has also been active in writing Church literature, including the *Welcome Packet* which is used by most branches and missions throughout the Church.

### PASSING OF VETERAN EVANGELISTS

The passing of Brothers Timothy Bucci and Meredith Griffith was observed at the gathering. Both of these veteran aged brothers, who had been afflicted toward the end of their lives, were very dedicated to the Church's missionary work. For many years, Evangelist Griffith had been the Chairman of the General Board of Missions, predecessor to the Missionary Operating Committee now under the Quorum of Seventy.

Brother Joseph Loyalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles,

addressed the Evangelists at this meeting. He began by briefly outlining his many years in the Gospel. Baptized in 1933 in Detroit, Michigan, he recalled how he had heard brothers preach who had inspired him to do all he could for God. He reminisced about and vividly described how the glory of God could be felt when such late Apostles as Ishmael D'Amico, Joseph Corrado, and Thurman S. Furnier spoke under the inspiration of the Spirit. He said he was very moved by the messages and power that he felt through their sermons.

In being an inspiring preacher and not just a talker, Brother Loyalvo stated that salvation of souls is the primary responsibility of the Evangelists and of all the efforts in the Gospel. This goal must always be pursued. He also reminded that the Establishment, Apostasy, and Restoration of the Gospel were to be preached to mankind, with the authority of God being emphasized.

He exhorted the brothers to preach with the intent of stirring up the Spirit of God in all people. He said, "The room should light up when you speak to inspire everyone to be more excited and want to do more for the Lord. There should be preaching, testimony, and prayer mid-week night meetings consistent with and to maintain the high level of joy and determination that have been created in Sunday services."

Brother Loyalvo's enthusiasm, known wherever he has been, is still present even though he has been afflicted in his later years. His words were well received.

### MISSIONARY REPORTS

Missionary reports were presented by Evangelists John Griffith, Chairman of the Missionary Operating Committee; Philip Jackson, Chairman of the Foreign Missions Operating Committee; and Richard Christman, Chairman of the Americas Missions Operating Committee. They traced the growth and development of the Church worldwide. Reports from missionaries who

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The angels of God declared, "peace on earth, good will toward men." Lehi declared, "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." Joy in whom? Joy from whom? A hymn answers these two simple questions. Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

The birth of Jesus Christ was foretold by the prophets of old. They prophesied of His coming, His works, His salvation of mankind. The Lord fulfilled their prophecies. Jesus Christ brought His peace. He brought goodwill. He brought His joy!

Isaiah called Him, Counsellor, Wonderful, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah also prophesied that "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end . . ." Every name given Him by Isaiah is appropriate for our Lord and Saviour.

Have you ever thought what your life would be like if Jesus Christ was not born? It would be without hope. No hope for eternal life. Only eternal death was available since He has the power over the sting of death. He has power over the finality of that awful grave. Have you ever thought what your life would be like if you did not render obedience to Jesus Christ? Who would you be? What would you be? Where would you be? You have no idea. Only God knows. This is why God sent His Son. To give you peace, provide good will and allow you to feel His sensation of spiritual joy! To give you salvation. All of this comes from serving Jesus Christ. All of this is free. There is no charge.

The joy one receives in serving God challenges one's vocabulary. It defies description. We read in the Book of Mormon that the joy of Ammon was so great that he was full! He was swallowed up in the joy of his God. This experience exhausted him of his strength. He fell to the earth! Imagine being overcome to such a degree! What joy! What bliss! The joy of the Lord!

Ammon spoke at great length about the joy in serving the Lord. He said it many times in his testimony that was shared with his brothers. He spoke of his rejoicing in the Lord for the many souls that obeyed their preaching of Christ. Thousands were converted to the Lord. Ammon stated several times that "my joy is full, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God."

If you know the Lord there should be joy down in your heart. It should be planted deep. It should be unshakeable. It should be solid as a rock. There is no doubt of the joy one experiences in serving the Lord.

Many times you find yourself singing a hymn. It can happen while driving a car. It can happen while walking in town. It can happen while you are at work. Wherever it might be, the joy of the Lord causes one's soul to sing His praises. Many times you find yourself shedding tears of joy because of a blessing or blessings in a meeting. Many times you find yourself shedding tears of joy because someone was healed of an illness. Many times you find yourself shedding tears of joy because someone's soul was healed because of their declaration to serve God. Simply sit back and think how you have shed tears of joy since coming into The Church of Jesus Christ. Grown men and women simply crying tears of joy and gladness because of the goodness of the Lord. Grown men and women standing in testimony meetings and wiping away tears of joy as they declare their thanks to Jesus Christ for His goodness.

This joy from the Lord creates a peace in one's heart. Is there a peace in your heart that the world never gave? A peace it cannot take away. Peace, peace, sweet peace; wonderful gift of God's love.

The peace of the Lord is a wonderful feeling of contentment. It promotes a harmony and unity with people of different races, nationalities, cultures and personalities. The next time you attend Church, look around you. See how many different nationalities there are represented in your

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever heard the saying, "God helps those who help themselves?" Did you know that this is not a saying from the scriptures? Did you also know that it is not always true in the way that it sounds?

One time, when I was very ill and frightened, I found it hard to even pray. I just went to sleep scared and worried and then woke up with a sad, sick feeling. Everything felt gray, hopeless and bad. Day after day passed; there were big problems in my family and I wondered if I'd ever be happy again.

When my mother called me, I told her how heartsick I was that I wasn't helping myself. She quietly reminded me that the scriptures said we are supposed to "bear the infirmities of the weak." This was a weak time in my life and others were bearing my weakness by praying for me. In the Old Testament of the Bible, we are told that there is a season for all things.

In Ecclesiastes, 3rd chapter, we are taught, "there is a season for all things, a time to plant, a time to pick that which was planted . . . [there is a] time to weep and a time to laugh . . . a time to embrace and a time not to embrace, a time to keep silence and a time to speak; a time of peace and a time of war."

When I was going through this time of deep sadness, I went to the ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ and asked to be prayed for over and over. We are taught in James 5:13-16, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray . . . Is there any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith



shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. . . . pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

There is much mystery and power in praying in Jesus' name. Jesus can send away evil thoughts. He can let us forgive people who have hurt us on purpose. He can take away the pain we feel when we see them. Jesus can take away the fear of the future too and the fear of not being perfect.

So take your heartache and discouragement to the Lord. Confess your faults one to another and ask the Elders to pray for you too. Eventually your peace and your joy will return. Then it will be YOUR turn to pray for someone that you know who is going through a problem. The things that you learned when you were hurting can now be used to help others. It will be your turn to "be the strong one to bear the infirmities of the weak" (Romans 15:1).

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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F	C	Y	O	U	R	P	E
W	I	L	L	I	F	T	J

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## Our Women Today

### Penn-Mid Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Sister Karen Progar

And before you even realize, the summer is over and fall activities are in full swing. Saturday, September 6, 1997, was the start of fall activities for the Penn-Mid Atlantic Ladies' Circle, as we met in conference at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. Our president, Sister Joyce Ross, welcomed the sisters in attendance and requested that the Lord bless our meeting. She also stated that she had received reports from two circles which showed marked increases in membership in the past six months. The Vanderbilt Circle provided devotions on how to "Praise the Lord" and "God's Covenants With Us."

Sister Joyce then reviewed some highlights from the General Circle minutes. She advised us that the Memorial Fund was now the New Missions Fund and that donations could still be made in the name of loved ones who had passed away, with the fund being used to assist in the development of new missionary fields. She also reminded us that the Ladies' Circle Fellowship Weekend will be held in Charleston, South Carolina on July 16-19, 1998. We suggest you mark your calendars now in order to be part of this exciting event.

In the past six months, the Penn-Mid Atlantic Circle, has held its weekend retreat and Mother/Daughter Banquet. Both events were very enjoyable and well attended. The Mother/Daughter Banquet was hosted by the Monongahela Circle and featured a bridal gown fashion display, in which some of the women wore or displayed their own gowns or those of their mothers.

The conference also affords us the opportunity to hear about the activities

of our home circles in the reports presented by each. In addition to increased membership, some circles reported on fund raising activities, and sponsored projects for missionary support. The conference donated \$645.00 for orphans in the United States, Africa and India, as well as \$100.00 toward the General Circle Special Project for providing funding for the publication of the Book of Mormon in Spanish.

At the conclusion of our business, the older sisters honored us with a special selection, after which a few of them bore testimony. Just prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Sister Joyce read the following poem, which was written for the Circle in July 1975 by Sister Mabel Bickerton celebrating the 55th anniversary of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The sentiment of the poem is still timely.

For fifty-five years we have been led  
By sisters staunch and true,  
They never faltered one or fled  
The task set out to do.

With grateful hearts let's forward go  
And reach the goals they set,  
In memories sweet our lives must show  
Examples they have set.

Let's work together, one by one,  
And see to our neighbor's needs,  
And when at last our work is done  
Others can reap good seeds.

Now ask yourself, my sister dear,  
Do you read and search God's Word,  
Renew the pledge, a saint appear  
From you kind words are heard?

If you have, you've found the secret,  
The depth of sisterly love,  
The loving Master each had met  
Journeying to that Circle above.

Yes fifty-five years have now gone by  
Since God inspired this work,  
We, too, can hold the banner high  
And never, never shirk.

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Work in Whiteriver, AZ

By Sister June Tenjieth

To the Ladies' Uplift Circles,

For some time now, I have had a desire to give a report on how many layettes have been given to Native American newborn babies at the Indian hospital here in Whiteriver, Arizona. Since 1988, three hundred sixty-five layettes have been given out. This would not have been possible if it were not for the Ladies' Uplift Circles of The Church of Jesus Christ, who have supported us in this work.

(Continued on Page 11)



Left to right: Priscilloa Tsosie, Sister Pat Palensar, Arthur Lavender, Sister Shirley Hemmings, Amy Lavender



## Branch and Mission News

### News from the Omaha, NE and Bedford, IA Mission

By Sister Dorothy Miller

On Sunday, March 30, 1997, God provided a beautiful sunny day as the saints gathered for the blessing of Oletha D'Shai Harris who was born to Sister Sherri and Joseph Harris on January 31, 1997. The blessing of this baby afforded an initial opportunity for many of the members of Sister Harris' family to enjoy the beautiful spirit of the Restored Gospel.

Brother English Webb from the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch opened the preaching service using the theme, "Little Children Are Alive in Christ Jesus." He used scripture in Luke 18:15-17, pointing out how Jesus corrected His disciples when they rebuked the people for bringing infants to Him. Jesus called for the little children to come unto Him, saying, "... Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven ..."

He tied the scripture in Luke with Moroni 8:4-26 in the Book of Mormon pointing out that God warns against baptizing little children, emphasizing that "little children need no repentance neither baptism but are alive in Christ even from the foundation of the world."

Brother English then called for the parents to bring the child forward. He took the child in his arms and began a prayer to God requesting God's blessings upon the child, praying that a blessing of His abundant love be upon this child that would bring the family together in their efforts to serve God. He prayed that through baby Oletha, God would bring the family to the fullness of the knowledge of God's requirements according to His written word.

God immediately began to bestow this blessing upon the family members present, for in testimony, they testified

that they felt a spirit of calm and peace. One member of the family used her beautiful voice to sing. "Amazing Grace has always been my song of praise. For it was grace that brought me liberty. I'll never know what made Him come to love me so. He looked beyond my faults and saw my need."

Preparation was then made to pass Sacrament. Brother English using the written word in the 12th chapter of Exodus and the 6th chapter of Moroni, beautifully explained why we practice closed Sacrament in The Church of Jesus Christ, passing the bread and wine to only baptized members. A beautiful, calm spirit prevailed while Sacrament was passed and each time we kneeled and prayed, the visitors kneeled with us.

Before the closing prayer, we sang hymn number 98, from the *Songs of Zion, Soaring Over Canaan*. Our visitors sang with us and the Spirit of God kept all of us in tune with the piano, even though our visitors were not familiar with the song.

So as we know, God can do His work. He used the blessing of baby Oletha to introduce the Restored Gospel to Sister Sherri's family members. We can truly say that God's love prevailed even as it is written in Moroni, "... charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him."

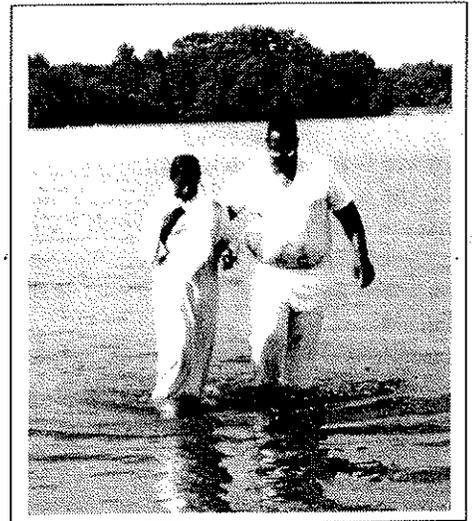
### Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

The Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission was blessed to witness our second baptism in three months on Sunday, August 10, 1997 when Sheniesha LaShawn Spruill-Hill, nineteen, daughter of Sister Ruth and Brother Cletis Hill, stood and asked for her baptism. It was on the last day of the Youth In Action meetings that Sister Sheniesha boldly stood and testified of her experience that led to her calling of the Lord.

She recalls that Sunday morning

while the congregation was standing and singing the song, *Softly and Tenderly*, and as we sang the chorus, "Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home, ... Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!", Sister Sheniesha heard a voice telling her to look up at the sign in front of the Church, "The Church of Jesus Christ." As she stared at that sign, she saw it starting to shake and she quickly looked away. She heard the voice again telling her to look at the sign and it was still shaking and she began to shake and cry. For the remainder of the morning she prayed about this experience and asked the Lord if this was indeed His calling to her to be baptized.



Sister Sheniesha Hill's baptism in Spartanburg, SC

Later that afternoon during testimony, Sister Sheniesha still felt the calling on her and she stood and testified of this experience to the rest of the congregation. After her request to be baptized, she was immediately taken to the water's edge and was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn. After our new sister was baptized, Brother Mike LaSala of Detroit, Michigan laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Spirit, also right there at the water's edge.

We thank God for this beautiful experience of our sister and we ask that everyone will keep her in your daily prayers as she begins her walk with the Lord.

## Blessings and Baptisms in San Diego, CA

*By Sister Carolyn Martorana Light*

Greetings from the San Diego, California Branch. The year has been an eventful one for us. The end of March brought some unexpected occurrences. Some were pleasant and welcome, others presented a challenge for us to overcome with the help of God.

The challenge presented itself as a "flood" in the basement of our Church, which left us without a meeting place and necessitated renting another building for eight weeks. This inconvenience brought the brothers and sisters together in search of a place to worship, while anticipating some other upcoming events. You see, the end of March also brought great blessed events: Jamie Hemmings requested to be baptized and it was decided that April 13th would be set aside for that joyous occasion. Therefore, procuring a rental building became very important. As April arrived, we began meeting in a community Recreation Center and the Lord met us there as well. Although we could not meet in our building dedicated for that purpose, the blessings of God prevailed. Presiding Elder, Brother Stacey Light, invited us to try the Lord and see if He would not pour out His blessings. Brother Paul and Sister Kay Gray and their family were in our first meeting and Brother Paul spoke on how God was supporting him through his illness. His presence created a very thankful atmosphere as the saints of God found an example of answered prayer before them preaching and praising God. We agreed by day's end that God met with us in that Recreational Center and went home filled.

The following week, visitors gathered from various branches in California and Arizona to witness Jamie's baptism. The sun shone bright on the crowd that gathered that morning at the San Diego Bay. Brother Tom Liberto, Jamie's grandfather, took her into the waters and baptized her. While they were gathered, a sister saw a vision of angels encircling them,

shining so bright that she could not see anything else. Praise God for the manifestation of His gifts.

Brother Stacey later introduced our new Sister Jamie to the congregation, before her other grandfather, Brother Herb Hemmings, confirmed the gift of the Holy Ghost on her. The service was opened by Brother Walt Jankowski who elaborated on the subject of "Expect a Miracle." He urged us to believe and expect that the impossible will occur. Brother Paul Gray then followed, challenging us to have faith in the awesome power of God. The saints enjoyed sacrament and a season of testimony and singing before fellowshiping together at lunch.

A few weeks later, as we met again in our rented building, Arturo Tostado, son of Arturo and Rocio Tostado, stood on his feet in our testimony meeting and declared his desire to be baptized. Arturo thanked God for his family that taught him the ways of the Lord and stated that as he planned to venture off to college, he wished to take God with him. On May 11 (what a great Mother's Day present for Sister Rocio), we again met at the waters to baptize the new candidate. Brother Paul Liberto baptized Brother Arturo, and his uncle, Brother Ysidro Gonzales, confirmed him.

By June we were able once again to return to our church building. The summer months also brought new souls into our congregation. On July 6, Brother Jim Lancaster was taken into the waters after visiting and searching for a number of months. He was baptized by Brother Tom Liberto and confirmed by Brother David Ciccati.

Later that month, Jared Womack also requested baptism at the GMBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida. Deciding to return to San Diego to be baptized, Brother Jared was baptized by Brother Bob Womack, and confirmed by Brother Tom Liberto.

We must thank God for these new converts and pray for their growth in the Gospel. We can attest to God's promises to His people in times of adversity as well as blessings, and stand fast in the knowledge that wherever God's people are, He will reside.

## Ordinations and Children Blessings at McKees Rocks, PA

*By Sister Carol Monaghan*

On Sunday, July 27, 1997, we had many visitors from various branches of the Church. They came to share in the blessings and ordinations that were taking place on this wonderful Sabbath Day. The Pennsylvania Choir, led by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., sang that glorious hymn, *Grace, Grace, God's Grace* which was so fitting for our meeting.

Twin boys, Seth and Samuel Snyder, sons of Sister Terri and Jay Snyder, were blessed by Apostle Russell Cadman. While Brother Russell was performing this blessing ordinance, Brother Albert Giannetti had a vision. He saw the Lord appear before Brother Russell. Brother Russell handed the babies to the Lord. The Lord kissed them both on their heads and then gave them back to Brother Russell and told him to "teach the children of Me!"

Brother Randy Ciccati opened our morning meeting. He spoke on how the Lord makes us fit vessels for His use. He read from Jeremiah 18:6, "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel." If we allow the Lord to mold us as clay, then we are not in charge anymore. The Lord is in charge. The Lord will mold us and fashion us vessels as He wills.

We prepared for the ordinations. Brother Bill Colangelo read the duties of a Deaconess. Sister Chris Colangelo washed the feet of Sister Debra Lewis, her granddaughter.

Brother John Manes then read the duties of a Deacon. Brother John Manes, Jr., washed the feet of Brother Matthew Ricci.

Brother John Manes read the duties of a Teacher. Brother Chet Nolfi washed the feet of Brother Jason Monaghan.

There were a number of experi-

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**Ordinations and Children Blessings at McKees Rocks, PA**  
Continued from Page 9

ences given regarding all of the candidates calling into their respective offices.

Brother Ralph Ciotti ordained Sister Debra Lewis, his daughter. Brother Anthony Ricci ordained Brother Matthew Ricci, his brother. Brother Bill Colangelo ordained Brother Jason Monaghan.

The Lord poured out His Spirit upon all in attendance. We can say once again, it was good to be in the House of the Lord, to sit in heavenly places.

**A Branch History Aliquippa, PA**

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch had its beginning with the baptisms of Brother Philip and Sister Rose Mileco on March 14, 1920 at Youngstown, Ohio. Brother and Sister Mileco were introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ by the testimonies of

relatives and friends. In turn, their neighbors and friends responded to their testimonies.

Meetings were held in the homes of the saints, starting in 1921 and in 1924, the Mission rented a vacant room on Erie Avenue in West Aliquippa. Soon the small group decided to purchase the building. Five brothers, namely, Philip Mileco, Anthony Jackman, Domenic Jackman, Michael DeFrancesco and Anthony Palmieri each bore an equal share of the cost.

In 1944, the Branch grew and the need for a larger building moved the saints to purchase a spacious, one story brick structure on Main Street, West Aliquippa.

During the war years and through the early fifties, the Branch moved on slowly until May 1956 when the Branch enjoyed a large influx of young people.

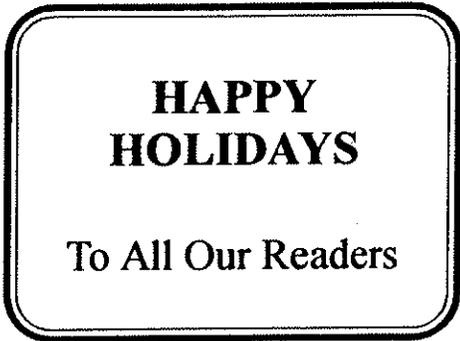
The original owner proposed to purchase the Main Street building and the Branch agreed to sell. In 1957, ground was broken for our new and present building and the foundation was dug on May 23, 1957.

The work was done by the brothers and sisters of the Branch, with the electricity installed by brothers from New Jersey, the heating system installed by brothers from Ohio, and brothers from Michigan cemented and plastered the building.

During the construction, the Branch continued to grow. We met in a rented hall and six days a week the members labored on the new structure. Our Sabbath Services were filled with the Spirit of God. On Sunday, February 23, 1958, the building was dedicated and the influx of members continued. Our current membership is eighty-two.

On Sunday, October 12, 1986, Brother Paul Palmieri was ordained into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

The Aliquippa Branch from the very beginning has always supported and maintained the auxiliaries of the Church; the Ladies' Uplift Circle, the MBA, Sunday School and the Men's Bible Class, the youngster of Branch support established in 1957 and now in its fortieth year, have been the arms of the Branch, servicing the needs of all ages for activity and growth in the service of God.



**The Birth of Jesus Christ**  
Continued from Page 1

promised King. They offered Him gifts, all costly. Little did they know the small family would need these valuables soon. They would cover their material needs for the soon to come flight into Egypt. That madman, Herod the Great, was about to begin the slaughter of the innocents, children under two years of age. This cruelty came easy to him. Had he not murdered his own wife and two sons who he felt threatened his throne? Thus was the evil one trying at all levels to bar the plans of God.

But the Lord did escape, dwelling in Egypt till Herod's passing, a most horrible death. Back to Nazareth, to be raised in the loving care of father and mother till His time of Ministry arrived.

A beautiful story of love, hardship, extreme danger, then safety till His work began. To some people a unique story; to others, a fable. But out of those events, put in motion by God, came the Truth, the Light, and the Way. Out of obscurity, noted by very few, prophecies which were recorded as far back as Genesis, in Eden's splendor, were fulfilled. Because of that, "Hope" for the entire world had come. We carry that hope in our hearts; it sustains us; it reassures our faith; it fills us with joy and peace we do not fully understand yet accept gratefully. As in the hymn, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, the verse is given, "silently, oh, silently the wondrous gift is given!" Quietly God went about His work and presented to the world His greatest achievement. His Son!

**Announcement**

For December, 1997, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows

1 year	\$ 40%
2 years	\$ 50%
3 years	\$ 60%
4 years	\$ 70%
5 years	\$ 80%

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

## Apostle Peter A. Scolaro

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don't know what will be called for in the days and times ahead of us. Certainly, many of the saints before us have met tremendous challenges and have made awesome sacrifices. I and my family do need your prayers for God's direction and strength."

Brother Peter has been in and around the Church all of his life and has brothers and sisters and friends whom he holds very dear throughout. "I am still the same person," he concludes, "with the same strengths and weaknesses. I have benefited from the fellowship of the saints all of my life and can only hope to gain at least as much in the future. I hope to be blessed and to be an instrument of blessing as I fulfill this calling with God's help."

## Apostle Isaac Smith

Continued from Page 3

became a commitment as Brother Ike volunteered to go to the White Mountain Apache Reservation and develop a new work. Brother Ike resigned his job and left his employer with some eighteen years of service. In May, Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie and their five children moved to Pinetop, Arizona which borders the reservation. Since that time, several saints with like commitment have moved to the area to help with the work. A branch of the Church is in Lakeside, Arizona which borders the reservation.

Brother Ike has served as President of the Southwest District and is currently the Region President. He has held other responsibilities such as Vice President and President of the Quorum of Evangelists. As President, he helped to promote evangelism throughout the Church. Programs were developed which encouraged the Evangelists to take a more active role of service within the Church.

Life has afforded Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United

States and abroad. Trips were made to Guatemala, England, Germany and Italy. Brother Ike retired in October 1996 after working for United Parcel Service for twenty years.

With a wonderful heritage to grow on, their children have been baptized, two were ordained into the Ministry and two of ten grandchildren have obeyed the Gospel. Please remember Brother Isaac and his family in your prayers as this new calling and responsibility begins as an Apostle in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

had visited and are active in mission fields were detailed. Also, future trips which are being planned were outlined.

At the end of the meeting, Evangelists Peter Scolaro and Isaac Smith, who were being recommended to the General Church for ordination as Apostles, were asked to come forth and their past service to the General Quorum of the Seventy was acknowledged. Both brothers expressed their thankfulness to God and to their fellow workers who had labored with them. Brothers Scolaro and Smith were approved by the General Conference two days later and ordained as Apostles at the Sunday service.

## Editorial Viewpoint

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branches and missions. Sit back and contemplate the peace that God has placed in your heart as you worship with people of different backgrounds. Please notice as people extend a friendly ear to someone in need. Please notice as someone extends a kind word to someone in need of encouragement. All of this is done regardless of one's status in life, educational background, personal achievements and accomplishments.

Consider the peace that God has placed in your heart as you exhibit patience with someone who can try

your patience. Consider that peace that God has placed in your heart as you pray for those who need His help. Consider the peace that God has given you as you fast and pray for someone in need of God's divine providence and mercy. All of you can humbly say that when you enter the doors of The Church of Jesus Christ, you experience the peace of God.

It is true! Jesus Christ is The Prince of Peace! Only He can put peace in your heart. Only He can make you a peaceful person. Only He can make you a person who seeks peace. Remember what the Lord said during the Sermon on the Mount. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

Are you a child of God? Are you a peacemaker? Do you seek peace? Do you want His peace? Do you have the joy of the Lord in your heart? Is it well with your soul? Is there joy in your soul? Hopefully, you will answer yes to each of these questions. End the year by spreading the joy, peace and goodwill of Jesus Christ. He will bless you for it.

## Ladies' Uplift Circle Work in Whiteriver, AZ

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We have received beautiful blankets and other articles which make up the layettes. Many of the Indian babies would have little if anything if they had not received a layette. We are grateful for your support and encourage each Circle to keep up your good work.

Our Native American work was privileged to receive the beautiful quilt made by the young people of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch Bible School this past summer. The young people of the Bible School requested that the quilt be given to a needy Indian baby. It was given to a beautiful little girl who needed it very badly. I watched as the mother read the card that was signed by those who

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**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Jennifer Kowalsky and Brother David Jarrett were united in holy matrimony in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch on August 16, 1997.

Renee Lynn Stroko and Mark Cumberland were united in holy matrimony in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on August 9, 1997.

Carol Ann Rock and Steven Eric Lowther were united in holy matrimony in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on August 2, 1997.

**Children Blessed**

Joshua James Javan Maletta, son of Sister Nellie and Brother Andrew Maletta was blessed on September 21, 1997 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Brittany Marie Allen, daughter of Sandy and George Allen, was blessed in the Kinsman, Ohio Mission on September 14, 1997.

Tanner James Ivey, son of Brother Michael and Sister Karen Alessio-Ivey, was blessed on July 27, 1997 in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

Jonathon Robert Heinz, son of Brother Todd Alan and Sister Wendy Karan Jordon-Heinz, was blessed on July 3, 1997 in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

Emilio Joseph Alverson, son of Brother Joe and Sister Regina Alverson, was blessed on September 21, 1997 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Oletha D'Shai Harris, daughter of Sister Sherri and Joseph Harris, was blessed in the Omaha-Bedford Mission on March 30, 1997.

Timothy Brandon Evans, his twin sisters, Britney Nichole and Brandy Kathleen Evans and his other sister, Curston Allissa Owens, children of Melissa and Curtis Owens were blessed on September 28, 1997 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

**Baptisms and Reinstatement**

Nickolas Edward Rutledge was baptized on June 8, 1997 in the Kinsman, Ohio Mission. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Philip Jackson.

Melvin Kenneth Mountain, Jr., son of the late Brother Mel and Sister Ruth Mountain was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 9, 1997 in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. He was reinstated by Brother David Jordan.

Suzanne Beeman of the Herndon, Virginia Branch was baptized on September 21, 1997 at the Pennsylvania Area Campout. She was baptized by Brother Rick Scaglione and confirmed by Brother James Speck, Sr.

Roy Barlett was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 5, 1997 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was reinstated by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Joseph Michelessi of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch was baptized at the Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout on September 28, 1997. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Pete Giannetti.

**Obituary**

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

**GAETANA FRANCES GERACE**

Sister Gaetana Frances Gerace of the Anaheim, California Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on September 10, 1997. Sister Frances was a charter member of the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch. She is survived by her two sons, Frank Gerace and Brother Tony Gerace; one sister, Alice Zimbalatte; seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Ladies' Uplift Circle Work in Whiteriver, AZ**  
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had made the quilt. The mother allowed the field nurse and myself to wrap the baby in the quilt and lay it in a cradleboard. The baby looked exquisite, one of God's little jewels. Thank you dear young people for your quilt, your gift was precious. Keep up your good works for the work among the Seed of Joseph.

Our Ladies's Uplift Circle here in Pinetop, Arizona does quilting among the Indian people in their homes. What a blessing it is to participate in this small but important work of love. In closing, God bless you all who are endeavoring to help in the work among these people. Your names are written in God's remembrance.

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