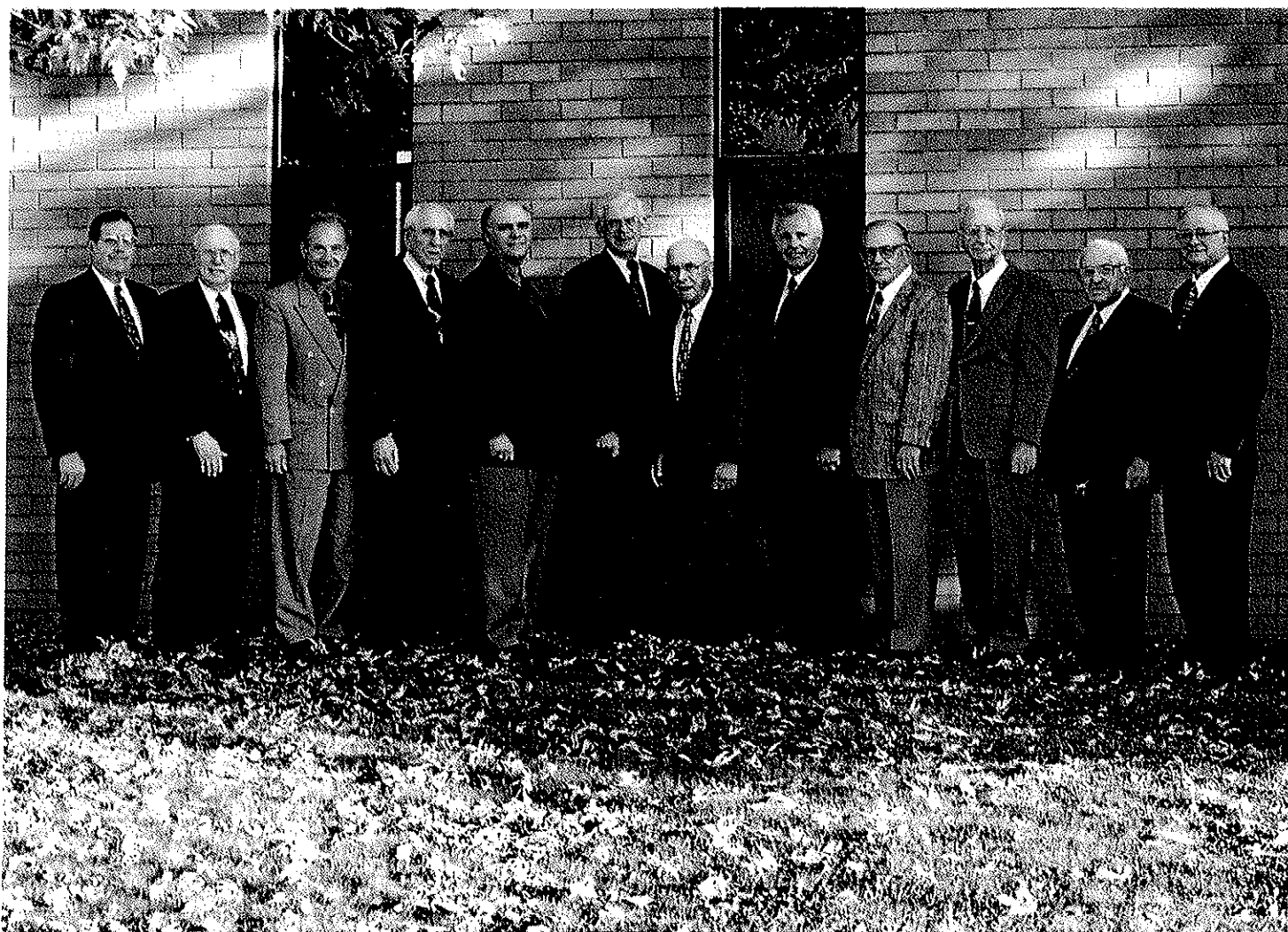


# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

January, 1998

Volume 54, No. 1



## THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Left to Right: Paul Palmieri, Robert Watson, Thomas Liberto, V. James Lovalvo, Peter Scolaro, Isaac Smith, Joseph Bittinger, Paul Benyola, Joseph Calabrese, Russell Cadman, Joseph Lovalvo, Dominic Thomas

## General Church Conference October, 1997

The General Church Conference of October 1997 was wonderful and blessed. It was also historic. With the passing of the late Apostles Paul D'Amico and Nicholas Pietrangelo, there were two vacancies in the Quorum of Twelve. We witnessed the ordination of two Apostles in The Church of Jesus Christ. The ordained brothers are, Peter A. Scolaro and Isaac D. Smith. What a marvelous way to start 1998. The Quorum of Twelve Apostles is full!

Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, opened the Sunday meeting with a few comments. He told the congregation that "This is a wonderful day, a wonderful place with many beautiful people here this morning. It is time for all of us to share in a beautiful experience this morning. It is time to share in the ordination of two Apostles into The Church of Jesus Christ." He was pleased to see everyone.

The opening prayer was offered by Apostle Thomas Liberto. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo sang that wonderful hymn, *Lead Me, Saviour*. He dedicated it to the entire Ministry and membership.

Brother Dominic Thomas continued his exhortation to the congregation. He referred to the scriptures dealing with the Twelve Apostles in Jerusalem and the Twelve Disciples in the land of America. He read their names and reminded us they were selected by the Son of God. He read the names of the present Twelve Apostles in The Church of Jesus Christ and had them stand. Brother Dominic emphasized the current Apostles are also selected by Jesus Christ and are witnesses of the Gospel Restored. He requested a special prayer to bless the Apostles to enable them to perform the work that God has in store for them. The prayer was offered by Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

Brother Dominic Thomas said the Apostles are expected to bear much fruit. Those fruits relate to the

souls of men. The Comforter was promised by Jesus Christ to take His place once He departed from their presence. Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone; He is the Chief Apostle. The mission of the Apostles is to create a vision of what is required of us. He read the Lord's statement to the multitude in America when He said they would be blessed if they gave heed to the words of the Twelve Disciples. Christ told the Twelve to go out and preach and not be concerned about their lives. They gave themselves to much praying and preaching. Their responsibility is to lead, lead spiritually and to preach with power. They are to love the members. The Quorum of Twelve is not greater than others but they are different! Brother Dominic asked us to love the Apostles even as they love us. Give audience to the Quorum of Twelve in their requests for us to pray, be more righteous and to do the work of the Lord. The meeting was then turned over to Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve.

Before Brother Joe Lovalvo took charge of the meeting, Apostle Paul Palmieri stood and shared an experience. He remarked that he had never seen the face of the Lord. He turned to see if Brother Joe Lovalvo was ready to take charge of the meeting. As he looked at Brother Joe's face, Brother Paul stated he saw the face of the Lord. Brother Paul said, "The Lord is here!"

Brother Joseph Lovalvo took charge of the service. He told the members his number one priority is being a member of the Church. It is an honor for us to be members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Our offices are secondary. It is important that we live righteously as members of the Church. Brother Joe shared with the members how the Apostles prayed to God for His revelation to fill the vacancies in the Quorum of Twelve. He told us that when he was in Detroit, Michigan to attend Apostle

Nick Pietrangelo's funeral, he spoke with Brother Peter Scolaro to see what arrangements had been made. Brother Peter Scolaro informed Brother Joe Lovalvo that he would be glad to help in anyway possible. As Brother Peter walked away from Brother Joe after their conversation, the Spirit of God came upon Brother Joe Lovalvo. He asked himself, "Is Brother Peter Scolaro going to be an Apostle in our Church?"

Apostle Paul Benyola, Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve, related a few experiences about the callings of these brothers.

In 1992, Brother Tom Liberto was visiting Brother Isaac Smith, his wife and family. Brother Tom wanted to search for a scripture and asked Brother Ike for a Bible. Brother Ike gave Brother Tom a Bible that was engraved, Apostle Isaac Smith. Brother Tom thought it was Brother Ike's Bible. It was actually the Bible of Brother Ike's late father. Brother Tom Liberto felt certain that Brother Isaac Smith would be ordained an Apostle.

During a missionary visit to India in 1993, Apostle Joseph Calabrese had an experience. While there, a telephone call was received by Apostle Paul Palmieri, informing him, Brother Joe and others that Apostle Paul D'Amico had a severe heart attack. Brother Paul Palmieri immediately prayed for Brother Paul D'Amico. As he was praying, Brother Joe Calabrese had a vision. He saw the names of Peter Scolaro and Isaac Smith appear before him. Brother D'Amico passed away the next day. Brother Joseph Calabrese was certain that Brother Scolaro and Brother Smith would be called into the Quorum of Twelve.

Apostle Paul Benyola had a dream. In his dream, the Apostles were praying for God's direction for filling the Quorum of Twelve. He dreamed they were sitting at a General Church Conference. Apostle Paul Benyola was sitting next to Brother Ike Smith in his dream who was already recommended as an Apostle but was not aware of his recommendation. Brother Dominic Thomas asked for special prayer on behalf of all the

members. He asked if anyone felt inspired to pray. Brother Ike Smith enthusiastically volunteered to offer that prayer.

Apostle Dominic Thomas had an experience in October 1996. He was fasting at the request of the Quorum of Twelve about filling the Quorum. He asked God to send him at least one brother to help the District and the Quorum of Twelve. Brother Dominic saw Brother Peter Scolaro at a great distance, walking towards him. As Brother Peter got closer, Brother Dominic looked at him and he had on a beautiful white uniform.

Brother Joe Lovalvo appealed to God to confirm these revelations. As the Quorum of Twelve were praying, Brother Joe saw their garments had changed. They did not have on their regular clothes. They had robes on them like the Apostles of old. The Lord spoke to Brother Joe Lovalvo and said, "This is the answer to your prayer." The recommendations were unanimous.

The Apostles proceeded with the

ordinations. Brother Dominic Thomas washed Brother Peter Scolaro's feet. Brother Joseph Calabrese washed Brother Isaac Smith's feet. Brother Joe Lovalvo asked if the congregation was with the Quorum of Twelve. The congregation stood in support of the Apostles. A special prayer was offered by Brother Paul Palmieri that the Lord would bless the ordinations and select the brothers who would perform the ordinations. Apostle Robert Watson ordained Apostle Peter Scolaro. Apostle Joseph Lovalvo ordained Apostle Isaac Smith.

During the ordinations, a sister had a vision. She saw God put His hands, one on each brother, during the ordinations. God was participating in the ordinations. After the ordinations, God turned his hands, palms up, and two doves left His hands and flew up to heaven." Another sister was given to understand that Brother Bob Watson would ordain Brother Peter Scolaro. While the Apostles were waiting on the Lord to move on

someone to perform the ordinations, she saw Brother Watson step forward to ordain Brother Scolaro before the ordination actually took place.

Apostle Joseph Lovalvo gave thanks to God for healing him of his heart condition. The doctor's report showed his arteries were opened. It also showed that a new artery had grown to his heart. It went from the left side to the right side. The doctor shared this verbally with Brother Joe. The doctor simply could not understand what happened. There was no medical explanation! Brother Lovalvo thanked the members for all their prayers.

Apostles Peter Scolaro and Isaac Smith expressed themselves. They asked for God's help and guidance. They want to be fathers to us all. They want to be servants! They asked for our prayers.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Apostle Dominic Thomas. What a wonderful experience. What a wonderful meeting.

## New Year Resolutions

*By Brother Anthony Micale*

Every year we look at a new year like a new beginning. A new chance for success, to do things a little different and better. Hopefully, better than the year before.

It is a renewing of our hopes and dreams that somehow this year our hopes and dreams will come true. In twenty-four hours from December 31 to January 1, a big change comes over us. It is a new year, a fresh start, an opportunity to do it right and put our mistakes behind us.

It is a great feeling isn't it? It is a renewing of the spirit inside of us. We recommit ourselves to get rid of bad habits, thoughts, and ideas. We make new year resolutions to focus on the things that will improve our lives.

Let us consider the spiritual side of our lives. Remember the way you felt when you were first baptized? You were on top of the mountain. A

clean, pure vessel, willing to do anything for the Lord and family. Do you feel that way today? If not, let us make one of our new year resolutions a renewal of the commitment we made to God. If you have not committed your life to God, this is the time.

Today is the day of salvation. My question is, "How do we recapture that feeling and recommit ourselves for the long term?"

Many of us are sprinters. We start with the best intentions. Then after a period of time, we lose focus and slip back to our old ways and never really come close to reaching the goals we set for ourselves.

We allow the problems of life to get in the way. Obstacles seem to be everywhere. Why is that? What are some of the mistakes we are making? One mistake might be that we keep doing the same things and expect a different result. What are some of the things we can do to be long distance runners and not sprinters this year?

1. Let us resolve to do those things that are pleasing to God.

2. Let us resolve to fast and pray more for spiritual and temporal needs.

3. Let us resolve to focus on the important things in life: God, Church, family and helping others.

4. Let us resolve to be content with what God gives us. He knows our needs.

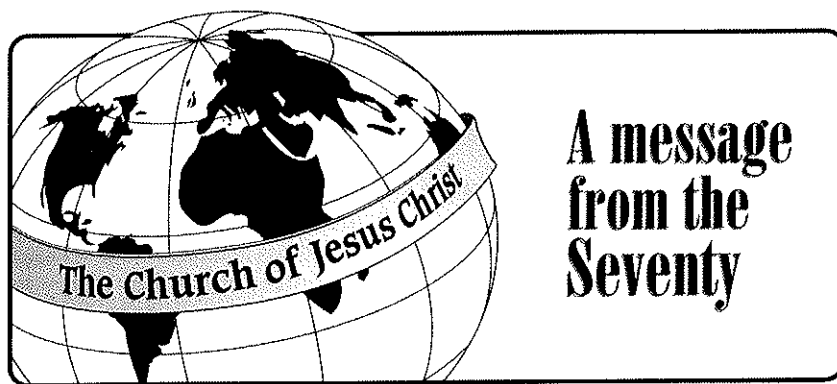
5. Let us resolve to work hard to keep God's commandments.

Remember what happened with Lehi and his people when they were in the wilderness? The ball and director would not work when they did not keep His commandments. They went around in circles until they returned to God.

So it is today, with us. If we want a better life, if we want to feel God's Spirit in our meetings, if we want to see the gifts of the Spirit, we must focus on His word and keep His commandments.

If we want this Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, to move

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## New Year; New Beginning

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

As the new year begins, there once again is a list of hopes, needs, and objectives we think about and plan to satisfy throughout the next twelve months. The most important of these is how to serve the Lord to a greater extent than we have in the past. In so doing, how we can help in the overall efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ to bring souls into the Gospel becomes a predominant thought for each of us.

While viewing the propensity of these matters, one of the most basic things which can be done is to ask ourselves, "How can we give more to the Lord? Can we give more time? Can we help give encouragement to the down-trodden? Can we give more of ourselves to help mankind? Can we give more of our finances?"

Each of us must search diligently the intents of our hearts and souls to answer questions such as those raised above. The responses are voluntary and, of course, are of a personal nature. In doing so, we have certain guidelines, for example, which can be most useful and productive for the Church. Specific areas in which participation is very helpful are presented in various activities and may be more general. Finances, however, are more private and are perhaps the most tangible way in which we can render our help, so it might be advantageous to analyze the monetary needs.

### SPENDING PLAN

Each year before the October General Church Conference, the

General Church Finance Committee receives the financial requirements of all the boards, committees, and quorums. The total of these is then assembled into the spending plan for the next year and submitted to the conference, which must approve it before it can be implemented.

Interestingly and happily, the spending plan for 1998 shows an increase in the percentage which is going for the missionary efforts of the Church. It has risen about seven percent in the 100 percent total plan. It now stands at roughly 70 percent of the plan, as opposed to 63 percent the year before.

According to the "Introduction of the 1998 Spending Plan" which was presented last October, the statement was made, "Every effort has been made by the Missionary Operating Committee (M.O.C.) to maintain existing missions and programs and at the same time visit new areas as requests are received."

Conversely, "A reduction for the necessary operational cost and the World Conference Center (WCC) has been made for 1998. Every effort is being made by all committees to be more effective and at the same time require less financial support."

### MISSIONARY FOCUS

In keeping with the primary objective of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the constantly escalating portion of missionary finances takes preeminence in the plan. It is heart-

warming and uplifting to see this greater missionary focus. Reaching out to people and presenting the plan of salvation, along with the desire to bring more souls into the Gospel, quickens our pace and lifts our spirits and hopes tremendously.

Obviously, everyone can participate in this phase of honoring and working for the Lord. The choice and the ability is individual, but everyone must join in together to obtain the maximum possible. Many missionaries and travelers in this total effort pay for their own finances and they are to be commended for this. Whenever needed, however, it is necessary to have the means to send the laborers into the fields.

The conclusion to the spending plan offers the best explanation of what is involved. "God has given the Church responsibility to take the Gospel throughout the world. Can we fulfill this awesome obligation? Are we up to the task given the Church? This MUST be a UNITED effort, not an individual assignment."

## New Year Resolutions

Continued from Page 3

forward, it is in our hands. The rewards are great!

In I Nephi 14:1 it states, "*And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks . . .*" In I Nephi 13:37 it states, "*And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.*"

If we strive to serve Him better, each of us, together and united in purpose to the best of our ability, great things can happen. May God bless you in this new year of 1998.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovaivo

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovaivo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC COAST**  
Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What is time? It may be defined as a number, as of years, days, or minutes, representing such an interval. A year consisting of three hundred and sixty-five days sounds quite long. In fact it is very short. You just witnessed the passing of another year. Where did it go? Did it seem long to you?

Peter tells us how the Lord views time. He states, "... 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." How do you view time? Do you realize it is measured for you? The age of man is not very long. In fact it is very, very brief!

The year 1997 is gone! It will not return. Do not try to turn your clock back. This will not work. It is gone forever. It is out of reach. What did you do with the time you had this past year? Was the time productive? Was it spent in serving God? Was a significant amount of your past year spent in attending Church services? Was it used to tell someone about the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ? Hopefully you were not idle but you were busy doing the work of the Lord.

It is important that we use our time in praying for one another, the Seed of Joseph, and the whole world. Let us make use of our time by attending all Church services. Let us use our time by visiting the fatherless and widows in their afflictions. Let us spend time publishing peace and to bring forth Zion.

Alma put time in perspective. He said the time is at hand that all men shall reap a reward of their works. If they have been righteous, they shall obtain salvation. If they have remained in their sins, they reap damnation of their souls. The time is rapidly approaching that men must answer for their deeds. How will we answer? What will your answer be?

The spiritual giants in scripture were not idly standing by, watching time pass them by or simply disappear. They were relentless in their pursuit to bring souls to God. Men like Peter, Paul, Alma, Ammon, Aaron, Omner, Himni, Moses, Isaiah and many, many others were daily advocates and messengers for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Consider the desire of four of these spiritual giants. The desire of the four sons of Mosiah was to bring the word of God to their brethren, the Lamanites. Their desire was beautiful and full of God's love. Mosiah 28:3 states, "Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they 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." Is this how we feel?

What is new? The word new is a broad, general term having reference to both time and condition. It means fresh; starting over again in a cycle.

We have entered a new time, a new year. What will you do with it? What will your focus be for 1998? Will your focus be to answer the call of the Lord in whatever He asks you to do?

Will we speak with new tongues? Will that new star that shined so brilliantly the night of the Lord's birth, shine in us? As new creatures in Christ, our time and works must be devoted to Him and Him alone. There is a lot of work to do in The Church of Jesus Christ. There is work to do in our branches and missions. There is work to do in all missionary fields. There are so many people who need to hear and see the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Have you ever calculated what percentage your branch or mission membership represents against the population of your city or town? You will be surprised to see how much work needs to be done. This takes time, energy and effort. Your "precious" time, your energy, your effort is sorely

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## The Power of Praise in Song

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many times grown-ups forget about the hard times they had as children. They forget about feeling rejected or left out by other kids or being afraid of a teacher or someone in the neighborhood. People think childhood is easy when really, it is a time of life with heavy things to learn. And the way we learn how to handle things when we are young can last a lifetime.

So, how do you handle your worries and often, the worries of friends or family? What can you do to be strong enough inside to help yourself and others? It's simple, really. It's by using your mind and heart to reach out to Jesus.

When you're walking to school or laying in bed late at night, you can have a heart to heart talk with Jesus. He's listening. Instead of just thinking worried thoughts, tell Him. Then sing a song to take away your fears.

In Acts 16: 22-31, the Apostle Paul and Silas were grabbed by an angry mob of people. They were beaten and thrown into prison with their feet locked between two boards.

No one knew what the next day would bring. Would they be whipped again while strangers screamed and shoved them?

Hours passed. At midnight, Paul and Silas began to sing praises unto God. The other prisoners heard them. And suddenly, there was a great earthquake. The entire foundation of the prison was shaken. All the doors



were opened and the boards trapping the prisoners' feet were made loose.

God had heard these men who sat, hurt in the dark, and sang beautiful songs of praise. He opened the doors for them. The prison could not hold them. He can do the same for us.

When our hearts are imprisoned, upset, afraid or ashamed, God can free us. Follow Paul and Silas' example. Pray, speak the truth and trust in God. Keep trusting in Him even if it's still dark. Raise a joyful song to Him. It works!

Do this over the next terrible or not so terrible problem you hear about. Every time you feel scared or full of worry and dread, pray. Call on God. Tell Him. Don't gossip about your friend—say a prayer in Jesus' name. Then sing a song that gives you hope.

Do you have favorite songs from our hymn books or the *Songs of Zion*? When I'm driving the car in a dreadful thunderstorm, I sing, *No, Never Alone* or *My God! Thou See'st Me*. When I feel heartsick about others, I sing, *I Saw the Wicked Flourish Like a Green Bay Tree*, or *Good Morning God*.

Turn off your stereo, your CD's and the radio. Turn on the real power—a song of trust and praise to God. It will make you braver, stronger and better. Let a hymn of praise work for you over and over and over. With care, and may *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*.

Love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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## Note of Thanks

We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for your prayers, cards and phone calls the past few months to Brother Harold. Brother Harold had back surgery in July and was hit with a setback a few weeks later which required a second operation. By God's grace and blessings, Brother Harold is recovering and becoming stronger each day. Please continue to remember Brother Harold in your prayers and we will do the same as God gives us strength.

Love,  
Brother Harold and Sister Geraldine Littlejohn



## Stand Up for the Restoration

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

The Penn Mid-Atlantic Region MBA held their 1997 retreat at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. The theme for the weekend was "Stand Up for the Restoration." It was probably one of our largest retreats with two hundred forty-one people registered from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Virginia and Maryland.

The weekend began on Friday evening with an orientation meeting. Brother Richard Lowther read to us from the 27th chapter of III Nephi. He spoke concerning the name of the Church. He emphasized how Jesus said it should be called after His name if it so be that it is built on His Gospel.

On Saturday morning, our chapel service began with Brother Bruce Picciuto singing *The Storehouse of the Lord*. Brother Rick Scaglione reminded us that we were here to "taste" what the Lord has in His storehouse in abundance. He expounded on the scripture from the night before about the seriousness of being built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being called by His name. If we want to be called by His name, we must earn that privilege. We must wear the name of Jesus Christ, not on our shirts but on our hearts. Then He will bless us and through our works the world will know that this is the true Church of Jesus Christ. It is not only called by His name, but it is built on this rock, Jesus Christ.

After chapel, we broke up into about eleven different seminar groups where the Restoration of the Gospel and also looking forward to the Restoration of Israel was discussed.

When we gathered for the Saturday evening meeting, we were blessed from the start, when we heard that Jeff

Buffington from Imperial had asked for his baptism, until the end when Joe Michelessi from McKees Rocks and Suzanne Beeman from Herndon asked for their baptisms. It was given to two brothers that Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. would be our main speaker for the evening. Brother Paul read from the 9th chapter of Samuel about David and Mephibosheth. Just as Mephibosheth was lame and without hope and David restored his land to him, so we too were lame and without hope and our David, Jesus Christ, restored our souls through our calling into the Church. The table is set and the chairs are empty. The Lord is calling you to come and partake. He will restore your soul back into His presence. Are you lame tonight or is your walk steadfast and sure?

Brother Tony Ricci spoke about the woman with the issue of blood. As she pushed her way through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus's garment, we too must be persistent, that we might reach this Jesus and have our souls restored through His touch.

After the young people sang a few songs, a call went out to those who needed anointing or hands laid on them. The next hour was spent praying for the many in need. It was distressing to see so many sick among the saints. The Lord spoke to a brother and told him to go up and have hands laid on him. As they prayed over him, a brother spoke in the spirit. "He has opened a door for you today. It is time for you to step into the green pastures and work for the Lord." There was a "sweet, sweet Spirit in this place and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

The Sunday service was opened with Brother Panfilo singing, *It Is Well With My Soul*. Our opening speaker was Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. He read about the parable of the marriage feast in the 22nd chapter of Matthew. Brother Pete exhorted us to "come to the supper" for the Kingdom of God is at hand. The table is set and the food is delicious, and we should be hungry for the Lord's food. It wasn't long after Christ that there was a falling away. People began to push away from the table and substitute other foods. Soon there was a famine and no

one could find the true food of God. Thank God for the "Restoration" of the true food of Jesus Christ again! There is a requirement to get into the supper. You can't just come in but there is something to do. Jesus said, "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" What if Jesus asked you that question? There is only one way to receive the right garment. Go into the water of baptism and receive your white garment. Now you can feast at the table of the Lord. Come to The Church of Jesus Christ and receive your robe of righteousness and wear it proudly.

Brother Art Gehly asked, "What is it you want Jesus to perform in your life?" Put on the garment of Jesus and nothing can destroy you. It is that simple! It is up to us if we want to become the sons and daughters of God and let Him restore our souls.

Brother Don Ross told us we won't go hungry if we partake of the food prepared by Jesus Christ. He is the Bread of Life. If we drink of His living water, we will never thirst. The garment that Christ gives you is tailor made and free. But your garment must be washed in the blood of the Lamb. The time for excuses is over. God is calling. Let us go to the feast and put on the garment of the Lord.

As the theme of the camp is "Stand Up for the Restoration," Brother Joel Calabrese asked us what we stood for? We must stand up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sister Jessie Scaglione sang, *Stand Up for the Restoration*, after which Brother Jim Moore exclaimed, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." Brother Jim reminded us of our work among the Seed of Joseph. The day is coming when the scales will fall from their eyes and then we will see a great "Restoration." It is our duty to become nursing fathers and mothers to Joseph. Just as the angel flew through the midst of heaven with the restoration of the Gospel, so will Joseph be restored again. Then we will see the great power of God. We are longing for the day when Satan will be bound by the righteousness of the saints and

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## Branch and Mission News

### The Island of Dominica

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

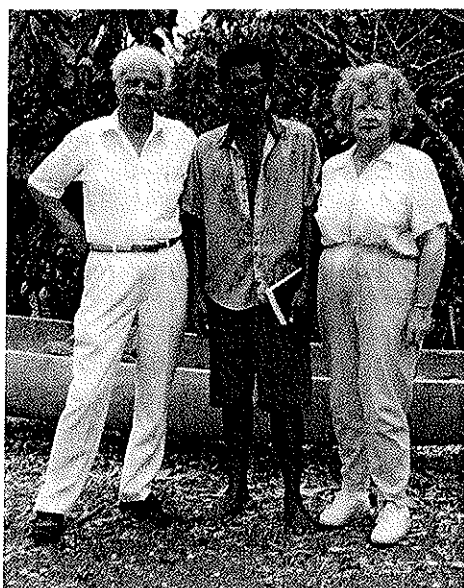
These few lines are shared with you as a testimony of the blessings of God in the missionary field. While I was watching a documentary film about the Island of Dominica, there appeared the Caribe Indians on a reservation. They were shown building canoes and making baskets. I was surprised to see them. I thought the Caribe Indians were exterminated! The Lord put a desire in my heart to go to Dominica and bring them the Book of Mormon. The Island of Dominica was discovered by Columbus in 1493. It was Sunday when he first saw it, hence he named it Dominica which is Sunday in the Italian language.

The Caribe Indians were a fierce and cannibalistic tribe. They gave Columbus and his crew an unwelcome treatment. Columbus departed for other islands.

Dominica is a very beautiful island. It remains in its natural state, no real beaches, no high rise hotels, no gambling casinos. It is said if Columbus would come back to the Caribbean Islands, Dominica would be the only one he would recognize. My wife and I flew out of the Miami Airport to San Juan, Puerto Rico. We continued on to Dominica. When we arrived on Dominica, we searched for the small motel which was near the reservation. We arrived at the motel after many problems. When we checked in for a room (no reservations), Lily Seraphin, the owner (her husband was a former Prime Minister of Dominica), asked us what brought us to the island. She said they don't see Americans coming to visit the Island of Dominica. We said we wanted to visit the Caribe Indians on the reservation. Mrs. Seraphin said, "I am part Caribe through my father." She then said we have full-blooded Caribe Indians working as waitresses and she would introduce us to them.

We were introduced to Helena Augustine. Helena came to us later and asked if we wanted to go to the reservation. We replied yes and she told us how to get there and the families we would meet, the Isaac and Matthew families. We followed her directions and we visited both families. We conducted a Sunday meeting with them. We had our recorder and Gospel songs from our members and friends singing at a General Conference. We passed out copies of *An Angel Came Down, He Arose*, and many *Songs of Zion*. There were about fifteen Caribe Indians in the meeting. We turned on the music and the blessings of God filled the air. I was directed to preach on the 10th chapter of Moroni.

I gave them each a Book of Mormon. They told me they never saw or heard of the Book of Mormon. The island was a former British Colony. The people speak and write in English which made it very easy for us to communicate. We visited the reservation a second time with Lily Seraphin. She asked us to visit her uncle who met with a bad accident. He lost his foot and his son, seeing this accident, became mentally ill. We visited him and anointed father and son. We formed a circle of prayer with them. Mrs. Seraphin took us to visit her mother and father. We anointed them also. We traveled on faith and the



**Brother Richard Santilli, Young Caribe Indian, and Sister Annabel Santilli**

Lord opened the way. We had another Sunday meeting at Helena's home with her family. We gave them a few copies of the Book of Mormon. We spent time with the chief of the Caribe Indians. We gave him a Book of Mormon and gave him the history of the Restoration. He asked for more copies of our history.

We left to return home, filled with the joy and blessings of God. We spoke to Brothers Paul Aaron Palmieri and Richard Christman, members of the Americas Operating Missionary Committee. Plans are being made to return to Dominica. Brothers Paul Aaron Palmieri from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and Ike Smith from Tampa, Florida along with their wives are planning to visit the Island of Dominica. May God bless the many missionary efforts around the world. Please pray for the Seed of Joseph. God bless you all.

Brother Richard Santilli

### Atlantic Coast Region Visits Penn-Mid Atlantic Region

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

The weekend of August 2 and 3, 1997, saw many months of planning and anticipation become a reality. The Penn Mid-Atlantic Region hosted our brothers and sisters from the Atlantic Coast Region. A chartered bus and many carloads of saints were accommodated in our homes. This brought to mind memories of "how it used to be in the old days," as we shared our testimonies and enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters.

The Saturday meeting was held at the Monongahela Branch. Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., the President of our Region, introduced the officers of both Regions and reviewed the format of the day's activities. He then read the history of the Monongahela Branch.

The opening speaker was Brother Jim Sgro, who used the 12th chapter of Hebrews. We were reminded that Christ is our Mediator. With Him as

our guide, there is nothing we cannot do. God's power will be with us as it was in the days when God delivered Israel. We enjoy God's grace and salvation through His Gospel. We must serve Him in righteousness and stand on His word.

Brother Jim Moore, the next speaker, stated that Satan would be bound by the righteousness of God's people. God will protect His people and heal their afflictions. He will provide a highway for His saints.

The Atlantic Coast Region President, Brother Phil Arcuri, said that we feel God's Spirit and His touch when we sing about His Son. God has restored His Kingdom to the earth, and we are a part of it. We have the truth and must proclaim it to the world.

Apostle Paul Benyola related the experience of Brother Joe Lovalvo, who had a serious heart affliction. God not only healed him, but He provided our brother with a new artery! Brother Paul added that we must be willing to work for the Lord.

At this time, Brother Fred Olexa came forward and requested to be anointed for his serious heart condition. Brother Paul Ciotti related an experience in which he felt to call Brother Fred to be anointed. God's Spirit and power were poured out in the prayers of the anointing.

Brother Ciotti told of a dream in which Christ exhorted, "Remind my people I arose from the dead." Christ is alive! This is the message that has set us free to become a child of God. Brother Paul reminded us of the need to partake of the Communion to have the life of Christ within us. We sorrow in Christ's death, but we are happy with His resurrection. We show this by partaking of the bread and the wine. This was a most sacred and beautiful way to end our meeting.

The evening meeting was opened with a few comments by Brother Phil Arcuri. He then turned the meeting over to Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., who spoke on the 12th chapter of II Chronicles. King Asa worked to bring his people back into serving God and receiving His blessings. He put his trust in God, and God fought the battle for Israel and gained the victory. God

will help us if we serve Him, keep moving forward, and keep pace with His plans. We cannot allow anything to separate us from His love.

At this time, the meeting was turned over to testimonies from our brothers and sisters. Many shared the blessings of God in their lives. Time flew by so quickly as we enjoyed God's love, and soon we adjourned the meeting.

During the afternoon and evening meetings, many brothers and sisters sang special selections. We saw a sister who had been a smoker for most of her life throw two packs of cigarettes to the floor stating, "I don't need these any more!" A vision was seen of the Apostle Paul being stoned. The brothers and sisters of the Church formed a circle around him, and the stones bounced off their bodies without harming anyone. Surely, God was pleased with our efforts and blessed us with His Spirit.

The Sunday service was held at the World Conference Center. A large turnout heard many words of exhortation and encouragement from our brothers from both Regions. We felt God's blessings throughout the meeting.

The weekend brought back memories of "the old days" when the brothers and sisters stayed in the homes of the saints. Fellowship, sharing of experiences, and speaking of God's blessings kept us up until the wee hours of the night. All are looking forward to another joint meeting to be held in the Atlantic Coast Region in the future.

### Three Ordinations at Sterling Heights, MI

*By Sister Kim Cuomo*

What a beautiful day we had on Sunday, June 29, 1997. We had three ordinations in our afternoon meeting. We had several visitors in our morning service and we knew that we were going to have a blessed day.

Brother Paul Stallard was ordained a Teacher. Brother Keith Lesperance washed his feet and Brother

John Straccia confirmed him.

Sister Sarah LaPlena was ordained a Deaconess. Her sister, Sister Rose DiDonato washed her feet and Brother John Buffa confirmed her.

Brother Tony DiFalco was ordained a Deacon. Brother Justin Paxon washed his feet and Brother Richard Thomas confirmed him.

Our afternoon meeting was opened by Brother John Straccia and he spoke on these ordained offices and the callings of our brothers and sister. Brother Lou Vitto also spoke on the position of Teacher. These responsibilities are given to man, but not by a man, but by God. These callings are a great responsibility and God knows when He gives this to you that this is for a great work. When God speaks, we should be ready to accept it.

Brother John Straccia spoke in tongues while confirming Brother Paul Stallard. Sister Judy Salerno spoke in tongues while Sister Sarah LaPlena's feet were being washed.

What a wonderful day. We thank God for His rich blessings. May God bless each of you in your calling and ordained offices.

### Announcement

For January, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.30%
2 years	5.50%
3 years	5.60%
4 years	5.70%
5 years	5.80%

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

## Blessings at Branch 4 Redford, Michigan

On August 10, 1997, Branch #4 in Redford, Michigan was blessed with the ordinations of three of our members. Brother Jerry Morle was to be ordained into the office of Teacher, Brother Daniel Root into the office of Deacon, and Sister Leona Buffa into the office of Deaconess. Brothers, sisters, and friends from all over the country came to witness this glorious event.

Brother Randy Ciccatti, now with the Anaheim, California Branch, inspired us all with a wonderful sermon on "Service to God." He preached, and as King Benjamin said in the Book of Mormon, "To serve God, means to serve our fellow man."

Brother Dominic Thomas, visiting from Branch #2, followed Brother Randy in the same vein, exhorting us on the great work of the Lord. He then expounded the duties of a Teacher, Deacon, and Deaconess.

It's important for all of us to know and understand some of the obligations of those who hold the ordained offices in The Church of Jesus Christ. It is a tremendously rewarding experience holding an ordained office, but also a huge responsibility. Only through the love and strength of God can anyone consistently perform the following:

**"Deaconesses** are expected to assist the Church by visiting the sick and providing for their needs, especially where it would not be prudent for brethren to do so . . . She shall be gracious, kind, hospitable, and a good example to all members and to be above reproach and full of good works. She shall work in conjunction with the Elders of the branch or mission."

**"The Deacons** duty shall be to look after the temporal and spiritual needs of the Church, especially to arrange for the comfort and relief of the poor and needy, to visit the sick, and to see that widows and orphans are not neglected. . . . He must at all times be polite and courteous, and his life must be above reproach and full of good works, as explained in Acts 6: 1-8. He shall work in conjunction with the Elders of the branch or mission."

"The duty of the **Teacher** is to be in harmony with all aspects of the Church, to watch over and strengthen it and to be a peacemaker among the members. He is required to teach new members their duties and behavior as members of the Church."

Brother Jerry's feet were washed by Brother Ron Morle and he was ordained into the office of Teacher by Brother Dominic Thomas. Brother Daniel's feet were washed by Brother Frank DiDonato and he was ordained into the office of Deacon by Brother Reno Bologna. Sister Leona's feet were washed by Sister Antoinette Ciaravino and she too was ordained by Brother Reno into the office of Deaconess.

After the ordinations, a young man named Neil Fry asked for prayer. Neil is employed at the same Ford Motor Company plant as some of our members. For years they talked to him about the Gospel Restored. He was once a Mormon and was now seeking for a greater understanding. He said that he was seeking for the truth!

Two weeks later, on August 24, Brother Neil Fry asked for his baptism. The Lord had given our new brother the understanding he desired and needed to make his covenant with God. As James wrote in the Book of 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."

We praise the Lord that the Gospel is moving forward in Redford, Michigan.

## Ordination in McKees Rocks, PA

*By Sister Carol Monaghan*

On August 17, 1997, we were blessed once again with many visitors from Greensburg, Aliquippa, Vanderbilt and the Cornell family. They came to worship with us and to witness the ordination of Sister Jan Cornell as a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., opened

our morning meeting with scripture from Romans 2:28. We know all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose. Brother Paul asked, "What is life's meaning to you today? What is your purpose in this world? There is a purpose in each of our lives. Do we love God, love Him above anything or anybody?" True love is this, that He is our Father and we are His children.

If you're looking for life's meaning, we cannot get passed Calvary. Life's meaning was contained by the act of our Saviour when He hung on the cross, that He might fulfill the plan of redemption.

We met for our afternoon service, prepared for Sister Jan Cornell's ordination as a Deaconess. Brother Tony Ricci read the duties of a Deaconess. Brother Paul Ciotti then read experiences that were had for Sister Jan's calling as a Deaconess. Sister Anna Ciotti washed Sister Jan's feet. Brother Chuck Jumper offered a special prayer before the ordination. Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., ordained Sister Jan as a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We praise God for His love and blessings to us, His children.

## A Confirmation from the Lord

*By Sister Connie Rossi*

I would like to share an experience I had from the Lord. On Saturday, August 16, 1997, as my husband, Brother Darrell Rossi was getting ready to leave for work, he asked me if I was going to the fasting and prayer service and I told him I didn't know if I was or not. I had gotten to bed very late the night before and gotten up early with him and I just wanted to go back to bed. Before he left he made reference to the scripture, "Where two or more are gathered, He is in the midst of us."

I felt justified in thinking I can then pray with the children at home and it would be the same thing. I also

had planned some activities with the children like lunch and going to the mall later that day as a going back to school treat. The enemy was playing havoc with my mind saying it was okay to stay home and pray and then go out with the children later and have a good time. But at the same time I was being convicted by the Lord as to how I could possibly go anywhere without going to prayer first. I finally shook off the temptation of crawling back into bed and got myself and the children ready to go to prayer.

After I had prayed in Church, I sat up in the pew and closed my eyes and meditated and listened to the other brothers and sisters praying. After about twenty minutes, I heard some kind of very soft "sound" that I cannot really describe but it was something I heard and then I felt a soft "impression" on the seat next to me like someone sat down. I quickly opened my eyes to see if someone had sat down next to me but no one was there. As I looked around I felt the Spirit of the Lord speaking to me ever so softly saying, "I AM HERE." I got such a "rush" through my body I knew immediately that the Lord had sat down next to me to let me know that He was there with me at fasting and prayer.

I thank God for this experience because I know that I was where I was supposed to be and God isn't always where you think you should be no matter how spiritual you may think it is. I also thank Him for His mercy and grace and gently showing us the right way and letting us know He will always be with us when we put Him first.

**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR**

To All Our Readers

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Ainsworth, Ed  
51 Barcelona Dr.  
Niles, OH 44446-1065  
330-652-0360

Cote, John, Patricia, January, John Jr.  
12266 Gingerwood Lane  
Wellington, FL 33414

Gibson, David and Dana  
667 N. Brodhead Road  
Aliquippa, PA 15001  
412-375-3404

Grant, Henry Jr.  
P.O. Box 653  
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Kepics, Ronald  
6053 Horton Dr.  
LaMesa, CA 91942  
619-460-5299

Painter, Jessica  
323 Walnut Street  
Zelienople, PA 16063  
412-453-3394

Swihart, Evelyn R.  
12401 N. 22nd St.—Apt. C407  
Tampa, FL 33612-4699

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Cape Coral Branch  
1191 Wade Drive  
Cape Coral, FL 33991  
941-283-1991

## Editorial Viewpoint

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needed by many people. Are you willing to give it to them? Remember, the time is near when every creature under heaven will hear the declaration of the Restored Gospel. The time is near when every nation will hear that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven.

There are those who find themselves all alone in a city or town. A member, maybe two members in a city. How are we reaching out to them? They need to be remembered. They need to

hear from the brothers and sisters in the main body of the Church. When you cannot attend Church on a regular basis because you are a great distance, it can be a lonely feeling. Give them a portion of your time and new year. Write them a card or letter. Send them a tape of your services. Give them a telephone call. They will rejoice in hearing your voice. A voice from The Church of Jesus Christ. The voice of a brother or sister in Jesus Christ. How joyful! What a marvelous use of time. This is a wonderful way, maybe a new way to spend your time.

There are people in the world who have little if anything. Many have no hope. Many have no food. Many have no clothing. Look around you and see how the Lord has blessed you this past year. Share your blessings with someone in need this new year. If someone is hungry, give them a meal. If someone needs clothing, share some of your wardrobe. If someone is sick, visit them and pray for them. Let them know you care. Let them know you love them.

In 1998, do something new and exciting with your time. Reach out and touch someone this new year! May God shower you with His rich blessings this new year. May it be the greatest new year in the Lord!

## Stand Up for the Restoration

Continued from Page 7

we will meet a brother and sister wherever we go. What a glorious day that will be! It is time to put on the armor of God that we may be filled with the power of God.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. thanked God for the privilege to feast at the table of the Lord today. There is room for all and today is the time to come and eat. *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds* was sung and Brother David Nolfi offered the closing prayer.

The weekend wasn't over yet. We gathered at the lake and witnessed Sister Suzanne Beeman enter the water of baptism and also have hands laid on for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This was the end of a wonderful, blessed and spirit-filled weekend with the saints of the Most High God!

## Children Blessed

Delaina Marie Yoder, daughter of Dan and Berdelle Yoder, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on May 25, 1997.

Antonio Ismael Rosario, son of Ismael Rosario and Michelle Alvarado, was blessed on September 14, 1997 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Jacob William Brown, son of William and Teresa Brown of Conroe, Texas was blessed on April 6, 1997 in the Modesto, California Branch.

## Baptisms

Eva Tarbuk was baptized on July 16, 1997 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother Jim Moore.

Jeff Buffington was baptized on September 21, 1997 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother David Nolfi.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Thelma Campbell of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 18, 1997.

Sister Mabel Bickerton of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated sixty-seven years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 19, 1997.

Sister Rose DiFabio of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch recently celebrated seventy-three years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDING \*

Brother Patrick Monaghan and Sister Tonia Davis of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch were united in holy matrimony on September 6, 1997 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

## Obituaries

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

### WAYNE STEVENS

Brother Wayne Stevens of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to his heavenly reward on September 17, 1997. He is survived by four daughters; Linda Moon, Lynn Glen, Wynn Opfar and Sandra Kirschner; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### NAOMI B. COTTOM

Sister Naomi B. Cottom of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on August 25, 1997. She is survived by her husband, Donald Cottom; two sons, Donald and John Cottom; one daughter, Brenda Cottom-Soverns; one sister, Elsie Whetsel; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### MINNIE SILMAN

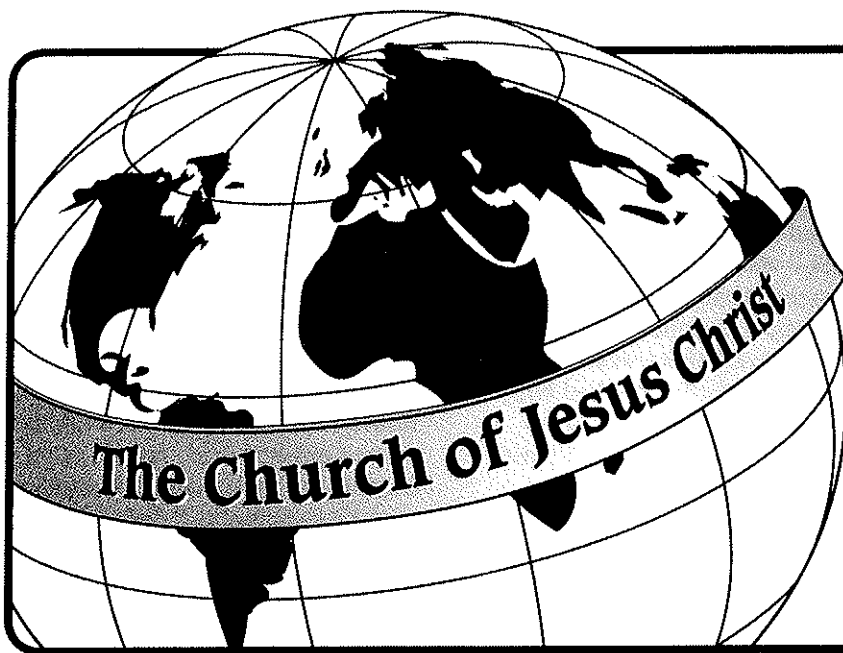
Sister Minnie Silman of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her eternal reward on April 5, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Emil Silman. She is survived by one daughter, Kathryn Johns.

### MEREDITH GRIFFITH

Brother Meredith Griffith of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on September 23, 1997. Brother Griffith was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Irene Griffith; two sons, Brother John Griffith and Dr. M. Lee Griffith; two daughters, Sisters Joyce Kogler and Joy Kurowsky; three brothers, Clinton, William and Brother Joe Griffith; three sisters, Sister Betty Griffith, Shirley Christopher and Glenda June Myers; and seven grandchildren.

### CHARLES TUCKER

Brother Charles Tucker of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to his eternal reward on October 11, 1997. He was preceded in death by his wife, Adelaide Tucker. He is survived by one daughter, Jean Tucker; one son, Charles Tucker; one sister, Sister Alma Rouse; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 1998

Volume 54, No. 2

## Lehi A Descendant of Joseph Who Was Sold into Egypt

*By Sister Sara Vancik*

### PART I

I, Lehi, spent all my days in Jerusalem, being there when Zedekiah took over the reign as King of Judah. There is no record of my parents names but it sufficeth me to say that I am a descendant of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, through his son Manasseh. Therefore, I and my family are a part of the House of Israel and I pray much in behalf of my people.

The Lord God was so good to me! When prophets came prophesying of the destruction to come upon the city of Jerusalem unless the people would repent, the Lord appeared to me in a pillar of fire and I saw and heard much which caused me to quake and tremble exceedingly.

He also gave me a vision in which I saw the heavens open where I thought I saw God sitting on His throne surrounded by many angels singing praises to Him. I also saw one descending out of heaven—His lustre was as of the noonday sun. Following Him were twelve others whose brightness was greater than

the stars. These twelve came and stood before me and gave me a book and told me to read it. This book told of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and that many would be taken captive unless they repented. After reading this book, my soul was filled with praise to my God! Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty!

After these great manifestations from the Lord, I went forth prophesying unto the people of the things I had seen and heard warning them of God's judgments unless they would repent.

The Jews were angry with me and mocked me. They also sought to take my life even as they did the prophets of old—but God is so good!

The Lord spoke to me in a dream and blessed me for endeavoring to take His word of warning to my people in Jerusalem. In a dream, the Lord commanded me to take my family and depart into the wilderness. Now my family consisted of my wife, Sariah, and four sons—Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi. I had acquired much riches—gold and silver and many precious things. We left all

to follow the Lord's bidding. We took tents and provisions and departed into the wilderness traveling south towards the Red Sea. After three days traveling, we pitched our tents and I built an altar of stones and made an offering to God in thanksgiving for His love and mercy.

My two oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel, were not pleased leaving Jerusalem and our riches behind. They called me a visionary man and seemed to think my teachings were the foolish imaginations of my heart. They did not believe Jerusalem would be destroyed and even sought to take away my life but the Lord was with me. As I spoke to them, the Spirit of God did shake them and confound them that they could not speak against me.

My other two sons, Sam and Nephi, were different. Nephi especially was blessed in that he believed my words. He has a great desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi and Sam are close—Sam also believes my words but Laman and Lemuel have caused me many heartaches.

In the meanwhile, the Lord visited me with another dream in which He commanded me to send my sons back to Jerusalem to get the records and genealogy of our fathers from Laban who kept the records of the Jews. Laman and Lemuel murmured saying

(Continued on Page 2)

## Lehi

Continued from Page 1

it was a hard thing that I had required of them but it was not "I," it was a commandment of the Lord. Nephi agreed to go for he believed the Lord would prepare a way for the work to be accomplished. Even though Laman and Lemuel murmured and disagreed, they accompanied Sam and Nephi. It was a long journey for them. While they were gone, my wife, Sariah, mourned and complained against me saying I was a visionary man—that I had led us into the wilderness and now our sons had perished. I tried to console her reminding her of God's goodness in bringing our family out of Jerusalem. I also told her that I knew God would deliver our sons out of the hands of Laban and bring them home again.

When our sons returned, we were overjoyed and my wife was comforted. This was a confirmation to her that this move leaving Jerusalem, her sons returning safely with the records, was all in the plan of God. We did rejoice exceedingly and did offer sacrifice and burnt offerings in thanksgiving to the God of Israel.

Nephi recounted to us their journeys and the hardships they endured in getting the records from Laban. Nephi had taken the lead for he knew "the Lord would provide." After several tries in which they talked with Laban, even trying to bribe him with their riches which they had taken from their old home, Laban was very angry. Nephi said we fled and left all our riches behind—we hid in the cavity of a rock. My brothers were so angry with me and even with you, father. They even smote us with a rod and an angel appeared to them and rebuked them. Laman and Lemuel still murmured. But the Lord had a plan.

Nephi said he went back by night leaving his brothers outside the walls. As he came near Laban's house, he saw Laban lying on the ground drunk. The Spirit constrained Nephi to kill Laban but Nephi said he shrunk from the idea as he had never shed man's blood. The Spirit spoke to him again

saying the Lord had delivered Laban into his hands and "the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes—also it was better for one man to perish than that a nation would dwindle in unbelief." Nephi said after hearing these words he took Laban's own sword and killed him.

In order to enter the treasury, Nephi said he disguised himself with Laban's clothing and was able to persuade Zoram, Laban's servant, to give him the plates of brass and go with him. When Nephi and Zoram reached his brothers, they were frightened, thinking it was Laban. They were soon to find out it was Nephi and their mission had been accomplished. Nephi persuaded Zoram to return with them.

After our rejoicing and giving God thanks for the safe return of our sons, I began searching the records engraven on plates of brass. They contained the five books of Moses which gave the account of the creation and our first parents, Adam and Eve. The records also gave an account of the Jews from the beginning even down to the time my family and I left Jerusalem in the first year of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah. I was overjoyed at finding the records also contained the words of the prophets from the beginning. Laban, being a descendant of Joseph, the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, had preserved his genealogy on these plates so I was able to see that I too, was a descendant of that same Joseph.

These records were a great blessing to me. I began to prophesy to my people. I told them that these plates would go forth to all nations who were of my seed; also that these records which were brass would never perish or be dimmed by time. I realized these records were of great worth to my people as we could preserve and teach His commandments unto our children.

Soon after I had examined the records and prophesied unto my people of their worth to us and our children, the Lord spoke to me again. This time He commanded me to send my sons back to Jerusalem and bring Ishmael and his family to join us in

our travels in the wilderness. The Lord softened the heart of Ishmael and his household insomuch that they returned with our sons and joined us on our journey. It was not long into their journey until Laman and Lemuel and two sons of Ishmael and their families began to rebel and desired to return to Jerusalem. Nephi said he was so grieved when he saw the hardness of their hearts. He spoke unto them reminding them of the Lord's blessing and also how an angel had appeared to them. This did not ease their anger but they sought to destroy Nephi. They even bound him with cords. Nephi said the Lord worked a wonderful miracle in answer to his prayer. His bands were loosed and he was able to speak to his brothers again. Even this miracle did not ease their anger. They again sought to lay hands on Nephi. After Ishmael's wife and daughter pled with them, they finally ceased striving with Nephi and even bowed down before him begging forgiveness. Nephi said we continued our journey and finally arrived at the tent of our father in the wilderness giving an offering of thanksgiving for our safe return.

As our families tarried in the wilderness, I, Lehi, dreamed a wonderful dream or I have seen a vision. Because of this dream, I rejoice in the Lord as I saw the faithfulness of Nephi and Sam. I have reason to believe many of their seed will be saved. But I fear for Laman and Lemuel.

I dreamed I saw a dark and dreary wilderness. Then I saw a man dressed in a white robe. As He stood before me, He bade me follow. As I followed, I found myself in that dark and dreary waste. After I had traveled for many hours, I prayed for mercy and the Lord heard me. I beheld a large and spacious field and a tree whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. I went forth and partook of the fruit. It was so sweet—sweeter than anything I had ever tasted. The fruit was white to exceed any whiteness I had ever seen. My soul was filled with joy! I desired so much to have my family enjoy this great blessing. As I looked for my family, I

saw a river of water which was near the tree of which I had tasted this beautiful fruit. As I looked toward the head of this river, I saw your mother, my wife Sariah, with you, Sam and Nephi. It was as if you knew not where to go. I beckoned to all of you and called with a loud voice and you came and partook of the fruit also. I desired to see Laman and Lemuel come too. I saw them but they would not come. I then saw a rod of iron leading to the tree where I was standing. The path along the rod of iron was narrow and straight. This path also led by the head of the fountain to a large and spacious field like a world. I saw many people trying to make it to the path which led to the tree where I was standing. A great mist of darkness appeared which caused some to lose their way while others caught hold of the rod of iron and pressed forward. They were able to partake of the beautiful fruit. After looking around, they were ashamed. On the other side of the river of water, I saw a great and spacious building. In this building were many people, young and old, in fine dress. They were mocking and making fun of those who had tasted the fruit. This caused some to be ashamed and they fell away and were lost. I saw many others who pressed forward, holding fast to the rod of iron until they were able to partake of the fruit. I also saw many who were drowned in the fountain. I saw many who wandered in strange roads and were lost. The many who had entered into that strange building, mocking and pointing a finger of scorn at others had fallen away. My sons Laman and Lemuel never partook of the fruit and I fear exceedingly for them lest they should be cast off from the presence of God. I exhorted them in tender love that they would listen to my words that perhaps the Lord would be merciful to them. I bade them to keep God's commandments. I never ceased speaking to them.

After telling my dream, I spoke concerning the Jews. I reminded them of the great city of Jerusalem that at its destruction many would be taken captive into Babylon. In the Lord's

due time, they would be brought out of captivity and would again possess their land of inheritance. I prophesied to them also about a Messiah—a Saviour whom the Lord God would raise up among the Jews in 600 years from the time we left Jerusalem. I also reminded my family of the many prophets who had testified of His coming and the one who would come to prepare the way of the Lord. This prophet would baptize the Messiah in Bethabara, beyond Jordan, bearing record that he had baptized the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. I also spake of the ministry of this Saviour among the Jews—also of His death and resurrection—after which He would make Himself known by the Holy Ghost to the Gentiles. I compared ourselves to an olive tree whose branches should be broken off and scattered upon all the face of the land. We are part of the House of Israel, that olive tree. After our people have been scattered and gathered again, the Gentiles will have received the fullness of the Gospel and we as natural branches of the olive tree will be grafted in again and come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, our Redeemer.

(To Be Continued)

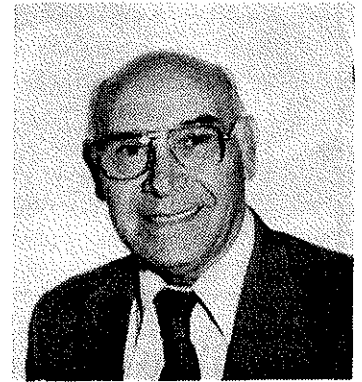
## Notice

Please write to Mr. Gary L. Thompson. He is the son of Sister Jessie Hall of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission. His address is:

Mr. Gary L. Thompson  
93939-071  
P.O. Box 1000  
Milan, MI 48160

He is in need of our prayers, cards and letters.

## Greetings in Christ



*By Evangelist Mark Randy*

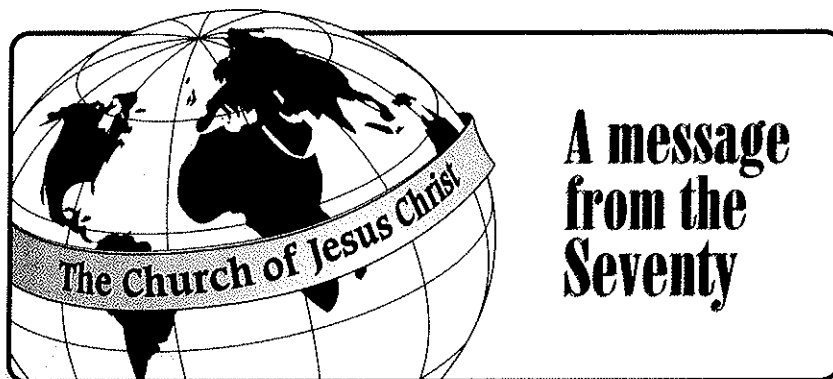
Our Lord Jesus wants His followers to be brave and to be winners. One dark stormy night the twelve disciples were in a boat. We do not know how large the boat was but they were having an awful struggle as the waves were very high. Some of them were fishermen. Nevertheless, the storm was threatening and the boat was overloaded. Suddenly in the midst of the darkness and terrible storm, they saw what appeared to be a person walking on the water. They were frightened. The stranger spoke to them, "Fear not, it is I." Peter, the daring Apostle answered, "If it is you Lord, call on me." "Come," said the Lord. Peter stepped out of the boat and actually found himself standing and walking on the water. But suddenly, he feared and cried out, "Lord, help me." The hand of the Lord reached out to Peter and the Lord spoke, "You of little faith, why did you fear?" The thought comes to us, "are we winners?" We are serving the same Lord!

If we are His disciples, when the storm comes against us, do we see Jesus calling on us? "Fear not, I am with you." Remember, we are serving the same Lord.

**The Winner or Loser**  
"Each of us has a choice"

The winner is always part of the answer;

(Continued on Page 10)



## 1997 Trip to India

*By Brother Steve Champine  
Coordinator for India*

Greetings from the land of India! The 1997 trip to India taken by Brothers Joseph Calabrese, John Straccia, John Genaro and Steve Champine during October 26 to November 16 was by all means very successful. Praise God!

As is typical of our visits here, we were received by a host of brothers and sisters upon arrival; and, as always, we were impressed by their dedication and love towards us. This was again demonstrated by the fact that they were there to meet us at the Madras International Airport even though our flight arrived at 4:00 AM.

During our stay, we had the opportunity to travel to many of the

established branches and share in the spirit of fellowship with our members. It was also a wonderful blessing to open a new work in a village located about four hours south of Madras. Overall, we participated in twenty-six baptisms, the ordination of one Elder and one Teacher, and handled a number of baby blessings. In addition, much time was spent in anointing the sick and preaching the Gospel to all those who attended our meetings.

Our evangelistic efforts were not limited just to scheduled meetings. Brother John Genaro, who was making his first trip to India, made it his personal objective to "convert" as many as possible of the hotel employees where we were staying. He instantly endeared himself to the entire staff and was very instrumental in getting a number of them to attend our meetings. We shared many important moments with them, getting to know

them personally. Visits with them at different times became quite frequent, and we shared our testimonies, answered their questions, counseled with them about their problems, and prayed for them. The many new friends we made asked us to return soon.

One of the main objectives for this year was to spend some quality time with the ordained officers. This was accomplished. Sessions in studying the Word of God and in-depth analysis of the faith of the Church were very successful. The response and participation were very gratifying and we thank God for the evidence of His Spirit during many of these meetings.

We would like to ask for your continued prayers and support for the work in India. Despite the ever-present opposition experienced in the work of the Lord, The Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow and flourish among His people there.

## MEXICO

*By Brother Paul A. Palmieri  
Secretary, AMOC Committee*

Brothers Paul Liberto, Matt Picciuto, Isaac J. Smith, Pete Gianetti, Jr., and I left for our missionary trip to Mexico on November 19 and arrived in Sinaloa state the next day. Upon arrival in the town of Ahome, we enjoyed an inspiring season of prayer, asking God to direct our journey; and one of the brothers requested the gift of healing in anointing.

As soon as we reached the first village near the Ahome Branch, there were about a dozen anointings for the members and the children. We visited the Ahome Mission, toured the homes of the saints and a native reservation in the surrounding mountains with the Presiding Officer, Brother Hector Gastelum Carlon, and had a wonderful time taking in the Missionary Benevolent Association meeting at the mission, which had about forty young people in one class.

It was also a blessing to attend an evening service at the San Ysidro Mission which has a strong attendance of over one hundred twenty-five



**The Elders and Teachers from Tadepallegudem, India. They oversee 700 brothers and sisters.**

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07960

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC COAST**  
Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

To restore something is to bring it back into existence or use; to re-establish it. That is exactly what The Church of Jesus Christ represents to the world—the wonderful Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are very privileged to know and be part of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a blessing to serve God and Jesus Christ in the manner the Lord set up when He was on the earth.

Consider all the beautiful ordinances we follow and adhere to that were instituted centuries ago by Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper which consists of bread and wine, feet washing, blessing of little children in lieu of baptizing little children, anointing the sick with blessed oil, laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and baptism for the remission of sin for those who are accountable and capable of committing sin.

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is the sole method of entry into His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. It was humbly explained to Nicodemus by the Lord. Nicodemus was told that without it, he could not enter the kingdom of heaven. He would not see the kingdom of heaven. When you read this scripture, you will note this applies to all mankind.

The Twelve Disciples in the Americas were instructed what to say during the performance of a baptism and to immerse the convert in the water. The congregations were told on many occasions to repent and be baptized. II Nephi 9:23-24 states, *"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."*

In Acts 2:37-38, a question was asked by the multitude on the day of Pentecost, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* Peter answered them, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* Peter answered in plain and simple terminology.

A teenager who attends The Church of Jesus Christ had a dream a few weeks ago. She dreamed that her cousin came to her home to visit. The teenager saw the pool in their backyard become a river. She saw her cousin get baptized and the Elder that performed the baptism. This all came true! What a beautiful experience! It shows that God will work with young and old. It confirms that we baptize in a river, the method founded by the Lord, and not a pool setting. It confirmed the baptism of a young sister and who performed the baptism.

Baptism is just one of many beautiful ordinances that were restored when the angel flew in the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to every nation, every kindred and every tongue. When the angel Moroni flew in the midst of heaven, he was the instrument of God to usher in the Restoration of The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Another beautiful ordinance is feet washing. What a blessed way to show love and humility towards one another and eventually to the whole world. What a marvelous and loving ordinance to show that no one is better than another person. The exalted in life shall be abased. The abased in life shall be lifted up. How marvelous! How wonderful!

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ can testify to the world a unique message. Ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ can preach a pure and unadulterated Gospel, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Priesthood can, through the authority and inspiration of God, tell the world a wonderful and beautiful message. We can articulate the gathering of the House of Israel. We can articulate the coming of the Choice Seer and his role. We can tell and explain to the world of the Seed

(Continued on Page 10)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## No More King-Men

Dear friends,

You've probably already noticed that at school and in the world, there are always some people who want to be the boss. Many times they aren't fair; they just want whatever is best for them. They usually like to walk around acting like they are important also.

This is not what serving God is all about. Jesus taught for us to be like Him, humble (willing to be taught) and lowly of heart. King Benjamin told his people, "... when you are in the service of your fellow beings, you are only in the service of God."

Moroni, Chief Captain of the Nephite armies and Pahoran, Chief Judge of the Nephite people, were these kind of men. They constantly fought to keep their people free. They especially believed people should have religious freedom to serve God.

But, during a time when Captain Nephi was off fighting Lamanite attackers, a secret group of powerful Nephites started trouble. They tried pressuring Chief Judge Pahoran to change a few parts of the law.

But Pahoran would not let the law be changed. He did not listen to those who had sent him petitions to change the law. Their plan was to alter the law in a way so that they could overthrow the free government. They wanted one of themselves to rule; they called their group the King-men.

The people who wanted to keep their rights and privileges of their religion with a free government were called Freemen. A vote was taken.



Most of the Nephite nation chose to continue having religious freedom and judges, not kings. The King-men were furious because they had hoped to sneakily get power.

Meanwhile, Captain Moroni was leading his armies against repeated attacks by the Lamanite armies. Everyone was needed to help. The King-men refused. They were glad in their hearts when they heard about the attacks. They hoped the Lamanite armies would destroy Moroni and those who served God with freedom.

Moroni became furious. At a time when he needed all the Nephites to fight for life together, the King-men refused. Moroni sent a petition, that the people agreed with to the governor of the land. He asked for permission to force the King-men to defend their country too or be put to death. He received permission.

And it came to pass that the armies marched forth among the King-men. Four thousand King-men fought to the death. Their leaders were put in prison until there was time for a trial. The rest of the King-men gave up their stubbornness and pride and joined the Freemen to save their nation.

Captain Moroni and Pahoran, who was unafraid to stand up for not changing laws, continued to lead their people. Over and over, the huge numbers of Lamanite armies attacked. Over and over, these great leaders and the people serving God prayed, relied on God and kept their freedom. Those who wanted power and importance to "look good" failed! Those who served one another succeeded. God protected them, as He does for us now.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

WHEN	BEINGS
YOU	YE
ARE	ARE
IN	IN
THE	SERVICE
SERVICE	OF
OF	GOD
YOUR	MOSIAH
FELLOW	

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

## Note of Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers and sisters who sent me letters, cards, poems, and especially your prayers. You really did cheer and uplift my heart. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Brother Henry Grant, Jr.

## A Thought

You can't turn back  
the clock; but you can  
wind it up again.



## General Circle Conference

By Sister Karen L. Progar

It seems that only yesterday we were enjoying our Spring Conference in Freehold, New Jersey, but suddenly it's autumn and the sisters of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ are meeting in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Just as unexpectedly warm as the weather was for the day, likewise was the warmth in the meeting.

We were blessed to have sisters from every region of the Church in attendance as Sister Arline Whitton, President, shared excerpts from a seminar which she recently enjoyed in the Southeast Region. Some very moving segments from "A Pattern for Living" were rehearsed and the conference was advised that the seminar in its entirety would become part of the Circle Library and therefore available to any group wishing to use it in their own Branch, Mission or Area Circle. Sister Lorraine DeMercurio chose II Nephi 22 to conclude the topic, reminding us to press forward with a steadfast hope.

Our organization received letters of appreciation from the Americas Missionary Operating Committee and General Church Finance Committee for donations made toward the missionary work of the Church.

Our next order of business was the Area Circle reports. During the reports, we heard a great number of fund raising ideas, as well as area and local activities. The Circles are truly active within their regions and branches.

The financial reports were a display of how hard our sisters work to raise money for the missionary work of the Church. Over \$8,000.00 was reported as received by Sister Lynette Huttenberger, Financial Secretary.

Sister Lydia Link, Treasurer, reported disbursements made and reported in our last news article.

Both the Librarian, Sister Laurie DeSantis and the Card Sender, Sister Pierina DiFalco also reported a good deal of activity in their respective offices. The Editor's report was that a number of articles were submitted for the last six months, however, Circles were encouraged to provide information to the Editor if they felt uncomfortable writing an article. The article would be prepared by our Editor and forwarded to the *Gospel News*. It was noted that many worthwhile and interesting activities reported at this conference were not shared with our sisters because no articles were submitted.

The Historian, Sister Dana Buffington, reviewed the year's events, which allowed us the opportunity to enjoy the blessings again, as she rehearsed the year's activities.

A good portion of our meeting was spent discussing the 1998 General Circle Fellowship Weekend which will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, beginning Thursday, July 16 and concluding on Sunday, July 19. Topics included room prices, flight arrangements, airport shuttles and parking. The Fellowship Weekend theme will be, "Fill My Cup, Lord." Room prices were provided at this meeting, so that sisters could begin to budget for the trip. Four person occupancy is \$39.00 per day. Registration forms will be mailed in March of 1998, once food prices have been determined.

Sister Flo LaRosa sang, *Trust and Obey*, after which Sister Tina Piccuito thanked God for the opportunity to attend conference. Sister Tina has been very active in San Carlos with the children, and particularly orphans. She continued by stating how much the children on the reservation love Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Church. She concluded by thanking the various circles for their support of this work.

This six month's special project will be raising funds to pay our foreign sisters' travel expenses to the 1999 World Missionary Conference. Previous to closing our morning session,

Sister Jan Cornell was asked to offer a special prayer for the many who suffered sore afflictions. Fittingly, we sang, *What a Friend* and Sister Shirley Gray, from Spartanburg, South Carolina offered prayer to close the morning meeting.

The afternoon meeting began with the election of officers. Sister Dana Buffington stepped down as secretary. Sister Joyce Ross was elected to fill the position. Sister Suzette Huttenberger was chosen as Assistant Treasurer and Sister Lucetta Scaglione was elected as Auditor. All other officers were retained.

At our April Conference, we were promised a more complete report on Sister Arline's and Sister Lorraine's trip to Kenya. Brother Frank Natoli, Mark Kovacic, Wayne Martorana and Joel Gehly began the report with brief reports on the work in Kenya. Brother Frank reported that the Swahili translation of the Book of Mormon is 85% complete and thanked the many sisters who responded so quickly to their request for aid and volunteered to provide typing assistance for the project. The brothers also mentioned that Sister Arline and Sister Lorraine were able to create a real bond among the sisters. The slide presentation followed, with all the travelers adding comments and sharing the blessings of their trip.

The Spartanburg sisters sang, *The Sea So Great, My Boat So Small*, which brought an additional blessing to our wonderful meeting. We concluded the conference by singing, *Fill My Cup* and Sister Cathy Gentile offered the closing prayer to end a joyous conference.

## Ladies' Uplift Circle Unites San Diego, CA

By Sister Jamie Hemmings

The past few months have been very exciting for the San Diego, California, Ladies' Uplift Circle. San Diego has made many changes and has many things to celebrate.

For example, the women of the

(Continued on Page 11)



## "Raising Our Standard"

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss.**

Many of us traveled many miles to "Raise Our Standard." We were greeted by rain storms as we gathered for the orientation meeting. Foremost, we were greeted by the presence of God. During the meeting, there was a vision, the doors flew open and angels began to fly in while the congregation sang, *Taste the Grass on the Summit*. We praised God and were blessed. We were greeted by our new GMBA officers. We heard encouraging and beautiful words from two Apostles, Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Paul Palmieri. There was a definite spirit of prayer and healing in our meeting. Communion was served and we were fed and we left full.

Brother Joe Ignani opened our Sunday meeting. He spoke on Israel, in the wilderness and how they were separated from God and complaining (by choice). Through it all, God made a way for them. Today we find that we are no different. There are times we choose to separate from God, but His mercy and grace make a way for us. The pureness and goodness of Jesus Christ is free and available to all. Why wouldn't we, as children of God, take full advantage of His goodness? When we accept the great gift of God, we are liberated from the anchors of this world, free to raise up the standard. To raise up your standard, you must place God first, you must seek Him with all your heart and soul. You must begin and end your day with Jesus Christ. Brother Joe asked, "If raising the standard of Jesus Christ and making Him the center of our world

would place us under the shield and protection of His mercy and love, why wouldn't you do it?" Our individual standard should shout to the world that, "My Life is Christ!"

Brother Paul Gray followed, "Who is the Church for?" he asked. "For everyone," he answered. Every soul has been bitten by the serpent of sin; the venom can attack quickly or slowly. Remember Satan is deceitful and cunning. Jesus can neutralize and remove the venom of sin if your heart is open. He urged us to seize the opportunity to grab onto God, for we don't know about tomorrow. We also heard from Brothers Paul Liberto and Lou Ciccatti.

Throughout the week, we experienced beautiful chapel services. We heard from many brothers from all over the Church. Brother Wayne Martorana from Niles, Ohio spoke on Monday. He started our week with a focus on the theme, emphasizing the importance and seriousness of the subject. We were reminded the standard has been sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is there for us to hold and use as a tool. We can use it to save the lost and dying souls of the world. The battle to save these souls is not ours, but the Lord's; He has simply commissioned us as his troops. Brother Jim Huttenberger of Anaheim, California opened our Monday evening meeting exclaiming, "God is at our camp!" We need to realize the standard Jesus Christ set up is greater today than ever. He said that we would see and do greater things; we realize this promise is true. The giant task is before us to fill those shoes of the faithful brothers and sisters that have blazed the trail before us. We also heard many testimonies from brothers and sisters who have been seriously ill and have been prayed for by the Church. Praise God, all reports were good!

Our Tuesday chapel was opened by Brother John DiBattista. He used examples from the scripture of those men who held the standard high, even unto death. Brother John emphasized the importance of raising our standard, not only for those lost souls in the world, but for our families. Since

camp we received the letter of urgency from the Apostles, confirming our brother's inspiration at camp. We must pray for the souls and welfare of our families, lest Satan take another one. Brother Miguel Bicelis also spoke that morning. He also emphasized the importance of raising the standard, in relation to the House of Israel and the great and marvelous work that God has for our Church. Tuesday evening our meeting was dedicated to the young people. We heard many testimonies and most of all we heard many cries for the Savior's help. The Spirit of God quickly entered our meeting and not far behind was the spirit of repentance. Ten souls rendered obedience in this meeting, as well as one Monday morning, thank God.

In our Wednesday chapel, we heard from Brother David Catalano from Metuchen, New Jersey. He made reference to David and the Philistine giant. Surely, that was a great example of one who would raise the standard at any cost. One interesting note he made, was that the Philistine also was there to raise his standard. Are you grounded firmly that your standard might prevail against the many standards of this world? During the afternoon, we went to the waters of baptism and witnessed the spiritual birth of eleven new souls. We met for the Wednesday night meeting and Brother Randy Ciccatti from Anaheim, California spoke to us. He told us that the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. A gift that if used correctly, will help you keep your standard high and faithful. This evening the candidates were confirmed. There was a vision at this time. A brother saw a bright cloud above the candidates and it was flaming. We were then addressed on the topic of Communion. Then with our new brothers and sisters, we took part in the Lord's Supper.

Brother Rocco Benyola opened our Thursday chapel. He spoke to those who had been touched this week, but have not acknowledged it. He encouraged them to keep that touch with them forever.

"Wave the flags from the hilltops,

(Continued on Page 11)



## Sweet Spirit in Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Anita Znoy

We never know what God has in store for us when we go to Church. On June 1, 1997, at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch, the Lord sent His Spirit of prayer and renewal so strong that twenty-four people went to the Ministry for prayer. The Ministry anointed and laid hands on each brother, sister, and friend that needed a healing of the body or spirit. One brother was able to sit through the whole meeting because his back no longer hurt him. A sister with a cold felt the tightening of her chest lessen and she could breathe easier. Another brother, with a heart condition, felt pain in his chest and was hot and sweaty until the Ministry prayed for him. He felt a cool breeze and the pain in his chest disappeared.

The gift of tongues was spoken twice while praying for those who asked for God's strength. "Oh, I speak unto my people today. Come and take of the water that none of you may thirst again!", was spoken while praying for one of our young people searching for the work God has for him. "Those of you that have come forth have been chosen. I will take care of you. I will hear your prayers. Study my word. My people, pray for one another. I love you. Come unto me. I will take care of you," was spoken as they prayed for one of our young people who thought that she was not worthy of the Lord's blessings.

Brother Sam DiFalco spoke to us briefly, proclaiming, "The windows of heaven are open! There is joy, joy, joy in our hearts today!" Brother Lou Vitto referenced the Book of Mormon saying, "Meetings were conducted by the Spirit of God to preach, to sing, or to pray." As a confirmation of the spirit of prayer that we received, Brother John Buffa said that he had

been reading about and thinking on this very subject the night before. At that moment, Brother David Haley began to sing, *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* in tongues.

There were others that were prayed on as the Spirit directed. There were prayers for the Ministry and their families as well. May the Lord give them the strength, wisdom, and patience to perform their duties.

We all felt God's anointing spirit that day as we left the Lord's house lifted up and renewed in our service to Him.

## An Ordination in Brooklyn, NY

On May 11, 1997, which was Mother's Day, the Brooklyn, New York Branch thanked God for the blessings we received.

Brother Joe Pittius opened our meeting by thanking God for our spiritual mothers as well as our natural mothers. He mentioned the important role that our spiritual mothers play towards our fellowship and growth in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Today was a very special day for our branch. Brother Jason Rogolino was to be ordained a Deacon in the Church. Brother Joe Pittius stated the importance of the office of Deacon. It is to look after the temporal and spiritual needs of the Church, especially to arrange for the comfort and relief of the poor and needy, to visit the sick, and to see that widows and orphans are not neglected.

Brother Matthew Rogolino, Brother Jason's father, continued by saying the office of Deacon is a silent office. He related his testimony and how God has blessed him these many years.

Brother Dominick Rose spoke that Deacons are an important part of the spiritual body and likened the office to the natural body. He said that fingers cannot say to the arm, "I have no need of you." Every ordained office, every member is important to the body of Jesus Christ. He also spoke of the wonderful healing that he received after he picked up a hot stove top. After he placed a little blessed oil

on his hand, he prayed, and there was no blistering or side effects.

Brother Willie Brown followed and encouraged us to stay faithful to our calling in the Church. He asked us to keep our faith and our eyes focused on Jesus Christ.

An experience was had while our brothers were speaking. Beautiful lights were seen shining all around each of them as they spoke and addressed us.

Brother Jason Rogolino was ordained a Deacon. His feet were washed by his natural brother, Brother Tom Rogolino. He was ordained into the office by Brother Joe Pittius.

We are a small branch located in the largest city in our country. Please remember us in your prayers as we strive to serve Him and bring others to the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Campitelle, Mary  
7515-B Somerset Bay  
Indianapolis, IN 46240-3445  
317-772-0632

Frammolino, Carl and Nancy  
724-375-1459

Griffith, Rebecca  
Integrated Health Services  
890 Mt. Pleasant Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-837-8076

Jasmin, Kevin and Angela  
7994 Chambers Court  
Lake Worth, FL 33467  
561-963-2446

Martin, James and Carolyn  
323 Woodbridge Road  
Oak Hill, WV 25901  
304-465-1428

Michelessi, Joseph  
827 Broadway  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
412-331-9043

Palmieri, Paul Aaron and Kim  
724-378-4326

(Continued on Page 10)

## Directory Update

Continued from Page 9

Palmieri, Paul and Ruth  
724-378-4264

Ross, Donald and Joyce  
724-348-6828

Rouse, Alma  
323 Woodbridge Road  
Oak Hill, WV 25901  
304-465-1428

Staley, Kenneth, Sharon, and Cameron  
1055 Banner Square  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
770-427-0042

## Greetings in Christ

Continued from Page 3

The loser is always part of the problem.  
The winner always has a program;  
The loser always has an excuse.  
The winner says, "Let me do it for you;"  
The loser say, "That's not my job."  
The winner sees an answer for every problem;  
The loser sees a problem for every answer.  
The winner sees a green near every sand trap;  
The loser sees two or three sand traps near every green.  
The winner says, "It is difficult, but not too difficult;

A winner never quits, but a quitter never wins.

We have a choice to be a winner or a loser. The choice is ours. Shall we begin now? Better yet, let it begin with me.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

members, with over fifty young people. God's power was felt in the meeting, and the young group sang about the Restored Gospel. Brother Juan Benitez is the Elder-in-Charge.

Next, we were able to visit the mission in Mexico City and tour the city, which is the largest in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest in the world. Brother Jesse Guerrero's relatives were very accommodating to our little group, as Guillermo Contreras and Beatriz Cruz Contreras assisted us around the city. The Lord blessed our Sunday Service, especially in the anointings of the people. A very heartwarming time of fellowship was spent with the saints after the meeting, as well as enjoying the company of the children in song. The resident Elder-in-Charge is Brother Arturo Martinez.

The last stop was in the province of Michocan and the Mission of Perdenales, where we were enthusiastically received by the Resident Missionary, Brother Joel Mora and our

members.

An uplifting period was devoted to conversing about the Scriptures and the joy of the Restoration of the Gospel and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Two of Brother Mora's sisters went to the waters of life. After their baptisms, Brother Mora's daughter decided it was time to surrender her life to the Lord. The service for the confirmations was spirit filled, with many testimonies and anointings. We were able to spend time visiting many of the saints in their homes and places of work.

Please remember the country of Mexico. God's work among His covenant people is going well, but the brothers and sisters need our prayers and support.

## Editorial Viewpoint

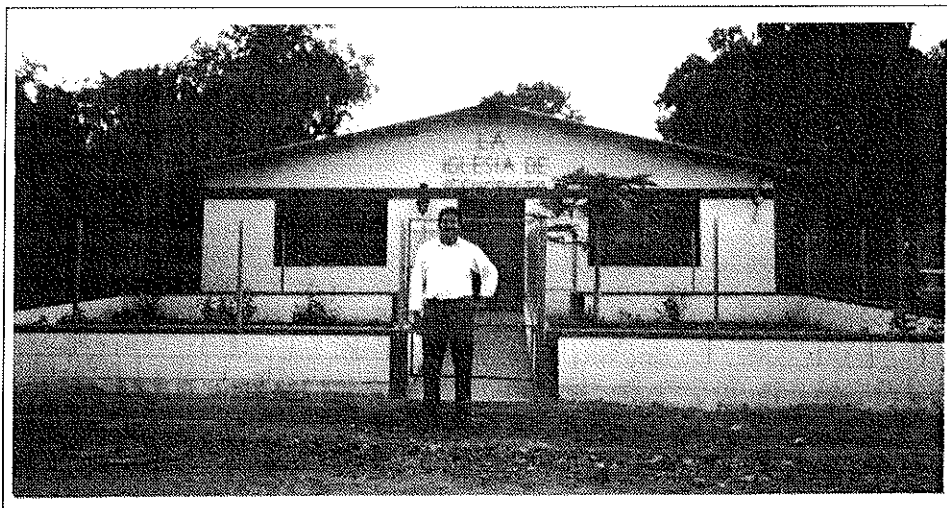
Continued from Page 5

of Joseph, who they are, their role in spreading the Gospel, and in building a city to be called the New Jerusalem. We can tell the world of Zion and the Peaceful Reign. We can explain the Way, the Truth, and the Life under the sound of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can tell the world, that "no man cometh unto the Father but by me." We must follow His doctrine, His instruction, His commandments, and His methods.

The Church of Jesus Christ which our Lord and Saviour founded in His day was not just for His generation. It was for generations to come. It was for all time.

The scriptures inform us in several instances that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never changes. He never will change. He is unalterable. With Jesus Christ, there is no shadow of turning. If the Lord never changes, His Church should not change. His ordinances should not change. His doctrine should not change. We should not change. We must be constant, sure and true to His purpose and methods.

We have a story to tell to the nations. That story is that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven. Our



Brother Hector Gastelum Carlon, Presiding Officer of the Ahome Mission in Mexico.

story to the world is the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been Restored in these the latter days. Our story to the world is how God has blessed us in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can share our testimonies, our dreams, our visions, and our experiences. We can tell the world what we experience, they will experience. The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all mankind. Let us articulate the message of the Restoration. Go tell it on the mountain. It is for every nation, every kindred, every tongue.

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Unites San Diego, CA

Continued from Page 8

branch have reorganized the Circle which has now brought in over thirty regular members. Included in the Circle is a variety of ages, along with many talents. We have, after praying, made "unity" our theme.

There have been many experiences, dreams, and scriptures that have shown us the way in our attempt to become unified and a valuable asset to our branch and the Church.

We are committed in becoming united because we feel that with the help of our Lord, united hearts, minds and hands can accomplish anything. For all of this, we are thankful.

Also, we recently celebrated the Golden Anniversary of the Ladies' Uplift Circle in San Diego. A luncheon was held to commemorate the occasion. Thirty-one women gathered to honor active sisters over the past fifty years. After enjoying a wonderful meal at the banquet, our President, Sister Carolyn Light, gave the history of the Ladies' Uplift Circle in San Diego.

The San Diego Ladies' Uplift Circle was the first Ladies' Circle organized on the west coast. Early in the 1940's, soon after the sisters relocated, they desired to have a Circle on the west coast to unite their causes. Their desires resulted in years of activity. This made San Diego's Ladies' Uplift Circle the third Circle as a branch. On August 27, 1946, five

sisters met, including Sister Jennie Castelli of Detroit, Michigan who organized them as the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The five charter members were Sisters Lena Liberto, Violet Thomas, Mary Saczko, Carmella Lombardo and Josephine Bracci.

Of these five, we were honored to have Sister Mary Saczko there at the luncheon. She received a plaque in appreciation for her dedication over the years. There were also others honored for their service and contributions to the Ladies' Uplift Circle during the past fifty years.

We are enthusiastic and hopeful for the future. We are thankful for the pioneering sisters that showed the way and provided a legacy for us, the sisters of the San Diego Branch.

### Raising Our Standard

Continued from Page 8

from all of the rooftops, from all where the flags ought to fly. From all of the treetops, till all of the world stops, while the Lord with His army goes by." After seminars today, we witnessed a glorious sight. It was a sight that is difficult to describe. Throughout the week in seminars, we were instructed to create a banner or flag that represented our seminar group's standard. We were then instructed to present these standards Thursday after seminars in the chapel. A representative from every seminar walked their banner in and stood at the front of the room. Brothers and sisters, words do not express the feeling of awe that was felt there. As they walked in the congregation sang, *Wave the Flags of Zion*. It was a beautiful sight! Thursday night we held a GMBA tradition, the children's and adult choirs honored and blessed us with hymns of praise to God. Following the choirs, we were addressed by Apostle Paul Palmieri. He likened our flag ceremony to the House of Israel when they marched through the camp. He exclaimed the pride he felt towards the Church. He begged us to take the beautiful sight with us into the world, that nobody would lower our standard; but make

them rise to meet it. "Brothers and sisters, we felt the power of God at our camp, now we must take that manna with us and feed our branches and our friends. We need to become the standard of the world. Let Jesus Christ shine in your life." While Brother Paul was speaking, a brother saw angels come down around him.

By the end of the camp, fifteen souls came to Jesus Christ and many were renewed in their faith. They are: Bethany Smith, Tampa, Florida; Nick Katsaras, Miami, Florida; Mark Cotellesse, Saline, Michigan; Candy Snake, Six Nations, Canada; Eva Tarbuk, Imperial, Pennsylvania; Jarrod Womack, San Diego, California; Jennifer Conger, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Cameron Staley, Cape Coral, Florida; Bobby Jo Gensburg, Warren, Ohio; Mark Rabe, Anaheim, California; Alaina Rabe, Anaheim, California; Stephen Buffa, Saline, Michigan; and Linda Calabrese, Lorain, Ohio. Our camp theme song was, *It's My Desire*. We cannot express the beautiful time we had in our little slice of heaven on earth. The GMBA thanks Brother Jason Monaghan and his committees, for all their work and sacrifice. On that note, let's remember next year's camp is in California and Brother Tom Liberto is the camp director. Let's keep him in our prayers that we will have a continuation of the same spirit we felt this year. Thank God, another camp, another big blessing.

### \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Michael McGuire and Sister Gina Bongiovanni were united in holy matrimony on November 7, 1997 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Louann M. Progar and Mark A. Nadzam were united in holy matrimony in Ambridge, Pennsylvania on September 27, 1997.

Brother Kevin Everett Jasmin and Sister Angela Fay McCook were united in holy matrimony on October 25, 1997 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

## Children Blessed

Matthew Shea McGuire, Jr., son of Matthew and Aimee McGuire, was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on November 2, 1997.

Gabrielle Rose Carlini, daughter of Brother Gary and Susan Carlini, was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on October 5, 1997.

Franchesca Deborah Cardillo, daughter of Jared and Gina Cardillo, was blessed on November 30, 1997 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

Brother Matthew Rogolino of the Brooklyn, New York Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in July 1997.

Brother Dominick Rose of the Brooklyn, New York Branch celebrated sixty-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in September 1997.

Sister Amelia Saccardi of the Brooklyn, New York Branch celebrated sixty-nine years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in October 1997.

## Baptisms and Reinstatement

Brother James (Jim) Martin was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on November 26, 1997. He was reinstated by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Heidi Landrey was baptized on August 10, 1997 in Mesa, Arizona. She was baptized by Brother Isaac Smith and confirmed by Brother Robert Watson.

Jamie Paternoster was baptized on June 29, 1997 in Mesa, Arizona. He was baptized by Brother Michael LaSala and confirmed by Brother Robert Watson.

Rachel Lynn Kay Robinson was baptized on December 14, 1997 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Donald Ross and confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Paul Stuart Robinson, Jr., was baptized on December 14, 1997 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Donald Ross and confirmed by Brother William Chepanoske.

Linda Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was baptized on July 16, 1997 at the GMBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida. She was baptized by Brother Joel Calabrese and confirmed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

## Obituaries

### CARMELLA MAZZEO

Sister Carmella Mazzeo of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to her eternal reward on October 12, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Gabriel (Bill) Mazzeo. Sister Carmella is survived by two sons, Frank and Gabriel Mazzeo; five sisters; seven grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

### LESLIE G. DICK

Leslie G. Dick of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on September 29, 1997. He is survived by his wife, Donna Lea and three children, Tommy, Debbie and Amy. His mother-in-law is Sister Sue Marek of the Roscoe Branch who is currently residing in the Washington Health Center, Washington, Pennsylvania.

### JOSEPH FURNARI

Brother Joseph Furnari of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed on to his eternal reward on October 27, 1997. Brother Furnari was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by a son, John. Brother Furnari is survived by his wife, Sister Lydia Furnari; one daughter, Sister Kathy Peschel; one sister, Madeline Bross; three brothers, Vincent, Leo and Sam Furnari; two grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

### SAVERIO (SAM) RISOLA

Brother Saverio (Sam) Risola of the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on April 10, 1997. Brother Risola was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Rose Scala Risola, three sons, Brothers Sam Jr., Dominick, and Paul; one daughter, Sister Florence Lombardo; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

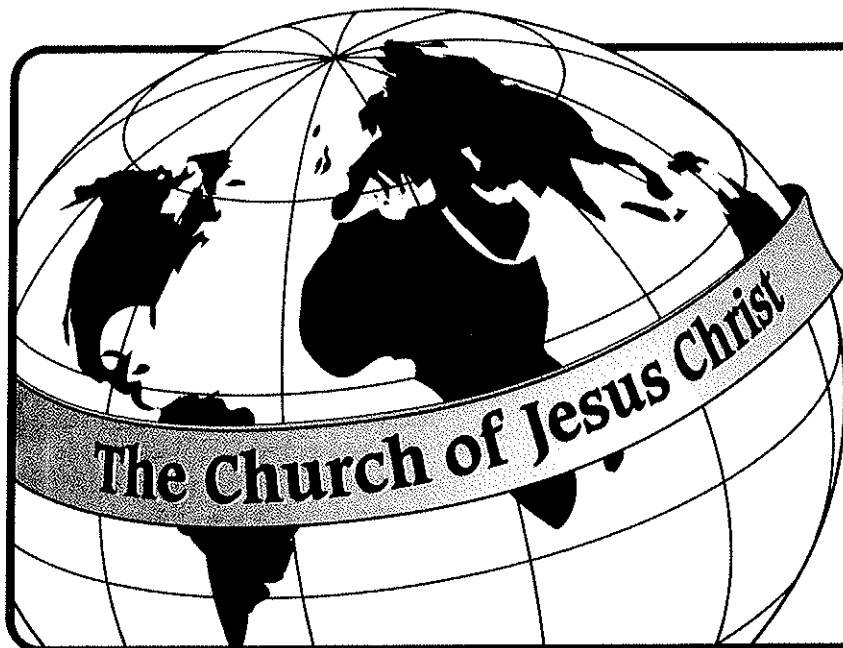
## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 1998

Volume 54, No. 3

## Lehi A Descendant of Joseph Who Was Sold into Egypt

*By Sister Sara Vancik*

### PART II AND CONCLUSION

My son, Nephi, also desired to see and know the things that I had seen. The Lord blessed him with the same vision that I had seen as he was caught away in the Spirit to an exceeding high mountain. Nephi in his vision was shown the city of Nazareth and the virgin who became the mother of the Son of God. Nephi was told that the rod of iron was the Word of God which led to the fountain of living waters or the tree of life, which waters represented the love of God. Nephi's vision was quite lengthy for he saw many, many years in the future when the Gentiles would be brought to the promised land. He saw our own people dwindling in unbelief after the Messiah appeared to them here. After the Gentiles took over this land of our inheritance, the Lord God gave them the records of our people and restored the true Gospel to them with the command that they would take this true Gospel to the remnant of our people.

After Nephi had this wonderful vision, he came to my tent in the valley of Lemuel to find his brethren still disputing over my words to them concerning my vision and the olive tree. Nephi spoke to them and they humbled themselves again insomuch that Nephi had great hopes of them that they would walk in righteousness.

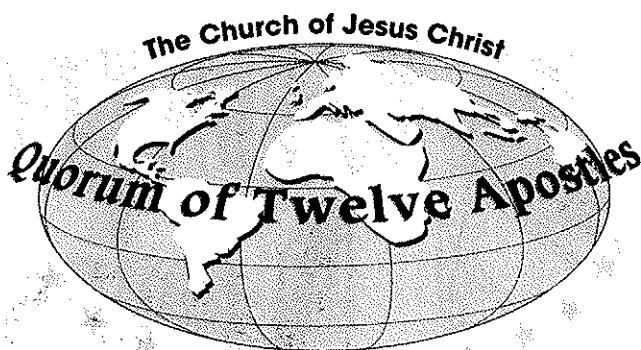
Soon after this, the Lord spoke to me by night saying we should take our journey in the wilderness. As I arose in the morning and went to my tent door, I was astonished to find a round ball of curious workmanship made of fine brass. Within the ball were two spindles, one of which pointed the way we should go in the wilderness. So we gathered our provisions and seed of every kind and started on our journey. After four days we did pitch our tents again while we hunted food for our families using bow and arrows. We traveled again following the directions on the ball. Nephi broke his bow and not being able to get any food, my other sons were angry and began to murmur. Because of our afflictions, Ishmael began to

murmur. Even I murmured against the Lord. Nephi made a bow and arrow out of wood and a straight stick and asked me where he should go to find food. I, too, had murmured and the Lord truly chastened me and I was told to look on the ball. The things which were written on the ball made me fear and tremble—also my sons and their families too. The pointers in the ball worked according to our faith. By following the directions on the ball, Nephi was able to find food and we did humble ourselves and gave thanks to the Lord.

We traveled again for many days when Ishmael died. His family mourned much and in their sorrow they blamed me because I was instrumental in bringing them out into this wilderness and they desired to return to Jerusalem. My sons, Laman and Lemuel, who had married Ishmael's daughters, became very angry also. They sought to kill me and Nephi but the Lord spoke to them and chastened them. The Lord turned away their anger and they repented so the Lord blessed us again.

For eight years we traveled in the wilderness finally reaching the shores of a great sea which we called Irreantum. This was a beautiful place—lots of fruit and wild honey. The Lord was providing for us that we might not perish. This place we called Bountiful.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Trusting in God

*By Apostle Paul Palmieri*

We define trust as our firm belief or confidence in the reliability of our faith. It is the confidence we have in God that what He promises He will do. That total confidence in God can be termed, **Our Trust in God**.

Many today place their trust in tangible entities, such as governments, financial institutions, schools and individuals. To trust in the above are important when balanced with priorities. Even our currency in the United States uses the term, "In God We Trust." There is however a greater resource in whom we can place our trust, that is, in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we are being challenged by the world and especially by the opposition to our souls, to place our trust in what we can accomplish, not what God can do but what we can do.

Above everything in life, trusting in God for our spiritual and natural needs gives us the hope and joy of living. If we lose this, we have lost it all. We trust Him for our salvation; we trust Him for the hope we have in eternal life with Christ. God gave His Son that we would be able to once again be in His presence. Jesus came to redeem us to Himself, without any stipulation except as stated in the Book of Mormon; "... for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in the Holy One of Israel" (II Nephi, chapter 30, verse 2).

I am reminded of a project in which we participated to save stamps

to redeem them for a van to give to one of our missionaries on an American Indian Reservation. We trusted the company to redeem the stamps; the company went out of business, and fortunately another company took over the project or we would have lost the redemption value. What a contrast with the promise of God; no one can take away our redemption, whom should we trust? God gave His most valued possession, Jesus Christ, that we would be redeemed. The only requirement to make it effective is for us to do His will. He made the promise thousands of years ago, thousands trusted Him and He kept His promise. He is worthy to be trusted.

God could have invalidated His promise because of mankind's disobedience, but He kept His promise. Trust God and His promises, they are sure and true. Consider some of His wonderful promises that we have believed and trusted:

- \* He promised He would never destroy the earth again with water.
- \* He promised Abraham that he would have a great family, even when he was old and had no children.
- \* He promised the children of Israel that He would deliver them out of Egypt, and their bondage. The promise may have been a long time coming, but God was faithful.
- \* He promised them a promised land. And even when they disappointed Him, God was faithful to His word.
- \* He promised His people on the land of America that He was going to come into the world as He promised thousands of years ago. Some

people were willing to kill their brothers over the belief that Christ was going to come into the world. Christ spoke to reassure Nephi, and said, "tomorrow I will be born." (God was and is faithful.)

God works today as in the past. God wants us to place our trust in Him and in His Holy Word. He promised that the Gospel would be restored and it was. Some will differ but that does not change God's promise. God promised that the Tribe of Joseph and the entire House of Israel would be restored. Is anything impossible with God? Has His word ever failed? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, that is why we trust Him. He promised us that a peaceful condition will exist on the earth while men and women are living in the flesh. What a wonderful hope the saints of God possess, that a peaceful condition will exist again on the earth as it was in the Garden of Eden.

Today God has commissioned The Church of Jesus Christ to bring the Gospel to all people, in all parts of the world. To accomplish this, we must trust in God that He will fulfill all that He has spoken. We must trust in God for everything we need. We need to depend more on Him and less on our own ability.

Trusting in God extends beyond the spiritual needs we have as individuals and the work of the Church. It embraces every aspect of our lives; our families, our homes, our jobs, and our associations. It needs to be taken into consideration when we take a job, when we take a transfer in the Church and in our jobs, when marrying a mate, when buying a house, and when giving to the Church, etc. This is what God wants from each of us—to place our trust in Him completely for everything!

God never forgets anything, "except our sins." We can trust Him for that. Trust God to solve your needs, spiritually and temporally and He will never fail you. At the end of your life, He will be faithful and bring you into His glorious kingdom. Only trust Him!!

## Lehi

Continued from Page 1

While we sojourned along the sea shore, the Lord commanded Nephi to build a ship. He told him where to find ore and how to make tools. The Lord told Nephi if he would keep His commandments that He would take our people to a promised land. He said that we would know that He had delivered us from the destruction at Jerusalem. When Nephi began to build the ship, Laman and Lemuel called him a "fool." They did not believe the Lord had instructed him. Nephi began to be sorrowful but that caused my sons to rejoice. They even said Nephi was just like me. They said it was because of the foolish imaginations of my heart that I had led them away from their home in Jerusalem, and that Nephi was the same. Nephi spoke to them reminding them of God's blessing in bringing them safely from Jerusalem. He also brought to their remembrance how God had provided and cared for His people during the time of Moses. Nephi believed the Lord was able to do all things for him and us too. Nephi spoke with such power that his brothers could not contend with him. They could not even touch him for many days because of the Spirit of God which was in him. The Lord told Nephi to stretch forth his hand to his brothers and He the Lord would shock them that they would know that He is their Lord God. They felt this shaking and realized it was the power of God with Nephi. They were about to bow down and worship Nephi but he stopped them telling them to worship God and honor their parents. After this experience, my sons worked with Nephi in building the ship which was done according to the plan and instructions of the Lord. When Nephi finished the ship, the Lord told me, Lehi, that we should gather our provisions and board the ship.

We had spent eight years traveling in the wilderness after leaving Jerusalem and had suffered many hardships. Ishmael had died causing much sorrow and discontent in his family. Our women had suffered

much bearing children along the way. But the Lord had provided and cared for us. Now He has provided a ship to carry us across these great waters to a promised land.

In these eight years my wife, Sariah, and I have been blessed with two more sons, Jacob and Joseph. God is so good!

After we all boarded the ship, we put forth into the sea and were driven before the wind toward the promised land. After being out on the waters many days, Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael and their wives began making merry, singing and dancing with much rudeness. This caused much concern to Nephi and he spoke to them as he feared God's punishment upon them. This made them angry and they tied up Nephi with cords and beat him. To their surprise the compass would not work. They knew not which way to steer the ship. A great storm arose and we were driven back for three days. They feared lest we should all drown. The tempest became exceeding sore. After four days my sons and Ishmael's sons and their families began to fear lest God's judgments were upon them. They loosed Nephi from his bands. Nephi had suffered much but he was still able to praise God. I, Lehi, had spoken much to Laman and Lemuel and Ishmael's sons but they threatened me and anyone else who spoke in behalf of Nephi.

My wife, Sariah, and I were getting old and suffered much grief and sorrow because of our sons even to the place we were sick in bed not knowing what the outcome would be. Jacob and Joseph were young too and needed their mother. Even the tears of Nephi's wife and children did not soften the hearts of my sons. Nothing but the power of God could soften their hearts. When they realized they might all be lost, they loosed Nephi and the compass began to work again. After many days, we arrived upon the shores of the promised land.

After Nephi spoke many things to us, I spoke to them reminding them of God's mercy to us in bringing us out of Jerusalem. I had seen in a vision that Jerusalem has been de-

stroyed. Had we not left, we too would have perished. I spoke unto them also about their rebellions on the sea and how merciful God had been in sparing our lives. In my words to them I prophesied that none would come to this land of promise unless they would be brought by the hand of the Lord.

The Lord promised me that inasmuch as those whom the Lord shall bring out of Jerusalem shall keep His commandments, they would prosper and be blessed upon this land but if that day would come that they would reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, and their Redeemer, the judgments of God would rest upon them. I exhorted them to awake and hear the words of a trembling parent whose limbs must soon lay down in a cold and silent grave from whence no traveler returns; in a few days I go the way of all the earth.

I have feared much for you my sons lest a cursing come upon you. Oh, that you might be a favored people of the Lord. But His will be done. He has said that inasmuch as you keep His commandments ye shall prosper but inasmuch as ye do not keep His commandments ye shall be cut off from His presence.

Arise, my sons and be men. Oh, that I might have joy in you, that my heart may leave this world in gladness because of you. Put on the armor of righteousness and rebel no more against your brother Nephi. Harken unto the voice of Nephi and ye will not perish. If ye will hearken unto him, I give you my first blessing but if not, it will rest on him.

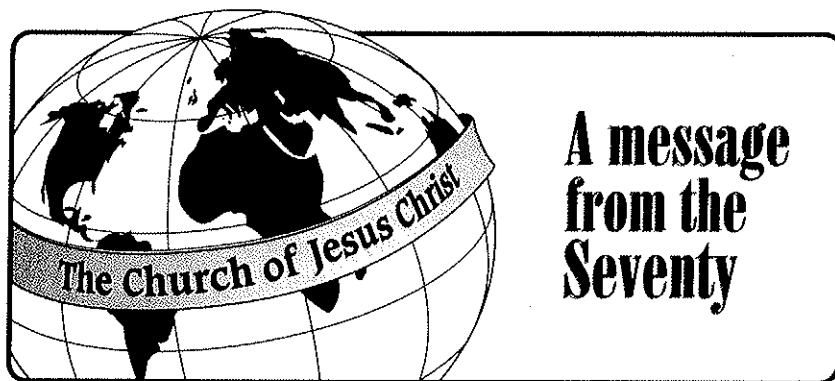
I spoke to Zoram also for I know he is a true friend to Nephi forever. Because he has been faithful, his seed will be blessed with Nephi's seed.

I also spoke to Jacob and Joseph my sons who were born during our travels in the wilderness.

Jacob, I know you have been redeemed and that you will dwell safely with Nephi. Your days will be spent in the service of God for you have beheld His glory in your youth.

I spoke to Jacob and all my sons

(Continued on Page 11)



## Preparations Being Made for 1999 World Missionary Conference

*By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Preparations are being made for the Church's second World Missionary Conference. It will be held at the Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois from June 26 to July 2, 1999.

Plans are being made to accommodate the expected large attendance for this widely acclaimed event which will bring many nationalities and cultures together. Representatives and members from the various mission fields will be brought to the United States for what is anticipated to be another glorious time for everyone to meet and worship with brothers and sisters from other nations and from the many domestic locations.

The first such gathering took place in 1983 in Virginia and those who were privileged to attend then still recall the wonderful periods of time which were spent with brothers and sisters whom they would otherwise have never been able to fellowship. The love of God, which has no language barriers was manifested, and the interaction brought a greater appreciation for the work that is done around the world.

The ability to greet and speak with one another, sometimes through interpreters, afforded everyone the chance to share the Lord's blessings and to become more aware of God's dealings with individuals and locations in different parts of the world. The missionary work being done and experiences, healings, and other manifestations of the Spirit reported were extremely edifying. Assembling

and worshipping together was, and is, considered the best way to feel the commonality and unity that are present in the Gospel of Christ. This time, it should surely be the same!

APPROVED BY OCTOBER 1996  
CONFERENCE

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, through its Missionary Operating Committee which is responsible for the Church's missionary work, proposed the world gathering at the October 1996 General Church Conference which approved it for 1999.

The MOC, through its subcommittees for other countries, will be responsible for bringing, housing, and making arrangements for the brothers and sisters who will come from abroad. In addition, all parts of the Church are being included in the overall project, which is under the General Church Presidency.

The auxiliary units of the Church (the General Ladies' Uplift Circle and the General Missionary Benevolent Association) have already begun their efforts to support the event through fund-raising activities and through earmarked funds specifically for the conference.

EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION

Currently, there is much overall activity in advance for 1999, as committees are being formed, require-

ments and needs involved in travel are being determined, and housing for all who will attend are being evaluated. Understandably, a longer lead time is required for arranging and implementing undertakings such as this

The Presidency has been holding some meetings at which the overall schedule is being shaped. The many subcommittees involved are presenting their requirements so that all phases can be properly coordinated.

The missionaries and members from the various mission fields who will be attending will be representing their locations, so displays and other appropriate means to describe and narrate the work of the Lord in their areas must also be provided. This availability will add a very distinct dimension and will add immeasurably to our bonding in the Spirit even though we all come from different areas and cultures.

All individuals who are planning to attend should also start making their plans now, so they can obtain accommodations that they would desire. Information will be forthcoming through the regions, branches, and missions as soon as possible. Included will be the costs, registration requirements, and other appropriate news. This column will furnish periodical updates of the progress being made.

The ability to meet saints from different parts of the world will allow everyone to learn for themselves the work that is being done in God's Kingdom on earth. Imagine being able to be with our people of many nations without leaving the United States!

### Notice

The *Saints Hymnal* will be reprinted in the near future. A letter with information and an order form has been sent to each branch. If you would like to order, the cost is \$10.50 per book, which includes shipping and handling. Contact your presiding elder or the Print House at 734-429-5080.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, Oh 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC COAST**  
Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Have you ever felt lost? Did you ever travel somewhere and had no idea where you were going, where you were, or where you might be? Without excellent directions, it is difficult if not impossible to find your way.

The same condition exists in your spiritual life. Without the Lord directing you, you will never reach your spiritual destination, which is the Kingdom of God. When you ask the Lord, He will direct you. We read in Alma 37:37, "*Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings and he will direct thee for good . . .*" When we inquire directions of the Lord, He will answer and set you on His holy highway which is not crooked, but straight as an arrow.

The Lord does not walk in crooked paths. His path and way is straight. The subject of geometry instructs the student that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. So are His directions. They are straight and narrow but they are exact and true. You will never get lost when you follow the Lord.

There are those who say it is very hard to follow the Lord. According to the Scriptures, it is not hard to follow the Lord. In fact, the opposite is true. We read it is "easy" to follow our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In the 37th chapter of Alma, it states that it is "easy to give heed to the word of Christ which will point to you a straight course to eternal bliss . . ." When you follow Him, He will bring you to the promised land!

Consider the experience of Lehi and his family. They had no idea where they were going when they left Jerusalem as commanded by the Lord. Please remember that Lehi and his family were city dwellers. Lehi was not schooled or wise in how to live much less survive in the wilderness. That did not concern Lehi at all. It did not matter to him. He would follow the Lord. Lehi knew the Lord would not allow him to become lost or be lost in the wilderness as long as he followed the ways of God.

How did the Lord take care of them? Did they wander aimlessly in the wilderness or were they directed by the power of God? What happened? The Lord prepared the way for Lehi. Our Saviour miraculously provided a compass-like device, a director which Lehi called a Liahona. It appeared outside the door of his tent one morning, put there by the hand of the Lord. The director was prepared to show Lehi, his family and followers the course they should travel in the wilderness.

The Liahona, the director was shaped like a ball. The manufacture and craft was a curious workmanship. Naturally! It was made by the Lord. It was made of fine brass. Within the ball were two spindles and one pointed the way they should travel in the wilderness. How did it work? By their faith! It worked according to their diligence and heed to the instructions and commandments of the Lord. The directions and instructions were written in a "new writing." Although the writing was new, it was plain to read and it gave them understanding in the ways of the Lord. A new writing and immediate interpretation!

The director took them to the more fertile parts of the wilderness. There, Lehi and his followers could plant their seeds and grow crops. They could also hunt for food and meat. Many times the Lord, through the director, pointed them to food. He would not let them go hungry. The Lord cared for and provided their every need! Imagine, city dwellers in the wilderness. Not only did they survive, they completed their journey to the promised land! The promised land had more jewels, gold and silver than what they left behind in Jerusalem! Just like Job, their treasures increased, they may have more than doubled!

The Lord will direct us to the more fertile parts in this vast wilderness we call the world. He

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Great Joy

Dear Boys and Girls,

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

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

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

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

So the first time that Satan puts bad thoughts in your mind, or the first time you think them, you need to stop those thoughts. Maybe you are angry, or coveting. Coveting means wishing something that doesn't belong to you was yours. Even grown-ups have to watch their thoughts so they don't start to covet their friend's house, or pretty car, or nice family, or the way someone sings or can think real well. Each one



of us is supposed to be thankful to God for what He has given us. It wastes our lives and our time for joy if we're sitting around mad or jealous about other people's blessings.

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

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

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

When you're afraid, tell Jesus. Talk to Him out loud, or in your mind and heart. He already knows your every thought, so tell Him about those mean feelings, or scary worries. Ask Him to help you change, or be willing to change. Talk to the Lord the same way you talk to anyone. He will hear you. He loves you already; He wants you to feel great joy, too.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## Announcement

For March, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.40%
2 years	5.50%
3 years	5.60%
4 years	5.70%
5 years	5.80%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by 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



## Receiving the Good Seed

*By Sister Mandy Genaro*

The saints received the good seed of God as we gathered for our semi-annual GMBA Conference on November 7-9, 1997 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Our guest of honor was Jesus Christ and He richly blessed us with His presence.

We began our weekend with our Activities Meeting on Friday night and continued with our business on Saturday, interspersed with singing and testimony, which set a nice tone for the evening meeting as we felt the presence of God.

The evening meeting was "campout" style with various songs, testimonies, and inspired words directed toward the youth. Apostle Paul Palmieri opened our service speaking of the hope we have of eternal life. He addressed the young people, encouraging them to put all hope and trust in the Lord who will work out every detail of our lives if we give Him control. The newly baptized then came forward and bore their testimonies of how they said, "yes" to Jesus Christ. Many young people expressed the difficulty of making choices in the world, and others confessed their weakness before the Lord. However, we all make mistakes, and we know that our forgiving God has His arms of love outstretched, ready to pick us up when we fall. All of the youth were then asked to come forward and sing. After a few selections, the ministry came and formed a circle around the young people. Brother Peter Scolaro lovingly addressed them saying, "That lion [the enemy] cannot touch us if we hold hands with our hearts." We need to hold on to each other and support one another because if we are united, God will be in the midst and the enemy cannot harm us. The brothers of the ministry felt that a repentant spirit was prevalent, and Brother Ike J. Smith

invited anyone who felt the Spirit prompting them to make their wishes known. In other words, the ministry threw out that seed to see if anyone would receive it. This repentant spirit remained with us and was evident as we gathered once again on Sunday morning.

Our Sunday Service was opened by Brother Jerry Valenti who was inspired to preach on "seeds." Even though he displayed natural seeds in his hands, he was speaking of those spiritual seeds—the words of Jesus Christ that we must plant within the hearts of men. He said, "It doesn't matter how good of a thrower—or sower—I am, but how well the seed is received." The parable of the sower and the seed tells us that some seeds fell by the wayside, some fell into stony places, some fell among thorns, and some fell into good ground. We need to be that good ground, ready to receive the seed (the word of God) and nourish it that it might take root and grow. Brother Jerry used the scripture in Alma 32:28, "We will compare the word unto a seed. If you give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a good seed, if you do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word of God is good, for it beginneth to be delicious to me."

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., followed, asking the congregation, "What is your heart like? Is it soft like the good ground, ready to receive the seed and allow it to take root?" We need to nurture the seed so we might produce fruit. Throw out the seed of Jesus Christ, give vent to the good seed of God. Brother Pete reminded us to keep striving to be perfect like our Father in heaven. If we instill the good seed within our hearts, we can be perfected in Him.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri then directed the message to the unbaptized saying, "Walk away from that which is evil, and feast upon the word of God. Pick up that seed, pick up that word

which is good." We could feel the prompting of the Spirit of God to send the invitation out to see if anyone had opened their heart to give place for the seed to be planted.

Brother Frank Giovannone followed this prompting spirit saying, "When the seed is planted in your heart, you know the Lord is touching you." Brother Ken Staley then called the young people forward to sing. Many were touched and the repentant spirit was very prevalent. The singing was so powerful, and we were so blessed in raising and praising that precious name, Jesus.

We then partook of Sacrament, and Apostle Paul Palmieri later expressed to us that he was questioning the Lord, asking, "How do you feel about us?" Immediately, Brother Jim Sgro spoke in the Spirit saying, "Thus saith the Lord; I loved you then, and I love you now!" Thank you, dear Lord, for your everlasting love.

We concluded another beautiful conference weekend, but not without spiritual nourishment for the seed each of us has allowed to be planted within our hearts. We also rejoice for another heart that was opened to the seed of Jesus Christ. Sister Amy Buccellato from Simi Valley, California was the good ground that received that seed Sunday morning as she asked for her baptism after the meeting. Praise God for His word, His Gospel, and His love! These free gifts are ours for the taking—or planning—if we are willing to open our hearts and give vent to the good seed of God. Be that good ground, plant that seed within your heart, nourish it, and watch the Lord turn that simple seed into beautiful, sweet fruit for His honor and glory.

### A Thought

Plant seeds of kindness,  
and watch your garden of  
friends grow.



## Maine Mission Established

*By Cynthia M. Onorato*

We threw the door open! Jesus came in! He brought souls to salvation and saved them from sin.

The power and blessings of God showered down upon us June 28 and 29, 1997, as we gathered to establish our Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. Many visitors gathered to take part in this special event.

We had our organizational meeting Saturday evening. Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., addressed the meeting and welcomed everyone. He gave a brief history of the Maine Mission and thanked Brother Dominick Rose and the Brooklyn, New York Branch for their love, support and direction for the Maine Mission. He stated, "There comes a time when the children must stand on their own."

Brother Dominick spoke of looking forward to continuing our relationship. He spoke of the commitment Brother Frank Zaher made and how the Lord directed him to do missionary work in the State of Maine. The Lord has a time for everything. Apostle Paul Benyola opened in prayer. Brother Phillip Arcuri, Region President, led our meeting. He stated he was very thankful for the opportunity to come. Many labored to put this Mission together. We were a growing Mission and he would pray that the Lord would bless us spiritually and naturally as an Established Mission. Only through diligence, prayers, long-suffering, God will bless us. He referred to IV Nephi. There was peace for over one hundred and sixty years. The Church prospered because the people laid aside all differences and worked together. They had all things in common. He then spoke of the qualifications of becoming an Established Mission. All offices which were required are filled and active in the Maine Mission. Brother Richard

Onorato, Sr., then sprang to his feet and spoke in the Spirit, "Oh ye my people, My Church shall spread throughout the entire land, ye are my people."

Our meeting continued by introducing all those who held an office. We were extended help many times from our Region and they said that help would continue. We then enjoyed sharing our testimonies.

Brother Sam Dell spoke of the importance of unity and for all of us to make use of our talents for the Lord. Use it! He rejoiced in being able to come to Maine and help with the work of the building. He said, we had a vision, determination and the ability from God and we used it for God. It gives us a good feeling and the Lord looks down upon us with pleasure.

A lovely communion decanter, two glasses and two plates were presented to the Maine Mission by Sister Geneva and Brother Sam Dell in honor of our Saviour. It was given later to Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., that this was an outward sign of growth for the Maine Mission. We were very grateful for this precious gift. Brother Richard Sr., offered a prayer of blessing upon the communion articles. Brother Dominick Rose prompted us to hold on to the love of God and take it with us wherever we go.

Brother Sam Sgro offered a special prayer while we joined hands in a circle. As we joined in fellowship and service to our Lord on Sunday morning, a prayer of forty-six years was answered. Dominick Perrello asked to be baptized. Oh, what a wonderful, wonderful day. After opening our meeting, we gathered at the water's edge to witness our brother's baptism. It was performed by Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. A very sweet, humbling spirit was felt.

We returned to church, noticing that the church door was left open and Jesus came in. The Elders formed a circle around Brother Dominick and a prayer was offered by Brother Paul Benyola. Brother Sam Dell confirmed our brother.

Apostle Paul Benyola expressed his joy in seeing the work of God in unison and harmony. He was given a piece of scripture the night before

which confirms our brother's calling. He used the scripture in Mosiah concerning the waters of Mormon. He stated that they wanted to be part of the first resurrection with Jesus Christ. This is the desire of our hearts. We were created that we might have joy. Joy is a way to see God to gain our heavenly reward. It is a joy to see someone coming to God and partaking in the Lord's Supper. True joy is love.

Brother Sam Dell expressed his joy referring to Alma, "Can you sing the song of redeeming love?" Yes we can! Christ is always seeking for us to come unto Him. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He praised God with all his heart. God is good! God loves us!

Brother Dominick Rose read Moroni chapter 10, verse 32, "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him." Love God with all your might and strength.

Brother Sam Sgro spoke of the Apostle Paul, II Timothy, chapter 1, verse 9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace . . ." He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Make a commitment unto the Lord. "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded unto him against that day." Be committed and focused on Him. Nothing shall separate us from the love of God.

Brother Richard Jr. stated how every chapter our brothers went into was brought out during the past five weeks. God was bringing forth His message. Testimony was shared by everyone.

Sister Rose Laessig had a vision of three personages as Brother Paul Benyola opened and as time went on, she saw more and more.

Brother Dominick Perrello gave a beautiful testimony of how the Lord has always been with him and spared his life many times. He also helped him overcome alcoholism. He thanked God. Robert Onorato poured his heart and soul out in testimony and requested to be reinstated into the Church. As he was testifying, Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., was compelled by the Spirit and rose to his feet with arms outstretched saying, "Jesus' arms are

open to you, He is calling to you, come back Brother Bob." He wept in the Spirit. Another soul was returning from the wild.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., related an experience that he had twenty years ago which came to pass today. He dreamed of a great snow storm. It was coming down in great sheets and was destroying things in its path. A voice said, "Run to the mountain." When he got to the top, the snow storm stopped. At the top of the mountain, there was a golden door. In his hand, he had a golden hammer and spike. He knocked out the hinges to get the door open. On the inside of the door was Brother Dominick Perrello nailed to the door with a golden arrow piercing his heart, "The Gospel." Then Brother Richard handed the golden hammer and spike to Brother Robert Onorato. It was said through the years Dominick would not come to the Gospel until Brother Bob came back. That miracle happened today.

Brother Bob Onorato came forward to be reinstated. He was reinstated by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. Brothers Sam Sgro and Richard Onorato Jr. passed the Lord's Supper. We all rejoiced in the Lord's bounty of blessings. God bless each and every one of you. Come and visit. Our door is open!

## Ground Breaking Forest Hills, FL Branch

*By Brother Dan Risola*

On Saturday, October 25, 1997, members of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch made the first step in beginning a new work in Holiday, Florida by holding a ground breaking service on our new property at Grand Boulevard and Berry Hill Road. The branch's main concern is we remain united as we progress in the building process. It was unity which allowed the Lord to bless us in times past and if we remain united, the Lord will continue to bless us in times to come. With that theme in our minds, the brothers and sisters formed a circle with hands held

together as Brother Jim Speck offered a prayer asking God's blessing upon the ground that it would be used to further the work of Jesus Christ in this part of His vineyard.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Presiding Elder, then turned the meeting over to the branch historian, Brother Dan Risola, to recap the natural and spiritual events that brought us from September 1991 to these present grounds. He started by relating an experience that was had by the late Brother Sam Risola on his way to our first meeting in Palm Harbor. Looking at the sunset, he saw two suns in the clear blue sky and then a rainbow emerged connecting the two together. A confirmation to that experience was had when the brothers found a cardboard rainbow pinned to the kitchen wall of the old Palm Harbor Branch while preparing for its renovation. Brother Dan then summarized the many blessings in Palm Harbor from our first baptism, blessing of a baby, and ordination. In total, the branch experienced nine baptisms, five blessings of children, seven ordinations, and many other bountiful blessings, including the gift of tongues and interpretation, dreams, and visions. One could see the joy on the faces of the members as they reflected on these past blessings.

We praise God for blessings received in the past and anticipate greater blessings in the future. The members of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch wish to extend their warmest thanks for your prayers and donations that made this event possible. Please continue to remember us as we lay the foundation of the Lord's new house and dedicate it to His honor and glory.

## A Touch of Heaven on Earth

*By Sister Doreen Schmitt-Dino*

"A touch of heaven on earth" is the feeling those of us who live in Colorado experience every day as we look at the handiwork of the Lord in the snow covered Rocky Mountains,

the bright blue sky with the white fluffy clouds, or the brisk air of a fall afternoon.

In 1991, Brother Walt and Sister Carri Jankowski and their daughter, Karen, moved from Anaheim, California to the Denver, Colorado area for what they thought was a job change. What none of us knew, however, was that was the beginning of the recent work of the Church here. In 1993, Sister Doreen Schmitt-Dino and her husband, Ross, were directed to Denver for a job change too. On Sunday mornings in Brother Walt and Sister Carrie's living room, we discussed the things of the Lord wondering why we were all "plucked" out of our safe and secure branches to be sitting out in Colorado . . . just three of us. But God had a plan and after six years, it is beginning to make sense.

Today, we meet on Sunday mornings in Sister Doreen and Ross' home in Parker, Colorado, about thirty miles south of Denver. Our group has grown to ten baptized members which, along with their spouses, children and friends number twenty-two people! God has directed many to Denver from all over the country. Brother Walt and Sister Carrie Jankowski from Anaheim, California; their daughter, Karen, her husband, Paul Houston and their son, Tanner from Denver; Sister Doreen Schmitt-Dino, her husband Ross, their daughter Francesca Rose from Metuchen, New Jersey; Brother Doug and Sister Pat McClellan from Dallas, Texas; Brother Arthur Landrey, Jr., his wife, Kendra, and their sons, Joshua, Jacob and Seth; Sister Janice Benyola and David Anderson also from Dallas; Brother Chuck Micale, his wife Joan and daughter Jeni, from Cheyenne, Wyoming; and our newest member, Mike Tamburino from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Mike has brought his friend, Kelly, with whom he teaches high school. You may know of other brothers, sisters and friends already in Colorado or on their way here. If so, please have them get in touch with Sister Doreen (303-840-8189) so God's work can continue to grow.

(Continued on Page 10)

## A Touch of Heaven on Earth

Continued from Page 9

This past year, 1997, has been an exciting one for our group. We have been blessed with the birth of three babies, Brother Walt has had the privilege of officiating three weddings, and the Church has had exposure to several people who have shown some interest in what God is doing for us and what He can do for them. The Denver work is now an established Mission under the Anaheim Branch in the Pacific Coast Region. We have had a synthesizer donated to help us stay in tune when we sing. Brother Mike Tamburino built a pulpit for the Mission. He and Kelly have begun putting together a songbook of favorite hymns to compliment the *Songs of Zion*. If any branch has a few old green *Saints Hymnals* to donate to the Denver Mission, we would appreciate it since we do not have any of those books to sing from in our meetings. Send them to Sister Doreen's attention if you can. The best news is that we have had to purchase larger Sacrament articles because our group has grown so much!

God has also blessed us with several visitors during the past year. Early last spring, we had twenty-six visitors from all over the country in town to witness Karen and Paul Houston's wedding. Brothers and sisters were here from Anaheim, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland and Atlanta. Among the speakers that Sunday were Brothers Tom Liberto, Rusty Heaps, Tom Jones and Jim Huttenberger who collectively with God's inspiration, blessed our souls. There was spirited singing and testimony and much needed fellowship for all. In the fall, Brother George and Sister Stella Benyola from Dallas visited us and enhanced our spirits with their presence. Brother Rusty Heaps also stopped in October to teach, preach and fellowship with us again. We are waiting for more visits from any and all who can find their way to Colorado in the months and years to come. Thanks to those who have made the trip already. Your visits have brought both blessings and memories for all of

us here.

Some recent news; Brother Walt's company asked if he would like to move back to Denver and base his job from there. His company will pay all costs up to and including the purchase of his California home if necessary. So, the Denver Mission will have a resident Elder, again along with a Teacher, Deaconess and two piano players. It looks like God is getting ready for something here!

The Lord continues to bless us in many ways through testimonies of answered prayers, to dreams of baptisms and growth, to the fellowship of people who were once strangers but are now close and dear friends. Those of us in the Denver Mission believe that God has something special for His work in this part of the country. He has our attention and we feel privileged to be a part of His plan.

Remember us in your thoughts and prayers because we still miss the closeness and blessings of branches we left behind. We also extend a warm welcome to any and all who may feel inspired to visit us at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Come experience for yourself "a touch of heaven on earth" at the Denver, Colorado Mission.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and sisters,

We would like to thank all of you for your constant prayers during the recent and prolonged illness of our husband and father and in his recent loss. We also thank you for the many calls, cards and concern which was greatly appreciated. We felt the effects of your prayers many times.

The Walter E. Donkin Family

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers, sisters and friends,

I want to express my sincere and humble thanks for your prayers, cards, and many telephone calls during the past several months as I recover from a

fall last October. God has blessed me and I thank Him for His goodness and the love of my brothers, sisters and friends. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Sister Carmella Peterkin

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Bittinger, Joseph  
724-438-6117

Cadman, Russell, Ethel  
724-475-4254

Champine, Larry and Rosanne  
46821 Burt Ct.  
Chesterfield, MI 48047-6208  
810-716-1934

Ford, Joel and Linda  
6409 Webber Cole Rd.  
Kinsman, OH 44428  
330-876-9213

Gray, Shirley, Johnnie  
565 Irby Street  
Woodruff, SC 29388  
864-476-6071

Greensburg Branch  
724-837-5490

Hayford, Daveda  
440-293-7231

Monongahela Branch  
724-258-3066

Olexa, Fred, Charlotte  
1430 Memorial Drive  
Perryopolis, PA 15473  
724-736-0945  
Q70 Fax 724-736-0554

Rutledge, Nickolas  
9084 Simons Rd.  
Williamsfield, OH 44093  
330-876-8923

Sommerville, Trudy  
3663 Derbyshire Rd.  
Apt. 115  
Casselberry, FL 32707-7227  
407-834-0730

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Cape Coral Branch  
1911 Wade Drive  
Cape Coral, FL 33991  
941-283-1991

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Print House  
734-429-5080

Vaillancourt, Nancy  
516 Dauner Rd.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-714-1716

World Conference Center

## Lehi

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quite lengthy concerning the plan of God even from the creation so they would understand that "Adam fell that men might be; and men are that they might have joy." I exhorted them to choose the good part even as I have done and make good use of their time of probation.

I also had great words to speak to my little son, Joseph, who was my last born in the wilderness. Because of the covenant made to our father Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, thou art blessed and your seed shall not be destroyed for they shall hearken to the book.

Joseph, I am a descendant of Joseph, who was sold and carried captive into Egypt. The Lord truly blessed this Joseph with a great promise for our people that He would raise up a righteous branch unto the House of Israel—one that was to be broken off. The Lord is going to raise up a Seer, a Choice Seer, from the loins of Joseph of Egypt to bring our people to a knowledge of the covenants which God has made to our fathers. This Seer will be great like unto Moses and will do only the work God commands him to do. The Lord will give him power to bring forth His word unto our seed and convince them of the word that has already gone forth among them. He will bring God's word among your descendants and

bring them to a knowledge of us and God's covenants to our people. He will have a spokesman even as Moses did. The Lord will bless this Choice Seer and out of weakness he shall be made strong. Those who seek to destroy him will be confounded. His name shall be called Joseph after his father and even after Joseph of Egypt to whom God has given this promise.

Joseph, hearken unto your brother, Nephi, and you will be blessed. Remember the dying words of your father, Lehi.

After telling Joseph of this great blessing of the coming of a Choice Seer from his seed, I spoke to Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael. I desired so much to leave my blessing upon them. I told them the Lord has said that "inasmuch as ye would keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence." Because of my blessing upon my sons, God will not suffer their seed to perish but will be merciful to their seed forever.

I left a blessing upon my son, Sam, also for he and his seed shall be numbered with Nephi and his seed and the Lord will bless him all his days.

I have spoken to my family according to the feelings of my heart with the Spirit of the Lord leading me. A few more days and I go the way of all the earth.

"But behold, the Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell; I have beheld His glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of His love."

Lehi,  
A descendant of Joseph who was sold into Egypt

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

will direct us and place us in good, solid ground. He will keep us in His care. He will provide for us. He will not allow us to go hungry, either naturally or spiritually. What we have to do is follow His directions. We must follow His new writing, The

Church of Jesus Christ! We must follow His new writing, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must follow Him!

Because of its simplicity and the easiness of the directions, there were those who would not believe its directions. Because they would not follow the directions, there were times they tarried in the wilderness. This sounds so familiar. It is no different in our generation nor will it be in generations to come. Because of the simplicity of the instructions of the Lord, there are those who will not believe or give heed to the way of the Lord. How tragic! Why must people look for thunder, lightning, blaring trumpets and fanfare? Why is it that the gratification of the flesh and ego dictate flashiness and glaring lights?

This is not the way of the Lord. The directions of the Lord are not flashing neon lights. The Lord works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. His ways appear small to those who will not believe. They are large to the believers. The directions of the Lord hold promise and life to those who follow Him and believe in Him.

When we follow the Lord, He will direct us for good. The Lord is the great compass! He is the great director! Follow Him. You will never get lost or be lost!

## Baptisms

Steven Michael McGuire was baptized on December 28, 1997 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Eugene Perri and confirmed by Brother Michael Radd.

Stephanie Crupi of the Edison, New Jersey Branch was baptized on September 21, 1997 at the Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother Jonathan Olexa and confirmed by Brother James Sgro.

Stefanie Suska of the Bronx, New York Branch was baptized on September 21, 1997 at the Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother James Link and confirmed by Brother James Suska.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Gary D'Amico and Deborah Ann D'Angelo were united in holy matrimony in the Lockport, New York Branch on January 1, 1998.

Sister Kristie Kirschenphad and Steve Vecciarelli were united in holy matrimony on October 18, 1997 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

## Children Blessed

Lyndsey Elizabeth Cornell, daughter of Kelly and Dave Cornell, was blessed on November 27, 1997 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Tanya LaSha Thompson, daughter of Ever Lee Thompson and Dudley F. Thompson, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on December 28, 1997.

Isaac Joseph Catone, son of Brother John and Sister Helen Catone, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on September 7, 1997.

LaJuan R. Payne, daughter of Clarence Payne and Kathy Norman, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on January 25, 1998.

Tyler James, son of Bruce and Trisha Trimbath, was blessed on December 7, 1997 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Jeanette Velardi of the San Diego, California Branch celebrated seventy-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in December 1997.

### 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.*

### MARY BUCCI

Sister Mary Bucci of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on October 3, 1997. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Timothy Dom Bucci. Sister Mary is survived by two daughters; Sisters Marlea J. Frentzos and Phyllis Dolly Kovacic.

### MARIE CALDWELL

Sister Marie Caldwell of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to her eternal reward on September 13, 1997. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Inez Cotellesse.

### NANCY H. SHERIFF

Nancy H. Sheriff of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to her eternal reward on October 9, 1997. She is survived by her husband, Daniel; two sons, Les and Samuel; one daughter, Cindy and eight grandchildren.

### RUTH ANN STANEK

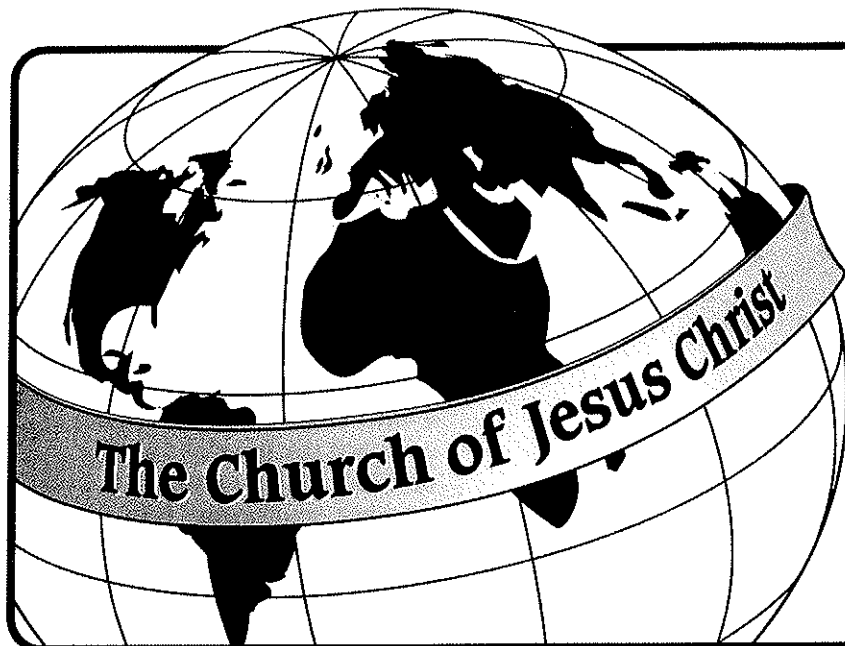
Sister Ruth Ann Stanek passed on to her heavenly reward on August 25, 1997. She was a member of the Windsor Ontario Canada Branch. Sister Ruth is survived by her husband, Brother Bob Stanek; one son, Brother Jack Stanek; two daughters, Sister Jill Stanek and Joan Land and one grandchild.

### PAULINE RINALDI

Sister Pauline Rinaldi passed away to her heavenly reward on November 5, 1997. She was a member of the Windsor Ontario Canada Branch. Sister Pauline is survived by her husband, Tony Rinaldi; one son, Anthony and one daughter, Mary Lyn.

### WALTER E. DONKIN

Brother Walter E. Donkin passed on to his eternal reward on October 21, 1997. He was a member of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Walter is survived by his wife, Sister Margeret Donkin; three sons, Brothers Walter E. Donkin, Jr., Wayne Donkin and Keith Donkin; and one daughter, Sister Alice Nicklow.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

April, 1998

Volume 54, No. 4

## He Is Risen

*By Brother Paul J. Ciotti, Jr.*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (I Peter 1:3).

The Apostle Peter truly understood the difference between living life with Jesus Christ and living life without Him. He, along with so many others who followed Christ for more than three years, watched in amazement as Jesus healed the sick, cast out evil spirits, fed thousands with so little, calmed the sea, raised the dead and most importantly forgave the sinner. They listened to Jesus confound the religious leaders of that day and teach the people of His doctrine as one having authority. In Jesus Christ, men and women found someone to trust, someone they could rely on and someone on whom they could rest all of their hopes.

But then, not understanding the necessity and importance of Calvary, they watched as Jesus was beaten, mocked, humiliated and placed on a cross. They listened to His last words, as He hung on the cross saying, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and then He died. The last thread of hope ap-

peared to be cut off as they saw Him taken from the cross, placed into a tomb and a large stone rolled into place to seemingly separate them from Him forever. Some walked away feeling betrayed. Some hid in fear, full of despair. All sense of direction appeared to be gone and their hope shaken. Where would they go? To whom would they look? Would God forsake man forever?

We say no! The plan of God was not to forsake man, but to redeem him and to bring him back into His presence. Paul states in Ephesians 2:13-14, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."

After three days, their hope was restored. The stone was rolled away and Jesus Christ came forth triumphantly over death, the first fruits of the resurrection. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, said this of Christ, "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24). Nothing could have stopped the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The guards, the stone and death itself were no matches for the power of God.

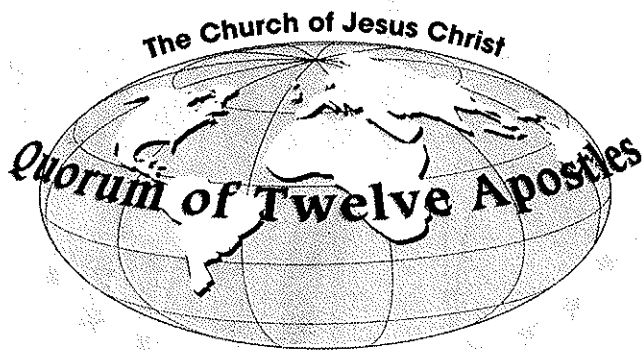
Imagine how Mary and the other women felt as they approached the

sepulchre and noticed the stone had been removed. They entered into the tomb and found not the body of the Lord Jesus, but the angels of God, who proclaimed unto them, "He is not here, but is risen." With this spark of hope Mary wondered, Could this be true? She began to search for her Lord. Seeing a man she supposed to be the gardener, she asked him, "Where have they taken Him?" Jesus, calling her by name, said, "Mary." In that moment the resurrection of Jesus Christ became a reality and hope was alive again. She cried out, "Rabboni," meaning Master. Jesus Christ, her Master, was alive. Her sorrow was replaced with joy, darkness with light and despair with hope.

It is in this same lively hope that we live today. We are reminded of the words of Christ when He said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." This is why Jacob exclaimed, "Wherefore, may God raise you from death by the power of the resurrection, and also from everlasting death by the power of the atonement, that ye may be received into the eternal kingdom of God, that ye may praise him through grace divine" (II Nephi 10:25).

Let us also remember that we do not have to wait until the resurrection at the last day to feel the power of the resurrection. Jesus reminded Martha,

(Continued on Page 10)



## Scenario: You have repented and have been baptized. Question: Can you be sure that you are saved?

*By Apostle Peter A. Scolaro*

Some find this question difficult or controversial. However, the scriptures give a pretty clear picture.

Consider the Apostle Paul. He had the amazing privilege of having been taken up to the "third heaven" and had been infused with the knowledge and understanding of God's mysteries. He had endured tests of faith which still stand unparalleled. Nevertheless, he knew that he needed to work continually in order to secure

already attained, note that Paul was absolutely certain that he was on the right course. He had not the slightest fear of being disappointed so long as he stayed on this course. He knew that he had discovered and embraced God's plan of salvation—in that sense he was saved—yet he was keenly aware of the need to maintain the course until the end of his life in the flesh. You likewise, can be assured of your eternal salvation if you have heeded the call of Jesus Christ to get on course through faith, repentance, and baptism and are determined to stay on course pressing all the way for the mark of the prize of that high calling.

King Benjamin (Mosiah 4:29-30) dealt with this very question succinctly saying, "And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not."

At first you might say that Benjamin paints quite a precarious picture. He found it almost impos-

sible to list all the specific ways to sin, fall short, and perish. From this angle it seems that there are too many ways to fail. However, at the same time he was able to focus upon a single admonition to substitute for such a list: "Remember, and perish not."

As is typical of one dealing with a basic truth, Benjamin also approached the issue by way of a corollary to this caution: "... remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, . . . and humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come . . . if ye do this ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins . . ." (Mosiah 4:11-12). This perspective is much more reassuring.

Actually, Benjamin's address, found in Mosiah 2-5, is one of scripture's richest, most concentrated passages on salvation. (I suggest you read it often along with the other referenced in these few paragraphs.) Here was a man of God who knew that his days as a mentor to his beloved people were numbered and feared for their souls should they forget his lessons after his passing. He was clearly stricken with the need for one last chance to impress upon them their opportunity for salvation through continuing in the faith all of their lives. Benjamin's words verily cry out from the pages.

Benjamin would not have been so earnest if his audience had no power to choose or not to choose salvation. He was able to give them a perspective of their carnal state such that they cried for mercy and the atoning blood of Christ (Mosiah 4:2). He made it clear that salvation is for him who "... should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life, I mean the life of the mortal body . . ." (Mosiah 4:6).

Did Paul or Benjamin suggest in any way that they saw themselves or anyone as having no power or choice



**Apostle Peter A. Scolaro**

his place with God eternally. Paul recognized his time on earth as time to "press" for and attain perfection and salvation (see Philippians 3:8-14).

While seeing himself in pursuit of salvation rather than having

regarding eternity or that one's salvation, is automatically eternal regardless of what he does during his remaining time in this life? I am sure you agree that they did not. In fact, they were both intense in their respective pursuits of salvation.

This intense drive for perfection evident in Benjamin, Paul, and others like them is the key to spiritual success. It comes from a proper balance of anxiety and security that is achieved by living with the frailty of our flesh in perspective while focusing on the power of God unto salvation. Elaborating on maintaining this balance:

Do not believe that you cannot fall. Through scripture (and unfortunately by witness) we know that **"... in the latter times some shall depart from the faith..."** (I Timothy 4:1-2). We must also be concerned about the consequences of departing **"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries"** (Hebrews 10:26-27). (See also Hebrews 6:4-6.)

However, while you recognize your potential to fall, you must be assured that that is not what God wants. Understand that, in evaluating the original fall of Adam, God decided that **"... it was expedient that mankind should be reclaimed from this spiritual death"** (Alma 42:9). Do not forget that that is the reason He sent His only begotten son, Jesus and made Him **"... a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man"** (Hebrews 2:9). While you must never forget your potential to sin and the severe consequences of sin, you must remember that every sin has already been paid for by the blood of Jesus. As long as you press for the mark of the high calling—as long as you fight in favor of God's Spirit and against your flesh and its enmity with God

which drives your will to sin—as long as you strive to maintain a repentant spirit, calling continuously upon the name of the Lord—you will retain the remission of your sins.

Because we as humans are not empowered with foreknowledge as God is, we sometimes misunderstand His foreknowledge. Be assured that God has foreknowledge of your choices, but you make them. Clearly, the choice is yours. **"Therefore, cheer up your hearts, and remember that ye are free to act for yourselves—to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life... reconcile yourselves to the will of God, and not to the will of the devil and the flesh; and remember, after ye are reconciled unto God, that it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved"** (II Nephi 10:23-24). It is your choice and your desire to serve God, manifest in your repentance, your baptism, and your diligent continuance in the faith that allows you to be subject to God's grace

rather than the judgment. Therefore **"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"** (I Timothy 4:16).

There is no way to be too careful in self-examination. Watch and pray. Maintain a heart that is willing to believe God. Jesus Christ is the way of salvation, and He is your advocate. What else do you need? **"... whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold, ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge and he hath made you free"** (Helaman 14:30).

I hope that you can see that the passionate drive for perfection observed in Benjamin and Paul was justified in them, and I hope that you are determined that it be seen in you. It is the evidence of your choice. It is the evidence of your faith. It is the evidence of your salvation.

## General Circle Fellowship Weekend

*By Sister Arline Whitton*

I would like to share the excitement and spiritual enthusiasm that the sisters are experiencing, planning our upcoming General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend, in Charleston, South Carolina on July 16 through July 19, 1998.

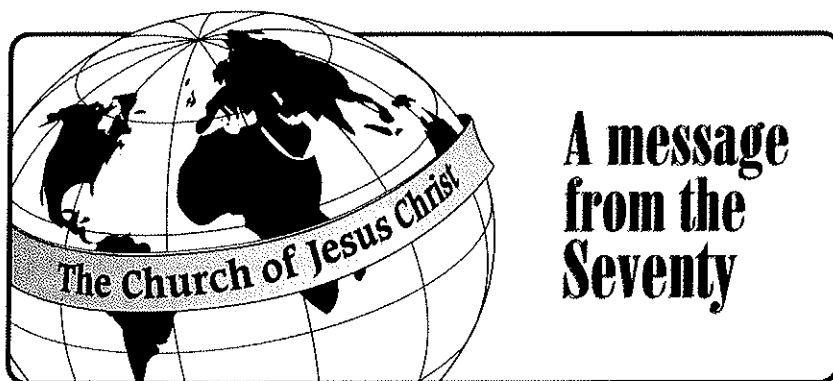
As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, when you are involved in planning a weekend such as this, you feel in your heart that you would like the sisters who attend to experience the same blessings you did in preparing this weekend for their spiritual well being.

The sisters of the Spartanburg Circle are planning a wonderful welcome for us. Sisters of various committees are working diligently, praying all who attend will feel a spirit of unity and love.

I think of the hymn, *Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love*. It is my desire that you will come and fill your cup with love.

This is my invitation to you. Come and join us at the Fellowship Weekend. A word of caution! By attending this weekend, you will experience joyful fellowship!

**Note:** Registration forms have been sent to all Local Circles. We look forward to a blessed weekend. For further information, contact Sister Joyce Ross, 724-348-6828.



## Visiting the Church

*By Evangelist Russell Martorana*

Several months ago, I made an evangelistic trip to visit Brother Charles and Sister Ilene Smith in Oak Grove, Missouri. As the time grew closer, I asked Apostle Joseph Calabrese if he and his wife, Sister Vicki, would like to accompany me and my wife, Sister Lena. Brother Joe accepted the invitation and also informed me that he had received notice from Apostle Joe Lovalvo of a young man in Terra Haute, Indiana that needed prayer and was interested in the Restored Gospel. Since we would be passing through Terra Haute, this presented the opportunity to visit with this young man whose name is Marvin Mattison.

We departed Ohio on Friday, September 19, 1997. We traveled throughout the day and arrived in Terra Haute around 5:00 PM. Brother Joe made contact with Marvin Mattison, and we made plans to visit him that evening. Upon arriving at his home, we learned that Sister Valerie Dulisse from the Modesto, California Branch is Marvin's natural sister. She has been instructing him on the faith of the Church, and we found Marvin very receptive to our teachings on the Faith and Doctrine, the great value of the Book of Mormon, expectations of the Church, soul salvation, and the many blessings and miracles we have seen in The Church of Jesus Christ. Marvin requested we anoint him for a nerve condition that causes his body to shake involuntarily. I knelt in prayer and asked the blessings of God upon this

young man during the anointing. Brother Joe anointed him for his affliction. There was a wonderful sweet spirit felt by all, especially Marvin Mattison who told us after the prayer he felt the "peace of God."

The next day we traveled to Oak Grove, and were greeted with love by Brother Charles and Sister Ilene Smith. Around the supper table we renewed our friendship which extends for many years. We discussed many facets of The Church of Jesus Christ, especially the Latter Day glory and expectations of our Church. Sunday morning we went downstairs to the chapel in the Smith's home. Brother Howard and Sister Josephine Noble from nearby Joplin, Missouri (200 miles away) also arrived to serve God with us. We sang many beautiful hymns of praise to God. The theme in preaching was "Blessed are they who seek to bring forth My Zion." We talked about the role of the brothers, sisters and Priesthood in laboring with God's covenanted people, bringing them into the house and labor of the Lord. We spoke of God's power and God's gift to mankind, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sister Ilene Smith asked to be anointed, then she testified of the power of God in her life. We all enjoyed sacrament together and testified to the goodness of God in our lives. Brother Charles Smith asked us to petition the Church to send laborers to that area so as to continue the Lord's work there.

Brother Calabrese asked if we could travel to visit the saints in Dallas, Texas. On September 23, we departed from Oak Grove, Missouri, traveling to Dallas, Texas. After traveling all day, we arrived at Brother Jeffrey and Sister Kathy Giannetti's

home. We were greeted very warmly with the love of God. We had a wonderful dinner, and were joined by Brother Joseph and Sister Darlene Ignagni and daughter. We spent a most wonderful evening, sharing the blessings of our last campout, the manifestation of God's Spirit and the calling of fifteen souls into the Church. We also shared teachings from our seminars in "Raising Our Standards" for Jesus Christ. On September 24, Brother Jeffrey took the day off from work to provide us with transportation to the various places we had planned to visit. We drove to Fort Worth to visit Brother Tom Smith, the grandson of Brother and Sister Calabrese. We also drove to Wetherford, Texas, about thirty miles west of Dallas to visit Brother Sam Blank who is 83 years old. He and his wife were baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese. Brother Blank's wife is deceased. While at Brother Sam's home, we sang hymns, shared the scriptures, bore our testimonies, and at the end of our services, Communion was served. We then returned to Dallas. Wednesday evening Church services were held at the home of our Brother Marcus and Sister Margaret Vallejo, who is the natural sister of Sister Rose Palacios of Lorain, Ohio. They reside in Fort Worth, Texas. There were about thirty-five people in attendance.

Brother Calabrese addressed the group. He emphasized the importance of building a solid foundation on Jesus Christ, learning of His ways, the Restoration and being securely anchored in the faith. Many testimonies were given to the honor and glory of God. Sister Darlene related a dream she had about two years ago. She was on the street where the newly baptized saints lived. She saw several bright lights on in the homes which were trimmed in gold. The dream reveals there are more souls from that area that will come to Christ. There was a great feeling of love and fellowship in the Vallejo's home.

On September 25, we departed from Dallas, and after driving 550 miles, arrived in South Bend, at

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS****ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**

David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**

Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC COAST**

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**

James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**

Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When you think of a servant it is usually in a sense of employment. This servant can be publicly or privately employed by a government or for domestic services. There are others who might define a servant as one who is a slave to another, performing duties to one's master.

A servant in a spiritual context is very different. The spiritual definition focuses on someone who is submissive and recognizes a debt to another, for example, your obedient servant. A servant in this sense is one who recognizes Jesus Christ as their Master, friend and yes, "servant to all." He was and is your servant. How do you repay Him? How do you serve Him? Do you serve Him because you want to serve Him? Remember, He will not force anyone, man or woman to serve Him. The Lord will force no one. He simply wants your heart, mind and soul.

Do you feel indebted to Jesus Christ? Are you His humble servant? Remember, He humbly served many in His day. He set the example. Do you do the same today? Do you serve Him with all your might and strength? Do you serve him with all your heart, mind and soul? Anything less is not acceptable.

Do you help others? Do you provide for the hungry and needy? Remember what that great king, King Benjamin said in his marvelous and blessed address? In Mosiah 2:17 he said, "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

Do you pay homage to the Lord? He is deserving of it! He earned it with His life that He gave for all mankind that they might be redeemed from their sins and transgressions. Are you obedient to Him? Remember that obedience is far better and much better than sacrifice. The Lord no longer wants sacrifice from anyone other than a broken heart and a contrite spirit. That is not sacrifice. That is the spirit of repentance. That is the working and effect of the love of God.

How would you answer these questions if they were asked of you? Can you respond that you are completely in His debt? Can you respond that you are His humble servant? Can you respond that you pay Him homage? Can you respond that you are obedient to Him and His commandments?

The Hebrew word for servant is "ebhedh" which means "worker." Does this definition and description fit you as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? Are you a worker for the Lord, His Church, your Branch and Mission? Are you a pillar or a post?

When you consider these two words, pillar and post, they are very different in meaning and function. A post looks good, is solely decorative and performs no real function other than to look good or look pretty. Please consider that what is on the outside is not important. What is important is what is inside. That is what really matters; that is what really counts!

A pillar has a real role to play. It is supportive by nature, constantly working we might say, to support the structure that it is a part of by design. Without a pillar or pillars, the house or structure would collapse!

We read about many pillars in the Scriptures. These pillars were worshippers of God. They were dedicated servants to the Lord Jesus Christ. Individuals like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Alma, Ammon, Dorcas, Lydia and Phebe are just a few of the many pillars we read and learn about in the Holy Scriptures. Not one of these servants of God were posts! Everyone was a pillar for the Lord! Consider Paul the Apostle. He described himself as a "prisoner" of the Lord! That is an obedient servant!

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

What would you do if you lived in a time when everything seemed hopeless for you and the people you loved? What if all the people in your country were divided into two groups and you and your people were in the group that was being hurt, enslaved, and even murdered by the others?

What if the king, or Pharaoh, made a law to start killing all the new baby boys so that they couldn't grow up and fight against him? What if your mother or someone you loved was pregnant already? Can you imagine how much you would pray?

This is what happened to Jochebed and her husband, Amran. They had already had a son named Aaron and little girl named Miriam. Now the murderous new law was in effect and Jochebed was pregnant. Can you imagine how they probably prayed that the new baby would be born a girl? Can you imagine their joy and fear when the baby was born healthy but was a little boy?

Where could they hide a growing baby when they lived in simple houses made of clay bricks without any basements or sheds or garages? If the soldiers discovered the baby boy, he would be murdered. For three months the family managed to hide little Moses. But babies make noises and soldiers searched homes. Jochebed had the idea to make a special waterproof basket and hide her baby in the bulrushes (like cattail plants) at the river. Miriam, only a young girl herself, could be sent to watch him. Can you think how much they must have prayed each day?

But God had a special plan for His people who were being enslaved.



He also had a special plan for the little baby hidden by the river. One day as Miriam kept baby Moses, the daughter of the Pharaoh came down to the river with her servants. She saw the basket and sent a servant to bring it to her. When she opened it and saw the baby, he began to cry. This touched her heart and she said, "This must be one of the Hebrew babies." Immediately brave young Miriam stood up.

She asked the Egyptian princess, "Do you want me to find you a nurse for him?" The princess, who had decided to keep him, told her that she did. Miriam ran to find Jochebed. Pharaoh's daughter offered money to Moses' mother to care for the baby and told her to bring him to her once he could eat solid food.

This meant that baby Moses could stay awhile longer with his family and be protected from death by the soldiers. Can you imagine how many constant prayers the family offered up each day to protect their baby? Can you think how hard it must have been to be out in public with their baby boy alive, when their friends and neighbors' baby boys had been murdered? Can you realize how hard each day it was to pour love into a little one who was going to be taken from your family? Think how horrible you would feel to realize that your little baby was going to a place where people worshipped statues of bulls, dogs, crocodiles and cats. Wouldn't you worry and pray to God that somehow the baby would learn the truth about the real God?

Moses was sent to his new adopted mother, the daughter of the Pharaoh. Everything was different at

the palace for him. His bed, his new fancy royal clothes, all the rules about proper manners, even the way things tasted and smelled were different. The little boy Moses had to learn a new language too. When he grew up he said he had always been slow of speech and not the greatest speaker.

But God had a plan. He had a reason for Moses to be raised by and trained as a prince in Egypt. God wanted a leader who understood how to rule a nation and even lead people in war to win. Everything that a great Pharaoh had to learn was taught to Moses. And Moses used it in the future when he brought his Hebrew people out of slavery.

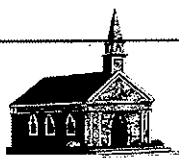
Moses lived in Egypt for the first forty years of his life. Think how

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

PHAROAH	NOT
WANTED	TO
TO	BE
KILL	SLAVES
ALL	BUT
BABY	FREE
BOY	ARE
BUT	TO
GOD	TRAIN
HAD	A NEW
HIDDEN	LEADER
PLAN	MOSES

A	H	M	O	S	E	S	P
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D	R	G	O	D	B	A	S
A	A	L	L	E	E	I	E
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## Branch and Mission News

### Another Baptism in Br. 2 Allen Park, MI

*By Sister Carolynn Gentile-O'Connor*

I am overwhelmed with joy to bring you the testimony of a fifth new member, baptized in 1997, in Detroit Branch #2. My natural side is grateful to bring to you this testimony from not only my sister in Christ but my natural aunt as well, Sister Maria Korotney.

Mary is Brother Alex Gentile's sister. Mary and Brother Alex were born and raised in the Church. Until now, Brother Alex was the only child of Sister Chiara and Brother Antonio Gentile to choose to serve God. Sister Chiara spent endless hours on her knees praying for her five children to give their lives to Christ. She passed away at the age of ninety-one, unable to see all of her prayers answered. She never gave up and her death actually gave Mary the need and desire to start attending Church and be baptized.

I mention this for the purpose of encouraging all of you who have family members who have not joined The Church of Jesus Christ, to never give up! Although we may not always have our prayers answered when we want them to be, God hears them.

#### **Sister Mary's testimony:**

"Brother Antonio and Sister Chiara Gentile were my parents, two of the most saintly people I've ever known. I remember as a child, in the summer time, my father who had Parkinson's disease, would walk about 3/4 of a mile to Church. He always made it so much fun that my brother Alex and I would race my dad to see who would win. Of course, he always let us win. Church was our life. We went all day Sunday, Ladies' Uplift Circle on Monday, meetings on Wednesday and Friday. I remember some of the older saints in our Branch (#2) would speak in the gift of tongues, especially Sister Vencenza Dulisse and Brother Fred

Straccia. They were all prayerful people and followed the Bible and the Book of Mormon to its very word.

"When I turned sixteen, I decided that I wanted everything that my friends had and did, so I quit going to Church. I always remembered my teachings and always knew that this was the right Church. I've had several brushes with death and always asked mom and dad and the brothers and sisters to pray for me, but I still wanted both sides of the fence.

"My dad passed away in his late sixties which was very hard for me to take. I still had my mom and I knew her prayers for me and my family would be heard by God because she was so close to the Lord. Everyone would ask her to say special prayers for them, even people that never went to Church.

"Since my mother passed away, I've had a very large void in me, and no one who could pray for me and my family like she did. I have lost several other members of my family in the last ten years. My life has not been all that happy and nice. I've had and still have a lot of heartache in my life.

"A couple of weeks after my mom passed away, I started to attend Sunday services. I had such a wonderful uplift when I came home. I could hardly wait until the next Sunday. With my job, it is very hard to make it to the weekly meetings. As my mother was dying, my brother Dewey had surgery and was told that he had cancer. I had already lost one brother to cancer and now both my mother and another brother were going to die. I talked to him about how I started going back to Church and how good it made me feel and I talked him into coming. As sick as he was, he came quite often. I was hoping he would get baptized before he died, but he never did. Within ten months, he passed away.

"I still kept going to Church on Sundays. God was working with me but I think that Satan was working just as hard to keep me out of the Church. I have had several dreams (experiences) on how I have been saved and the right thing to do, but I still was not sure I could do the right thing or what was expected of me.

"On May 7, 1997, at 12:30 AM, I woke from my sleep screaming at the top of my voice, 'I want to be baptized! I want to be baptized!', wanting to make sure that I was heard. I was dreaming and in my dream, I was standing in this huge room; it seemed like a hospital. The doctor came out and said something to the effect, 'She didn't make it.' I had two granddaughters that week that were sick and my mind went directly to them. I could hear myself crying out, 'I can't take anymore hurt or sorrow in my life. Please God, help me, help me. I want to be baptized. I want to be baptized.' I wanted to make sure that God heard me. My first thought was to call my mother and tell her the good news. (She had passed away four and a half years ago.) In my dream, I called my brother Alex to come to my work so that I could talk to him. I saw him standing there with a smile on his face and he looked at me and jokingly said, 'What?' I knew that he already knew what I was going to say. I said, 'I want to be baptized now before something changes my mind.' I pleaded with him not to let anything change my mind. At this point, I awoke screaming, 'I want to be baptized!'

"I got out of the bed and on my knees and asked God to help me. I did call my brother Alex that afternoon when I came home from work and told him I would like to talk to him alone. That afternoon my brother Pete stopped by. He was recovering from two surgeries in ten days. I let him read my dream and he cried. He and I have the same problem, we go to Church and cry the whole time we are there.

"Now that I am baptized, for which I thank God, I do not cry as much. I have made the commitment and I do not have as many worries about doing the right thing. I did it! Praise God!

"I think that in my last experience (dream), the meaning of 'she didn't make it,' was if I did not make a decision now that I never would get baptized."

We thank God that Sister Mary

(Continued on Page 8)

## Baptism in Branch 2

Continued from Page 7

had the courage to ask for her baptism. Please continue to remember her and her family. She has a young grandson named Kenny who has a disease called Scalderma which is incurable. May God bless our new sister and her family.

## Blessings and Reinstatement in Niles, OH

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

*"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?"*

The saints of the Niles, Ohio Branch gathered as usual for our Sunday Service, on December 28, 1997. God moved in a mysterious way, His wonder to perform. After the opening prayer, Brother Mike Nuzzi asked to be anointed and several followed him. At the conclusion of these anointings, there was a pause in the meeting. During this pause, Dan Genaro came forward for prayer. After the prayer, Dan took his seat and immediately Brother Mike Nuzzi related that when Dan got up to be anointed, he saw two men dressed in white take Dan by each elbow and help him to the chair. The understanding was given that these were two of the Nephites.

As the meeting progressed, the Spirit of God became greater and greater. After the experience, Brother Brian Martorana became overcome with the Spirit to such an extent that he could not move except to take the hand of the other brethren and express that he felt a great desire to pray. After Brother Brian's prayer, Dan Genaro stood to thank God for this beautiful experience of encouragement. As he proceeded to testify, he expressed his desire to be reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ. He related that this vision was a personal confirmation for him to come back to the fold. The

Ministry knelt in prayer for direction and unity before the reinstatement. Brother John Genaro offered the prayer. He asked God for a sign to be given that this was the day for Dan to be reinstated. After the prayer, Brother Brian Martorana began to speak to the congregation concerning the work of the Three Nephites and how their joy was to see men and women come to Christ. As Brother Brian was speaking, Sister Judy Salerno spoke in the gift of tongues. Brother Brian then confirmed Brother Dan Genaro into the Church. At the same time while the brothers were praying, many in the congregation were breaking their hearts before God. Sister Tina Martorana was praying to God that He would allow His Spirit to descend on us as fire. The brothers concluded the reinstatement and Brother John asked for the interpretation of the tongues that were spoken. No one spoke up. Sister Tina then prayed again and asked God why is there no interpretation. She then heard a voice say, "I have visited you with cloven tongues of fire [as in the Day of Pentecost]."

After Brother Dan Genaro was reinstated, the meeting was opened for testimony. One by one, the brothers and sisters rose and related an experience they had about this beautiful day. Sister Joyce Petrilla related that the night before, she was given a short song regarding the soul's return to Christ. Sister Deanna Nuzzi testified that when she was asked to close Sunday School in prayer, she had prayed for the sick and those that had gone astray. When she said these words she thought of Brother Dan and felt the Spirit of God. Sister Judy Salerno and Sister Gloria Keeley were blessed with the experience of thinking of a particular song before anything had really happened, a blessed confirmation indeed. Our piano player, Sister Barbara Nuzzi said she felt inspired to play *Shepherd of Love*, for the setting of the communion table and also *Coming Back to Christ* for the confirmation. Finally, Brother Brian Martorana related that about 4:00 AM Monday morning, he was awakened by his daughter. Instead of going back to

sleep, he felt inspired to read the Scriptures. The Lord directed him to read the passage concerning the Prodigal Son. From that morning until this Sunday, he was inspired to read the same scripture several times. He had also felt that he would preach on this passage Sunday. However, due to the leading of the Spirit, there was no preaching this Sunday. Our renewed Brother Dan then stood and testified that this morning had been bad, he felt weak due to his illness. However, he made up his mind that he would come to Church anyway. Brother Dan never dreamed that this would be the day he would feel the gentle touch of Jesus Christ. He urged the congregation to only believe and then reminded us to never stray from God because it is not so easy to just come back. You have to struggle to feel that repentant spirit again. It is a terrible, terrible feeling to be so far away from God. Amen! Brothers and sisters, we had a wonderful meeting! The Spirit had descended upon us as cloven tongues of fire! "And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing."

## Baptisms and Ordinations in Bell, California

By Sister Virginia Surprenant

Our branch in Bell, California has been blessed these past several months with baptisms and ordinations. During the last several months, we have experienced four baptisms. Our new members are, Brothers Robbie McDonnell, Michael Bromberg and Rudy Wilson and Sister Denise Morales. Brothers Robbie and Michael were baptized at campouts and their testimonies are filled with a love for the Lord. Denise called for her baptism after a meeting. Her grandmother in San Diego had a dream the night before that Denise would be baptized. Brother Rudy has been coming to Church for many years and faithfully, he has been the first to testify in our meetings. He would always come close to asking for his baptism but would end his testimony by saying, "Please pray for me that

someday I will ask for my baptism." The Sunday he asked for his baptism was as usual only this time the words "I want to be baptized" came out of his mouth and he himself did not realize he had asked. He is growing spiritually with such enthusiasm. What a blessing to hear him say he wakes up early every day to read his Bible and Book of Mormon. How beautiful it is to see him and all our newly baptized young people on fire for the Lord.

On November 23, 1997, Brother Santos Zamora was ordained an Elder and Sister Diane McDonnell was ordained a Deaconess. Our branch was overflowing with brothers and sisters who came from Anaheim, Simi Valley, Yucaipa, Lindsey, San Diego as well as Sister Rita and Brother Bill Gamache (Sister Diane McDonnell's sister and brother-in-law) with their children from Missouri.

The Elders met in the building next door to have a special prayer before the service. Brother Bob McDonnell welcomed all the saints present and the meeting was opened by Brother John DiBattista. Brother John spoke on working for the Church in the office of Elder and Deaconess.

Brother Rudy Meo read from the scripture regarding the duties of the two offices. Sister Debbie McDonnell washed Sister Diane's feet and Brother Bob McDonnell ordained her into the office of Deaconess. While Brother Bob was praying, Sister Benny Jones saw a light shining down upon Sister Diane while a person placed a robe on Sister Diane's shoulders.

Brother Santos' feet were washed by Brother Randy Lee from Yucaipa and he was ordained by Brother Harry Marshall. Sister Benny Jones had the following vision. She saw a personage place new shoes on Brother Santos' feet and two books were given to him. Sister Kay Gray also had a vision where she saw Brother Santos fearlessly preaching to seven gang members who had weapons. After hearing him preach, the gang members dropped their weapons, removed their gang clothing and were baptized by Brother Santos.

The Spanish brothers and sisters sang a song in Spanish. Brother Rudy

Carrillo surrounded by all the Elders offered a prayer for Brother Santos' wife Gladys and their children, Raymond and Monica. The entire Zamora family went up and sang.

Brother Edmund Buccellato spoke briefly, followed by Brother Jim Huttenberger who spoke about the visions and putting things in focus by keeping our vision in focus and saying, "Here I am Lord, send me." Brother Ysidro from Santa Ana, spoke in Spanish, relating the visions to our Spanish brothers and sisters.

The Lord's Supper was administered by Brothers Santos Zamora, Rudy Carrillo, Randy Ciccatti and John Vella. Brother Santos gave his testimony. Apostle Tom Liberto gave some closing remarks followed by the Yucaipa choir, singing the closing hymn.

Thank you Lord for giving us many blessings during the past several months which included baptisms and ordinations. Thank you brothers and sisters throughout the Church that have remembered our small group in your prayers. May God bless each and every one of you.

## Ordination in Plumbrook, MI

*By Vincent and Cathy Mulla*

On June 7, 1997, the Plumbrook Branch in Sterling Heights, Michigan, was privileged to witness the ordination of Brother Dean Romano into the office of Deacon.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio. Brother Gary Coppa dedicated the service to all those who desire to spread the Gospel. He spoke on the qualities of a Deacon and the importance of those qualities when facing a multitude of obstacles. He urged the congregation to explore their talents and avoid burying them.

"From the time we make our commitment to God, we should grow from the water's edge." Brother Gary implored us to place our fear in our service to God. He stated, "We do not

have to have ability, as long as we have a desire."

Brother Gary cited that from the time the Elders lay hands upon us for the reception of the Holy Ghost, we are given an ability and a gift. We must allow ourselves to be used by the Lord to explore what that gift is for each of us.

In continuing, Brother Gary read from I Timothy 3:8, a portion of scripture that sets forth the qualities of a Deacon. He urged us to stretch ourselves in our service to God and we will begin to see how He rewards us and uses us to bring about His will.

Brother Gary then directed his sermon to the qualities of Stephen and how we should all emulate his perseverance to serve God no matter what happens. References cited included Acts 7:54 and Acts 6:8. Brother Gary noted that God is looking for men like Stephen, who are full of faith and power. He then spoke about the spiritual being the Iroquois called Deganawida, who according to Iroquois prophecy and legend, spent time with the Iroquois. He related a story about a special shirt that was

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## Announcement

For April, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.30%
2 years	5.35%
3 years	5.40%
4 years	5.45%
5 years	5.50%

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

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at:

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

## Ordination in Plumbrook, MI

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made of acid treated deerskin, which enhanced the whiteness of the cloth. These "pure white" clothes were only given to men of compassion and honor. They were peacemakers in times of disputations.

Like these ancient men, a Deacon must stand upright against anger, offenses and criticism. In times of weakness, we must consider our blessings. Brother Gary encouraged Brother Dean to carry out his duty, and his firmness will be tempered with compassion. "Be mindful that one cannot please everyone, but must be patient with love and have compassion. Avoid lodging anger or fear in your mind, and temper all words and actions with calm deliberation. Show your love for one another by taking time to deliberate, love, show patience and diligence, the wisdom of the Lord will reign in our lives. As a practice, a Deacon must consider the welfare of the people as a whole. But, we should all follow Stephen's example and act as ambassadors of our faith. He had great forgiveness."

Brother Lyle Criscuolo followed by reminiscing about the days when he and Brother Dean's father, Brother Carl Romano, were younger and growing up in the Church. He warned those called to office to avoid putting limits on their calling. He encouraged all of us to use our imagination to expand our horizons in serving God. He pointed out that the secret to growing is to begin today to act like the person we want to become.

Brother Joe Furnari (our late Presiding Elder) then read the duties of a Deacon. Brother Victor Pastorelli, Brother Dean's uncle, washed his feet. Brother Gary Coppa then petitioned the Spirit of the Lord in a circle of prayer. Brother Joe Furnari ordained Brother Dean into the office of Deacon.

Most assuredly, the day was well spent. Our brothers were filled with the Spirit of God in proclaiming the words and wisdom of His ways and how we should all emulate the lifestyle and example set forth by Stephen and our Lord.

## Notice

Please note that some counties and locations in Western Pennsylvania have a new area code, number 724, effective February 1, 1998. This will affect over two hundred members and space is insufficient to publish every family in the *Gospel News* that will experience this change. Kindly understand this limitation. May we humbly suggest that those affected directly contact the Print House to change their directory records.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Campitelle, Mary  
317-722-0632

Fredonia Branch  
724-475-3845

Gehly, Alvin, Nancy  
724-475-3845

Gehly, Art Jr, Mary  
908 Barker Hill Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
Home—703-742-7703  
Fax—703-742-7705

Hester, Charleston  
8860 Miccosukee Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
Home—850-942-6080  
Fax—850-942-5843

Jumper, Joyce, Rhoda  
103 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001  
724-375-7554

Kovacac, Mark, Kelly  
12752 Yacht Club Circle  
Ft. Myers, FL 33919-4530  
941-437-5902

Krumpe, Daniel, Monina  
8590 State Street  
Kinsman, OH 44428

Lovalvo, Jennifer  
1516 Normandy  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-662-1888

Ross, Joseph, Connie  
724-375-1648

Stanek, Bob  
75 Vermont Drive  
Amherstburg, Ontario Canada N9V 3Z5  
519-736-9103

World Conference Center  
724-834-9874

## He Is Risen

Continued from Page 1

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). This power is available to us today, to everyone who will take upon him or her the name of Christ and allow Him to live within them.

We need to live in the lively hope that Jesus Christ arose from the dead and now sits on the right hand of God. We also need to take full advantage of the power of the resurrection, that we may rest our souls in the kingdom of God. In closing, I say as did Paul, the Apostle, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

## A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Brother Mitchell Edward's home. The next morning we attended Fast and Prayer service at the church. The humility and sincerity of prayer was felt by everyone. That evening, the saints met at Sister Meredith Brown's home who recently, along with Brother Alfonso, moved from Florida and purchased a home in South Bend. We had an opportunity to speak with most of the saints and neighbors in that area.

On Sunday, September 27, we all met at the Church for Sunday School. Our lesson was on the 58th chapter of Isaiah which was read and discussed. Our service was opened by Brother Russell Martorana on the 14th chapter of Revelation and 37th chapter of Ezekiel, emphasizing that the Gospel of

Jesus Christ was restored in these the last days and will prevail until the end of time. Brother Joe Calabrese followed, having great liberty in preaching on the Restoration of the Gospel, and the great love we should have for our Church. Many testimonies were given, there were anointings, and Communion was served. We had a great day in God's house. We then met at Sister Meredith's home for lunch, had prayer, and departed for home rejoicing for a weekend well spent in the Lord. We thank God for a safe journey, having traveled 3000 miles in ten days.

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

We must be aware that Jesus Christ came not to be ministered unto, but He came to minister. He gave His life a ransom for many. He was the last and great sacrifice. Without Him, there is no salvation. Without Him, there is no hope, no happiness; only despair and misery. He is the hope of the world. He is deserving of our service and complete gratitude.

During the Last Supper, the Lord asked a piercing question. We read in Luke 22:27, "For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth."

There are many examples and episodes of the Lord as servant of all. He raised the dead. He restored eyesight to the blind. He opened the ears of the deaf. He loosened the tongue of those who could not speak. He eliminated and healed paralysis of many that had crippled or withered limbs. He fed the hungry. He forgave the sins of those who repented of their sins. Truly, the Lord made the wounded whole!

A great example of the Lord as a servant is how He instituted feet washing. The Lord did not tell them how to perform this ordinance. He did not stand around and tell them how it should be done to one another. Jesus Christ showed them how feet washing

was to be conducted. He performed it Himself! He washed the feet of the disciples, every one of them. He left no one out of the ordinance. He overlooked no one. He served them all! The 13th chapter of John tells this marvelous story of how the Lord instituted feet washing. What an example! What a servant!

There is a wonderful hymn. It states, *To be Thy servant, is my desire; my heart's on fire!* Is this how you feel? Are you His servant? Do you want to be His servant? What is your desire today? Hopefully, you will answer, that you want to and will serve the Lord.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

many prayers his family must have offered to God while they wondered why their son had been sent to the Pharaoh's palace. At the age of forty, Moses saw a soldier beating up a Hebrew man. Moses struck the soldier and killed him. Moses had to flee (go away from) Egypt immediately. But he took with him, in his head, all the knowledge and training he had as a prince in Egypt.

But, can you imagine the disappointment and confusion his mother, Jochebed, and father, Amran along with Aaron and Miriam felt? What now, they must have wondered when their brother disappeared for years in the desert. The baby they had prayed for had become a great man and now was hiding for his life in a far away country called Moab.

Moses stayed in Moab all of the middle years of his life. How many times his loved ones must have prayed for his safety. Forty years passed before God sent him back to his family. But, during those years, he married a woman whose father, Jethro, loved and served God. Moses learned about God and was taught by God who appeared to him at one time in a burning bush. Moses took this additional knowledge back with him when he and his family returned to Egypt. This time he led his people out of slavery and into freedom.

It took an entire lifetime of learning, prayers, and patience. But the faith and patience of this great man, and his family paid off. God brought forth a new nation of people who never again stopped serving Him. The Laws of Moses became the basis for Christianity. Jesus, a descendent from the Hebrew people, came forth as our Messiah and Savior. These people that Moses led out from hopelessness became a great nation, beloved by God.

Never stop praying. Never think that something is hopeless just because you can't see the reasons why for many years. God loves you. He has called you. He has a plan for each and every one of us. Lean on Him and trust Him to create beauty out of hopelessness and despair. He cares for you.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## Children Blessed

Mitchell James Ciaglo, son of Francine and Michael Ciaglo, was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on January 4, 1998.

Danielle Finnick, daughter of John and JoAnn Finnick, was blessed on December 28, 1997 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Anthony Michael Ballerini, son of Melissa Loffredo, was blessed on August 24, 1997 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Eric Max Carrabia, son of Brother Jim and Sister Janis Carrabia, was blessed in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on January 25, 1998.

Hannah Noel Jordan, daughter of Brother David and Sister Kim Jordan was blessed in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch on January 4, 1998.

Jonathan Joseph Randy, son of Matthew and Laura Randy, was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on February 1, 1998.

Juan Sebastian Torres, son of Salvatore and Rocio Conte, was blessed on January 4, 1998 in Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Lisa DiMelis and Richard Ploegar were united in holy marriage on August 31, 1997 in Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan.

Brother James Lambert, Jr., and Sister Lynette Thompson were united in holy matrimony on November 15, 1997 in Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan.

## Baptisms

Daniel and Monina Krumpke were baptized on January 25, 1998 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. They were both baptized by Brother Philip Jackson. Brother Daniel was confirmed by Brother Paul Palmieri. Sister Monina was confirmed by Brother Howard Jackson.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Francis Cece of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty-four years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on December 10, 1997.

Sister Lena Pontillo of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty-four years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on December 10, 1997.

Brother Michael Piacentino of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty-four years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on December 17, 1997.

### 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.*

### ANTHONY RANDAZZO

Brother Anthony Randazzo of the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on December 1, 1997. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Randazzo; his mother, Sister Jennie Randazzo; one daughter, Deena Randazzo; one sister, Sister Mary Bertolo; two brothers, Andrew and Frank Randazzo; and several nieces and nephews.

### CONNIE IDA MARINETTI

Sister Connie Ida Marinetti of the Tucson, Arizona Mission passed on to her heavenly and eternal reward on December 9, 1997. Sister Marinetti was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by two sons, Robert and Dwain Marinetti, and several nieces and nephews.

### PASQUALE (PATSY) MARINETTI

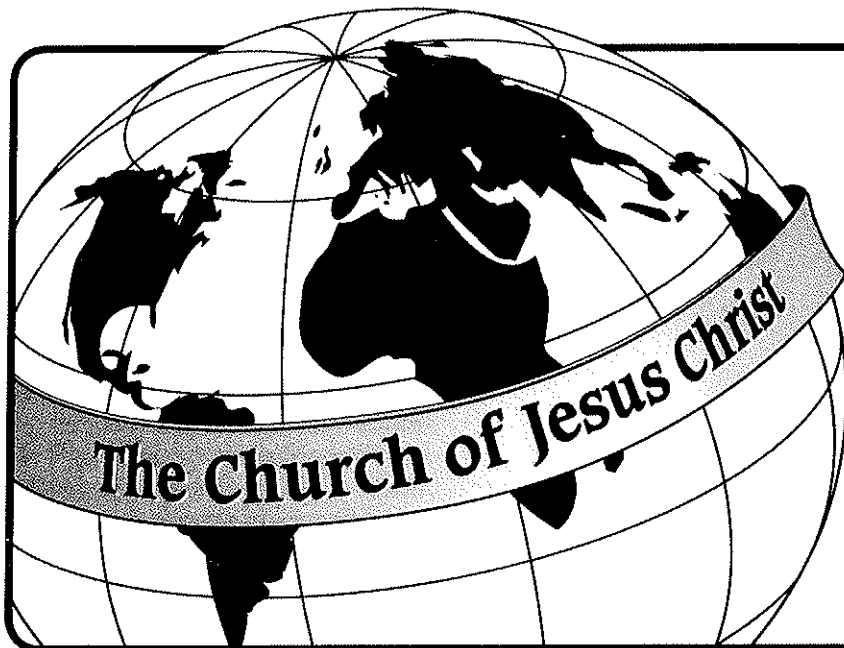
Brother Patsy Marinetti of the Tucson, Arizona Mission passed on to his eternal and heavenly reward on January 11, 1998. Brother Marinetti was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by two sons, Robert and Dwain Marinetti, and several nieces and nephews.

### ALFRED CONEY

Alfred Coney of Port St. Lucie, Florida passed away to his eternal reward on November 8, 1997. He is survived by his mother, Sister Mary Spink; one sister, Sister Louise Bruno; and a number of nephews and great-nephews.

### VIOLA SWANSON

Sister Viola Swanson of the Miami, Florida Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on October 19, 1997. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Swanson was preceded in death by her late husband, Evangelist Alvin Swanson and one daughter, Virginia Pyle. She is survived by one son, Brother Alvin Swanson, Jr.; two daughters, Sister Leda Sheffler and Sister Marguerite Bortz; two grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 1998

Volume 54, No. 5

## A Very Special Mother's Day

*By Sister Karyn Vitto Romanski*

What does Mother's Day mean to you? Perhaps for children, it is the day you set aside to honor your mother for all that she does and all that she means to you. For mothers, it's a bit different. Although you are a mother every day, on this day we may put aside the hustle and bustle of every day life and reflect on the true love and joy our children bring us. A mother's love for her children is so great, that nothing can or ever will compare to it. The only love that surpasses a mother's love is the love of Jesus Christ. The bond and protectiveness that starts from their first breath is sometimes almost overwhelming. If this strikes a chord in your heart, you will appreciate this testimony. It is a story about a mother (and father too) and her precious first child and the miracle that God performed her very first Mother's Day.

It was a routine pregnancy for Christy and Chuck Zurek, the daughter and son-in-law of Brother Lou and Sister Grace Visconti. There was the beautiful nursery, carefully decorated, the baby shower, the toys in place, the excitement of their first baby! The doctor induced Christie's labor on that Saturday

morning, and everything went as planned. During the course of a seemingly routine labor, a nurse came in to check on her progress. She noticed Christie was hemorrhaging, and they became very concerned that Christie's health was in danger. What they did not know is that the umbilical cord attached to the baby had ripped away and that it was in fact the baby who was hemorrhaging and in grave danger, his oxygen and life support system completely shut down! It took time to prepare Christie for her emergency Caesarean section, precious minutes in which her baby was not getting oxygen, and losing dangerous amounts of blood. When baby Conner was finally delivered, he had lost "one half" of the blood in his body and was not breathing on his own. This beautiful 10 lb. boy was blue in color and lifeless as he was hooked to numerous IV's and medical equipment. The prognosis was not good. With oxygen being cut off and the fact that he required three blood transfusions, the doctors warned the family that this boy would no doubt be mentally retarded, or at best, slow with many learning disabilities.

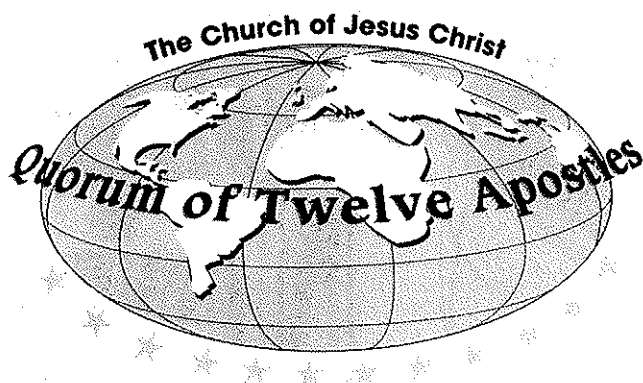
The family was heartbroken. Brother Lou Visconti was reminded of

an experience he had with his son, Lou Jr. At a young age, he had been diagnosed with spinal meningitis. But the saints of God had rallied together in mighty prayer and the boy was healed completely! He shared this with Christy and Chuck, and the family united in prayer together that night.

The next morning was Sunday, Mother's Day. Brother Lou and Sister Grace attempted to call the Sterling Heights Branch to request that a handkerchief be anointed for Christy and baby Conner. However, the phone was not working, so they rushed to the branch to ask for prayer. Brother John Buffa offered a powerful prayer begging God to touch this child. A sweet spirit filled the branch and we were completely united in our prayers. Brother Sam DiFalco and Brother Lou Vitto left immediately for the hospital with Brother Lou and Sister Grace. That morning, the doctors had informed Chuck and Christy that the baby seemed worse and that they were suspecting cerebral palsy. Brother Sam prayed for Christy first, and called upon God for His comfort and His healing power. The Spirit of God had entered that room in such a powerful way that Brother Lou Visconti began to fall towards the floor.

Next, they went to the neonatal intensive care unit to pray for the baby. Conner was sedated and his

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## Questions and Answers

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

### PART I

Between the years of 1965 to 1975 as correspondent for The Church of Jesus Christ, I received hundreds of inquiries from all over the world in regards to the Faith, Doctrine, and Beliefs held by the Church.

The inquiries, with encouragement from others, resulted in the pamphlet, *Questions and Answers*. The Quorum of Twelve Apostles has been contributing articles for several

Church since its organization, until now, that the Faith, Doctrine, and Beliefs have not changed nor will we ever change them.

Recently, I have been praying as to what my next article should be to be printed in the *Gospel News*. The Spirit of God has spoken to me to take excerpts from the *Questions and Answers* pamphlet and send them in as my next article. Following are the questions and answers I have chosen. They are numbered as they appear in the pamphlet. The entire pamphlet can be purchased through your branch librarian or the Print House of The Church of Jesus Christ. The address for the Print House can be found on page 5 of this publication.



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

years, some of which I too have contributed, to the Church publication, *The Gospel News*. These articles, were and are, primarily to keep the membership and all who may read the publication apprised of our continued stand we have taken as a

ministerial authority?

We shall look for a church possessing the foundation of Twelve Apostles. We shall expect to find among them prophets. We shall look for a ministry, called of God by the voice of revelation and clothed with Priesthood Authority. Have they a foundation composed of the six cardinal principles of the Gospel? (Heb. 6: 1-3). Is there among them an ordinance of entrance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins? Do they practice the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, for the healing of the sick and for the blessings of little children? Can they present an institution lightened by the nine spiritual gifts, and point to us the signs following the believer? They must place before us a comely church clothed with the robes of revelation and in constant communication with her God. In a word, we shall look for nothing less than a church identical in all things with the church of the New Testament (I Cor. 12:8-12).

**19. What books do you classify as scripture?**

The only books we use as scripture are: the Bible (King James Version) and the Book of Mormon.

**36. How are revelations accepted by the Church?**

We screen all revelations given to any member of the Church or priesthood. If found in accordance with our Faith and Doctrine, the Bible, or Book of Mormon, we forward them to our conferences for final acceptance. If accepted, they are recorded in our private records.

**42. What is your view on other churches including other Restoration churches?**

We believe that all churches have a right to worship God as their hearts dictate. The constitution of the United States also gives everyone that right. We also believe as it is written in the Bible (Mark 9:38-40), "And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not; for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly

**1. By what name is your church called?**

Our church is called The Church of Jesus Christ. To those who may ask to what persuasion we belong, the answer is that we are a Restored Gospel Church.

**2. Where is your General Church headquarters?**

Our headquarters are located at Sixth and Lincoln Streets, Monongahela, PA 15063.

**9. What is the earthly purpose of The Church of Jesus Christ?**

The earthly purpose of The Church of Jesus Christ is to offer salvation to mankind and assist in the establishing of God's Kingdom on earth (Matt. 6:10), and to bring the record known as the Book of Mormon to the Seed of Joseph, the American Indian (Ezek. 37:15-17).

**18. What should we look for in a church which claims to be The Church of Jesus Christ and have**

“speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.” (Romans 14:12), “So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:10), “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things with which one may edify another.” (Romans 15:1-33), “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves . . .” We believe that all honest in heart, will one day be gathered. W. W. Phelps in his hymn *An Angel Came Down* says this in the last verse: “Then listen oh isles and give ear every nation, for great things await you in this generation. The kingdom of Jesus in Zion, shall flourish; the righteous will gather, the wicked must perish.” Incidentally, I have had a revelation on this hymn; we were shown that it is true. Thank God for the Restored Gospel! We often say, the greatest thing that has happened since the birth of Christ was the Restoration of His Church. Remember the destruction that took place on this continent at the time of the crucifixion? (III Nephi 9:13). The more righteous were spared. See also the *Articles of Faith*, No. 13.

#### **43. Do you claim ministerial authority from God?**

Yes. We trace it back to the time that the angel of the Lord laid his hand on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on May 15, 1829. See *The Divine Continuity, A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ* and *Oliver Cowdery's Letters No. 1*.

#### **44. What do you mean when you refer to priesthood or ministerial authority?**

The older and majority view of many other groups is that a minister must trace authority of his priesthood through the Apostle Peter to Jesus Christ.

A later concept is that the ministry is a profession, requiring only suitable talents, special training and a desire to serve mankind. The only “call” in most cases is a contract for service with a particular church or congregation.

A still more recent view is anyone who has a “call” by a group,

church or personal experience, regardless of special training, or not, receive their authority from the Word of God itself to preach and administer the ordinances of the Church.

We do not criticize these concepts for we feel they are all a part of the complete concept.

We hold to a complete concept of ministerial authority often called the Restoration View. This concept presupposes an apostasy or a “falling away” from the truth as taught by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. It denies the ability of “fallen man” to reform it to its original purity and purpose. Since this apostasy (literally “a falling away”) took place, there was a need that the authority of God’s ministry was restored to earth from Heaven by a Messenger of God on May 15, 1829 (Revelations 14:6-7).

We mean that each minister, divinely called and ordained after the order of the Son of God, has the God-given right to represent Him and to administer the Word of God and the ordinances of His Church. We mean that he has received a divine calling and commission for the performance of sacred acts which commit God to the results. Since he has the right to officiate, Heaven will recognize as valid all acts performed in harmony with the terms of the commission, as well as those things spoken and performed under the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit. Whatever talents and special abilities one may have are used for God’s honor and glory and not for personal gain or recognition.

#### **47. When did The Church of Jesus Christ receive its authority?**

The Church of Jesus Christ received its authority from God through Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on May 15, 1829, bestowed by an angel from heaven. (See *Oliver Cowdery's Letters No. 1*)

#### **49. What do you believe about Joseph Smith, Jr.?**

We believe he was an instrument used of God. Through him the Gospel was restored and the Book of Mormon was translated. We do not accept all that he had received in the way of revelation to be of God. We believe

that Joseph Smith tried to the best of his ability to portray goodness and love to all mankind. We believe he was, in fact, an instrument used of God to restore the true Gospel of the Kingdom. We also believe he had faults like all known human beings (example: David, Solomon) and he was the first to admit them, as in his own story in 1838 and in the 1860 *Herald* reprint. However, in the end he died a martyr by cruel hands.

#### **54. Do you accept Joseph Smith's translation of the Book of Mormon?**

Yes, the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, who used Joseph Smith as an instrument to do this work.

#### **55. Do you accept Joseph Smith's visions and revelations being from heaven as he proclaims?**

We do not accept all of the revelations of Joseph’s to be of the Lord, because they cannot be depended upon, such as the one on polygamy. We know that was of the devil because both the Bible and the Book of Mormon denounce polygamy.

#### **57. What was Sidney Rigdon's right to the presidency of the Church?**

He was Joseph Smith’s first counselor and was not estranged from the Church at the time of Joseph Smith’s death. (See *A Brief History of the Origin of The Church of Jesus Christ*, pp. 3&4, 1932. Also, *The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S.* Volume 1. P.640, *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ* by Wm. H. Cadman, p.4.)

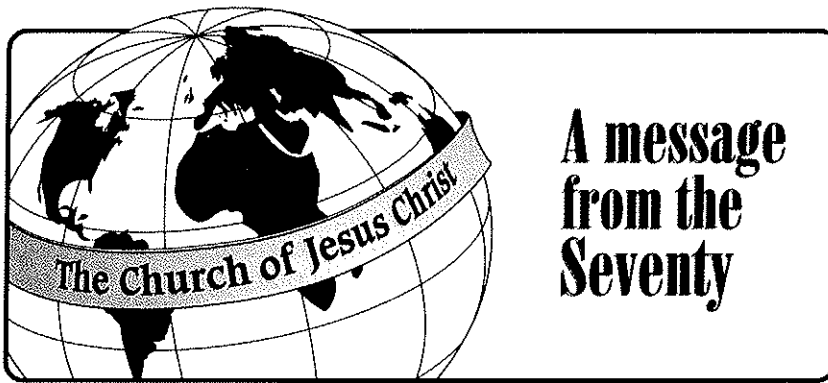
#### **71. Could you tell me something of the life and/or the work of William Bickerton?**

Our Church history and *A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ* will explain this question more thoroughly than we can here.

#### **73. Did William Bickerton have a revelation about his church leadership?**

Yes. William Bickerton said, “I know my calling was from heaven,

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## 1998 Missionary Trip to Kenya

*By Brother Frank Natoli*

During this February 22 to March 9 period, Brothers Mark Kovacic, Wayne Martorana and the writer, Foreign Missions Operating Committee Coordinators, visited the saints in Kenya, East Africa.

Since the registration of The Church of Jesus Christ in that nation in 1993, each missionary trip has sought to strengthen and encourage the membership and reinforce the frequent letters of communication that are sent throughout the year between the FMOCC Coordinators and Elder-in-Charge in Kenya.

### CHANGES AND GROWTH

Establishing a firm foundation is critical for continued growth and expansion, as in any "new work." With nine village congregations being overseen by one Elder, Brother Stephen Osaka, and two newly ordained Elders in training, the demands and responsibilities over the past year have been significant. These issues needed to be addressed, so we three visiting missionaries, in conjunction with the three resident Elders, organized the Kenya field into a regional structure, similar to that as within the United States.

Each village will now be serviced and visited by one of the three Elders, supported by the ordained Teacher, Deacon and Deaconess living within the village. This will ensure that the ordinances will be administered on a regular basis and each village will have an Elder there at least once every three

weeks.

A process was also put into place to elevate issues or proposals from the village level to the regional level (ordained officer level) and to the FMOCC Coordinators in the U.S.A. if necessary. To support this, each village will elect a treasurer, secretary, and auditor to maintain records. Although these changes may sound administrative, the ordained officers in Kenya unanimously agreed that they would spiritually benefit the Church and would provide a structure for growth. Additionally, seminars and

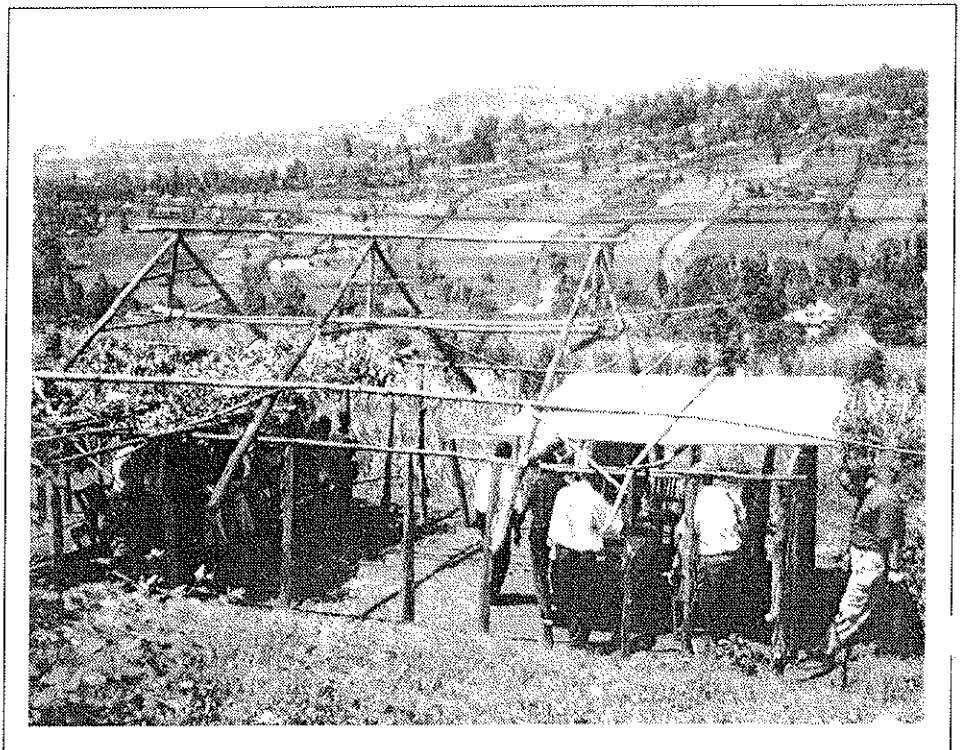
training topics were reviewed extensively with the Elders and in conjunction with discussions held with the Deaconesses to address their needs, as well as those of the ordained Teachers and Deacons.

### SPIRIT OF UNITY AND DESIRE

As these meetings and services were conducted by the visiting missionaries, the spirit of unity and desire to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ became more and more evident. In fact, twelve souls were baptized during the trip and many of the brothers and sisters testified how the Lord healed them from a recent malaria epidemic. Although hundreds of people had died of malaria only weeks before this trip, God not only spared all our members but healed and protected the saints from this deadly disease! With this manifestation of God's love, it is no wonder that the Kenyan Church continues to grow.

The excitement and dedication of the approximate three hundred members are apparent in each village. It is interesting to note that only seven

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A mud walled church structure being built in Kenya, East Africa.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nepht DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovaglio

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovaglio  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC**  
Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

**Mother's Day.** A day set aside to honor mothers everywhere. A day that recognizes the goodness, kindness, and love of a mother.

A mother's love is beautiful, boundless, wonderful, difficult to measure. The only love that surpasses the love of a mother is the love of God.

When God created a woman, He knew why, He knew the necessity. It goes beyond that man should not be alone. God knew that mothers play a vital and important role in rearing their children, in developing their children.

Think back on your childhood. Think of the many things your mother did for you. Your mother was there to comfort you, to help you, to provide direction and counsel. She was there when you were sick. She was there when you needed help in your daily life. Your mother was there to teach you and rear you in the admonition of the Lord.

There are several beautiful examples in scripture of mothers who were so important to their families and children. Consider mothers like Hannah, Mary, Sariah, one of the two mothers who appeared before Solomon and the mothers of the two thousand young warriors. Wonderful examples of a love difficult to describe, difficult to comprehend. Mothers who showed great concern and love for their children.

Hannah is a wonderful, powerful example of motherhood. She was barren. She simply could not have children. She was in despair because of her childless condition. The scripture tells us that Hannah "was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore." Why? Because she wanted a child. She wanted to be a mother! Hannah petitioned the Lord. Hannah made a vow that if God would bless her with a man child, she in turn would "give him unto the Lord all the days of his life." Imagine! Hannah would give him to the Lord. She would not keep him for herself so to speak. She would put him in the hands of the Lord so the Lord would use him as He saw fit. The Lord heard her cry, her petition. Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, meaning, "asked him of the Lord." Hannah kept her promise and vow. She told a man named Eli, "As long as he liveth, he shall be lent to the Lord." That is exactly what transpired; Samuel was given to the Lord! Samuel became known as the first prophet of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul as king. He later, anointed David as King of Israel. Samuel on many occasions was used by God for His wise and holy purposes. A marvelous story of motherhood and the result was a man of God!

Mary, the mother of the Lord, was another beautiful and wonderful mother. She was honored to be selected by God to conceive His Son by the power of the Holy Ghost. Mary became and was the mother of Jesus Christ! We read the Lord grew, waxed strong in the spirit, He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. He was also nurtured and taught by a wonderful mother. An example of Mary's love is captured when she and her husband Joseph, realized their son, Jesus Christ, was not in their company as they returned home from the feast of the passover. What did they do? They no doubt were driven by a mother's love for her child. They returned to Jerusalem and found Him in the temple. What relief! A mother finds her son! As the Lord grew, He was subject to His parents. Mary kept these sayings in her heart. Mary relinquished her son, Jesus Christ, to His Father in heaven. He was the Saviour of the world. Love, oh what love! Can you imagine her feelings, a mother's feelings when she witnessed His crucifixion? What agony this wonderful mother felt. But, what joy when He resurrected! It was worth it all!

Sariah, Lehi's wife, was distraught over the safety of her sons when they returned to Jerusalem to obtain the plates of brass. Her sons must have been gone for sometime because she thought they perished in the wilderness. Sariah was not only concerned for Nephi, she was also con-

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# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Say "No" to Fear and Hate

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been somewhere where people hated you? Have you ever felt deep fear that a certain person or group wanted to hurt you? Have you ever stopped to realize that your fear made you hate yourself and them? Have you ever said, "No!" to fear and hate by allowing yourself to feel forgiveness and love? Has anyone ever taught that if you begin praying for those people to be blessed and to feel God's power in their lives that your hate and fear will go away?

This is what happened in the Bible when Jesus forgave those that tried to destroy Him. This is also what happened in the Book of Mormon when Nephi stood up for God and made his two older brothers, Laman and Lemuel, hate him. They hated him because he was a Godly young man. When their father, Lehi, first began having visions that God was going to allow the great city of Jerusalem to be destroyed, Laman and Lemuel did not believe him. When Lehi was told by the Lord to take his four sons, wife and others and leave the city for the wilderness, the two oldest sons were furious.

However, Nephi was curious. He began to wonder about the things his father was telling them. He decided to ask God on his own. He fasted and prayed and asked the Lord about the many dreams and visions his father had told them about. God was pleased. God also began working with young Nephi. Immediately his brothers complained that they did not have to



listen to him because he was younger. They rebelled when God sent them back to the city to bring out the ancient written records of their people. They tried to destroy their brother.

But God gave Nephi wisdom and protection. Each time the older brothers plotted to kill or hurt Nephi, the Lord preserved his life. One time he gave Nephi such great power that by merely touching them, he shocked his brothers. Afterwards, they apologized and even tried to bow down and worship him. He was pained and told them never to worship him, only worship God. He also forgave them and continued their journey.

When they were crossing the huge ocean, the two older brothers and their wives began to act wild and rude. They began to dance and sing and talk bad. They had forgotten God and what He had done for them. When Nephi told them to stop, they were filled with hate. They tied him up tightly with ropes and hurt him. His parents, wife, younger brothers, and little children all begged Laman and Lemuel to untie Nephi but these wicked brothers refused.

What did Nephi do? The Book of Mormon says that Nephi did not murmur or complain against God. Instead he began praying and singing praises to God. Immediately a huge storm came up. The compass stopped working. For four days and nights the small ship was tossed about on huge waves. Laman and Lemuel began to fear that they would die. They finally untied their younger brother. The storm went away. And he again forgave them, even though they had tried to harm him deeply.

The new land was beautiful.

Every kind of animal and plant grew there. There was also an abundance of metal ore, like gold and silver. New plates (sheets of metal) could be formed to write on. The people prospered. After several years, Lehi grew old and died. Again, the two oldest sons began to protest the spiritual leadership of Nephi. Again they started to plan ways to kill him. This time God told Nephi to take the ancient records and the people who wanted to serve God and leave. God brought them through the wilderness where they could serve Him in peace.

Over and over, Brother Nephi showed his friends and children how to forgive others and return love for hate. Every time he did this God also blessed him. And God will also bless you for returning good to people who do evil to you. Pray for wisdom so God will show you the best way to do this. Pray for those who treat you bad. And never be embarrassed or ashamed to forgive others. This is the peace that Christ has given you and me.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

NEPHI	FOLLOW
TAUGHT	GOD
HIS	PROTECTS
PEOPLE	THOSE
TO	WHO
FORGIVE	TRUST
OTHERS	

G	O	D	E	G	O	S
W	H	T	L	F	D	T
O	T	A	P	O	S	O
L	S	U	A	R	T	E
L	U	G	E	G	H	T
O	R	H	P	I	O	O
F	T	T	S	V	S	R
O	H	W	U	E	E	P



## Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout 1997

During the weekend of September 20, 1997, we experienced many of God's wonderful blessings. Our newly elected Area President, Brother Jonathan Olexa, expressed himself and requested that we pray for him. This was his first opportunity to be responsible for such an event in the Atlantic Coast Area. Our camp director was Brother Jason Rogolino and the theme was "The Title of Liberty."

Our Saturday morning chapel service began with singing a medley of songs from the *Songs of Zion*. Brother Ken Lombardo, our chaplain, spoke a few words and expressed that he was a little tardy for the meeting and had forgotten where we were to meet for services. He stopped a moment and heard us singing, *Good Morning God*, and followed our singing and for a split moment, he felt he was in Zion. He spoke from Alma, Chapter 4:11-19 and then went into Galations, Chapter 5:1. This is a time for us to be encouraged that the Gospel we have taken on must go forth and we must hold on and be

steadfast. Wave the flags that we might hold up the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We then broke up into our seminar groups. Afterwards, we all came together for a final discussion. Then the children put on a program of when Moroni rented his garment. The message is that we must stand for something. Why not stand for the Lord? We closed in prayer and spent the afternoon in fellowship, crafts, boating and softball. We also had a white elephant sale to raise funds for the Church.

As we began our evening service, we truly felt the Spirit of God in the singing. Brother Anthony Scolaro opened our evening meeting and preached on Moroni taking a stand for liberty and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He spoke on Isaiah 62:6-10. We then had a season of testimony and offered praises to God. We had a wonderful and blessed meeting. We closed our meeting and again spent time in fellowship in a canteen setting. We talked and sang around the piano. A beautiful spirit of peace and love was felt the whole day.

When we retired for the night, all of us inquired of the Lord what He would have for us on His Sabbath Day. We anticipated a wonderful blessing. Little did we know it would turn out so very special.

On Sunday morning, we felt a

beautiful spirit of singing and then the young people honored us with a song. Brother Jim Sgro opened the meeting and he said that he had a thought, a complicated thought. But as he heard the young people sing, his thoughts changed. He read from Mormon Chapter 1:15. It's about Mormon being ten years old and walking with the Lord. He spoke to the young people how it must have felt at such a young age of twenty-four to be used of God and walking in His Spirit. As the Lord poured out His Spirit on our brother in his preaching, Stefanie Suska then called her father over and expressed her desire to be baptized. As we continued singing and feeling God's presence, Stephanie Crupi of Edison, made her wishes known. What a wonderful day to see two young women render obedience unto the Lord.

A call was made to Brother Jim and Sister Lydia Link about their granddaughter. As we waited for them to arrive, the brothers found a spot in the lake where they would be able to perform the baptisms. Brother Jim Link baptized Stefanie Suska from the Bronx Branch and Brother Jonathan Olexa baptized Stephanie Crupi from the Edison Branch.

There was also a blessed experience which confirmed the baptisms. We praise God for this wonderful day and thank Him for His abundance of blessings throughout the weekend.



## Five Ordinations in Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

On December 7, 1997, we had the following ordinations in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. Brother John Huttenberger was ordained a Teacher. He had his feet washed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr., and was ordained by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Brother Jim Calabro was ordained a Deacon. He had his feet washed by Brother John Huttenberger and he was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro. Sister Kathy Kowalsky was ordained a Deaconess. She had her feet washed by Sister Geneva Dell and was ordained by Brother Sam Dell. Sister Angela Reyes was ordained a Deaconess. She had her feet washed by Sister Olga Morales and was ordained by Brother Phil Arcuri. Two weeks later, on December 21, 1997, Brother Rick Calabro was ordained an Elder. His feet were washed by Brother Anthony Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Jim Moore.

On Sunday, December 7, we had visitors from throughout the region and

Church. Brother Jim Huttenberger was visiting from Anaheim, California and opened our service, speaking about the importance of laboring. He explained how the Church can only function if every part of the body does its job. Every Elder who was visiting had an opportunity to speak, following the same theme. Everyone felt the presence of Jesus Christ in our meeting and this was manifested through the numerous visions which occurred. During the feet washing and ordaining, one sister saw a golden cornfield under a blue sky. Another sister saw a house flowing in a great stream of rushing water. She then saw the house flow

(Continued on Page 8)

## Five Ordinations in Freehold

Continued from Page 7

upward and plant itself on the top of a great mountain, away from the turbulent waters. In another vision, a sister saw a multitude of people dressed in gold pressing their way toward a beautiful throne up ahead. Our spirits were overflowing with God's love and power.

On Sunday, December 21, as Brother Rick Calabro was ordained into the ministry, we once again witnessed an outpouring of God's power. We again had visitors from throughout the region and Church. Brother Jim Moore, from Imperial, Pennsylvania was our opening speaker. He spoke about how the Lord loves a worker, someone who is eager to help others save their soul. As he was speaking, a sister had a vision of three personages all dressed in white standing behind Brother Jim. We heard from several other Elders, all with the same message. There were experiences related regarding Brother Rick's calling. A sister dreamed of a building that was being built. She saw the walls which were being constructed. She saw Brother Rick and his brother, Brother Jim Calabro wearing tool belts, and laboring to construct this building. Another sister dreamed she saw Brother Rick and another brother who is in the ministry, carrying a Bible and a Book of Mormon through the city streets, after a great destruction had occurred. They were preaching to the survivors. Brother Rick himself dreamed his cousin, Brother Rich Onarato, who is in the ministry, handed him the oil during an anointing. There were numerous other experiences as well. During the ordination, a sister had a vision of a cape being put around our brother's shoulders.

We are so thankful that God has chosen more laborers in His vineyard. Truly the harvest is great and the laborers are few. As the Church progresses toward building God's Kingdom upon the earth, we realize the task can only be accomplished through those who are sincere, and willing to work. With God's help, those who have been ordained will be used

greatly, not only in our branch, but throughout the Church. "Cast your net on the right side, leave your doubts all behind, when you walk on the water, there his hand you will find."

## Truly Thankful

*By Sister Karen Progar*

On Thanksgiving, we are all likely to reflect on those things for which we are truly grateful. The holiday brought the additional blessing of visitors to the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch for the following Sunday, November 30, 1997.

We began the day with a special Sunday School class during which the Primary and Children's classes presented a play on Noah. In addition to learning the story, the children also wrote the play, made their own puppets and prepared the refreshments which were served afterwards.

Our morning service was opened by Brother Doug Obradovich, from the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission. He acknowledged the hard work the children put into their presentation and how important they are, as a group, to the Church. During his sermon, Brother Doug shared many personal testimonies and how our personal experiences with God motivate us to attend Church

and share our blessings with others.

Two brothers from the branch had just returned from a missionary trip to Mexico and this brought our group yet another thing for which to be thankful. Brother Paul A. Palmieri shared the joy of his visit to Mexico with us and told us about the blessing which he reaped. His final remarks were that he felt the power of God and power of the Mexican saints' prayers. Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., stated that he felt he was taken to Mexico, protected while he was there and brought home safely, by the hand of God. Both brothers were able to share wonderful experiences of God's blessings upon them and upon those they went to serve.

Gratitude was truly the theme of the day and the Lord showed His love and mercy to each of us.

## Blessings at Cottageville, SC Mission

On December 18, 1997, several brothers, sisters and friends from the Edison, New Jersey area set out to the Church mission in Cottageville, South Carolina. Every other month, the 700 mile trip is made to visit our friends in the area, most of whom are Native American Indians. We give out food and clothing, while anointing the sick and trying to provide a spiritual uplift



Brothers, sisters and friends from Edison, NJ and Cottageville, SC.

to as many as possible. During the December trip, we held a Saturday afternoon meeting for the local children. After we open in prayer, a brief message is given. Then Christmas gifts, cookies and candy are given to the children while everyone enjoys the fellowship.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed the company of one visitor, our friend Gene Davidson, a 94-year-old American Indian who joined us for dinner as well as our evening meeting. During testimony, Brother Phil Arcuri invited Mr. Davidson to express himself. As tears filled his eyes, Mr. Davidson said he really did not have anything he wanted to say except that he felt a real difference being in The Church of Jesus Christ and that he loved us all.

We thank God to see His joy fill even just one soul. We ask for the continued prayers of the Church that the Lord might continue blessing this ongoing work and our friends in Cottageville, South Carolina.

## Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

*By Sister Connie Rossi*

On December 21, 1997, the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission was blessed with its third baptism of

the year. Sister Gidget Ye-Shaun Leonard was baptized by Brother Darrell Rossi and confirmed by Brother Harold Littlejohn. Our new sister started visiting our mission for approximately three weeks with Sister Ruth Hill. Sister Gidget and Sister Ruth are school teachers together at the same Junior High School in Union, South Carolina.

Sister Gidget started going to Sister Ruth's classroom during free time to talk. Sister Ruth went into prayer that if she was to share the Gospel with Sister Gidget to let her keep coming to her classroom and even come to Church. The Lord had already been working with Sister Gidget in many ways and she had many experiences to share with the mission.

The Friday before she asked for her baptism, she attended MBA and shared an experience with us at the end of the service. She mentioned that during the last few meetings, and even more so during the MBA, every question she had about the Church or something she had prayed about was confirmed through Brother Darrell or Brother Harold. Every time she came to the meetings all her questions were answered through the Ministry.

The following Sunday, December 21, 1997, while giving her testimony, Sister Gidget asked for her baptism. After the morning service, she immedi-

ately was taken to the water and was baptized and was confirmed at the evening service. Sister Gidget is a joyful addition to our mission and is truly seeking the Lord's direction in her life. Please keep our new sister in prayer that the Lord will continue to confirm His word to her everyday.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Ahlborn, Anne  
866 Fellsburg Rd.  
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Cotellesse, Joseph, Joann, Mark  
14650 Russell  
Allen Park, MI 48101  
313-383-7282

Eutsey, Milford Sr., Shirley  
P.O. Box 873  
Elfers, FL 34680  
813-842-1605

Gerace, Anthony, Elizabeth  
53085 Hillsboro Dr.  
Chesterfield Twp., MI 48051  
810-749-9609

Paxon, Malcolm, Shirley, Justin,  
Jennifer  
3227 Country Walk Drive  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
Tel. 770-439-1437  
Fax 770-439-2736

Risola, Daniel  
8035 Deer Foot Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
813-375-5251

Saragosa, Patricia  
810-293-5845

Smith, Isaac, Bonnie  
2247 E. Bramble Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85204  
602-890-2396

Jankowski, Walt, Carrie  
464 W. Sylvester Way  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Pepper, Josephine  
734-762-5211



**Sister Gidget Ye-Shaun Leonard and Brother Darrell Rossi.**

## Note of Thanks

The Genaro family would like to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ, for their outpouring of love and concern in our recent loss of Brother Dan Genaro. The number of cards and calls that we received cannot even begin to be counted or recorded. Our words cannot say enough or express the love and support we felt from this glorious Church. Thank you and God bless you all.

The Genaro Family

\* \* \* \* \*

Our family would like to take this opportunity to thank God and all of our brothers, sisters, and friends for your prayers. It is joyous to know that the love of God is found in all of you. Thank you for your petitions to the Lord on behalf of our family. Our hearts are full. We love you all. God bless you all.

The Crupi Family  
Edison, NJ

**HAPPY  
MOTHER'S DAY**  
To Mothers Everywhere

### A Very Special Mother's Day

Continued from Page 1

brain was severely swollen. Brother Lou Vitto could only reach his hand through a small opening to place a hand on Conner's tiny arm. As he prayed for a miracle for this child, a nurse who was standing by began to weep. By the end of the prayer, Conner's color had changed from blue to pink. Brother Lou asked the nurse, "Have you ever witnessed anything like this?" The nurse answered, "No, never! I know this baby is going to be all right." Within days, and after

extensive tests, the doctors could find no sign of any permanent damage to Conner. He was released from the hospital within a week.

God is so good! He loves us so much! Today, Conner is almost a year old. He began talking at nine months, he is perfectly healthy, and ready to take on anything in his direct path! Against all odds, God performed a miracle on him and made him a testimony of what prayer and faith can do. As a personal note, several months after Conner's birth, I visited my own doctor who practices in the same hospital. He mentioned to me that he had seen my father at the hospital counseling a family who had lost their baby. At first, I had no idea who he was talking about. And then, it hit me! I gladly told him the miracle that had been performed on little Conner, and that he was very much "alive" and perfect! He was silent, and then he simply said, "Well, it had to be a miracle! Every odd was against that child. It was so awful that I often thought about that case and wondered if it would happen in my own practice. I guess it gives me a lot to think about."

**I guess it gives us all something to think about. One small voice, a humble plea to God on behalf of a brokenhearted family. Lives were changed, hearts were touched, and none of us that know them will ever be the same.**

### Questions and Answers

Continued from Page 3

and I also knew that a man cannot build up The Church of Jesus Christ without divine commandment from the Lord, for it would only be sectarianism and man's authority. But the Lord did not leave me: No, He showed me a vision, and in the vision I was on the highest mountain on the earth; and He told me that if I did not preach the Gospel I would fall into a dreadful chasm below, the sight thereof was awful. I moved with fear, having the Holy Spirit with me. Here I was, none to assist me, and without learning, popular opinion against me, and the

Salt Lake Mormons stood in the way. I could not turn back unto Methodism again. No, I knew they had not the Gospel. I stood in contemplation. The chasm was before me, no other alternative but to do my duty to God and man. I went ahead preaching repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Revelation to the Church as follows: "Hear ye the word of the Lord God of Hosts today, I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I sent forth my servant Joseph with a message of glad tidings to this generation; Him have they slain, saith the Lord. My people have they persecuted, scattered, and driven out; yet once again I have raised up another like unto Joseph, to lead forth my people; Him shall ye hear in all things. I decreed that I would set up an ensign and raise up a standard; that ensign has been lifted, that standard raised, and now I have called for my servant William Bickerton to lead forth my people and they shall go in and out and find pasture, and the world shall know that there is a God in Heaven; therefore touch not mine anointed, saith the Lord."

## Announcement

For April, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.40%
2 years	5.45%
3 years	5.50%
4 years	5.55%
5 years	5.60%

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

We wish it to be understood that this Church will only hearken unto the things that are presented by man, in as much as they are consistent with the teachings of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; as He is our great Law-giver.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

members have been baptized more than four years and that the average of the membership is between twenty-five and thirty. Though young in age and experience, their zeal and love for Christ are demonstrated as they have now built three mud walled church shelters in which to worship, while the others meet in the "open air" until land can be acquired. Church sponsored nursery schools and a technical school also demonstrate the dedication of the brothers and sisters to maintain humanitarian support for their people while teaching about Jesus Christ and His Church.

### RETIREMENT OF BROTHER ELIZAPHAN OSAKA

Much of the success of the Kenyan Church today is attributed to the early labors of Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka, Brother Stephen's parents. After years of prayer, investigation, and correspondence, Elizaphan and Nina were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in February 1985 and ordained an Elder and Deaconess, respectively, in October 1985.

For almost eight years, Brother Elizaphan labored both spiritually and naturally to register our Church in Kenya. Finally, in 1993, permission was granted for the Church to be organized. Now, because of age and other responsibilities, he has retired from the ministry, leaving his son and the other younger Elders to continue preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although retired, Brother Elizaphan assured us that he will remain active, providing counsel and wisdom to the membership, as well as the remaining three Elders.

### TEACHING, TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

The changes made emphasize the ongoing need for training and developing the membership and ordained officers. Consequently, much of the time for this visit was focused on instruction.

The Kenyan Ladies' Uplift Circle, organized in 1997, formally filled its offices, with Sister Nina Osaka as President. The role of the Ladies' Circle in Kenya, as it is throughout the world, is to support the Church by strengthening the sisters and by reaching out to others. The Deaconesses from each village form the backbone of the Kenyan Ladies' Circle. Regular meetings are scheduled. Sister Nina will be traveling to each village on a rotating basis to instruct the sisters.

With the generosity of the United States members, we visiting brothers were also able to offer assistance in many ways. We purchased Swahili Bibles and printed Church hymnals for the brothers and sisters to use during services. We procured towels for footwashing, supplies for the church sponsored technical school, soap and shampoo to be distributed to the members, and building materials to complete a church building. These small tokens of assistance, as well as others, were greatly appreciated by the brothers and sisters in Kenya. With your ongoing prayers, love, and support for the Lord's work, the saints in Kenya will continue to feast on the blessings of God!

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

cerned over Laman and Lemuel, in spite of their terrible and wicked behavior towards Nephi and her husband, Lehi. When you read this story, it is the first time Sariah took issue with Lehi over leaving Jerusalem and their new circumstances. Why did she express herself in a manner which appears critical of Lehi. Sariah was expressing the love of a mother for her children, her family. She was con-

cerned and worried about their well being. What mother would not be concerned over her children when gone for sometime on an uncertain journey? When Nephi and his brothers returned, Sariah was comforted. Sariah was exceedingly glad! A mother's concern, a mother's love.

There were two mothers who appeared before Solomon. They contended over a child, each stating the child was hers. How did Solomon resolve the dispute? He asked for a sword and was going to cut the child in two. Solomon would then give half to each mother. The true mother showed her maternal love. She told Solomon to give the child to the other mother, asking that the child's life be spared. The other woman said, divide it! It is not difficult to determine which mother got the child. Solomon knew who the real mother was by her love! A mother's love was triumphant.

The two thousand young warriors in the Book of Mormon were taught by their mothers! They were obedient. They observed every word of command with exactness. It was done according to their faith!

Wonderful examples of motherhood. So is your mother. Remember your mother today and everyday. She deserves it! She is worth it!

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

Sister Mary Esther (Corrado) Ford of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on February 1, 1998.

Sister Phyllis (Corrado) Koon of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on February 1, 1998.

Brother Frank Vitto of the Windsor, Ontario Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 17, 1997.

Sister Anne Lovalvo of the Saline, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on January 29, 1998.

## Children Blessed

Shane Michael Covalessky, son of Sherry and Dan Covalessky, was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on December 14, 1997.

Daniel Armand Genaro, son of the late Brother Dan Genaro and Deneen Genaro of the Niles, Ohio Branch was blessed on February 4, 1998.

Carleigh Brianne Yencsik, daughter of Sister Robyn and David Yencsik was blessed on February 22, 1998 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Blake Michael Snodgrass, son of Bill and Sister Shelly Snodgrass was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch of March 1, 1998.

Zachary Joseph Cumberland, son of Renee Lynn Cumberland and Mark Cumberland, was blessed on February 1, 1998 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Alexandra Rebecca DeRoo, daughter of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed on March 1, 1998 in the Inner City Branch, Detroit, Michigan.

Salvatore Richard Pusillo, son of Sister Enza Pusillo and Richard Pusillo was blessed in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch on August 3, 1997.

Asante Ramey, daughter of Shalimar Ramey was blessed on March 18, 1998 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms

Dolores M. Dauber was baptized on February 1, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Philip Arcuri and confirmed by Brother Arthur Searcy.

Karen Rodriguez was baptized on March 18, 1998 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordination

Brother Anthony Scolaro of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 14, 1997. His feet were washed by his father, Brother Anthony Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Samuel Dell.

## OBITUARIES

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

### DANIEL P. GENARO

Brother Daniel P. Genaro of the Niles, Ohio Branch passed away to his heavenly reward on February 2, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Deneen Ciarocchi Genaro; two sons, Nicholas and Daniel; one daughter, Angela; his father and mother, Brother Armand and Sister Jean Genaro; two brothers, Jim and Brother John Genaro; and one sister, Sister Barbara Nuzzi.

### PAULINE KOWALCZYK

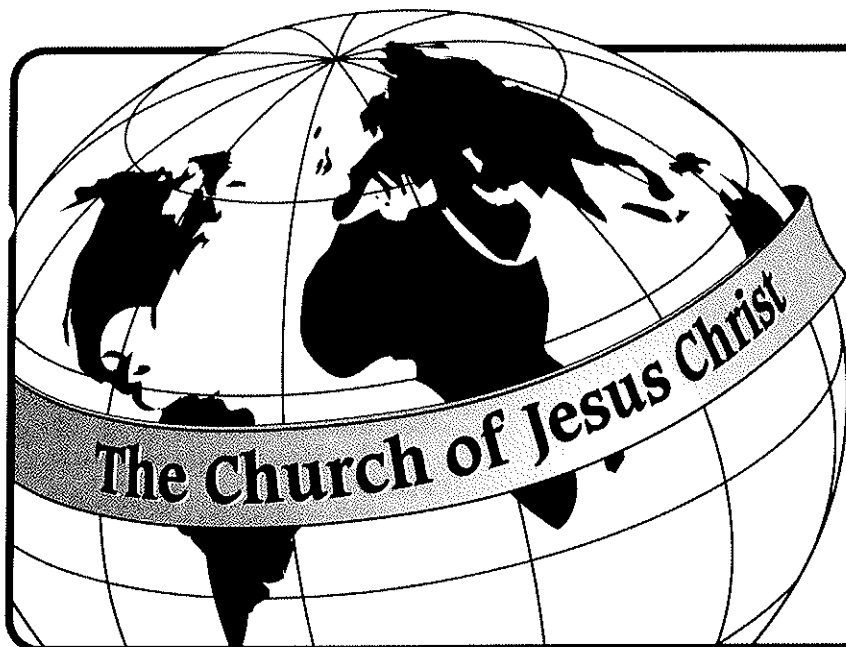
Sister Pauline Kowalczyk passed away to her heavenly reward on June 7, 1997. She was a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. Sister Pauline is survived by one daughter, Sister Jennie Rosko; three sons, Brother Walter, Stanley and Edward Kowalczyk; ten grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

### MARGARET BENYOLA

Sister Margaret Benyola passed away to her heavenly reward on February 25, 1998. She was a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. Sister Margaret was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Margaret was preceded in death by her late husband, Evangelist Joseph Benyola and a grandson, Brother Buddy Perri. She is survived by one son, Apostle Paul Benyola; four daughters, Sisters Mary Perri, Florence Perri, Judy Benyola and Sharon Benyola; four sisters, Sisters Rose Risola, Theresa Siano, Mary Vinci and Sophie Van Bree; one brother, Brother Paul Scala; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### JENNIE VANDALIA KING KIRK

Jennie Vandalia King Kirk of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her eternal reward on October 7, 1997. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles E. King. She is survived by one son, Robert King and three daughters, Debra Rouse, Peggy Barela, and Jacqueline Gopperton.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

June, 1998

Volume 54, No. 6

## Dedication of the Cape Coral Branch Church Building

By the Cape Coral Branch

After almost thirty years of meeting in rented halls, the members of the Cape Coral, Florida Branch and their friends and families welcomed the saints and friends from all over the country to witness and participate in the dedication of their newly constructed House of God on August 30 and 31, 1997. We were honored to have seven Apostles present, including General Church President, Dominic Thomas and First Counselor, Paul Palmieri. Also, the wives of six of the Apostles were with us.

The dedication services began Saturday evening, as the saints and their family and friends gathered in the new building at 7:00 PM. The service was conducted by Brother Ken Staley, Presiding Elder of Cape Coral. He welcomed all and introduced some of our special guests including the Apostles, the Region Presidency, the General Church Trustees, and the General Church Finance Committee, as well as the general contractor and his wife, Steve and Colleen Pansing.

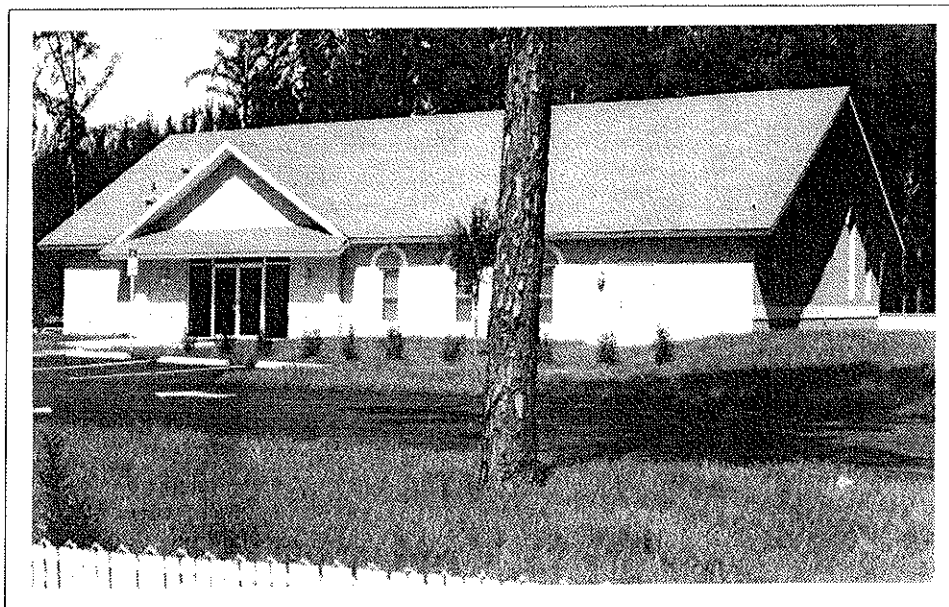
Brother Ken then began to relate the history of the Cape Coral Branch,

including those who worked so hard in raising funds for the building who have passed on to their eternal reward, including Brother Jack and Sister Bertha Constantine, Brother Ross and Sister Phil Bartuccio and Sister Albina Kukal. Sister Doreen Kukal sang the song, *Never to Be Apart No More* in memory of those who have

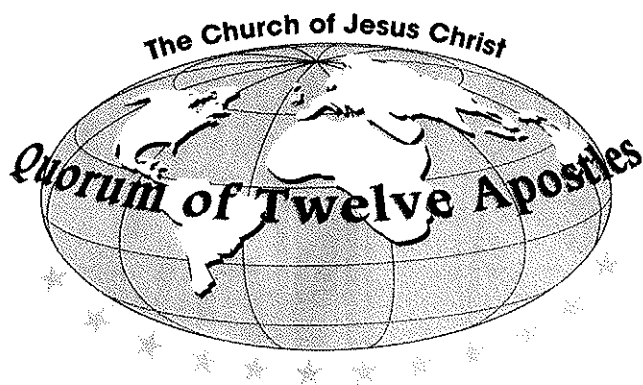
left us with such wonderful memories.

Two experiences were read regarding the lot and the building. Over ten years ago, before the branch purchased land, Sister Linda D'Orazio had an experience where she read minutes from a conference telling about Cape Coral purchasing land for \$10,500. She mentioned this item to Brother James Sheffler at the time and he told her it had not happened. However, a year later the land was purchased for that exact amount. In another experience, a man offering to

(Continued on Page 9)



The Church of Jesus Christ, Cape Coral, Florida



## Questions and Answers

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

### PART II

#### 74. Has the word of the Lord given direction to the Church?

In conference the word of the Lord was given to the Church as follows: "Hear O my people, this is the word of the Lord unto you today, the Church must be one, and my people one, for unto you is committed the work of God in these last days, and you my servants, feed the flock of God, over which I have made you



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

overseers, for great is the responsibility that rests upon you; for unto you are given the keys of this last ministry, and to lift the last warning voice to the world; therefore, be faithful to the end of your calling."

This last ministry has preached

the Restored Gospel for over one hundred years now (see Matthew 24:14.)

#### 75. Has revelation followed concerning the leadership and direction of the Church? Has it also been revealed what direction and program was to be followed to achieve the ultimate goal of the Church?

"Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my church, and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go, saith the Lord, and I will go with you. Therefore you must go to the right and to the left, to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south. You must do your part and I will do my part. Go and the gifts and blessings shall go with you. When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them. Tell them they are the Seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for the forefathers when they were carried away captive into Babylon, how that I brought them again into their own land and tell them that I will gather them to their own lands for I the Lord have spoken it" (*A History of The Church of Jesus Christ* by Wm. H. Cadman, page 32).

Also the word of the Lord given to the Church was: "Verily, verily, thus saith the Lord unto my servants, go ye forth and preach my Gospel unto all this continent, and when you return I will give you power to preach my Gospel to all nations. And the records which I have given are preached unto them, for there are no other records to be given unto the Gentiles. The records which are hid are for my covenant people, which I give unto you to gather them from all

nations, for my work is Yea and Amen" (Page 38 Ibid).

#### 76. What is the Church's stand on the Apostasy?

We definitely believe that an apostasy took place (II Thessalonians 2:3, 7-12). More scriptures are pointed out in our pamphlet, *Apostasy and Restoration*.

#### 79. Had apostasy started in Paul's day?

"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by the spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first" (II Thessalonians 2: 2-3).

Paul told the Thessalonians that the Second Coming of Christ would be preceded by a falling away or, in other words, an apostasy.

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31).

The Apostle Paul stressed that this falling away would come from within the Church membership and priesthood. Men would rise deliberately seeking to deceive. The urgency of this warning is pointed out by the fact that Paul cautioned them for three years day and night with tears.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-8).

#### 80. Was this apostasy recognized by leaders of the Reformation?

JOHN WESLEY—"We seldom hear of them (gifts of the Holy Ghost)

after the fatal period, when the Emperor Constantine called himself a Christian. From this time they almost totally ceased. The cause of this was not (as has been vulgarly supposed) because there was no more occasion for them because all of the world became Christian." Notice that John Wesley considered that the spiritual famine had set in by the third century.

"This is a miserable mistake: not a twentieth part of it (the world) was then nominally Christian. The real cause was 'the lives of many' almost of all Christians, so called, was 'waxed cold.' The Christians had no more of the Spirit of Christ than the other heathen. This was the real cause why extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christians. They were turned heathen again and had only a dead form left. The Church was without life. It bore no resemblance to the Church Christ first established" (*Wesley's Sermons*, Volume 2, Sermon 71).

**MARTIN LUTHER**—Martin Luther was a priest in the Church in 1507. Between the years 1512 and 1516 Martin Luther engaged in a severe spiritual struggle as he became keenly aware and convinced of the apostasy of the Church. He became so disturbed by it, that at the risk of his life, he made public protest (history).

**ROGER WILLIAMS**—Of Roger Williams it is said: "He conceived that an apostasy of Anti-Christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy, till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew." Roger Williams was one of the founders of the Baptist Church in America. He too recognized that there had been an apostasy which could not be corrected unless Christ sent new apostles. On his return from England, he (Roger Williams) refrained from fellowship with the church, lived in an isolated religious condition, preaching the Gospel to the Indians, as he found opportunity, but refusing to participate in the ordinances. He had embraced a singular notion, which is thus stated by one of his biographers:

"He denied that any ministry now exists which is authorized to preach the Gospel to the impenitent, or to administer the ordinances." For this reason a few months after helping to organize a church, Roger Williams left it and spent the rest of his life teaching the Indians (*Triumphs of Religious Liberty*, pp. 109, 110, 238, 239 and *Baptist History*, p.461.)

**ALEXANDER CAMPBELL**—"We agree that all Christian sects have more or less apostasized from the institutions of the Saviour: that by all of the obligations of the Christian religion, they that fear and love the Lord are bound to return to the ancient order of things, in spirit and truth." Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of the Christian Church, also recognized that there had been an apostasy and there was a definite need for a return to the original doctrine of Christ. Either some new revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made . . . We want the old Gospel back, and sustained by the ancient order of things; Campbell further looked forward to a restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ. "We have to pattern after the first Church as well as we can. But we can never equal it. With all our efforts, the great disparity will ever remain. And could the Apostles and primitive Christians be here, they would doubtless weep at beholding it" (*The Christian System*, p.250; *Christian Baptist*, Volume 5, p.402; *Millennial Harbinger*, Volume 5, p.40).

### 83. What is your belief on the Restoration of the Gospel?

We definitely believe the Gospel has been restored in accord with the Scriptures.

### 84. What do you mean "restoration?"

Webster defines "restoration" as the restoring or replacing in a former state or position; or the recovery of something which has been lost; to make whole again. On May 15, 1829, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were baptized after visitation by a messenger of God. This was a Divine restoration of ministerial authority looked for by many of the reformers

and which has since been reaffirmed to the Church many times over the years by means of revelation. The Church of Jesus Christ was organized on April 6, 1830 at Fayette, New York. They were told by revelation the very day on which this should take place. In this important thing Christ, not man, was the one that directed what should be done. Man merely obeyed the divine directive. Thus there was restored to earth The Church of Jesus Christ with the same divinely called ministry, doctrinal principles, and spiritual power as in New Testament times.

### 85. How are men called into the Priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ?

We have always depended upon revelation from God to call men into the Priesthood. (Hebrews 5:4-6, No man taketh this honor unto the Priesthood, the Order of the Son of God. See Alma 13; Alma 43:2; Helaman 8:18.) Under the original Articles of Faith (No. 6), we believe in the same organization that, etc. Article No. 5 says "We believe that men must be called of God by inspiration and by laying on of hands by those who are duly commissioned to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof."

### 104. Are men of any race permitted to hold a Priesthood office in The Church of Jesus Christ?

Yes

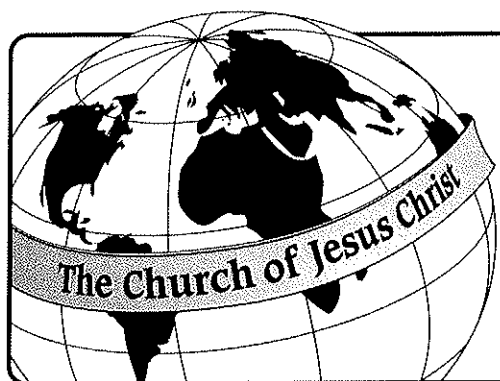
### 105. What is your present policy regarding the ordination of blacks into the Priesthood?

Our present policy is, and always has been, to include them in our Priesthood. Incidentally, we have no limit as to how high they can rise. We had a black Apostle. He is now deceased. His name was John K. Penn. See our Church History, pages 121 and 341.

### 107. What is the governmental setup of your organization?

We have a Quorum of Twelve Apostles. We also have three, that is President, First Counselor and Second Counselor, which are strictly adminis-

(Continued on Page 10)



## A message from the Seventy

### Dominica

*By Sister Sandy Smith*

Have you ever heard of Dominica? It is a small island in the Caribbean.

On March 12, Brother Richard and Sister Annabel Santilli, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri and Sister Kim Palmieri, and Brother Isaac J. Smith and the writer left Tampa International Airport for a five-day visit with the Carib Indians who inhabit this lush rain forest island of Dominica; and I was asked to write about the trip.

Before even landing, I remembered a dream God had given me twice about a very green mountainous tropical place. I saw the Gospel being carried to God's people. Looking out the plane's window, the dream started to become a reality. Then, the Spirit of God began to encompass me, as I tried to hide my tears from the other passengers.

#### NO TIME TO WASTE

Upon arriving at the motel, we had no time to waste. We put our things in our rooms and headed for the reserve. Evangelist Richard and Sister Annabel had met the Auguiste family on previous visits, and Raphael, Helena, and their boys not only welcomed us but also volunteered to have the brothers hold the Sunday services at their home.

Friday morning began with a prayer meeting, and the words of the Lord were given to Sister Annabel that He would be with us because we had prepared ourselves in fasting and prayer before our journey. We were told that He would go before us and

direct us and that they would see Him in us—that He would lead and guide us.

That day was spent walking in the intense heat and talking with those on the reserve and anyone whom we met. At dinner, we made plans with Raphael for us to hire a driver to take us to the other parts of the reserve that we could not walk to.

#### TOUR OF RESERVE

Saturday morning after prayer, we boarded a minivan for our tour. Raphael came with us because he knew where we should stop. He made sure

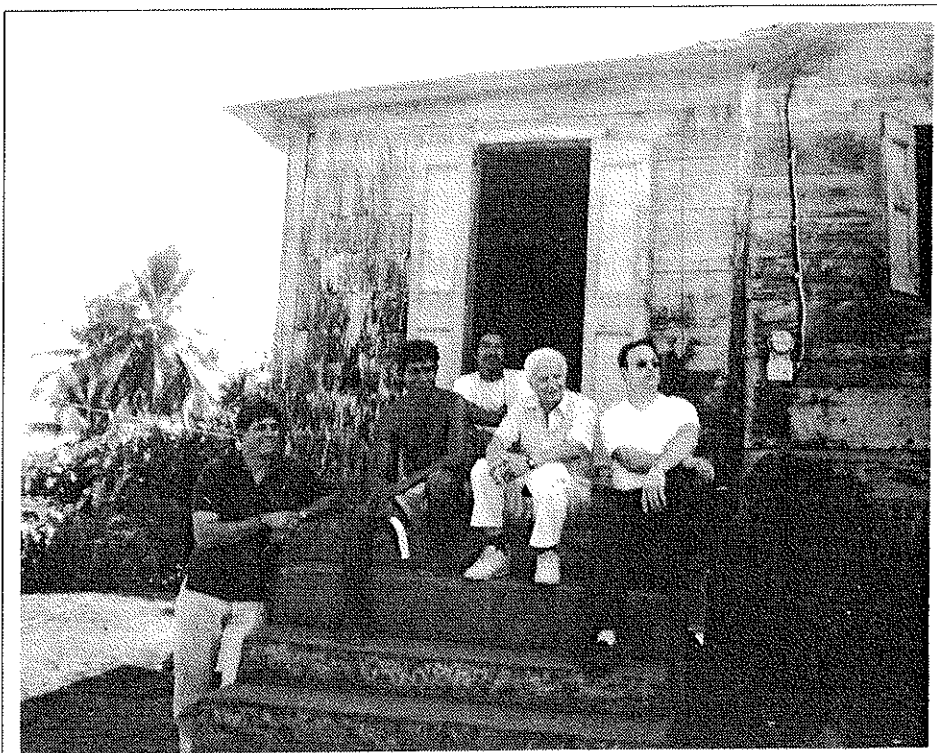
we met all his relatives on the reserve. By the end of the afternoon, he had heard the brothers sharing the words of the Gospel so many times that, in his excitement, he was telling those we met why they should listen to the brothers' message. On this trip, we gave out twelve Books of Mormon and could have easily given out twenty more. The Lord truly blessed our brothers with liberty. This being a new experience for the writer, taking the Gospel to a people who had never heard it before, I was amazed!

One of the homes we stopped at was of a school teacher, Kathleen and her husband, Malcolm. Malcolm's excitement overwhelmed us. He shared a few personal experiences with us and wanted his picture taken holding the Book of Mormon.

We were introduced to the past and present Chiefs of the Carib Tribe.

One of the more inquisitive people we met this day was Helena's brother, Alexes. He stopped working to ask questions and hear our brothers' message. He wanted to know much

(Continued on Page 11)



From left to right: Brother Ike Joe Smith, Alexes and Raphael, natives of Dominica, Brother Richard Santilli and Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri.

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS****ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**

David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**

Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC**

Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**

James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**

Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Jesus Christ was and is the Supreme Instructor. There are countless examples of questions He answered that left no doubt how people were to conduct themselves in life. Some questions were sincere, others were attempts at entrapment towards the Lord.

Let us consider one of the sincere questions. It was posed by none other than His very followers, His disciples. In Matthew 18:1 we read, *"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

Do you remember how the Lord responded to this simple question? He did not immediately answer the question. He began by simply calling a little child to Him and He set the child in their midst. This child was in the middle of the disciples and the Lord. Jesus Christ used a child as an illustration prior to His response! The Lord then answered the disciples. It states in Matthew 18:3-4, *"... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."* The Lord continues His answer, *"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

Sit back and imagine the look on the disciples' faces. They were probably asking themselves, What in the world is He saying? What is He talking about? Just like Nicodemus, they may have felt, "How can a man be born again when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" How can we become as a child?

This was not the first episode where the disciples heard the Lord talk about the qualities of a child. He said it in His famous Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, *"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."* On many other occasions, the Lord referenced adults becoming as little children. Remember the Lord telling them in John 12:36, *"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."* In Luke 18:17, Christ said, *"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."* In the Book of Mormon, III Nephi 11th chapter, the Lord said it more than once to the multitude. He instructed them that they were to repent and become as a little child! The Lord said, "this is my doctrine!" This is the chapter where the Lord made His mighty appearance on the land of America after His resurrection. It is powerful reading! It is powerful instruction!

The Lord did not tell His disciples in Jerusalem or in the land of America to be childish! He told them to be childlike! There is a very real difference in the two descriptions. What the Lord was telling them, what He was instructing them was the spirit they were to possess, exhibit and carry. That spirit is the spirit of a child.

Someone who is childish lacks maturity. Paul said it best. He said when he was a child, he spoke as a child, understood as a child, thought as a child. But when he became a man, he put away childish things. When Paul became a man, converted to the Lord, he became childlike. There was an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ, the late Brother Rocco Ensana who said it many times, "The Lord made a man out of me." He was a grown man but after his conversion, he became a man with childlike qualities and characteristics. His wife could not understand the change that came over him. He humbly and simply explained that he met the Lord, his Saviour Jesus Christ in The Church of Jesus Christ and was converted through baptism and laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. He received the Spirit of the Lord which makes men and women meek and childlike.

The spirit of a child, childlike, is really a state of innocence. The spirit of a child creates friendships. It is not judgmental. It is willing to say, I am sorry. It is willing to forgive. Maybe best of all, it is willing to not only forgive, but to forget! Ask yourself, do you possess these childlike qualities? What is the spirit you convey to your family, neighbors, friends and brothers

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## "Believe in One God"

Dear Friends,

Do you know how blessed and safe we are because we believe in one God? Do you realize that for thousands of years there have been people who lived and died without knowing there was one God and His One, Begotten Son, Jesus Christ?

For example, the people that I descended from were from a part of Europe that once worshipped the spirits of trees. Many of you descended from people living near Rome in the days when people worshipped statues and even false Greek gods. Some of us are descended from people who feared the forces God has created in nature. They worshipped the false gods of thunder, or rain, or spring.

Throughout those long years of ignorance and unbelief, the Jews in the world kept the idea of one God alive. They were persecuted and murdered for their beliefs but they still refused to bow down before statues, or pray to the forces of nature. People didn't understand what caused lightening (friction in the clouds) or why stars fell in night skies (meteor showers). They were often tricked by others to let them have control over their lives. These others would pretend to have special powers or magic. They often called themselves wizards, or magicians. Today there is an increase in people pretending to have magic, and power. We are not ever supposed to trust them, rely on them, or pay them and ask them to tell us their ideas about our future. Our future is in God's hands, not some psychic's or magician's.

We are not superstitious in The Church of Jesus Christ. We know that special numbers or coins cannot bring us "luck." We know that God, the Creator and His Son, Jesus Christ, who love us, hear our prayers and overcome all things that want to harm us.

We do not have to make special offerings to fire, moon, or spirits in the air to be blessed. We have the One, true God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, to help us. When we have serious questions that need answers, we can fast and pray to get those answers.

Fasting and praying clears your heart and body from any distractions. You can really concentrate on pouring your heart out to God. He then speaks to you. In your mind, a peace and feeling of trust will come. You will know what to do. Even if the answer is to sit back and wait; you will know.

In the Bible and Book of Mormon, people have always relied on great men and women of God to help them. When Jared realized that he and his family and friends needed guidance from God about where to go, he asked his faithful brother, the Brother of Jared, to pray for them all. He prayed too. When great kings worried about whether to go into battle, they called on prophets like Samuel to pray with them and ask God what to do.

Who are those men and women of God that you know YOU can trust? Who can you quietly go to and ask them to pray for you? If you are having a serious or small problem in your life, God can help you. Think about someone in Church that you know loves God. Ask to talk with them. Tell them your prayer needs.

Ask them THEIR prayers needs. Now go and pray for one another in the name of Jesus. The Bible says, "When two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Then, thank God and Jesus for hearing your prayers.

We don't need to fear nature, evil people, aliens, or a scary future. OUR futures are in God's hands. Don't watch stories on television or movies that use tricks to make you think that aliens and wizards can have power over your future. GOD has power over YOUR future. Pray, think about Him, and love others. Tell them what He has done for you and how His Son, Jesus, has helped you. He cares for you.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## God's Great Blessings

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

In an endeavor to bring about more unity in our Local MBA's, the Niles and Kinsman MBA's decided to have a meeting together on a Friday night. As it turned out we had difficulty in determining a date that everyone could be available. Then the letter from the Apostles arrived in our branches. Brother Timothy Mott and myself both agreed, as Local MBA Presidents, that we would have our joint meeting the Friday night before the churchwide fast and prayer on January 31. So the word went out that we would meet on January 30 for a meeting of fellowship. As the night approached, Brother Timothy and myself decided not to plan anything for the meeting, but choose to leave the service in God's hands. The one thing that we did plan for was dinner. We ate before the evening service and as usual we enjoyed the dinner and fellowship. Directly after the dinner we gathered for the meeting. Still feeling a bit reluctant to give the meeting any direction, Brother Timothy and myself addressed the brothers and sisters. We told them that we wanted tonight to be a warm-up for the fast and prayer the next morning. We wanted to take this opportunity to get fired up and unified. Brother Wayne Martorana reviewed the letter from the Apostles and the major points of its contents. Brother Phil Jackson then followed exhorting us on the importance of fast and prayer. At this point, Brother Timothy and myself decided to completely leave the meeting in the Lord's hands. We asked the brothers and sisters to move and act according to the Spirit of God.

So the meeting began and as we have seen so many times the Spirit of God entered our meeting and gradually began to take over and bless our gathering. Many brothers and sisters

called hymns and stood on their feet to testify. Shortly into the meeting, Brother Joe Genaro came forward and was inspired to offer prayer. His prayer was beautiful. As he prayed, Brother Mike Nuzzi heard the words, "To see My Spirit and lift the veil, you must break your hearts, to see My Spirit and lift the veil, you must break your hearts, to see My Spirit and lift the veil, you must break your hearts." He related this after Brother Joe prayed. We felt blessed with the confirmation of Brother Joe's inspiration.

The meeting progressed on with more testimonies and songs. At this time Brother Mike then saw a vision. He said he saw an angel flying around the room, touching different ones on the shoulder. He was given not to reveal whom this angel touched, but that great things would come from this. Again we were so blessed and thankful.

At this time, Maricela Barnes, a young mother, the wife of Brother Chris Barnes, stood to her feet and testified, and as she began to testify, she asked for her baptism. We were so thankful because we knew that she had been seeking God for many months and has had several dreams of her conversion. We were so thankful for our new Sister Maricela. She is a young Mexican sister who has a desire to do missionary work for the Church, along with her husband. Please keep this young family in your prayers that God would work in their lives and use them. Needless to say we were in great anticipation of our fast and prayer meeting the next morning.

We gathered early in the morning and were blessed with a great season of prayer. But it seemed the best was yet to come. Sunday, we would have the baptism. It was a great blessing to have a baptism in the Niles Branch. We met at the water's edge early Sunday morning; it was cold and there was much ice on the lake. Finally, it was time for the baptism. Brother Ron Giovannone baptized our new sister (a first for both of them)! We went back to the building for the service and the confirmation. The Ministry asked Sister Mari to express herself. She came forward and began to testify of

God's goodness. Again she was blessed with another dream. The night before her baptism she and her mother-in-law were talking, they were discussing Mari's baptism the following day. Mari questioned why she was chosen, she did not understand. Later that evening she had a dream that a man came up to her and said, "So, you finally did it." Mari commented back, "Yes, but I am curious why He chose me." The man answered her and said, "You know all the affliction that has been going on in the Church has brought a dark cloud of sadness and sickness over the Church. So, now it is time for a little happiness." As he walked away, he turned his head and he said, "Have no fear, you will do well." She then woke up. When Sister Mari related this dream the brothers and sisters were so blessed and thankful for the goodness of God. We realize everyday that the will and plan of God truly comes at the right time; not a day too early or too late.

We experienced the great blessings of God throughout the whole weekend—it felt like a weekend retreat. We at the Niles Branch can truly attest to the direction of the Apostles for the special fast and prayer meeting. We received the greatest benefit—the saving of a soul.

## Aliquippa, PA MBA Hosts Visitor

*By Sister Dora Rossi*

On Friday, November 14, 1997, the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania MBA was privileged to have Evangelist Russell Martorana from Niles, Ohio address our MBA. He felt directed to visit our MBA because the MBA and GMBA have become important in his life. He reminded us of the importance of the friendships we make in the MBA.

He shared an experience he had when he met a brother and sister at the Pittsburgh International Airport after having car problems and missing his flight. He was at a low ebb when he

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## Ordination in Atlanta, GA

It was a beautiful day on August 3, 1997 for Brother Ron Morle's ordination as a Teacher at the Atlanta, Georgia Mission. Visiting Ministry included Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, Brother John Griffith, Southeast Region President and Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., together with their wives, Sisters Dolores, Carolyn and Hope, respectively. Other visitors included Sister Mary Morrin, Brother Jerry Morle, Clem and Sister Virginia Suprenant who are Brother Ron's mother, brother, uncle and aunt, respectively. Brother Emil Palensar, Brother Scott Griffith, and Milford Eutsey III were also in attendance.

After our congregational singing, Brother Dominic, our opening speaker, spoke on the duties of a Teacher by emphasizing the necessity for maintaining harmony in a branch or mission. He selected I Corinthians 12:28 as his text, "And God hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets, thirdly Teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." He told us that a Teacher is often called upon to function as a peacemaker as well as striving to insure a harmonious atmosphere.

Our second speaker, Brother John Griffith, reminded us that the greatest call is our call into the family of God and that it begins with a calling of God's Spirit in our lives. He told us we can be used of God if we so desire.

Brother Eutsey referred to Moroni 9:6 and encouraged us to labor diligently lest we, like the Nephites of old, be brought under condemnation.

After Communion was served, Brother Malcolm Paxon read two dreams and experiences from various members corroborating Brother Ron's calling as a Teacher.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Tom Jones, noted that the ordination today

marks the third ordination in our mission; Sister Shirley Paxon as a Deaconess in 1988 and Brother Justin Paxon as a Deacon in 1995. Brother Tom referred to the third chapter of Moroni for our manner of ordaining. Brother John Griffith offered a prayer. Brother Scott Griffith was inspired to wash Brother Ron's feet. The hymn, *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*, was sung. Brother Ron was then ordained by his father-in-law, Brother Tom Jones.

After hearing the testimonies from the brothers and sisters, the eventful meeting was brought to a close.

## Visitors at Lake Worth, FL Branch

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

On January 19, 1998, we were privileged to have in our midst several brothers from the Foreign Missionary Operating Committee and General Church Board of Trustees. Our service was opened by Brother Sal Azzinaro from the Simi Valley, California Branch. He was inspired to read from Revelation, chapter 19, and referred to the marriage supper. Brother Sal stressed the importance that our garments be spotless, "for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." We have to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have an urgency to become righteous. Brother Sal also read from Alma 5:14, where Alma asked, "Have you spiritually been born of God, have you experienced a mighty change in your hearts?"

Brother Bob McDonald from Bell, California followed and expressed himself on the same theme and how the older Church had everything in common and was structured as a whole body serving the Lord. Much trust and discernment was needed to do accordingly.

Brother Joe Ross from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania continued and expressed himself on the marriage of the Lamb. Brother Joe stressed that when Jesus Christ established the Church, He gave it His all unto death. We need to give

our all and whatever we do reflects the Church.

Brother Dick Lawson continued and expounded on our love for one another and asked the question, "Is it well with our souls and when the roll is called up yonder, will we be there?"

Brother Joe Perri from Freehold, New Jersey followed and told of the work and importance of the FMOC and the importance of the work for the Gospel to be preached throughout the world. Brother Joe emphasized that we should find no excuse as to why we cannot attend the marriage supper of the Lamb.

It was a spirit-filled day in the house of the Lord. Brother Dave DiBattista from Michigan closed our beautiful meeting with prayer.

## Blessings in Modesto, CA Branch

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

On February 1, 1998, we began our service with the blessing of a baby, Jonathan Joseph Randy, great-grandson of Brother Mark Randy. It was a day of rejoicing, a day of rededication, and the Lord filled our cups to overflowing.

Brother Ken Staley from Atlanta, Georgia was a visitor to our branch. The message the Lord had placed upon his heart was that the most important thing in this life is the salvation of our souls. During his sermon, Brother Ken played the piano and sang Sister Rosanne Champine's song which tells of our purpose in life, which is to be a humble, loving servant to God. This is the most important thing we could ever do, superceding our jobs, personal affairs, or any worldly success we could ever achieve. He explained in his message that we all have busy lives, but where are our priorities?

Brother Ken read from the 40th chapter of Alma, regarding the state of the soul after death. The point is, that regardless of any pettiness or objections about the Church or about our brothers and sisters, the only thing that truly matters is the state of our soul.

How do these things affect our service and humility before God? Brother Ken shared the parable in Luke 12:16-25 about the rich fool who tore down his barns and built greater ones to contain all of his store. He laid his treasure up for himself rather than in heaven. That same night, his soul was required of him.

Our brother urged us to be born again, for those who had not committed their souls to Christ, and for those who had, to renew our commitment to Him. He urged us to go home and reexamine our lives, and to ask, "Lord, what about my soul?" The power of God was felt during this sermon.

During the anointing of the sick, our brother had a burden upon his heart; he felt that there were some who would like to renew their commitment, or become committed to the Lord, and have the Ministry pray for them. The Ministry waited, and soon three sisters and brothers came forward. There was a beautiful spirit felt in all of the prayers that were offered.

We enjoyed a day of blessings and testimonies of miracles, both natural and spiritual, and we felt the love and the peace of Christ encircling us. Praise God for His goodness! He is truly deserving of all our praise.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Batson, Bob and Ruth  
3980 Willow Creek Drive  
Dayton, OH 45415  
(937) 898-4240

Draskovich, James  
3858 Coral Tree Circle  
Apt. 308  
Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
954-978-3550

Hickman, Jackie  
104 Efird Blvd.  
Newbern, NC 28562

Kibat, Mary  
17195 Fraser Woods Dr.  
Apt. 108  
Fraser, MI 48026  
810-296-2466

Lobzun, Rick and Faith  
517 Cora Greenwood Dr.  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
519-979-6920

Vucinich, Mary  
105 Linmar Homes  
Aliquippa, PA 15001-2638  
412-857-0592

Zaccagnini, Mario and Sara  
31035 Broderick Dr.  
Chesterfield, MI 48051-1801  
810-749-4545

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY To Fathers Everywhere

### Dedication of the Cape Coral Branch Church Building

Continued from Page 1

clear the land for the building heard a voice that said, "These are my people, treat them well!"

Brother Ken also reviewed the fund-raising events and the names of the many people involved in the entire process of constructing the building. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the "invisible bricks" that were sold! He thanked all those who donated funds and helped in so many numerous ways. The Cape Coral members were also introduced to all of the visitors so they could see who was currently involved.

Brother Richard Lawson, representing the General Church Trustees, presented a lovely American flag and commended the branch on doing such a fine job. Brother Paul Whitton as representative of the General Church Finance Committee offered some words of congratulations, as did Sister Arline Whitton, as the President of the Ladies' Uplift Circle for the work the local Circle performed.

Brother Ken then presented two plaques to the contractor. The first

was to their company and the second was to Steve and Colleen personally. We learned that during the construction of the building, they personally performed some of the labor, including painting the stucco, to hold the cost down for the Church. It was a tender moment as they read the plaque's inscription. Brother Dominic Thomas offered a special prayer on their behalf.

Brother Dominic Thomas opened the Sunday morning dedicatory service with prayer and Brother Ken welcomed everyone to the House of God. The building was filled with over two hundred people. The Cape Coral Branch presented a medley of three songs: *Holy Ground*, *Hallelujah*, *The Gospel is Restored*, and *We Have Come into His House*. Other songs were sung by a number of individuals. Then Apostle Joseph Calabrese offered an inspired dedicatory prayer.

The opening speaker was Apostle Paul Palmieri. He first complimented the contractors, the Elders and the members on the accomplishment of the building. Brother Paul explained that it takes faith, trust, work and vision to

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## Announcement

For June, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.40%
2 years	5.45%
3 years	5.50%
4 years	5.55%
5 years	5.60%

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

## Dedication of the Cape Coral Branch Church Building

Continued from Page 9

complete such a project. He noted that as nice as this building is, it is the saints of God meeting in it that makes it beautiful. He exhorted us to make every effort to bring people to The Church of Jesus Christ so they could have the opportunity to hear about the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul noted that if men and women would come and repent, they might have their sins remitted. For the benefit of the many visitors, he explained the purpose of baptism and Communion and how we strictly follow the teachings of Jesus. He stated that this Church is built upon Christ our Rock. Brother Paul then read from the second chapter of Ephesians and expounded how we have been changed from children of disobedience through the grace of God, quickened together with Christ, and raised up together so that we could sit together in heavenly places. He closed with the thought that the Lord loved us so much that He went to the cross for us, but it was not the nails that kept Him on the cross, it was His love for you and me.

Apostle V. J. Lovalvo followed and asked if there is anything too hard for the Lord? Can a little branch of eighteen people build a church? The impossible dream became a reality. He said God wants a house called after His name and a people called after His name. He continued by stating that anything dedicated to God, God will call good—not like the tower of Babel that was being built to honor men. Brother Jim then related the story of Nephi building a ship and how his brothers mocked him by saying he was not a builder. He continued by explaining our vision of the future and how that we will go to the mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob and we will learn of war no more and there will be peace because the love of God will be in all hearts. Brother Jim then led the congregation in singing *His Name is Wonderful*.

Apostle Tom Liberto then spoke on how the Son of God is here today

and He will go with us when we leave. He added that God would bless the contractors, Keith Taylor and Steve Pansing for their work and kindness towards God's people. Brother Tom noted that God is not a respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of those who love Him. He added, that we must have a vision and God will fulfill it. Brother Tom also related how he and several others had just returned from Venezuela where they met with over thirty people interested in the Restored Gospel. He closed with the admonition that we each walk worthy of the vocation to which we have been called.

New sacrament cloths, hand made by Sister Edith Genaro of the Yucaipa, California Branch, were presented by the branch deaconess and consecrated by Apostle Paul Benyola. The young people were then asked to sing a hymn and several who were recently obedient to the Gospel offered their testimonies.

The meeting was brought to a close with prayer. All those present were then treated to a lunch and a time of fellowship. We want to thank each and every person who participated in the fund-raising, construction and dedication of the building, and for the many prayers and encouraging words that were offered over the years. May God bless you all. Please come to visit us in our new House of God when you are able.

## Questions and Answers

Continued from Page 3

trative and part of the Quorum of Twelve. We have a Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. This quorum has a president, vice-president and secretary. There is not more than one group of the quorum. We have elders. There is no limit to the number in this office. We also have teachers, deacons, and deaconesses, no limit. We have only one Priesthood: the Priesthood which is after the order of the Son of God. The apostles, evangelists and elders are the only ones that are part of that order. Teachers, deacons, and deaconesses are considered as helps to the

Church. We have an executive secretary, with several assistants, a General Church Finance Committee, a General Church Board of Trustees. We have a General Church Missionary Operating Committee, and a Program Development Committee (domestic), both under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. We have a General Church historian, a General Church librarian, General Church auditors, and an editor-in-chief for our monthly publication, *The Gospel News*. We are also divided into regions, branches and missions, subject to the General Church. We also have auxiliary units known as Sunday School, Ladies' Uplift Circle, and Missionary Benevolent Association (MBA), all subject to the General Church.

### 115. Briefly, what is the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ?

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that man will be punished for his own transgressions, and not for Adam's.
3. We believe that through the atonement of Jesus Christ, all people may be saved through obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe in the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Savior; faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, and then baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe in feet washing (John 13:5).
6. We believe the angel has flown (Revelation 14:6-7).
7. We believe that a man must be called by God, by His Holy Spirit, and by the laying on of hands by those in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the Holy Ordinances thereof.
8. We believe in the same organization as was instituted by Jesus Christ; namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.
9. We believe in the various gifts of the Gospel such as the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.
10. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is correctly

translated, and we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

11. We believe what God has revealed and what He may yet reveal. We believe that He will reveal much pertaining to the building up of His Kingdom upon the earth.

12. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, including the Ten Lost Tribes, also the Seed of Joseph (American Indians) on this land of America; and that Christ will eventually come and reign on the earth one thousand years, between the First and Second Resurrections. See Revelation 20:1 & 6 inclusive.

13. We believe in and claim the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our own conscience. We concede and allow all others the same right.

14. We believe in being subject to Kings, Queens, Presidents, Rulers, and Magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the laws.

15. In conclusion, we say "whatever things are true, and honest and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report," we seek to uphold and maintain; for the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; "against such there is no law." The Apostle Paul says to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good, Amen.

(To Be Continued)

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

about the Restoration and the promises to his people.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday finally came. At an impromptu Sunday School, the brothers shared the account of Joseph and his coat of many colors for the many children in attendance. As more adults arrived, the sisters took this opportunity to teach the children songs and read stories to them.

To start the morning meeting, the brothers took their text from Deuteronomy 33:13-17, the blessing given to Joseph. They also spoke about Jesus Christ and read from John 10:16 about the other sheep. During the service, many asked for prayers and anointing. After the meeting, we served pizza, sandwiches, cookies and kool aid.

The Sunday evening service brought back an overwhelming amount of young people and children. The brothers shared the story of the Book of Mormon and read from II Nephi 17. The meeting was closed by forming a circle, and the Lord poured out His Spirit in the closing prayer.

Monday was spent in the capital city of Roseau, researching further information to be followed up on the next trip.

We truly enjoyed our time with the Carib Indians. Please remember the work in Dominica, that The Church of Jesus Christ might be established in this nation.

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

and sisters? Is it compassion, patience, forgiveness, love and mercy, a broken heart and a contrite spirit, those childlike qualities?

There was a man in the Book of Mormon named Zeezrom. We read that he "was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil." He challenged Amulek! He asked Amulek a number of questions challenging the existence of the Lord. Amulek called Zeezrom a "child of hell." Do you know what happened to Zeezrom as a result of Amulek's preaching and instruction? The scripture says he trembled! He eventually became converted to the Lord Jesus Christ. He became childlike! Reading this story and conversation is a moving experience. It shows the patience and childlike character of Amulek. It shows his compassion and willingness to persuade Zeezrom to come to the Lord.

It is essential that we be childlike. We must possess the Spirit of the Lord. We must be willing to be

humble, meek, prefer one another, not dominate one another, but prefer one another. We must possess a broken heart and contrite spirit. This is the spirit of a child. As adults we must recognize our mistakes and takes steps to correct these mistakes by yielding to the Spirit of God. Let us strive to be childlike. That is what the Lord requires of us. What is required to get into the kingdom of heaven? We must become as a little child.

## Aliquippa, PA MBA Hosts Visitor

Continued from Page 7

saw the brother and sister who encouraged him. They subsequently provided assistance with his car. Lesson in time of need, the Lord is quick to respond to your need and the great blessings we have in the brothers and sisters.

He also related an experience which he had on missionary work with Brother Joe and Sister Vicki Calabrese, along with his wife, Sister Lena. A stop in Terra Haute, Indiana made him realize what a precious jewel we have in the Gospel.

"Love God with all your heart, soul and mind taking it seriously." Finally, he shared his personal history with us, how he was directed to marry Sister Lena and how when inquiring of the Lord regarding the Church, he came face to face with Him.

Our evening was blessed just hearing our brother relate these experiences. May God bless him and Sister Lena as they travel about, bearing their testimony of how good God is when we serve Him in spirit and in truth.

## Reminder

Please complete and return the Database Update Form sent to you from the Print House.

Do not send branch lists. An individual form is required from each family. Thank You.

The Print House Staff

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brian Edward Johnson and Kristie Lee Bradshaw were united in holy matrimony in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on February 28, 1998.

C. Duane Huber and Lori E. Lee were united in holy matrimony in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on March 28, 1998.

Gregg Michael Szymkowicz and Adena Christine Kendall were united in holy marriage on July 12, 1997 in Middletown, New York.

Robert Brian Kendall and Melissa Anne Rossi were united in holy marriage in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on September 13, 1997.

## Children Blessed

Todd Keafer Glover, son of Tim and Missy Glover, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on December 21, 1997.

Tatum Danielle Tozzo, daughter of Jim and Jennifer Tozzo, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on March 15, 1998.

Andrew Michael Rogolino, son of Brother Tom and Sister Michelle Rogolino, was blessed on December 7, 1997 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Alyssa Jade Allen, daughter of Keith and Beverly Kunkel-Allen, was blessed in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch on April 12, 1998.

Nicholas Charles Hufnagle, son of Brother Frank and Shannon Hufnagle was blessed on September 7, 1997 in the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

John Henry McDermott, son of Jonette and Sean McDermott, was blessed in the Cleveland, Ohio Branch on February 1, 1998.

Lindsey Danielle Gray, daughter of Damion and Tina Gray, was blessed in the Cleveland, Ohio Branch on March 22, 1998.

Mackenzie Sue Zemba, daughter of Frank and Deborah Zemba was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on March 29, 1998.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Carolyn Martin was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on March 26, 1998. She was reinstated by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Brother James (Jim) Adkins was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ at the New Orleans, Louisiana Mission on April 5, 1998. He was reinstated by Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sister Jeanette Ventura was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch on March 22, 1998. She was reinstated by Brother Vince Gibson.

Sandra D. Brown-DeRamus of the Columbus, Ohio Mission was baptized on August 23, 1997. She was baptized by Brother Alan Metzler and confirmed by Brother Paul Pezzenti.

## OBITUARIES

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

### CATHERINE JONES

Sister Catherine Jones, formerly of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her heavenly reward in December 1997 in Florida. She was the daughter of the late Sister Martha Harris.

### ALMA ROUSE

Sister Alma Rouse passed on to her heavenly reward on March 23, 1998. She was a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Alma is survived by one son, George, and one daughter, Sister Carolyn Martin.

### JOSEPH CASTELLI

Brother Joseph Castelli passed on to his heavenly reward on October 19, 1997. He was a member of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. Brother Castelli was preceded in death by his late wife, Sister Mary Castelli. He is survived by three sons, Joseph, Jr., Benny and Sammy; two daughters, Josephine de Adams and Marilyn St. Pierre; seventeen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



July, 1998

Volume 54, No. 7

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

As I am sure you are aware by this time, The Church of Jesus Christ will host a World Missionary Conference from June 26 to July 2, 1999. It will be held at the Olivet Nazarene University which is located approximately 60 miles south of Chicago, Illinois.

We anticipate bringing our missionaries in America and around the world (approximately 21 countries) to this Conference, which will enable you to meet our brothers and sisters from various parts of the world. This will be an exciting time for the Church and for each of us as well. The last World Missionary Conference was held in 1983.

Representatives from each area of the world will make presentations relating to their culture, as well as the missionary efforts under way in their country. In order for our missionaries to attend this Conference, it will be necessary for them to be in the United States from two to four weeks. This will require financial support beyond what the General Church and our Auxiliaries currently are able to provide.

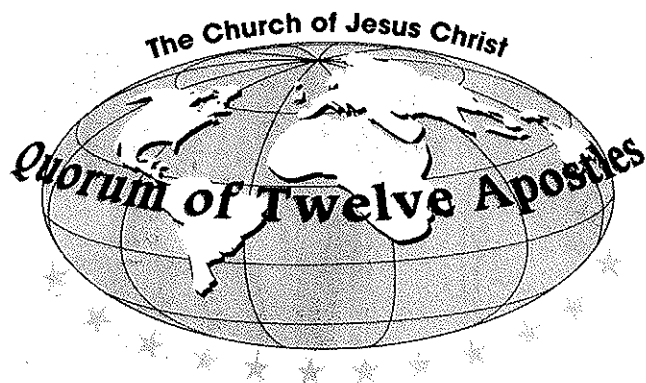
As President of the Church, I am seeking your prayerful support for those who are working diligently to help us accomplish such a large undertaking. Please make a special effort to also assist financially in this task as you have done so often and graciously in the past. I feel certain that we can accomplish our goal and provide everyone who attends this Conference with a spiritually rewarding experience.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this combined endeavor and may God richly bless each of you and your families. Your donations may be sent to:

The Church of Jesus Christ  
P.O. Box 15667  
Pittsburgh, PA 15244

God bless you all,

Brother Dominic R. Thomas  
President, The Church of Jesus Christ



## Questions and Answers

*By Apostle Joseph Calabrese*

### PART III AND CONCLUSION

#### 125. Why is your church named The Church of Jesus Christ?

It is scriptural. In the Book of Mormon, III Nephi, Chapter 27 not only explains the name, but how one could tell the difference from others who would name their church by the same name. Today one has to ask God, as did Joseph Smith, "Lord, which church is the true church?"

#### 126. Do you baptize converts? Yes.



**Apostle Joseph Calabrese**

#### 127. How do you baptize?

We baptize by immersion only. We do not accept any other church's baptism. This ordinance is performed as a public witness in any body of water that has natural God-given

sources, never in inside pools.

#### 129. Why is baptism usually performed in a natural body of water?

Because Jesus set the example (see John 3). You know God even provided water for Philip to baptize the Eunuch in the desert (Acts 8:26-36).

#### 130. How does one obtain salvation?

By being obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its principles and by coming in conformance to God's method of entrance to His Kingdom and live a righteous life by keeping God's commandments.

#### 131. Are your members confirmed? How?

Yes, after baptism by immersion, hands are laid on the candidates for the reception of the Holy Spirit, and they are confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

#### 142. Do you practice the ordinance of feet washing?

Yes.

#### 144. What is its significance?

A. The significance is to show love and humility.

B. It is usually performed at least once in every three (3) months.

C. All dutiful members are admonished to participate both Priesthood and lay members. "If you know these things happy are ye if you do them" (John 13:17).

#### 145. Why do you practice feet washing?

The 13th chapter of John is very explicit. It says that they all should practice it. It was a command. Jesus said, "The servant is not greater than his Lord" (John 13: 14&15). The great spirit of love that comes with

this ordinance cannot be explained on paper. The humility displayed by washing one another's feet as Jesus said was meant to do just that—to keep us humble, or we would not have any part of Him. Remember, in the Kirtland Temple, they washed one another's feet almost all night long.

#### 172. Do you accept the scientific statements of the Book of Mormon as truth?

Yes. Archeology is daily proving more and more of these statements to be true. In the Bible (Matthew 12:25) Jesus says, "I thank thee O Father, Lord of the heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes." Again if we believe in God we must accept some things on faith. Time will only prove to you how true these basic fundamentals are.

The Book of Mormon is not a scientific book, nor was it intended to be a purely historical record (Jacob 1:2). "And he gave me, Jacob, a commandment that I should write upon these plates a few of the things which I considered to be most precious, that I should not touch save it were lightly concerning the history of this people which are called the people of Nephi."

The book, as outlined in the title page, was written by way of commandment, written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the House of Israel, and also, to Jew and Gentile. It was to come forth by the power of God unto the interpretation thereof.

The purposes of the book were not to establish scientific proof but rather to show the following:

A. To show unto the remnant of Israel what great things the Lord has done for their fathers. The following scriptures indicate to the remnant of Israel today, namely the Seed of Joseph how God dealt with their fathers: "Yea, and the Lord said also that after ye have arrived in the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, did deliver you from destruction yea that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem" (I Nephi 17:14), and "For behold said he, I have seen in a vision, in which I know that Jerusalem is destroyed and had

we remained in Jerusalem we should also have perished" (II Nephi 1:4).

B. That the remnant of Israel may know that the covenants made to their forefathers, was not idle. These covenants will be fulfilled and the Seed of Joseph will be returned to a place of prominence in this land of promise. "But, said he, not withstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord" (II Nephi 1:5). "And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers" (II Nephi 30:5).

C. That the Jew and Gentile may have another proof through this record that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that He is not a respecter of persons.

D. It is also a witness of the authenticity of the Bible. "Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you. For behold, this is written for the intent that ye may believe that; and if ye believe that ye will believe this also; and if ye believe this ye will know concerning your fathers, and also the marvelous works which were wrought by the power of God among them" (Mormon 7:8 & 9).

While the main purposes of the book have been outlined above as being prophetic, doctrinal, and as a means of expressing revelation, there is a wealth of evidence provided by such sciences as anthropology, and archaeology. The Book of Mormon states in Ether 15: 2&3, "He saw there had been slain by the sword

already nearly two millions of his people, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children."

This scripture as well as many others indicate that there existed a populous American civilization in antiquity that had a high degree of civilization. Evidence of this high degree of civilization is pointed out by Nadaillac, page 386. To sum up everything goes to prove that the ancient races of Central America possessed an advanced culture, exact ideas on certain arts and sciences, and remarkable technical knowledge. As pointed out in 1869 by Morgan in North American Review, the Spanish succeeded in destroying, in a few years, a civilization undoubtedly superior in many respects to that which they endeavored to substitute for it; also Baldwin says, "The ruins of ancient Peru are found chiefly on the elevated table lands of the Andes between Quinto and Lake Titacaca. The great district to which they belong extends north and south about two thousand miles. When the marauding Spaniards arrived in the country, this whole region was the seat of a populous and prosperous empire, complete in its civil organization supported by an efficient system of industry and presenting a very notable development of some of the more important acts of civilized life. The Peruvian ruins show us remains of cities, temples, palaces, other edifices of various kinds, fortresses, aqueducts (one of them 450 miles long), great roads extending the whole length of the empire, and terraces on the sides of the mountains. For all these constructions the builders used cut stone laid in mortar or cement, and their work was done admirable.

There are innumerable other references documented by other writers that evidence this great American civilization in antiquity.

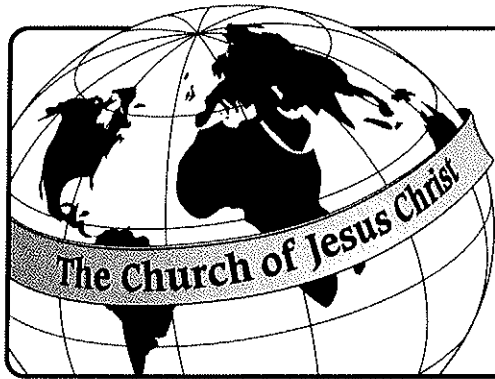
**177. Why do you work among the American Indians? Is this a mission of The Church of Jesus Christ?**

I will endeavor to give you the information you desire according to

what we have believed as a Church to be the will of God. While we believe that the Gospel has been restored for all because of the command of God to this Restored Gospel Church, we have given priority to the work of bringing the Gospel to the Indians of the Americas. In III Nephi 21:1 (our Book of Mormon) Jesus said to them, "I shall gather in, from their long dispersion, my people, O House of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion." III Nephi 21:2-4, 6 says: "These things shall be made known to the Gentiles by the Father, that this people [or the American Indians], are a remnant of the House of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; for it is wisdom in the Father that they be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father . . . if they [and Gentiles] will not harden their hearts, that they may repent . . . and be baptized in my name and know of the true points of my doctrine that they may be numbered among my people." Knowing this then, we the Gentiles, after having received the Gospel, have the responsibility of bringing it to the Seed of Joseph which has been preserved here in this land of North and South America. Doing this we shall be numbered among the House of Israel. III Nephi 21:23 says, "And they shall assist my people . . . that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem" (see verses 22 & 24 also). We also believe that God is preparing one like unto Moses that will be called the Choice Seer (not Joseph Smith). We expect he will appear when it is the wisdom of God to come forth, to lead this great work of building the city and establishing His Zion among them (see II Nephi 3:6-9; III Nephi 21:1-11). This, briefly, is how we feel. God has revealed through His words and Joseph Smith what is going to take place in regards to the American Indian and the Restoration Gospel.

**179. Are you also active in overseas missions? In what countries?**

(Continued on Page 11)



## A message from the Seventy

### Second Generation

*By Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Sr.  
Chairman, Guatemala RMOC*

The Guatemala Regional Missionary Operating Committee is pleased to share the testimony of Sister Sara Ramirez with the readers of the *Gospel News*. Sister Sara is the daughter of Brother Nayo and Sister Gladys Ramirez. Brother Nayo is an ordained Teacher of the Church in Guatemala City.

The missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala began in 1987. The first six people baptized in May, 1998 included Sister Sara's mother. It is very exciting to those who have labored in Guatemala

to witness the calling and baptism of one representing the second generation of the original members.

#### GREAT DESIRE

Sister Sara has a great desire to be a humble follower of Jesus Christ. Along with this sister, the young people attending the services love the Church very much and show their enthusiasm by bringing friends and relatives to the meetings. The children show great respect for those who travel from the United States to support the missionary work in their country. The love of God shown by those who visit and by the entire Church in supporting this cause is appreciated by the youth and the membership.

Brother Luis Marroquin, our

Resident Missionary, with his wife, Sister Darlene and their children, Charisse and Jared Joseph, have labored in Guatemala for over ten years. Brother Isidro Dominquez and his wife, Sister Marisela, also assisted in this work for a number of years. They have all come from Santa Ana, California at the outset. The hopes and dreams of their labors of love for the Lord among the House of Israel, the Seed of Joseph, are being fulfilled. Brother and Sister Marroquin are fixed in their purpose to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the dispersed of God's people in the land of Guatemala.

We are sure you will enjoy Sister Sara's following testimony. Please continue to pray for this mission. The Guatemala RMOC as well as the members and friends in Guatemala, are fully appreciative and thankful for the wonderful prayers and support of the General Church.

#### MY TESTIMONY

"My name is Sara Victoria Ramirez and I am sixteen years old. I have been attending The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala since I was a little girl. I thank God that both my parents are baptized and that my father

(Continued on Page 11)



The Ramirez family of The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala



Brother Luis Marroquin baptizing Sister Sara Ramirez in Guatemala.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Loyalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Deanna Nuzzi  
26 Woodland Chase Blvd.  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Loyalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC COAST**  
Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When God created the human family, He gave them five necessary and beautiful senses. God gave each of us the senses of smell, taste, sight, hearing and touch. They all are wonderful gifts of life.

Consider the ability to smell your food, pleasing scents like flowers and the buds of spring. We have the God-given ability to taste, to distinguish between bitter and sweet. We can see the creation of God; birds in flight, the sun, the moon and the stars. We can hear the glory of God; the singing of birds, and the rustling of trees in the wind. We can exercise the sense of touch and feel the difference between hot and cold, cool and burning. These senses assist us to distinguish good and bad and relate to the world around us. These senses also relate to our spiritual life.

When Noah built an altar and offered his sacrifice to the Lord, we read the Lord smelled a sweet savour. The Lord said in His heart that He would never again curse the ground any more for man's sake. The Apostle Paul accepted the things sent by Epahroditus as an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. Can you smell the sweet savour of the Lord? If not, why not? Try it. You will be pleased and blessed for it.

Lehi's family ate raw meat in the wilderness. How did it taste? Some would say that raw meat tastes awful and is not appealing at all. In this instance, the meat was sweet. It was blessed by the Lord. Physically they were sustained and were strong. We read in 1 Nephi 15:36 that the fruit from the tree of life is the most precious and desirable above all other fruits. It tastes delicious, sweet and very satisfying to the spiritual hunger in one's life. Have you tasted this fruit? If not, why not? Please try it. You will love it!

Imagine! Someday we will see the Lord. Some have seen Him in dreams and visions. The day is coming when we will see Him daily because by proving faithful, we will live with Him forever. Can you imagine the sensation of the Apostles when they saw the resurrected Lord? They were stunned, awe-struck! They could not believe their eyes. The Apostle Thomas, from whom the phrase, "doubting Thomas," proclaimed that he would believe if he saw the resurrected Christ. He saw Him, he believed, never to doubt again. On many occasions in Bible and Book of Mormon, the Lord healed the blind. There were two blind men sitting by the wayside. We read in Matthew 20:30-34 they heard the Lord passing by and cried out, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David." The Lord did not send them away. He asked, "What will ye that I shall do unto you?" Their answer? They simply wanted their eyes opened, they wanted to see. The Lord granted them their request. He touched their eyes and immediately they saw. They did not have to wait to see. It was an immediate restoration of their eyesight. What did they do? They followed Him! Try to imagine the feelings of the multitude in America when they saw Jesus Christ descending from heaven. When the Lord spoke, they fell to the earth, overwhelmed by sight and sound.

The multitude heard the voice of the Lord. Imagine the sound. It was not a harsh voice and neither was it loud. It was a small voice that pierced them to the center of their being. It caused their bodily frames to quake! The multitude heard the voices of the Father and the Son on the same day! What a blessing to hear the Father introduce His Son and proclaim His pleasure in His Son, Jesus Christ. What a glorious sound! The Lord healed the deaf in many portions of scripture. Some were deaf from birth. Their hearing was restored and just think, now they could hear the voice of Jesus Christ and His Father. They could hear the Lord's words of salvation. They could now hear the way, the truth and the life. Have you heard the voice of the Lord? He is calling for you.

Last but by no means least is the sense of touch. It is a marvelous gift. It is a wonderful gift to reach out and touch someone. It is a beautiful gift to reach out and touch the hand of the Lord.

(Continued on Page 12)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## The Good King, Shule

Dear Girls and Boys,

Four generations had passed since the Brother of Jared had left the Tower of Babel and come to the Promised Land. The great-grandson of Jared, Corihor, was the son of King Kib. Corihor gathered a large army and captured his father so that he could be the king of the Promised Land.

Many years Kib lived as a captive. He had a son named Shule while he was Corihor's prisoner. Shule was angry with his older brother, Corihor, for taking their father's kingdom and keeping them prisoners. As Shule grew from a boy to a man, he began to be very strong. He also was a wise young man, strong in making good decisions.

Shule went secretly to the Hill Ephraim, and worked there to melt ore and make steel. He took the steel and made many swords to arm his friends and win the kingdom back from Corihor. They were successful; now Corihor was a prisoner. King Kib, who was now a very old man, asked Shule to be king over the Promised Land.

Shule was a righteous king. It must be a difficult thing to be a king and know that there are always others around you who would like to kill you and take your power, but Shule relied on God.

When Corihor repented of the many evils which he had done, Shule forgave him and gave him power in his kingdom. Corihor had a son, though, that never repented. This son, Noah, went against Shule and raised an army to fight against King Shule. Noah won the battle and planned to put King Shule to death. In the night, King Shule's sons sneaked into Noah's



house instead, killed the wicked Noah and rescued their father.

Yet the people of Noah followed Noah's son, Cohor, who also wanted to destroy King Shule and be the one ruler. Cohor caused his people to do battle with the people of King Shule's land. God had blessed the people of Shule and they had also grown in numbers as the years passed. King Shule's armies beat the army of Cohor and Cohor was killed. Cohor's son, Nimrod, gave up the fight, and the kingdom of Cohor to Shule. Peace followed. Again, Shule forgave his enemy, and relative. King Shule trusted Nimrod and allowed him to rule. Nimrod ruled his kingdom according to the desires of King Shule.

Now during this time when Shule was king and the people were prospered by the Lord, they began to love the possessions and embraced many wicked ways. The Lord sent prophets among them to warn them that if they never changed their ways, the land would be cursed because of them and they would be destroyed.

The people did not like someone telling them about the wrong things they were doing, and they mocked the prophets and treated them terribly. King Shule made a law throughout all the land, giving power to the prophets that they could go wherever they wanted. After this, the people began to hear and believe the men of God.

They chose to serve God, and God spared them from destruction and prospered them greatly in the land. King Shule lived and ruled many years in righteousness, and there were no more wars in the days of Shule. He, too, was a king who remembered what

the Lord had done for his fathers in bringing them across the great deep into the Promised Land.

Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

THE	HE
PROMISE	KNOW
LAND	PRISONERS
GOD	SONS
SENT	ARE
MELT	NIMROD
ORE	COHOR
SWORD	NOAH
MAN	PROPHETS
SHULE	WISE

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

### Anouncement

For July, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.40%
2 years	5.45%
3 years	5.50%
4 years	5.55%
5 years	5.60%

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.

Mark your calendars now and start making your vacation plans for  
 The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference  
 on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University just about  
 60 miles south of Chicago.

# WE SHALL GATHER IN ILLINOIS WHERE WE'LL SING REDEEMING GRACE!

6

## LONGING FOR THE GATHERING

Bertha Ashton

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R. Ward Howe

1. On that bright and glo-rious morn-ing When the Lord shall come a-gain, And the
2. When we gath-er in Mount Zi-on We will go with one ac-cord, And we'll
3. Then the Lam-an-ites, they will be blest, We'll all be-come as one When the
4. Then their eyes, they will be o-pened And their hearts will un-der-stand, And our

gath-ring of the flock will flee to Him (will flee to Him), Then the saints of God will flour-ish  
 look up-on that cit-y and we'll sing (and we'll sing), We will sing the songs of Zi-on  
 saints of God go out to preach to them (to preach to them); They will have the Spir-it with them  
 tri-als and temp-ta-tions will be o'er (will be o'er); Then the Gos-pel in its pow-er

When they meet on Zi-on's land, And af-flic-tions, we will think no more of them.  
 In that hap-py land so fair, And the Lord will come and we will reign with Him.  
 For to lead them on their way, And will praise the Lord; Ho-san-nah to their King!  
 Will be preached thro'-out the land, And we'll sing and shout His prais-es ev-er-more.

CHORUS



## Our Women Today

### Penn-Mid Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle

*By Sister Jan Cornell*

Our Area Circle has been very busy this spring with our Area meeting and our Mother/Daughter Banquet. We also have been making plans for our fellowship weekend in Charleston, SC, July 16-19.

On March 21, we met in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania for our business meeting, luncheon, and singspiration. Our General Circle Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio was with

us and opened our meeting in prayer. A poem was read by Area President, Sister Joyce Ross, *My Cup Overflows*.

Our president read the aims of the Circle to help us remember our focus and purpose.

1. To assist the Church in missionary work.
2. To pray and support each sister in closer fellowship.
3. To attract new members.
4. To study God's word.

A letter was read from the Circle in Nigeria including their minutes. We discussed supporting the General Circle in helping to bring our sisters to the World Missionary Conference in 1999. Our special project continues to be the orphans in different parts of the world. Donations were dispersed accordingly. Our next meeting will be held September 12, 1998 in Glassport, Pennsylvania. Layettes will be col-

lected by each Local to be brought to this meeting. Anyone wishing to participate in this, please see your Local officers.

After our lunch, devotion was presented by the Glassport Circle. The topic was "Determination," a firm resolution or fixed purpose. "... be fixed in your purpose ... press on to the mark of eternal perfection."

Many songs of praise were sung and Sister Lorraine had us singing like the sisters do in Nigeria.

On May 2, our Mother/Daughter Banquet was hosted by the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Circle with chairpersons, Sisters Janet Gibson and Eleanor Palmieri. It was a beautiful luncheon with the theme "Faith that Smiles." Our guest speaker was General Circle President, Sister Arline Whitton. Everyone enjoyed this very special day.



## Branch and Mission News

### "When the Spirit Leads, Blessings Follow"

*By Sister Lynne Nieves*

On Sunday, December 28, 1997, the brothers and sisters from Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan, enjoyed a spirit-filled meeting that must be shared with God's people to confirm that Jesus Christ, the Comforter, is still with us today. And also to give honor and glory to God, whose name is worthy to be praised!

From the moment the brother who opened in prayer petitioned the Lord in faith believing that He could fill us with His Holy Ghost and heal and meet the needs of each and every one of His people, to the closing comments of confirmation of the Spirit's dwelling with us that day, we were blessed with experiences, confirmations, healings, and the Word of the Lord.

The ministry opened the meeting using the scripture from the 10th

chapter of John. He said, "The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to him, and for all of us, is the true meaning of Christmas! Christ gives our lives meaning for all those that accept Him. There is only one way to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and that is through Jesus Christ. All those that try to enter in by other ways or means are considered to be robbers and thieves. We must listen to the right voice. Tell everyone of the truth, the light and the way of Jesus Christ. This is our responsibility, to be led by the voice and Spirit of God and tell others of His Son, Jesus Christ."

The brother that followed expanded by saying what a tremendous act of love it was for Christ to lay down His life for us. "Do we fully understand that love Christ showed to us when He laid down His life for our salvation?", he asked. "Could we honestly say that we could do the same thing for someone else?", he said wondering.

Then the meeting was left open for testimony. The Spirit of God flowed from vessel to vessel. There were several experiences related to the confirmation of the Spirit that day, and many requests for prayer and anointings.

Testimony began with a sister who said she felt remiss in not always listening to that small, still voice prompting her to testify or other things that the Lord might have her to do. She felt a bit weak and fallen behind in her spiritual walk and thought to herself, "I should probably be prayed on," but dismissed the thought without asking. She then related a dream she had that Sunday morning. In the dream, she went home to her house and when she opened the door and entered her home, it was completely empty. She felt devastated, and began to cry. A sister approached her and said, "Don't worry sister, all your things are in storage." That was the end of her dream, and she closed her testimony by asking for prayer.

Another sister testified that in the Sunday School class that she taught that morning, they always pray before beginning class for the Lord to bring forth a lesson. As soon as the brother began to preach about listening to the voice of the Lord, she felt such a wonderful spirit of confirmation, because that is the exact lesson they discussed in their Sunday School that morning.

She was followed by a sister who was visiting from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. She testified that she had

recently been anointed for an illness, and after she was anointed, the doctors continued to have concerns over her condition, and the treatment for it. This troubled her heart and mind, so she went under the hands of the Elders again for peace that the Lord might reassure her that He was there. Within two weeks of finding out about the illness, her prayers as well as the prayers that were offered on her behalf were answered. She felt a tremendous peace come over her like none other—a peace that only comes from God above. She will have to undergo one treatment, but she has all her faith and trust in the fact that God is in the matter.

Lastly, another sister testified that she too had a dream that morning. In the dream, she saw herself having a conversation with an old childhood friend whom she had grown up with in the Church. This friend no longer attended Church. The friend was standing to one side talking and reminiscing about old times. Across the room from them were two black books laying on the floor and three brothers and sisters standing behind them. During her conversation with her friend, a voice began to speak in the sister's other ear. She said to her friend, "Shhhh, be quiet, a voice is speaking to me in my other ear." The friend had a confused look on her face and asked, "Why would you tell me to be quiet?" The sister did not reply to her friend, but continued to listen to the voice in her other ear which said, "Tell them [referring to the brothers and sisters across the room] to pick up the books and read them and use them." As requested, the sister walked across the room and told the brothers and sisters what the voice had told her to say. They were elated to hear the message and thanked her for relaying it. She then returned to her friend who asked her, "What was that all about?" She replied, "I had to tell them what the voice told me to say." When the sister awoke, she did not understand the significance of the dream until she heard the brother preaching that morning about listening to the voice of the Lord, and to make sure you are listening to the right voice. Everything

was then made clear.

Following testimony, all those who requested prayer were asked to come forward. There were many brothers and sisters to be prayed on and anointed. The sister who had the dream of her "things in storage" was the first to be prayed on. Immediately after the prayer, she stood on her feet and revealed to the Ministry that as soon as she entered the doors of the Church that morning, the Lord made it known to her that the brother who prayed on her would be the one to do so.

After the last person was anointed, the Spirit came upon a brother in the Ministry and he spoke the Word of the Lord saying, "The Lord is here. The Spirit of God is in this place. As the scripture says, 'Come while I am yet here.' If there are any who feel the need for prayer or feel directed to surrender their life, the door is open."

The meeting was about to close when a sister stood and said that as the brothers in the Ministry gathered in a circle to perform the anointings, she saw large, white arms outstretched, and a voice spoke to her and said, "My children, I am here." She said she felt compelled to confirm the Spirit in the Word of the Lord that came forth after the anointings that "the Spirit was here."

Nothing can compare to being filled with the Spirit of God and enjoying His heavenly blessings. Praise God for the Comforter which sustains us daily.

## You Will Not—I Will

*By Brother Charles Hester*

*"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).*

I, Brother Charles Hester, would like to share this experience with my beloved brothers and sisters throughout the Church.

The past several months have

brought many changes to the Quincy, Florida Mission. Because of the illness of Brother Cleveland Baldwin, many responsibilities have fallen upon me. I worried about the mission's continual growth both spiritually and temporally. The concerns of these matters caused me to verbally ask myself, "How will I keep the mission going spiritually?" The answer came from deep within, "You will not—I will!" And yet I asked, "How will we make it in the mission financially?" Again, the answer was the same, "You will not—I will!" No doubt this assurance came from the Lord, praise God.

I have taught this message many times, but now I really understand what it means, that the battle is not ours, but the Lord's. In this I have found that for every concern or question we may have especially for the work of God, the answer is the same. We will not be able to do God's work by our own strength, but only through the Lord's strength.

## Ordinations in San Diego, CA

*By Sister Carolyn Martorana Light*

On December 28, 1997, saints from Ohio, California, and Arizona met together to witness the ordinations of three brothers into the offices of teacher and deacon. As we anticipated the spirit and blessings of God in our meeting, Brother Stacey Light reminded all that ordinations not only fortify the branch but also the Church as a whole. He encouraged us to be attentive to the Spirit and gifts of God for this day. Brother John DiBattista opened our meeting speaking of the many spiritual and natural needs that exist and elaborated on the scripture which states the harvest is great and the laborers are few. We indeed need to pray that God sends laborers into the vineyards, as reinforcements are needed to further the Gospel.

Brother Stacey then read from the sixth chapter of Acts, regarding the

(Continued on Page 10)

## Ordinations in San Diego, CA

Continued from Page 9

office of a deacon and expounded the duties thereof from the Ministerial Manual. He also read and expanded on the first chapter of Jacob for the responsibilities of those called to be teachers.

Brother Tony Picciuto also added that while all of us are called when we are baptized, those set aside by ordinations become servants. Such offices are not to be viewed as "promotions" or "elevations" but as callings to serve. Prior to the ordinations, a prayer was offered and the brothers were set aside by the washing of feet. Brother Jim Alessio washed Brother Brian Alessio's feet (his son), and Brother Paul Liberto ordained him into the office of a Deacon. Brother David Ciccatti washed Brother Tom Liberto's feet, and Brother Tom Liberto, his father, ordained him as a Teacher. Brother Randy Ciccatti washed Brother Sam Hemming's feet and Brother Herb Hemmings, his father, ordained him as a Teacher.

Many testimonies of praise to God followed. Brother Ray Saczko testified of an experience he had during the service. While the candidates were encircled by the Ministry prior to their ordinations, Brother Ray saw a vision in which he saw a personage above them with outstretched arms. We thank God for the manifestation of His gifts and pray for these brothers in their new offices as servants to the people of God.

## February Visitor's Bring Blessings

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On Sunday, February 1, 1998, the saints of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch enjoyed an overflow of blessings when brothers attending a committee meeting to plan the 1999 World Missionary Conference, attended the branch meeting. Brother Randy Ciccatti from Anaheim, California opened our service, reminding us that

we need to be a peculiar people and that we must transform ourselves, not conform to the things of the world. Temptations must be removed from our lives and we must help each other become transformed. He assured us that, with the Lord's help, we can become something He can use. He quoted a saying which he recently heard, "Preach the Gospel all the time, if necessary, use words." He assured us that our actions and our deeds will show us to be a peculiar people and that the Lord will bless us if we do not conform. Brother Randy concluded by admonishing us to be that peculiar people, zealous to do the work of the Lord.

Apostle Peter Scolaro, from Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, continued by stating that most of the advice in the scripture counsels us against our own nature. He shared an experience which he had at work and advised us that when someone sees the difference in us, we need to make sure that they know it's Jesus.

Brother John Griffith from the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch, stated that even though we are baptized, we must have an outward change of behavior. Speaking to those not baptized, he advised them that if they believe this to be the true church, then they are candidates for this change.

We once again enjoyed a special visit on Sunday, February 8, 1998. Brother Doug Obradovich from the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission, remarked that we do not often know how we will be received. He chose II Nephi 4th chapter as his text. At this point, Lehi was addressing his sons; Brother Doug commented that in the last few moments of our lives the words we speak are precious because they will be remembered. Lehi told his sons that he delighteth in the scriptures and that he had seen great things.

Often times, Brother Doug commented, in life we visit discouragement, but that we must dwell in joy. Temptations and sins easily beset Nephi, however, he counted his blessings and bore his testimony. He encouraged us that if we show with enthusiasm how we love the Lord, people will flock to get what we have. He ended his discourse by reminding

us that the Lord gave His best to us, may we give our best to Him.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., followed Brother Doug and stated that the definition of a saint is one full of joy, set aside and consecrated to Jesus Christ. He asked, "What hinders us from having that joy?" He admonished the group that we must be serious about finding our way to Christ and pray that God will make our path straight.

At the beginning of our afternoon service, Brother Jason Monaghan, visiting from the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch mentioned that the Bible and Book of Mormon must be used in conjunction with one another when presenting the Gospel. As a confirmation, during our testimony meeting, Brother Albert Giannetti related an experience which he had as our meeting opened this morning. Brother Albert saw two angels, one standing on either side of Brother Paul A. Palmieri as he offered the opening prayer; one holding the Bible and one holding the Book of Mormon. As the books were handed to Brother Paul, they became one in his hand.

We thank God for the opportunity to hear such wonderful words of life.

## Ordination and Farewell in the Cape Coral, FL Branch

On Sunday, December 28, 1997, Brother Ken Staley welcomed our members and friends to The Church of Jesus Christ. He stated that we had a special meeting planned in order to ordain Sister Kelly Kovacic. After the opening hymn, *Silent Night*, sung by four young men in our branch with guitar accompaniment, the services were opened.

Brother Bert Sheffler explained the duties of a Deaconess and the many blessings they bring to the Church. He related experiences of his wife, Sister Leda Sheffler.

Brother Ken continued by explaining how he and Brother Bert had been fasting and praying about ordinations for several months. He then

added how the Lord prompted them to choose Sister Kelly. He also explained how Brother Mark, as Sister Kelly's husband, was excluded from the discussions. Brother Ken related how when he questioned Sister Kelly he said, "This is not about you, this is about your service to the Church." Sister Kelly testified how these words touched her. Brother Ken also said how he and Brother Bert felt she showed the works and spirit of a Deaconess.

Brother Ken then asked the three branch Deaconesses to come to the front row and while Sister Kelly was preparing for her feet to be washed, they were to decide who would wash her feet. Sister Sharon Staley, who would be leaving the branch in a couple of weeks, was prompted to wash Sister Kelly's feet, setting her apart. Sister Sharon then offered a beautiful prayer.

The brothers of the Priesthood then gathered around Sister Kelly and Brother Ken offered a prayer asking God to bless the ordination that was about to take place. After the prayer, Brother Ken held out the oil and the Spirit of God came down on the brothers and both Brother Ken and Brother Bert felt directed to have Brother Mark ordain Sister Kelly. A blessing was felt by all.

After some warm and tender testimonies, Brother Ken passed the Lord's Supper for the last time in Cape Coral. After that, the Elders felt to ask the Staley family up front and to offer a prayer for them in their move to Atlanta, Georgia, that God would protect them, help them establish their home, be with them in their work and school, and most importantly, be a blessing to the Church in that part of the Lord's vineyard.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, Brother Ken asked Brother Bert to handle one item of business, the transfer of Brother Ken, Sister Sharon and Brother Cameron to the Atlanta Mission. Sadly, very sadly, we concurred. We then formed a circle and dismissed with prayer by Brother Norbert Darr.

We enjoyed one another's fellowship over lunch as we socialized for a

time. Cakes were presented to Sister Kelly and the Staleys, as well as a gift to the Staley family to remember the Cape Coral Branch. We had a wonderful day. The Lord blessed us very much.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Banyacski, Frank and Ethel  
30-B Bradford Ln.  
Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
732-409-7617

Frammolino, Jean  
27502 Berkshire Hills Pl.  
Valencia, CA 91354  
805-288-2335

Francione, André and Lisa  
1632 Hiram  
Niles, OH 44446  
330-505-9241

Giannetti, Jeffrey and Kathy  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, Tx 76092  
817-329-9133

Jackman, Vera, Samuel  
828-692-4462

Kerby, Patty, Steven  
24369 Gitano Drive  
Murrieta, CA 92362  
909-677-9330

Kincer, Judith  
41383 Rosewood Street  
Elyria, OH 44035-1258  
440-324-1810

Monaghan, Patrick, Tonia  
407 N. Highland Avenue  
Oakdale, PA 15071  
724-693-0258

Nunez, Richard and Debi  
2737 W. Royal Ln.  
#1814  
Irving, TX 75063  
972-869-4448

Rogalla, Jonathan  
11975 SW 12th St.  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025  
954-441-9939

## Questions and Answers

Continued from Page 2

Yes, presently in many foreign countries: Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Italy, England, Germany, Poland, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, and India.

**185. Is The Church of Jesus Christ increasing, decreasing, or remaining static?**

It is growing and expanding at the present time. Inquiries are coming at an ever-increasing rate from all over the world.

**186. If I am interested in The Church of Jesus Christ, whom should I contact?**

We would suggest you write to the Church Headquarters:

The Church of Jesus Christ  
Sixth and Lincoln Streets  
Monongahela, PA 15063

or  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
Print House  
8282 Boettner Road  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115

or contact any branch or mission in your locality.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4)

is a Teacher because I have seen the difference in our home when God's spirit and blessings are with us. Even though I have felt many wonderful blessings in Church, I did not think about baptism. I felt that I was young and had lots of time, and I would be baptized when I was older.

"Last year when Sister Judy Salerno was visiting Guatemala, she gave a seminar in Church for the sisters. I attended with my mother and was very touched by Sister Judy's words about our service and sacrifice for the Lord. I could feel God's spirit beginning to work within me, changing my heart and my thoughts. I began praying for God's direction in my life.

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## Children Blessed

Gabriel Giana Palacios, son of Dan Palacios and Tina Martinez was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 12, 1998.

Dylan Michael More, son of Marc and Christina More, was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on March 1, 1998.

Lexi Allison Thorpe, daughter of Raymond and Dawn Thorpe, was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on April 26, 1998.

## Baptisms

Tracey Nantais was baptized on August 23, 1997 in the Meaford, Ontario, Canada Mission. She was baptized by Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Rick Elzby.

Wayne (Sam) Edward Mehra was baptized on May 24, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He

was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti.

Anthony Charles Schipani was baptized in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on May 24, 1998. He was baptized by Brother Tony Ricci and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Jeffrey Joseph Kattan was baptized on May 31, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tony Ricci and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

Sister Jean Ciarolla of the Modesto, California Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on February 1, 1998.

Sister Rose Randazzo of the Modesto, California Branch celebrated fifty five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 26, 1998.

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

It is there for you. You can touch the hem of Jesus's garment just like the woman did who suffered from the issue of blood. A touch from the hand of the Lord will have a profound affect on your life. The Lord's touch changed Mary Magdalene's life forever. It changed the lives of Peter, James, John, Paul, Alma, Dorcas and many others. The Lord's touch will do the same to you. The touch of the Lord will change your life for all time and for eternity. The Lord's touch will change your walk and your talk. It will give you a new tongue. It will give you a new mind. A

touch from the hand of Jesus Christ will alter your way of viewing your neighbor and the world around you. You will no longer be focused on yourself. You will find yourself caring for those around you. You will find yourself praying for others before praying for yourself. You now will care for the homeless, the hungry and those with little if any clothing. The Lord's touch will turn a lion into a lamb. The Lord's touch will melt a heart of stone and make it broken and contrite. It will change a proud heart into a repentant one. Have you felt the touch of the Lord's hand in your life? If not, why not? Have you tried? Do you reach out to Him? Are you waiting for Him to reach out to you? Try Him! Reach out to Him! You will feel a gentle, soft yet firm touch. It will change your life completely. You will never be the same. From His touch, you will be born again!

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 11

"During a Sunday Service, I felt overcome by God's spirit and felt Him calling me. I asked for my baptism and knew that I wanted to serve Him all the days of my life.

"The most special and beautiful day of my life was when I was baptized in February by Brother Luis Marroquin. As I came up from being immersed in the water, I felt as if I had left part of myself in the water. I felt so new and so free. When Brother Luis laid hands upon me (for the reception of the Holy Ghost), I could feel a warmth and peace throughout my body.

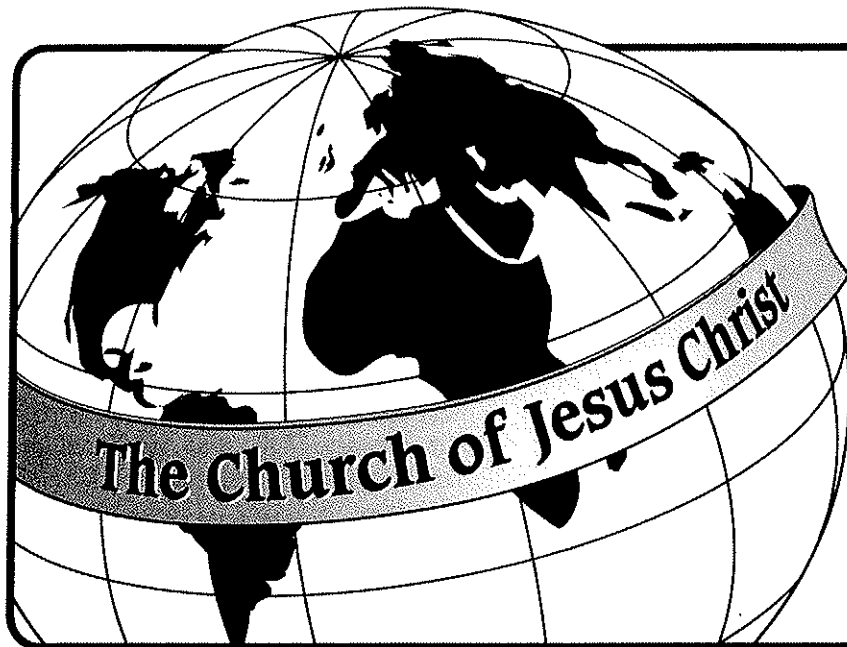
"I am so thankful that I can serve my Father in my youth. I praise Him for His mercy, for His love, and for my being a part of The Church of Jesus Christ."

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

August, 1998

Volume 54, No. 8

## A Time to Remember Pacific Region Spiritual Conference November 1-2, 1997

*By Sister Linda Reynolds*

Not too long ago, the future of the Simi Valley, California Branch was uncertain. Our beautiful, relatively new facility had been severely damaged by an earthquake, and thousands of dollars would be required to make repairs. However, God made a way for the building to be partially repaired, and the Pacific Region met there joyfully, at the first major conference held there since the earthquake several years ago.

In keeping with the theme, "A Time to Remember," each branch in the Region was asked to bring a display of photographs and other memorabilia to commemorate the Region's history. All of the branches did an excellent job of putting together displays. The lobby area was transformed into a vibrant, colorful, historical gallery to highlight our history since the 1940's.

Brother Paul Liberto, Region President, welcomed the saints to the conference. The Region was blessed to have six Apostles of the Church in attendance: Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the General Church; Brother Robert Watson, Second

Counselor of the General Church; Brother Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles; Brother V. James Lovalvo; Brother Isaac Smith and Brother Thomas Liberto. He explained that the Region officers picked three themes for the weekend: "The Spirit of God is With Us!," "Experiencing the Spirit of God," and "A Time to Remember." The first theme, used during the Saturday morning workshops, was to consider how God has been with us over the years, and even though we have experienced difficult times, His Spirit has carried us through. There were two main workshops, one for the Ministry, led by the Region officers, and one for the membership, led by Brother David Koeth. Sister Lynette Huttenberger also led a seminar for the children entitled, "Got Fruit?!" The children were encouraged to bring a piece of fruit with them to the seminar and then Sister Lynette taught them about the "fruits of the Spirit."

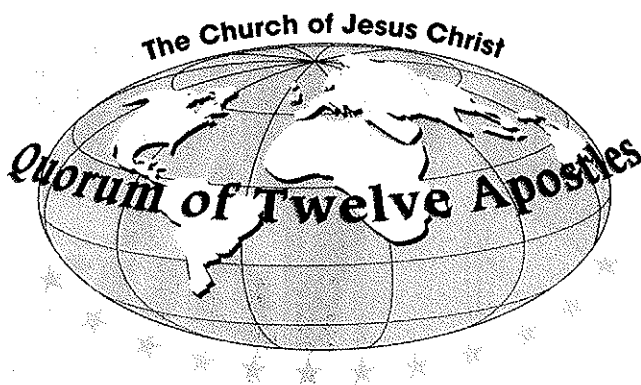
The afternoon session, "Experiencing the Spirit of God," was a good-old-fashioned preaching and testimony service. During the service, Brother

Edmond Buccellato, Presiding Elder of Simi Valley, thanked the Region for attending and for all the support offered during their trials. Sister Jeanette Velardi, of San Diego, was recognized by Brother Rudy Mco for celebrating 75 years in the Gospel. He asked all those over 50 years of age to go forward and sing, *No, Never Alone*.

We were very blessed to have Brother Paul Gray along with his family in our midst. The congregation was asked to kneel and a prayer was offered for our beloved brother who has been ill with cancer and suffers much pain. The Modesto Ladies' Circle had made a beautiful quilt for the Gray family and they displayed the quilt and told how they had been blessed in making it. Brother John DiBattista invited the young people up and talked about how God's Spirit is moving them. They sang hymns and gave their testimonies. Then, Sister Deloria Bonito, from San Carlos, Arizona, sang a hymn in her native Apache language. Several other brothers spoke during the service, including Brother Isaac Smith, who marveled that we are the living body of Jesus Christ, and when God touches us, He doesn't just touch a part of us, He touches our entire body.

The Saturday evening service began with Sister Lynette Huttenberger's seminar class presenting a skit

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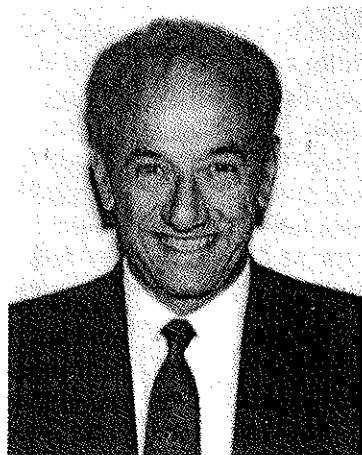


## “Go Ye Therefore”

*By Apostle Thomas M. Liberto*

Matthew 28:19&20 states: “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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

This scripture is recognized as The Great Commission and worthy of our close attention. Although this commission was given to the eleven



**Apostle Thomas Liberto**

disciples at that time, it applies to each of us who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. It clearly indicates that the servants of the Lord are to go forth and proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, with the assurance that He would be with us always. Sometimes we meditate on the immen-

sity of the overall task and are overwhelmed to a point of complacency, perhaps thinking, “What can I do?” to honor this commission.

I recently had the opportunity to attend an Indian Pow Wow at the University of California in Riverside, California. The Native American Outreach Committee, under the Pacific Region Missionary Operating Committee, was invited to have a booth at the Pow Wow. Several brothers and sisters manned it; all prepared to do their part in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with any and all that would be interested in our mission and goals. There was an excitement being with the Native Americans assembled there.

The booth was nicely prepared with handout material and refreshments but few stopped to inquire of our purpose in being there. After a short period of time, the group decided to leave the confines of the booth and step into the pathway, greeting those passing by with the handout material and refreshments. The scripture, Matthew 22: 9&10 came to mind: “Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good . . .” In doing so the group disbursed over two hundred handouts and had opportunities to engage in discussion with many of the people. It was a blessing to all that participated. It was exciting to see the energy exhibited by the group in an effort to fulfill “The Great Commission.” The outcome of their effort is immeasurable, but there is hope that someone

will want to know more about The Church of Jesus Christ as a result of the efforts put forth. Sitting in the booth only was not going to get the job done, but stepping into the pathway led to success.

It requires zeal and excitement to tell people of Jesus Christ, of His Church and the opportunity of eternal life through Him. Alma exhibited this zeal as recorded in the Book of Mormon, Alma 29: 1&2, “O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of my heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people! Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance and the plan of redemption, that they should repent and come unto our God, that there might not be more sorrow upon all the face of the earth.” Alma realized he could not fulfill this wish, but proved by his actions that he could do many things in the strength of Jesus Christ. He was willing to “Go Ye Therefore” despite danger and opposition and was used of the Lord.

We need only to look into the scriptures and the days of our forefathers, how they were willing to go out and share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were of various vocations, various ethnic backgrounds, different levels of education but all excited about Jesus Christ and the Gospel Restored in these the latter days. I am a witness of how many of our brothers and sisters used their excitement in sharing their joy of serving Jesus Christ to all they came in contact with. My grandmother, Sister Bernadina Thomas, was a great inspiration to me in her relentless efforts to share her testimony and invite others to worship with her in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was an Italian immigrant with little education and poor command of the English language but with the help of Jesus Christ brought many to the Gospel. My parents, as well as many members of her family shared her enthusiasm. Our forefathers took the above scriptures to heart, as many do today.

It does not appear that the

masses are breaking down our doors to hear our message. We have the Great Commission and the Divine Commission to share with the world and must go to them. This is not the time to be discouraged but rather excited in sharing our testimonies with all we come in contact with. The success at the Pow Wow came in leaving the confines of the booth and going to those in the pathway. We realize how important strong Branches, Missions and display booths of the Church are, and pray that God will continue to strengthen and increase them, but also understand that we must be willing to step outside the confines of them to spread the word. Jesus promised us that He would be with us always, even to the end and has proven Himself to us when we depend on Him.

With the knowledge that we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us, we can change the "What can I do?" in sharing our faith with others. There is a song that includes the words, "Get all excited go tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King." There is so much we do and can accomplish when we are united in our service to the Lord. Let us help each other to be excited and motivated in this great work and pay heed to the words of Jesus Christ, "Go Ye Therefore . . ."

## A Time to Remember

Continued from Page 1

and songs from their seminar, "Got Fruit?!" Their original song adaptation, "Don't Let Anyone Take Your Fruit," will be long remembered by all in attendance!

Representatives from each branch were invited to take a few minutes to talk about their history. Then, Brother Paul Liberto honored the past Region Presidents with surprise presentations of plaques commemorating their years of service. Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the General Church, made the presentations as follows: Brother V. James Lovalvo, the first President, 1954-64; Brother James Heaps, 1964-

67 (the plaque was presented to his daughters); Brother Joseph Lovalvo, 1967-71; Brother Robert Watson, 1971-75; Brother Thomas Liberto, 1975-79; Brother Leonard Lovalvo, 1979-83; Brother George Heaps, 1983-87; Brother Paul Liberto, 1987-92; and Brother Thomas Liberto, 1992-96. He also presented plaques to active members of the Priesthood with 25 or more years of service: Brother Joseph Bologna was recognized as the senior minister in the Region with 64 years. He was followed by Brother V. James Lovalvo 62; Brother Joseph Lovalvo 60; Brother Mark Randy 60; Brother Alfred Dominico 53; Brother Robert Watson 52; Brother Frank Genaro 50; Brother Dominic Thomas 47; Brother Harry Marshall 43; Brother Vincent Scalise 43; Brother Otto Henderson 42; Brother Louis Parravano 42; Brother Anthony Picciuto 42; Brother Leonard Lovalvo 41; Brother George Heaps 40; Brother Louis Ciccatti 38; Brother Isaac Smith 36 and Brother Thomas Liberto 32. A plaque was also given to Brother John Azzinaro, Sr., recognizing the Emeritus status given him by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

On Sunday morning, after a welcome and much singing, we commenced with the ordination of Brother James Huttenberger, of Anaheim, as an Evangelist. Brother Paul Liberto related some experiences relative to his calling. His feet were washed by Brother John DiBattista and Brother V. James Lovalvo ordained him.

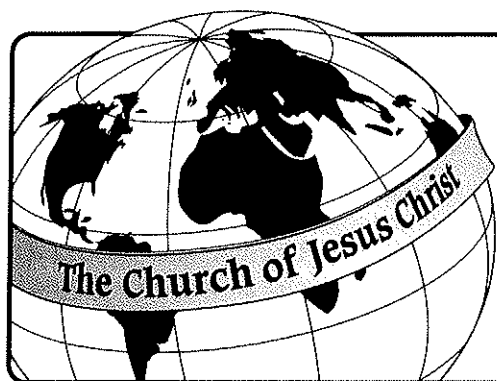
Brother Dominic Thomas spoke about his greatest desire, which is to serve God. He said he has a mental picture of what the Church should be like. He sees it as very special and different from the world. He sometimes worries how we look in the sight of God. He knows today God must be very pleased. God reads our hearts and knows our deepest desires. Brother Dominic told us about his early days, growing up in the Church. He said it was no wonder that he fell in love with the Church and was baptized. He was so surrounded by the love of the saints, all of his life,

that there was no other choice. In the 1980's, when a lot of our older brothers went on to their rewards, Brother Dominic was very troubled. God gave him an experience of a sister crying but holding her hand out saying, "The great work of the Lord." Brother Dominic knew then that the work would go on. As a people of God we can be wonderful. He wants us to be wonderful more often! The challenge for this generation is that they must interact with the world on a much larger scale. As a people we must learn the sensitivities of other people. The Spirit of God is available to us through fasting and prayer. Brother Dominic asked that we join our hearts in prayer for Brother Paul Gray. The Ministry laid their hands on Brother Paul and then we sang, *He Touched Me*, as the Ministry embraced him. The gift of tongues was spoken. The Yucaipa Branch, led by Brother Ken Jones, their Presiding Elder, sang a beautiful medley of hymns.

Brother Jim Huttenberger spoke of the blessings of the day for him and he said to the Ministry that he was the least of them. He told us to rejoice that our names are written in heaven and that our names are inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life. Praise God that we are members of The Church of Jesus Christ. We may have trials and afflictions but rejoice this day that our names are written in heaven! God has given us a unique responsibility. Have we thought about where we stand with God? Praise the Lord that He sought you out and changed you. He has commissioned us to assist with the gathering of Israel. What a blessing!

Brother Santos Zamora, who was scheduled to be ordained an Elder the following week, was asked to give his testimony. He said he is still amazed that Christ died for him. He said, "I should be dying for Him!" He said he wants to serve and the One he should serve came down and died for him! He looked at all the Ministry behind him and said, "These are all great men, but the greatest of all is

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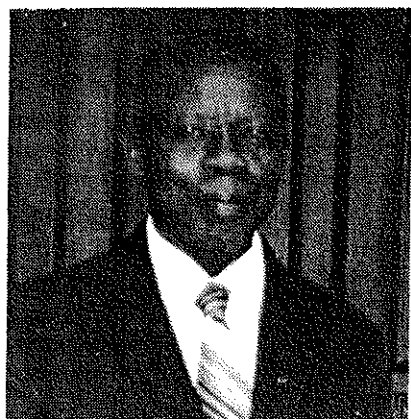


## A message from the Seventy

*(Evangelists Joseph Ross, Joseph Perri, and Richard Lawson and Elder Malcolm Paxon made a missionary trip to Ghana, West Africa from March 26 to April 12. Following is excerpted information from their report. Evangelist Editor's Note.)*

### 1998 Trip to Ghana

The weather was extremely hot and Evangelist Ford Boadu, in charge of the Church in Ghana, said no water had come through the pipes into the



**Evangelist George Frank Arthur  
National Nigerian Church Director**

mission house since last June. It is located in the village of Edwenase, about 180 miles from Accra where we landed. Electricity is rationed because the dam that supplies it is very low. The government stated that, if there was no measurable rainfall by the end of April, there would be no electricity at all.

Since we have not been able to travel to Nigeria for the past three years because of conditions within that

country, we made arrangements to have Evangelist George Frank Arthur, the Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, and Brother Samuel Adekanola come to Ghana to meet with us for five days. They were both received warmly in the love of Christ by everyone.

The Nigerian brothers reported there has been an increase in membership and new branches have been established. The Ministry of the Church is very active and God has been performing miracles. Transportation has always been and continues to be a problem in Nigeria, and motorcycles and bicycles are requested. The Book of Mormon, translated into their language, is being reviewed for future printing; and Church literature is requested, along with Bibles. Brother George requested prayers for the Nigerian Church because inflation has

skyrocketed to where it is almost impossible to buy food.

A social welfare center has been opened in Nigeria, with 30 orphans being cared for and a goal of adding another 20 to 30 when funds become available. These orphaned children can be sponsored for \$25.00 monthly, which provides for all their needs. It is an approved Church project.

#### FIRST MEETING

The first Church meeting in Ghana was on Sunday at the Odumase Branch. This was a combined service of the Odumase, Apromase, and Edwenase Branches. Brother George Arthur was asked to open the service. His text was taken from St. John 4:35 about the Lord's speaking to His disciples on the harvest in the fields. We who were visiting followed on the same theme.

After the preaching, an invitation was given for the unbaptized to repent of their sins and be numbered among the people of God. Brother Ford gave the invitation again in the Ashanti language and twenty-seven people stood and requested their baptisms, twenty from the Odumase Branch and seven from the Apromase Branch. They had been attending classes on the

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**Sewing School Students in Nigeria**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Deanna Nuzzi  
26 Woodland Chase Blvd.  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
Joel Calabrese  
1958 County Rd.—Rt. 302  
Bellevue, OH 44811

**PACIFIC**  
Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

During the past several months we have witnessed the tremendous power of nature. Scientists tell us a phenomena known as El Nino has wrecked havoc with weather patterns and nature around the country. El Nino translated meaning, "little boy," has been anything but a little boy!

We have experienced rampaging floods, raging fires, and tornadoes in unfamiliar places uprooting trees and destroying hundreds of homes. Some of our readers have experienced the severity of the storms.

A case in point. Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., was recently struck by lightning. When found, his hair was smoldering and there was no heart beat! He was taken by lifeflight to a local hospital. How is he! Fine! Where is he? Home!

A man recently visited a Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ in New Jersey. He was a stranger to the brothers and sisters. He witnessed an anointing during the service. He asked to be anointed. The man was a heavy smoker and his body covered with tattoo artwork. This is something our congregations are not accustomed to seeing in our meetings. He was invited to the front and anointed. Do you know the result? His testimony since his return to Church is that God has changed his life! He was anointed! He was changed!

Yes, nature is very powerful. But God is more powerful. He is Omnipotent, meaning, "having unlimited or universal power, authority, or force; all powerful!" God not only created nature, He and His Son, Jesus Christ, control it. There is nothing beyond the realm of possibility with God and Jesus Christ. They can do all things! There is nothing that is more powerful than God and Jesus Christ. What a powerful combination!

In times past, God has manifested His power on many occasions. Through His power and direction, Noah built an ark. The flood came but the power of God saved Noah, his family and all creatures in the ark.

Nephi, a city man, was directed by the Spirit of God to build a boat which would carry his parents and all their families to the Promised Land. They arrived safely, in a boat built by a novice who was used as an instrument in the hands of God Almighty. There were no leaks! They did not sink! What power! What majesty!

The Israelites arrived at the Red Sea, no where to go. They could not proceed. They had no barges, no boats. They could not go back. Their Egyptian enemy would destroy them. Imagine their feelings—their sense of helplessness. How were they going to cross the sea? The great historian Josephus writes that Moses exclaimed, "Lord if thou wilt, thou could fly us across!" Moses was instructed to touch the waters with the rod that was prepared by God. Moses took the rod and touched the waters. They parted, the sea bottom was immediately dried and they walked across! Once across, their enemy who was in pursuit was destroyed, drowned as the water went back to its natural state, a state controlled by God! What power! What a deliverance!

Think of what Jesus Christ and God have done for you in your life. Many of you have been healed of affliction. Some with serious illnesses and depression have been healed by the power of God. Diseases of all kinds have been overcome by the power of God.

More important than healing your body, Jesus Christ has healed your soul. Because you have given your life to Christ, because you have repented and been baptized according to His commandments, your soul is on His road to salvation. Your soul is on that road to eternal life with Him.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## "Make a Melody in Your Heart"

Dear Friends,

You are going to make many mistakes in your life. I don't say this to make you fearful or unhappy. I tell you this so that you will be reminded that you have a Savior, the Son of God, who died for your sins already. His name is Jesus of Nazareth, the Bright and Morning Star, the Savior of our souls.

He knows every pain and every rotten thought we have. He still loves us and hopes to help us and heal us from the degradation and problems we get into. Nothing shocks Jesus.

What's so wonderful about Jesus is that He truly *does* care about each of us. He doesn't care about fancy houses or cars or what is in style today, or was in style in Jerusalem some 2000 years ago. He cares about your heart, your pain, your souls and your fears.

Jesus is the Son of God. They each know all your thoughts and fears already. So, why try to sneak around, or stay too busy, or try to run away from our distress?

Instead, find some secret place where you can be alone with the Lord and your own heart. Whisper your prayer. He hears you. Groan your problem; He cares. Talk it over with Him. Say it out loud or in quiet. Try it.

Just tell Jesus, "Look Lord—help me. I made a mess. I did something wrong. Now help me. Help me. Forgive me. Help me know how to make it right again. Change me. Take away the pain I caused someone else. Take away my wishes to do something



wrong. Let me be a better person. Let my life and the way I act shine the light of Jesus for someone else. Thank you for changing me!"

The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:11-20, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them [stand up against them] . . . be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So, even when your heart is breaking, sing a hymn. Sing, *Does Jesus Care?* Oh yes He cares, or *My God Thou Seest Me*.

These are beautiful ways to fight off the evil of depression, fear, doubt or anger. Even King Saul, in his wrongful condition, felt the evil spirits leave when young David sang beautiful hymns.

Turn off your TV and radios, put on tapes from the *Songs of Zion* or other beautiful hymns. Talk to Jesus. Forgive others. Start over and thank Him. He *can* take the pain away. You can be forgiven. You can change.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

EPHESIANS	PSALMS
FIVE	AND
SPEAKING	HYMNS
TO	AND
YOURSELF	SPIRITUAL
IN	SONGS

SINGING  
MAKING  
MELODY  
IN  
YOUR  
HEART  
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E	S	R	N	E	V	A	P	E
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F	L	P	S	S	F	D	N	K
P	A	S	E	L	O	R	D	I
O	S	H	Y	M	N	S	D	N
T	P	E	M	A	K	I	N	G
E	M	E	L	O	D	Y	A	Q

## Announcement

For August, 1998, the CD rates for the General church building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.35%
2 years	5.40%
3 years	5.45%
4 years	5.50%
5 years	5.60%

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

Mark your calendars now and start making your vacation plans for  
 The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference  
 on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University just about  
 60 miles south of Chicago.

# BE HAPPY! SOME SAY YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME TO PLAN.

97.

## BE OF GOOD CHEER

Arranged by  
 Eugene F. Amormino

Words and Music by  
 Arlene Lea Buffington

*Sweet and joyful: skipping along*

1. Some say that Zi-on is on - ly a dream. — And  
 2. Some say the proph-ets have failed us a - gain. — And  
 3. Some say that men, man-y long years a - go. — Had  
 4. Some say that Zi-on's a state of the mind. — This  
 5. Some say our chil-dren, and if not our chil-dren, Then

some say its com-ing is past; \_\_\_\_\_ And  
 we knew it could not be true; \_\_\_\_\_ But  
 tried to build Zi-on back then; \_\_\_\_\_ And  
 cit - y's a town in the heart; \_\_\_\_\_ While  
 some - bod-y's chil-dren will see; \_\_\_\_\_ But

some say its sea-son to bloom will be  
 we al-ways knew that



## Florida Area MBA

*By Brother Philip Benyola, Jr.*

The Florida Area MBA redefined the words "Happy New Year" at our Area MBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida on January 2-4, 1998. We began the year with the theme "Building Upon the Rock," and the Lord blessed us as we furthered our construction upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.

Camp directors were Brothers Tony Moraco and Isaac D. Smith, and seminars were coordinated by Brother Scott Griffith. The message focused on building our foundation on Jesus Christ, and many subsequent testimonies indicated that a powerful spirit was felt by all participants.

Following seminars and afternoon recreation, the brothers and sisters met for an inspiring discussion led by Brother Mark Kovacic regarding the Church's missionary efforts. The exchange provided an appropriate precursor to Apostle Joseph Calabrese's recent canvassing of the Florida Area with his presentation on how your generosity can bolster

missionary efforts in India. Brother Mark began by describing the process by which our missionaries plan and execute their travels and efforts. Did you know, for instance, that our missionary families must begin preparing for their trips at least six months in advance? Far from a vacation, our missionaries must initiate the process of obtaining a visa and scheduling transportation, often through their personal financial subsidization. When traveling to India, our missionaries must travel as tourists, as foreign missionaries are discouraged by the Indian government from entering their country.

The Church's operation in India supports a membership of approximately 1,300 from a tiny office, equipped with a single phone and fax machine. The brothers that travel there must minister to the many towns and branches in a short period of time. Brother Mark indicated that the people of India must work all day just to sustain themselves, and millions are still hungry. However, our brothers, sisters, and friends in India are very receptive to our missionaries, showering them with attentiveness and love. Many are called by God to be baptized while the missionaries visit, and the elders travel to each town to minister to these needs. In addition, the missionaries teach in seminars, anoint the sick and needy, and pray upon the groups.

Thank God for the dedication of our missionaries.

Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley shared their experiences as missionaries in Latin America. They explained how their efforts helped in an area where there is much need. Although it takes more than two people to feed a poverty-stricken nation of millions, Brother Ken and Sister Sharon were grateful they could make a difference in the lives of the families they touched. The brothers and sisters at camp received a clearer understanding about our missionary work. Every missionary trip adds another brick as we build the city of Zion.

Sunday morning's meeting drove the message home as several elders were inspired to rise and deliver God's message. The information was clear that building the foundation of our lives includes studying the Bible and Book of Mormon. It is everyone's responsibility to take up the work of the Church and contribute to the forward movement of the Lord's Gospel.

So, let us fill the front pews in our branches and missions on Wednesdays and Sundays. Let us give back to the Lord a fair portion of the blessing He has bestowed, and let us take our personal missionary efforts into the world and expand the Kingdom of God here on earth. Let us continue to build upon the rock of Jesus Christ.



## Called and Ordained

"Hark the voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today? Fields are white, and harvest's waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?" We are very thankful for the calling of God.

The saints at the South Bend, Indiana Mission rejoiced in the calling and ordination of two brothers—one, Brother Nester Gomez as a Teacher, and the other, Brother Alphonso

Hopkins, a Deacon.

"Hark the voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today?" On July 12, 1997, a brother had an experience. This brother testified that as he went into the Church for fast and prayer service, he saw that everyone was on their knees. As he walked into the door, the Three Nephites appeared. Two were on their knees and the other one was writing on the wall. The words were, "Blessed Be Unto You." Then he saw Brother Nester Gomez sitting beside Brother Mitchell Edwards. One of the Three Nephites gave Brother Nester a staff and a Bible, and said, "It's time for you to come forth." The following day,

Sunday during the fellowship meeting, an angel appeared looking at Brother Nester smiling, and said, "You are ready."

Sunday, September 14, 1997, as Brother Nester's feet were being washed by Brother Belzon Brown, a vision was seen that Brother Nester was being ministered to by a legion of angels.

"Hark the voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today?" Not only today, but everyday the voice of Jesus is calling for workers to labor in His vineyard.

Sunday, December 28, 1997, Brother Alphonso Hopkins was ordained as a Deacon in response to

the calling of the Lord. Brother Alphonso stated, "I've always wanted to work for God and do what God wanted me to do. As I was praying and pondering in my heart this office of a Deacon in God's Church, I had a dream. I saw myself in Church. There was a large crowd of people present. In this meeting, I began to perform the duties and work of a Deacon. I knew the functions of a Deacon as I was being guided and directed step by step by the Spirit."

"Hark the voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today?"

## Ordinations in Metuchen, NJ

*By Brother Steve Curtin*

In October of 1997, the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch gathered in a week of fasting and prayer meetings on behalf of our branch, the sick and afflicted and the General Church. In our prayers, we asked that the Lord would unite our branch and fill its spiritual needs. Surely our prayers were answered, because on December 28, 1997, we in Metuchen, witnessed the ordinations of Sister Dolores (Lori) Schmitt into the office of Deaconess and Brother Thomas Goode into the office of Deacon.

The day was filled with the Spirit of the Lord as our branch was filled to capacity with visitors from near and far. Our meeting was blessed from the time we entered the Church building until our meeting was dismissed. Brother David Catalano had a strong desire to wash our Brother Tom's feet, and the Lord's Spirit was felt in his prayer. Then Sister Doreen Dino from the Denver, Colorado Mission, and natural sister of Sister Lori, felt to wash our Sister Lori's feet. Brother Arthur Searcy ordained Brother Tom into the office of Deacon and Brother Philip Arcuri ordained Sister Lori as Deaconess. Both prayers that were offered were truly beautiful as each brother prayed that our brother and sister would fulfill their officer's duties with much strength from the Lord and

be an uplift to all those they come in contact with.

During the meeting, Sister Lydia Zaino of Edison, New Jersey stood and testified that as she entered the building that morning, she asked the Lord to bless her in some way. As she looked upon the Ministry on the rostrum, she saw that the faces of Brother Arthur and Brother Philip stood out. When these brothers had ordained our brother and sister, she knew for sure that the Lord was blessing us.

We truly thank and praise our Lord for all he has done for us and pray He will continue to bless us as we strive to do His will.

## Baptism in Levittown, PA

*By Sister Diane Robinson*

The air was crisp and cold, but the sunlight and the Son's light, the light of the Lord, beamed brightly that morning, November 16, 1997, as we gathered at the water's edge—a lake near the branch in Levittown, Pennsylvania. We came to witness the burial of our young sister, Karen Bondaduce's old spirit into the waters of baptism and to see a life made new in Jesus Christ. After the saints celebrated this Sabbath with song, Sister Karen was taken into the water by her grandfather, Brother Sam Sgro. This was a precious sight! Brother Sam asked two most serious questions anyone can respond to in this life. Have you repented of your sins? Are you willing to enter a covenant to serve the Lord all the days of your life to the best of your ability? Proclaiming the authority of Jesus, Brother Sam lifted his voice and hand heavenward and then baptized our sister.

Upon returning to the branch, the young people were asked to sing, *Let's Just Praise the Lord*, and *My Saviour's Love*. Brother Joe Benyola offered the opening prayer, and Brother Jim Sgro opened by stating that baptism is the way to heaven, reading from Mosiah 14. Brother Jim spoke of the same man having two different looks. He read from Revelation 19. "Has anyone

ever seen Him?", he asked. He mentioned seeing Him in dreams, but upon awakening, not being able to describe what He looked like. Two different looks—the first man takes you to Calvary, the second man takes you the rest of the way.

Brother Jim referred to Sister Karen recently being in a very bad car accident. After seeing the car and realizing that Karen was okay, Brother Jim believes that Satan tried to interfere with her plan to be baptized, but God has all power and showed it in this situation. Brother Jim still speaking with the power of the Spirit, encouraged us to live in the second man . . . overcoming and victorious!

Brother Sam Sgro followed in preaching and exhorting the words of Christ to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. He referred to seeing a man in white in a dream, before he was baptized saying, "Come unto me." "Never forget you are a saint of God", Brother Sam reminded us. "Don't we want to see our sick healed? Remember, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."

The reception of the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands of all the Ministry present. They were our Presiding Elder, and new Evangelist, Brother Jerry Valenti, Brother Joe Benyola, Evangelist Sam Dell, Brother Sam Sgro, Brother Jim Sgro and the prayer was offered by Apostle Paul Benyola.

Sister Karen first stood upon her feet just a week before and to the congregation, requested her baptism. Brother Paul Benyola preached that Sunday about peace, the need for peace in our lives, and the peace that only Jesus can give. Sister Karen had said that day that she wanted peace in her life and wanted to be baptized to receive the peace that the Lord would give her.

We certainly rejoiced with the angels of heaven that day! Our prayers are that Sister Karen will always experience the peace of God that passes all understanding and many other fruits of His Spirit and manifestations of His love, as she follows Jesus.

## Deaconess Ordained at Butler, PA Mission

Sister Divida Kocuba was ordained a Deaconess at the Butler, Pennsylvania Mission on Sunday, March 1, 1998. Many blessings were experienced, and many visitors from other Church locations were in attendance.

Her feet were washed by her mother, Sister Martha Buffington, and she was ordained by Brother Carl Frammolino.

Brother Paul Palmieri opened the service, recounting the history of the work of a Deaconess in the Church. He spoke on II Nephi 26, and he stated that The Church of Jesus Christ will never fall away again. He said she is here to stay, even if we dwindle to only a few. He stipulated that the Gospel comes to us without a price and that the Lord gave it to us. He encouraged everyone to be faithful to the Lord for He is faithful to us.

Brother Dick Lawson followed, asking "What does it take to convince a person of something?" He said people must be convinced that Jesus is the very Christ. To achieve this, questions must be answered and testimonies must be given. He iterated that each of us has a purpose in the Gospel and reminded that everyone must do the job that is ours to fulfill.

Brother Carl read the duties of a Deaconess, and Brother Charles Jumper read the experiences that were received about Sister Divida's calling. Sister Nancy Frammolino sang Sister Divida's favorite hymn, *Rose of Sharon*.

Brothers Joseph Ross and Paul Gehly served the Communion.

## Four Come to Christ

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Sunday, March 8, 1998, was a great day of celebration in heaven, as well as in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Our opening hymn, *Sweet, Sweet*

*Spirit*, truly set the tone for the day. We enjoyed that sweet spirit throughout the day.

This day was set for the baptism of Sister Brianne Ruddy who had earlier asked for her baptism. After our morning service, we left for the river to honor her request. As the cars were arriving, Sister Michelle Ross made her wishes known and our group rejoiced. After those two baptisms, the congregation stood and sang a few hymns, after which Sister Sandra Giannetti Carlin requested baptism. Sister Theresa DiVincentis was the final convert of the day. The cold and rainy day made little difference, there was a warmth within our hearts that only the Lord can provide.

The previous evening, during our Area MBA Conference, Brother Joe Ross had an experience in which he heard a voice state that tomorrow there would be four. The sisters also had their own experiences in regard to their callings. Sister Michelle's five-year-old daughter asked on the way to the river what it means to be baptized. Sister Michelle explained to her that it's when you love the Lord and want Jesus in your heart. Her daughter's reply was, "Then why aren't you baptized mommy?" A spirit of conviction came upon her immediately as she reflected upon a dream she had in which she saw the Lord in front of her, understanding that He was beaoning her to Him. Being nearly the first one at the baptismal site, she could hardly wait to request baptism.

Having attended Church all her life and steadily in the past year, Sister Sandra Carlin stated in her testimony that she was having such a struggle and that she had a great fear of dying without being baptized. She rejoiced that the fear was now abated.

Sister Theresa was also overwhelmed by fear because of a dream she had in which she saw terrible monsters in the water. She was so consumed by the fear that she was unable to ask for her baptism. In a second dream, she saw that she never asked for her baptism herself, but told another sister of her desire and that sister made the request. So it happened

at the river, Sister Theresa nodded when the Elders asked if there was anyone else and the sister she told in her dream shouted the request to the brothers as they stood by the river.

Sister Brianne was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Joe Ross. Sister Michelle was baptized by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Tony Ross. Sister Sandra was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Jim Gibson. Sister Theresa was baptized by Brother Paul A. Palmieri, and confirmed by Brother Paul Palmieri.

Our afternoon service was concluded with a wonderful season of testimony and rejoicing. We fittingly closed with *If Jesus Goes With Me* and look forward to many more souls being touched by His mighty power.

## A Time to Remember

Continued from Page 3

Jesus Christ." He said, "I was a dead man and now I'm alive again."

After a lot of fellowship and food, everyone went their way. We in the Simi Valley Branch were so blessed to have so many of God's wonderful people!

## Message from the Seventy

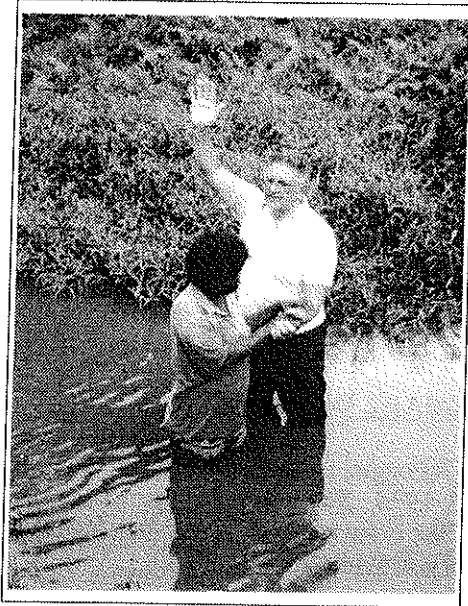
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faith of The Church of Jesus Christ, our beliefs, the Bible, and the Book of Mormon for some time. They were subsequently baptized.

At an evening service in Anyinmso, five more souls requested baptism. Another person asked for baptism later, which brought the total number to thirty-three.

Some of our time was devoted to seminars with the brothers and sisters of each branch and with all the ordained officers of the Church in Ghana. They are very thorough in studying the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

We visited the John Ross Preparatory School which has about two hundred forty students registered. There is no more room for expansion and what little ground is available floods when there is a heavy rain.



**Brother Joe Perri  
Baptizing a Convert**

Brother Ford showed us a seven acre parcel of land which has enough room for additional classrooms and a farm project of some kind which he is negotiating to buy.

#### TWO CRUSADES

Two crusades were held this visit. The first was in Kokode, about three miles from the mission house and church headquarters. Several hundred people were present.

The second crusade was in a village called Nwamase where Brother Ford had lived and where the first Church services were held in 1976. Most of the time was devoted to preaching about salvation to the approximately five hundred fifty people in attendance.

Sister Grace Boadu, Brother Ford's wife, had a dream that someone climbed over the six to eight foot wall surrounding the property and tried to steal our generator which supplies our air conditioning. She prevailed upon her husband during the night to bring it inside. He did so. A little later that

night, someone had indeed climbed over the wall in an attempt to take the generator.

We met several times with the eight members of the Ministry who are laboring very diligently to meet all their spiritual needs. They are very energetic in evangelizing in four other villages: Kokode and Nwamase which are close to the center and Sarabuso and Agyaraego, opposite to each other about one hour's driving time from the center. The Elders hold regular church services on Sunday and Wednesday and go two-by-two on Tuesdays and Thursdays to these four places. Their labors are bearing fruit.

Last year, it was requested that we start a sewing school. With a donation from a brother and sister, we purchased six sewing machines so some young women could learn to be seamstresses. On this visit, we saw the teachers (Sisters Comfort and Florence) and the class. The great interest shown has brought a request for five more machines.

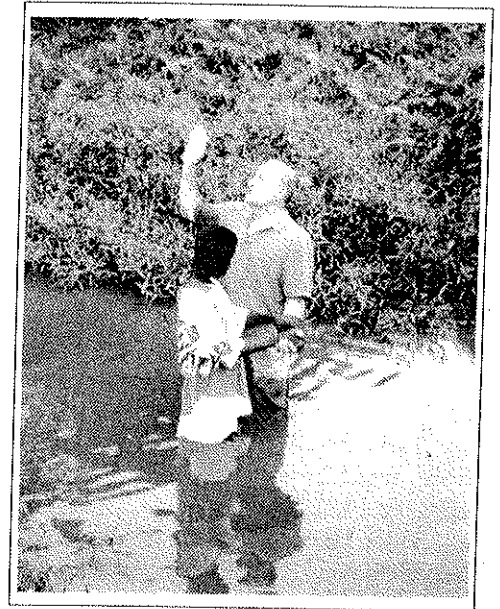
#### CHURCH DEDICATION

One of the highlights of this trip was the dedication of the Apromase church building on April 5, approximately four years after The Church of Jesus Christ was established. Brother Ford, who was very instrumental in the construction and financing of this structure, was able to have almost all the Ghana membership brought to the dedication by bus and vans.

After Sunday School, the morning service was opened with some songs in the Ashanti language. Brother Perri was asked to preach the dedication sermon, and he used I Kings 8, the prayer of Solomon at the temple, and II Chronicles 7:14, God's reply to Solomon's prayer. He also referred to I Corinthians third and sixth chapters, that our bodies are the temples of God and should be dedicated, accordingly. Brothers Ross and Paxon followed on the same theme. After the sermons, Brother Lawson was asked to give the dedicatory prayer. Testimonies and songs followed.

Friday, April 10, we had to

depart for home. On our way, we stopped in Apromase for a brief stay where the Church was beginning the three-day Easter Convention. There were eleven baptisms. We would have liked to attend in its entirety but had to



**Brother Malcolm Paxon  
Baptizing a Convert**

leave because of our travel schedule.

On Easter morning, April 12, we were able to meet with twelve people in the village of Medina, about ten miles from Accra, the capital city. We spoke on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The brothers of the Ministry from the Church's headquarters area take turns servicing these people, one of whom is baptized in the Church and others who are earnestly praying for God's direction.

Brother Ford accompanied us to Accra and was our interpreter. We prayed with him before leaving, asking God's blessings upon him as the Ghana church leader, for all the members and friends, and for the trying times being faced because of the drought, the inability to plant crops, and to withstand the oppressive heat. We asked that God would open the heavens and allow rain to fall to relieve their suffering and that the electricity which was being rationed would not be cut off completely.

About a month later, after the

(Continued on Page 12)

\* WEDDING \*

Brother Marco Antonio Ramirez and Sister Tanya Marie Wood were united in holy matrimony on April 24, 1998 in Saline, Michigan.

Children Blessed

Bailey Daniel Smith, son of Nicole Ruyle and Nicholas Smith, was blessed at Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, MI on May 10, 1998.

Jacob Anthony Goode, son of Brother Thomas and Sister Terry Vadasz-Goode, was blessed on May 10, 1998 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

Kayla Ann Vadasz, daughter of Brother John and Judy Vadasz, was blessed in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch on May 10, 1998.

Tyler Brooks Avant, son of Mary Lou and Mark Avant, was blessed in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch on February 14, 1998.

Tyler Jacob Carr, son of David and Brenda Carr, was blessed on May 10, 1998 in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Elaine Sechez of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in September 1997.

OBITUARY

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

ROSEMARY DeFOGGIE

Sister Rosemary DeFoggie, passed away to her heavenly reward on May 19, 1998. She was a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch. She is survived by one sister, Jennie Herstek, two nieces and one nephew.

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 11

brothers returned home, Brother Ford called and said that the rains had begun to fall and that they were able to plant some of their crops. The electricity was still being rationed, however, being on twelve hours and off twelve hours. Many more months of rain are needed to quench the parched ground and fill the dam to produce all their electricity and water to drink and bathe with. Please continue to pray for the saints in Ghana.

Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Editorial Viewpoint

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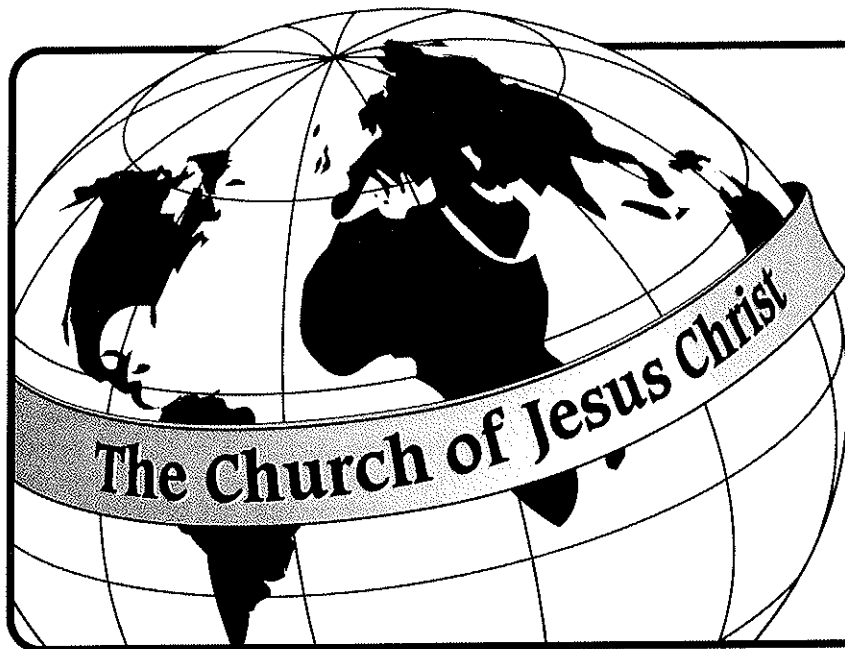
Have you ever sat back and thought, where would you be, what would you be and who would you be if the power of God did not manifest itself in your life? Please think about it. It is important to realize what God has done for you. It is important to realize what God continues to do for you.

God has given you life and a more abundant life. He has given you peace and tranquility. There are trials, tribulations and difficulties. The Holy Scriptures tell us that the rain falls on the just and the unjust! However, you all can testify that God has never left you alone. He is always near, He is always there. You have felt His gentle but firm touch.

When you feel lonely, He is there to comfort you. When you are spiritually downcast, He visits you and puts you on the mountain top.

The power of God is at your disposal. It is there for you to take advantage of and to use for His holy purposes. He wants to extend His arm of mercy and His power to magnify and save your soul.

What did the Lord say? In Matthew 6:33 we read, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In Matthew 7:7 we read, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." These were not idle statements. They are promises of God. Give Him your life. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave you His. Seek Him and He will with His power, provide all things for you.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

September, 1998

Volume 54, No. 9

## God's Blessings at Ohio-Midwest Region Conference

*By Sister Mandy Genaro*

"Ye who are called to labor and minister for God, blest with the Royal Priesthood, and called by His word . . ." The lyrics of this familiar hymn speak to us, brothers and sisters, we who have been called by Jesus Christ to be servants of the Most High God. The Ohio-Midwest Region held its conference in Youngstown, Ohio on March 28 and 29, 1998, and the Lord used His Royal Priesthood to remind us, as laborers in The Church of Jesus Christ, that He has placed His authority into the hands of those children He has called to labor. You and I have been called to action, and the Almighty God has placed His power and authority within our hands. This was the message God had for us as we gathered in the house of the Lord, and we tapped into this powerful Spirit and were truly blessed.

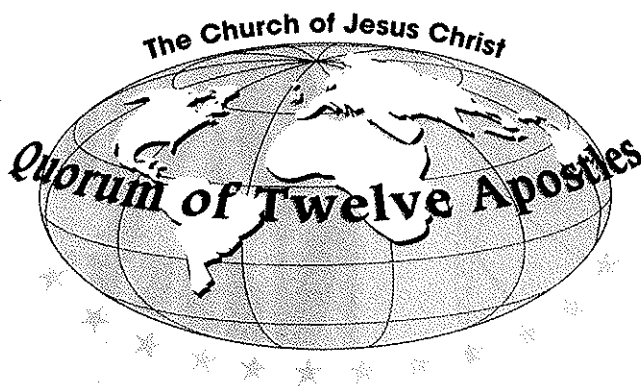
Brother Phil Jackson opened our service, reading from the 13th chapter of Alma, and speaking about the authority given to the ministry. The Lord uses mere men to be extensions of Him, calling men to be ministers of the Gospel to teach, preach, anoint, and follow the

examples and actions of Christ. Brother Phil humbly requested the prayers of the brothers and sisters to be a support to the Priesthood. We need to work together to take the Gospel forward. Then, following the Spirit of God, Brother Phil asked all the elders and teachers to form a circle around the congregation. He asked Apostle Paul Palmieri to offer a prayer, uniting the Priesthood and body of the Church. Brother Paul poured out his heart to the Lord, and while he was praying, Brother Joe Genaro spoke in the gift of tongues. After the prayer, Brother Frank Palacios spoke in the Spirit saying, "Hold fast to the Bible and Book of Mormon, thus saith the Lord." Brother Mike Nuzzi then stood to relate a vision he had while Brother Phil was speaking. He heard a rumbling sound and saw the wall behind the rostrum open up to reveal dark, rolling clouds. In the midst of this darkness, light broke through, and he saw a white cloud with a personage above the cloud. This person was exceedingly bright and illuminated, and he heard a voice say, "Break your heart unto Me, and I will do as you

ask." The Spirit of God was being made manifest in so many beautiful ways! Such a powerful spirit was guiding the ministry, and the blessings continued.

Brother Ron Genaro was the following speaker, and he elaborated on the theme the Lord had for His Church: remember the Royal Priesthood authority. Brother Ron reiterated the Old Testament custom of the high priest—how he would enter into the holy of holies to speak with God. However, today each one of us can have that interaction with the Lord. Jesus Christ is the ultimate high priest, and we all can have an intimate, personal relationship with Him. We, as His servants, must have a humble spirit that allows us to be obedient to the Lord in confessing our sins, repenting with sincerity, and forgiving one another in love. Through this humility, we can better support one another in efforts to take this Gospel to the world. At one time, we know that God removed the authority from the earth in the time of the apostasy; however, praise the Lord, He saw fit to restore the authority of The Church of Jesus Christ, beginning with a man named Joseph Smith and continuing with our Priesthood today. This Church belongs to the Lord. It bears His name and His authority alone. As the Prophet Daniel saw the stone hewn

(Continued on Page 10)



## A Commentary on 2 Chronicles 7:14

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART I

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

In a recent letter sent out from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, in which the members of The Church of



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

Jesus Christ were asked to fast and pray on January 31, 1998, for God's blessings in behalf of the sick and for other important reasons, the letter ended with the above verse.

The verse in question, 2 Chronicles 7:14, begins with a conjunction, provisional in nature. It could have begun with the phrase, "in the event

that my people, indicating a possibility of committing transgression against God's laws." One must look at the preceding verses to get a clear and thorough understanding of the reason behind the warning mixed with His great mercy and loving kindness.

The House of God had been built as was the house of Solomon. Then came the great awaited day of dedication! The people gathered together from far and near to witness this holiest of times: the dedication of the House of God. It's almost impossible to imagine the amount of animals which were sacrificed to the Almighty. The Scripture reads that twenty-two thousand oxen plus one hundred and twenty thousand sheep were offered to God in those few days of dedication. It staggers the mind to picture this massive number of burnt offerings. Altogether there were a hundred and forty-two thousand animals slain during those solemn festivities.

It is also said that the people were joyful and extremely happy to have been part of that glory-filled celebration. Who would not have been elated as God revealed Himself in such a awe-inspiring manner. When Solomon finished praying, the people saw fire descend from heaven and consume the burnt offerings and sacrifices (verse 1). None of the priests could enter into the temple because God's glory filled it from one end to the other (verse 2).

Just think for a moment! It was not fire made by human hands that came down, but a fire which was sent by the Lord! It is understandable why the people stood in awe as they watched this miraculous event. Their

hearts swelled with joy and thanksgiving at the glorious manifestation of God's power. It was a time to remember with joyful pride; a time to tell their children and grandchildren, over and over, about the grand and glorious visitation of the Lord when His house was dedicated.

Imagine the young generation listening attentively, with their mouths open, as the narrative rolled from the lips of those who had been there and witnessed the miraculous visitation of the Lord. As the years rolled on, one can almost visualize children telling the story of that glorious event with reverence and awe to their friends.

"My grandfather was there," one would say, "he saw the glory of God fill the Temple."

"My grandmother said there were thousands of animals offered to the Lord," another would chime in.

Whether the story was exaggerated a little, it was nonetheless repeated with wonder and pride. God had called them "My people who are called by My name." There is no closer or greater relationship than to be called God's people.

To be called by God's name is the great honor which can be bestowed upon a people. The Lord set Israel apart from all other nations so they could see that there was a people who walked in righteousness; who were not idol worshippers and who deported themselves with dignity and integrity.

What was (or is) God's name?

He never revealed His name to anyone but Moses. The book of Exodus records God saying, "I AM that I AM." But later on, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them" (Exodus 6:3). Why God kept His name a secret until He revealed it to Moses is a mystery. One would think that men like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would have been deserving of the honor of knowing His name. Nor did He reveal His name to anyone before the flood.

In Hebrew Jehovah is *Yahweh*; sometimes spelled YHWH. The name *Yahweh* was so sacred to Israel that it

was never mentioned in conversation. The Lord was always referred to as God, Almighty God, the Lord, the Lord God, etc., but never Yahweh. Young's Analytical Concordance says that Yahweh meant the "Incommunicable One." In process of time, Yahweh was written Jehovah by English translators. One can only imagine how highly God thought of Moses to bestow upon him the honor of knowing His name.

Now, back to the verse under consideration. The subject portion of the verse ends with "my name," and the predicate begins with "shall humble themselves." A simple parsing of the phrase will read, "If my people will humble themselves." In Hebrew the word humble is *kana*. *Kana* in the context of this verse means: "To bend the knee in humiliation, bring down in subjection and subdue oneself." In other words, to "humble themselves" meant to subdue their carnality, submit, without reservations, to the Word of God and to the will of God. It meant to have a repentant and submissive spirit; to divest themselves of anything carnal and worldly before taking the next step, i.e., pray and seek His face.

In Hebrew, the word *seek* is *baqash*. It's defined as "searching out (by any method) specifically in worship or prayer, to strive after, ask, beg, beseech, desire and request." Seek is used more than 200 times in the Bible. The word *face* in Hebrew is *paniy* which has many meanings depending on the context in which it is used. In the verse in question, face is defined as My (meaning God) favor and presence. Thus far, the first part of the predicate of that verse could read: "If my people shall submit themselves to my word in a repentant spirit, without question and shall search me out; shall beg for my favor and desire my presence . . ."

The next phrase in the verse is, "and turn from their wicked ways."

The word *turn* in Hebrew is *shuwb*. *Shuwb* has multiple definitions. It depends on the occasion in which it is used. In the verse which is being parsed it means retire, go back from, withdraw and cease. The verse,

so far, could read: "If my people shall submit themselves to my word with a repentant spirit, without question, search me out, beg for my favor, desire my presence, withdraw from and cease their wickedness . . ."

Four things are required of God's people:

1. Unconditional submission to God's Word and will (humble themselves).
2. Entreat and make supplication to God (pray).
3. Search and beg God's favor and desire His presence (seek My face).
4. Withdraw and cease from sinning (turn from their wicked ways).

If the above requirements are met by the people, then the Lord will do something merciful and great for them. First and foremost, God will hear from heaven.

The word *hear* in Hebrew is *shamayim* which is defined as attention, attentively, listen, regard, consider, witness, etc.

The phrase, "I will hear," means that God will consider carefully whether the people have fulfilled the four requirements, and if they have, He will declare and witness from His celestial abode (heaven) by revealing Himself in action: He will forgive their sin(s) and heal their land.

In this context, the word *heal* in Hebrew is *rapha*. *Rapha* is defined as to mend, to cure, repair, and make whole.

God's promise is that He will cure, repair and make the land whole again, if the people do their part in executing the four things which He required.

All the above, however, beg some questions: Why has the Lord required the people to humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways? The answer is simple: God knew, because of His infinite foreknowledge the wicked things His people would do, beginning with King Solomon. It is common knowledge, through historical records, that Israel transgressed the laws of God many times, thereby turning away from Him despite the prophets' warnings. But none transgressed God's commandments as much as

Solomon. He broke every one that the Lord gave concerning the behavior of kings. Following are the promises as well as the threats which the Lord made to Solomon.

"That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

"And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

"And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

"Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

"But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

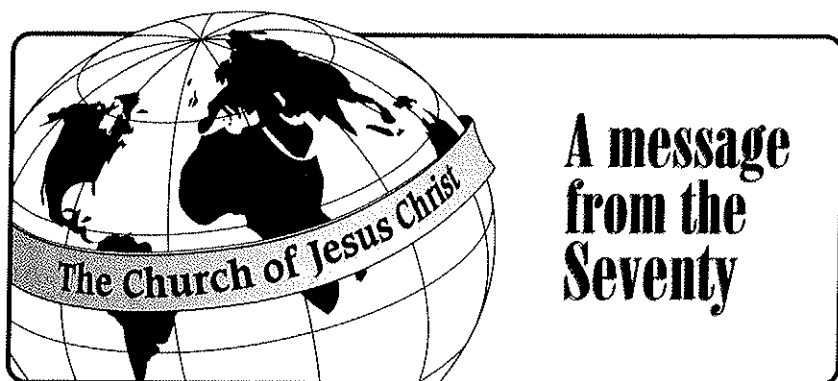
"Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

"And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil" (1 Kings 9:2-9).

God also gave Israel many commandments. The following words are very important:

"Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments,

(Continued on Page 11)



## Preparing for a Missionary Conference

*By Evangelist John R. Griffith  
Missionary Operating Committee Chairman*

In 1952, the General Church Conference under the leadership of then General Church President, Brother William H. Cadman, accepted a recommendation to establish a Missionary Board to organize and administer the Church's missionary efforts. Before that time, there had been missionary work going on, of course, but this was the first group which was specifically given the charge to look after outreach activities.

In its first official meeting, the Mission Board members met the approval of God when a vision appeared. In this experience, white robes were available for each of the Mission Board members elected, and it was given that the Lord would guide the Church in her missionary endeavors.

What a blessing the missionary work has been to the Church at large. Surely, the priceless pearl we have received through personal salvation cannot be kept hidden, but must, according to God's Word, be taken to every kindred, tongue, and nation.

Since 1952, the Mission Board has undergone a metamorphosis in its organizational and operational structure, and many missionary-minded brothers have served in this capacity. From the conception of the organized missionary approach, we have recognized God's presence in our efforts.

For the past seven years, the Mission Board, now known as the "Missionary Operating Committee" (M.O.C.), working under the direction

of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, has embarked on an expansion of the missionary program, which has brought other countries into the fold.

### FIRST WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

In 1983, the General Church Ministry reacted favorably to a proposal to have the first World Missionary Conference. This blessed event allowed for the parent church (U.S.A.) to join with representatives of the then current mission fields in a week together in Virginia in spirit-fellowship. Seven countries were represented, and the Lord's presence was with us during that time. Many brothers, sisters, and friends from various Church locations attended.

Happily, the Second World Missionary Conference is set for 1999, as had been appointed by the General Church Conference in October 1996. Instead of seven countries, the Church's membership will be introduced to representatives from at least twenty-one countries. Taking years of preparation and with much support from the parent church, and auxiliary units, we shall be able to spend quality time with members from different parts of the world. How glorious that will be!

The Missionary Operating Committee, utilizing its major sub-committees, is preparing for our guests to arrive. The Americas Missionary Operating Sub-Committee (A.M.O.C.)

is responsible for all mission fields involving the Native Americans, the Seed of Joseph. The A.M.O.C. is extending the Church into areas such as Urban/Domestic/Canadian Native American outreaches, such as in Mexico, Guatemala, Dominica, Venezuela, Peru and as close as San Carlos and White River, Arizona and Tse Bonito, New Mexico. Hopefully, all will be represented at the World Missionary Conference.

Another major M.O.C. sub-group is the Foreign Missions Operating Sub-Committee (F.M.O.C.). This sub-committee extends the Church into such countries as Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Italy, Nepal and now also various places in Europe as Poland, England, and points east. These areas, too, are being planned for representation at the World Missionary Conference.

Funds are being raised, accommodations arranged, visas secured, airline and other transportation tickets purchased, ground transportation, interpreters, itineraries, presentations, and exhibits planned for this World Missionary Conference. Above all, we need the prayers and attendance of the brothers, sisters, and friends.

### BEGIN TO FEEL EXCITEMENT

One can readily begin to feel the excitement that will fill the air of this great gathering to be held at the Olivet Nazarene University located in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Make your reservations now. June 26, 1999 will be here very shortly. Can you miss this one? (Note: the Third World Missionary Conference will be planned for some ten years later.)

Please continue to support our Church's missionary efforts. The unadulterated Gospel is going forth. Presently, there are six new possible mission fields (countries) being explored. The sincere of heart will hear the message of the Gospel Restored. Jesus Christ is the living Son of God, our Blessed Redeemer. We praise God for this blessing and look forward to meeting Him and the saints at the Second World Missionary Conference.

The Church that Christ established is alive and well!



## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jeffrey Glannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Deanna Nuzzi  
26 Woodland Chase Blvd.  
Niles, OH 44446

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### REGIONAL EDITORS

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

#### GREAT LAKES

David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

#### OHIO-MIDWEST

John Ford  
1924 16th Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

#### PACIFIC

Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

#### PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

#### SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

#### SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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Have you ever felt lonely, all alone, with no where to turn? You are not alone in this vast world. There is One who deeply loves and cares for you. His name is Jesus Christ. There is a hymn that we sing that simply states, "People need the Lord." We need His support; we always have and always will need His support.

What is support? It may be defined as, "to bear the weight of; to keep from falling or sinking or slipping; and to be capable of bearing; withstand." When you consider this definition, it is very clear that this is what the Lord does for us in our lives each and every day. There is no doubt about it. There is no need to despair. He is there, always there. He is near, always near.

Who is our support? It is certainly not the adversary of our soul. This is made very clear in Alma 30:60 which states, "... and thus we see that the devil will not support his children at the last day, but doth speedily drag them down to hell." Please note that his drag is not slow but very rapid and with much speed. God is our sole and only support. We read in Alma 36:3, "... for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day."

What a contrast! What a wonderful God we serve. He does not bring us down. He lifts us up and places us on the mountain top in life and in death if we endure to the end. What a hope! What grace! What mercy!

What a wonderful and blessed Redeemer. In spite of what mankind did to Him, a cruel death, He still loves and supports His children; those who love and serve Him in spirit and in truth. Are you one of His? You should be! You must be! When you give your life to Jesus Christ, He is your rock, your Saviour, your friend, and your life support, in this life and in the life to come.

There are a number of examples in scripture where individuals give God the honor and glory for His support. Let us consider some of these examples.

Kindly consider King Benjamin. He was an elderly man when he addressed his people. He was ready to declare, because of his old age, he could no longer be their teacher and king. King Benjamin told the people that his whole frame was "trembling exceedingly" while he attempted to address them in their great assembly. He acknowledged the support of his God by saying, "but the Lord God doth support me, and hath suffered me that I should speak unto you . . ." Who bore his weight as he stood before that congregation? You know who. It was the Lord God Almighty!

Please consider Moroni, chief captain of the Nephite army. Moroni acknowledged the support of God during the conflict with Zerahemnah, chief captain of the Amalekite army. Moroni states in Alma 44:4, "Now ye see that this is the true faith of God; yea, ye see that God will support, and keep, and preserve us, so long as we are faithful unto him, and unto our faith, and our religion . . ." This giant of a man, Moroni, knew who he could trust in his need for help, guidance and support. Who helped Moroni withstand their enemy? You know who? It was the Lord God Almighty!

Kindly consider what the Lord did for the two thousand young warriors we read about in the Book of Mormon. The scripture tells us the Lord supported them. He kept them from falling by the sword. Do you realize not one was slain? The support of the Lord! How marvelous! How wonderful!

Please consider the episode and experience of Peter. When he walked on the water, did he sink? Absolutely not! Peter cried out, "Lord save me!" The Lord, immediately with His

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## The Time a Donkey Talked

Dear Girls and Boys,

Balaam was a man who talked to God. Everyone knew that if they had a special problem, they could ask this man to pray to God for them and he would receive an answer. If he asked God to bless people, God blessed them. If he asked God to curse them, God cursed them.

The King of Moab had a problem. Some strangers out of Egypt were coming near his land. They were the Israelite people, once slaves, now wandering and looking for new homes. The king sent messengers with many presents to ask Balaam to come and curse them so his army could overcome them and drive them out.

But God did not want Balaam to curse them. He told Balaam that they were a blessed people and not to go. But the frightened king did not give up. When his messengers returned without Balaam, he sent more important men to ask Balaam to come and curse the Israelites. Finally, Balaam agreed to go with them.

Balaam left riding on his little donkey. God was angry with Balaam for going. God sent the angel of the Lord to stop Balaam. As Balaam traveled, the angel of the Lord stood in the way with his sword drawn in his hand. The donkey saw the angel and turned, and went into the field. Balaam hit her to turn her the way he wanted her to go.

But the angel of the Lord stood in the path again where there was a wall on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. He



was furious and struck her again.

Finally the angel of the Lord went ahead further and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right or the left. And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing there with a sword, she fell down under Balaam. He became so angry, he struck the little donkey with the wooden staff he carried.

The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said unto Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have hit me these three times?"

Angrily, Balaam replied, "Because you haven't obeyed me! I wish I had a sword right now so I could kill you."

And the donkey said unto Balaam, "Am not I your donkey that you've ridden on since the day you got me until today? Have I ever disobeyed you before?"

As Balaam answered, "No," the Lord opened his eyes and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand and Balaam bowed down his head and fell flat on his face.

Then the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Why have you hit your donkey three times? Listen, I went out to stop you because your way is against what you should do, and the donkey saw me and turned from me these three times. Unless she had turned from me, surely now I would have killed you and saved her alive."

And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know you stood in the way against me, now then, if it displeases you that I should go to the king, I will go back home."

This time the angel of the Lord

said, "No, go with the messengers of the king. But when the time comes for you to speak, speak only the words that I will give you."

Balaam obeyed the angel and went his way with the messengers, but he warned the king that even if the king would give him his house full of silver and gold, Balaam would not go beyond the commandments of God. What the Lord said, he would speak. When the king took him to a high mountain looking over the camps of the Israelite people, Balaam spoke powerful words of great blessings. The king grew angry and told Balaam to stop! If he didn't want to curse them, at least don't bless them.

Three times Balaam spoke, and each time beautiful promises for the children of Israel came forth. The third time Balaam spoke, God told him of all the good things he would do for the Israelite's children's children—even down to the last days.

There were not good words of hope for the king, only words of doom. Those who served the one true God received the blessings of God. With his purpose accomplished, Balaam, the man whose donkey's mouth was opened, turned for his journey home.

Sister Jan

BALAAM	GOD
CRUSH	MAD
SWORD	KILL
DRAWN	TALK
THY	TELL
DONKEY	PRAY

What did the donkey do the third time he saw the angel? The leftover letters spell the answer.

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

Mark your calendars now and get your vacation plans going for The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University. If you miss out, none can say of the children of men, "Nobody ever has told me before."

# IF WE'VE TOLD YOU ONCE, WE'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES.

211

## TELL IT AGAIN

Mrs. M. B. C. Slade

R. M. McIsaac

1. In - to the tent where a gip-sy boy lay, Dy - ing a - lone at the
2. "Did He so love me, a poor lit - tle boy? Send un - to me the good
3. Bend-ing we caught the last words of his breath, Just as he en - tered the
4. Smil-ing, he said, as his last sigh he spent, "I am so glad that for

close of the day, News of sal - va - tion we car - ried, said he:  
ti - dings of joy? Need I not per - ish? my hand will He hold?  
val - ley of death: "God sent His Son!" "Who-so - ev - er," said He:  
me He was sent!" Whis-pered, while low sank the sun in the west,

## REFRAIN

"No - bod - y ev - er has told it to me!"  
"No - bod - y ev - er the sto - ry has told!" Tell it a - gain!  
"Then I am sure that He sent Him for me!"  
"Lord, I be - lieve, tell it now to the rest!"

Tell it a - gain! Sal



## Built Upon The Rock

By Sister Mandy Genaro

"The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord." This was the message delivered to the saints as we gathered for our GMBA Conference on May 16-17, 1998. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus speaks to Peter saying, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." We know this rock is Jesus, for He said in III Nephi 27:8, "How be it my church save it be called in my name? But if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel." We have found His Gospel, we have built our lives upon the Rock, and we stood firmly on His foundation this weekend as we glorified His name.

Saturday morning, Brother Tom Liberto opened our service speaking on the love of Christ, saying, "Love one another as Christ loved you." He used the example of Peter and Judas who denied and betrayed Christ, and asked us to put ourselves in Christ's shoes. How would we feel if two of our close friends treated us as Jesus was treated? Nevertheless, Jesus knelt down, humbling Himself in love, and washed their feet—already knowing what they were going to do to Him. What a wonderful example of love! Do we have that kind of love for one another?

Throughout the business of the day, we had several presentations, testimonies and reports of the great missionary efforts of the GMBA. The children came forward with flags from various countries and sang, *Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World*. Then, the Great Lakes Area choir sang for the evening meeting. The brothers and sisters used the theme, "Upon the Rock," and put on a skit about using the "tools" God gives us to build our houses upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ. The Bible and the Book of Mormon, working hand-in-hand, give us the means by which we can

build our lives upon Christ. The Spirit of God touched our hearts and motivated us to continue to stand on this strong foundation, not to be moved.

Sunday morning, Brother Larry Champine opened the service, speaking with liberty, saying, "The foundation of Jesus Christ gives us confidence in life. He is for the young, the middle-aged, the elderly; we all get the same reward. Build your life upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and He will fulfill your every dream and give you the desires of your heart. Don't build upon your own ideas, don't build on sandy ground. Use the tools God has given us." Ephesians 1:17-19 says, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him . . . that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe . . ." Be convinced of what you have, commit to Jesus Christ, use the manuals and tools God has given us, and build a house that will stand.

Then, a vision was had of the Lord's face behind the ministry. We could feel the presence of God as the meeting continued and Brother Anthony Scolaro followed saying, "The Lord sees fit to use us to labor for things eternal. If we come at the first hour or the eleventh hour, the reward is the same. Find your place in the Gospel, labor for the Master—the work is for salvation to bring souls to Christ." As our brother was speaking, Brother Mike Nuzzi recalled a dream he had the previous night. He saw a tree laden with fruit and a man standing by the tree. As Brother Mike reflected on the experience, the dream became a vision, and he saw the same tree and the man looking around. This man was Christ looking for laborers.

Brother Ike J. Smith followed, saying, "Open your ears to hear the Lord's call. This is a labor of love for Christ." Then, Brother Dominic Thomas addressed the congregation about building our lives upon this foundation, starting from the youngest child to the oldest adult. He called the

little children forward with their mothers and Brother Jerry Benyola was inspired to pray for them. Then, the young people came forward and Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo offered the prayer. As he was praying, Brother Albert Giannetti had a vision. He saw where all the young people were standing, and this scene turned into a garden. All the young people were tender plants. The Lord appeared in the garden and began to cultivate the plants and care for them. He also planted a hedge around the garden, and animals came to try to devour the plants, but they could not get through the hedge. Praise God!

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri then spoke, saying, "No one can pluck us out of the hand of Jesus. No one can take His children out of His hands because He died for them." Brother Ken Staley followed saying, "Today is the day and the Lord waits . . . Claim Him today! Today is the day of restoration for your soul."

We were so blessed by the beautiful and powerful message the Lord had for us. We closed our conference with one of the choir's songs, *God's Glorious Church*. The lyrics ring true in our hearts. "I'm in this Church, God's Glorious Church. The Church is built on the Rock of God's Word. And all the powers of hell shall never prevail, for nothing can stand against God's Glorious Church." Amen!

## Notice

We of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch have recently sold our building. Our interim meeting place is located at 15 Stadium Drive in Boardman, Ohio (south of Youngstown-Market Street which is Route 7 and Stadium Drive). Our first meeting there will be on Sunday, July 26, 1998. Sunday School is at 9:30 AM; worship service is at 10:30 AM. We welcome your visitation.

Brother Ron Genaro  
Presiding Elder



## Becoming a Shepherd

By Sister Peggy Stroko

On Sunday, April 26, 1998, there was a wonderful gathering of saints, friends, and relatives at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. They were there to witness the ordination of Brother Thomas E. Stroko into the office of an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother John Manes.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., began the meeting by speaking on "Oneness" and the strength that we find in unity with the Lord. We were told that we must have personal unity within our hearts, within our souls, with Christ, and that this unity will lead us through anything. Brother Nicklow read from John, chapter 10. He then related a dream to us that Brother Tom Stroko had recently. In his dream, the enemy or devil, took his daughters out a window. Without hesitation, Brother Tom went out the window after the children, so as to save them from the enemy at whatever cost. The Spirit and the thought that Brother Tom would do whatever it took to save his children was wonderful. Brother Tom experienced that "Oneness" with God when he went after his children. Several other speakers followed in the same theme.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sang the hymn, *Our Church*. We thank God for the gift of Brother Panfilo's magnificent voice.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., then spoke of the Apostle Paul in chapter 10 of the Book of Romans, verses 13-15. He said, "This is the calling of the Ministers of God." Directing his message to Brother Tom, telling him, "Your primary message to the people is that Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Your mission is to give life to people. When you stand on the written word of God, you will never fail. You must depend upon the

gift of God in you by the laying on of hands and to stir it up continually."

The Spirit fell upon Brother Lawrence King to wash Brother Tom's feet. Before doing so, he related an experience he had confirming Brother Tom's calling. Brother Tom had already been recommended to the Region when Brother Lawrence had this experience. He said, "While getting ready for work, I began to think of our recommendation of Brother Tom into the Ministry. My thoughts were of how Brother Tom appeared to the enemy. I envisioned Brother Tom with the letter 'E' on his chest, signifying that Brother Tom was his enemy and that there was no question that he was on the side of the Lord. Alma 48:17 came to me, 'Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto Moroni, behold, the very power of hell would have been shaken forever; yea, the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men.'"

While the congregation sang the hymn, *Ready*, the Ministry encircled Brother Tom. Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr., offered prayer asking the Lord to bless Brother Joe Bittinger as he ordains Brother Tom and let the Spirit flow throughout the congregation. Apostle Joseph Bittinger, grandfather to Brother Tom, then poured the holy oil upon his head and asked the Lord to bless him with His Holy Spirit and to give him a great gift of the Spirit.

After the ordination, the congregation sang the hymn, *To the Work*, and there was a joyous time as Brother Tom's family gathered around him, hugging one another.

Sacrament was served and then Brother Tom expressed himself. He thanked God and remembered Sister Mary Fleming who was his very first Sunday School teacher saying, "She planted a seed in me that grew." Sister Fleming is ninety-two years young and lives in a nursing home. He also paid tribute to Brother Jesse King, who was a close friend of his. Brother Jesse has gone on to his reward, but if he were here he would have said, "I told you so."

Pray for Brother Tom that the

Lord will use him for His honor and glory. We need each other's prayers.

A dream was later related by Brother Tom's wife, Sister Peggy Stroko, further confirming Brother Tom's calling into the Ministry.

"Approximately a week or so before Brother Tom's ordination, I dreamed Brother Tom, a group of Elders, including Brothers Richard Lowther, Lawrence King, Robert Nicklow, Sr., and other Elders, members of our family and myself were walking down a dirt road. Lining the sides of the road and behind us were a multitude of people, some that we knew and some that we did not know. I use the word multitude because in my dream it was pictured as I had often thought in my mind how the people followed Christ to His crucifixion. There was a vast openness of land around us. Most of the people were dressed in long robes and wore head wraps as were worn by the people when Christ was on the earth. When we arrived at our destination, Brother Tom was taken by the Elders to a sort of cage made of branches which you could see through. Inside the cage they were preparing him for his ordination by clothing him in robes and head wraps like worn by those around us. I found myself off to one side watching him being prepared. I felt God was telling me to stand aside and let Brother Tom do what is needed of him. I was to be by his side, patient, understanding, encouraging, and supportive."

## A Day of Worship and Fellowship in Metuchen, NJ

By Brother Steve Curtin

The Spirit of God was alive today, Sunday, April 26, 1998, as the Atlantic Coast Region Visiting Committee joined the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch for a full day of worship and fellowship. This committee visits a different branch in our region once every two months to bring extra encouragement to our members.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Metuchen, NJ

Continued from Page 9

Our day started with a Sunday School lesson on the access we have to God, and how we can boldly approach the throne of grace through our Savior Jesus Christ. We have direct access to God and Jesus is the key. Sunday School was followed by a short period of saying good morning and fellowship, and then we began singing to start our morning service.

We were addressed by our visiting Elders, Brothers Joe Perri, Jonathan Olexa and Rick Calabro. We knew the Spirit was working as the theme from Sunday School was reinforced and augmented. The main theme of our brothers' preaching was "Ask and You Shall Receive." We need only ask God for those things we need, and if we seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, then all these things will be added unto us.

After the morning service, we gathered downstairs for lunch and fellowship. During lunch, we celebrated three birthdays; Sisters Norma Tepperman and April Calabro, and Colby Lombardo. Many others claimed birthday status as we shared a lighthearted time of singing and passing the birthday cake. We reconvened at two o'clock for our testimony and Holy Communion service.

Our afternoon meeting was marked by more singing accompanied by different instruments such as the violin, flute and guitar. In the midst of our testimony meeting, Brother Jim Sgro was inspired to reinforce the message that we need only ask God to provide us with our every need, and not our needs only, but that we should ask Him to fulfill our desires. He then asked the entire congregation to one-by-one state our greatest desire and greatest treasure. We spent a blessed time revealing our treasures and desires to each other. Brother Jim reiterated that we need only ask the Lord in faith believing and He will give us the desires of our hearts. We concluded testimony, passed Holy Communion and gathered for a second time of fellowship and dinner. The day was not over after dinner.

We concluded our evening with the rest of the Local MBA in the Edison, New Jersey Branch in our weekly MBA meeting. The MBA service was dedicated to singing and we also enjoyed some spiritual reading by Brother Jason Rogolino. It was a full day; full of fellowship with the saints; full of worship and praise; and full of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Calabro, Rick and April  
50 Walter Way  
Stewartsville, NJ 08886  
908-387-0383

Champine, Larry and Rosanne  
810-949-2126

Cotellesse, R. James and Sandra  
305 Lake Village Dr.—#102  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-327-9839

David, Derek and Heather  
720 Ottawa Street, Apt. 100  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
913-651-2729

Elzby, Michelle and Lisa  
302 College Ave.—Unit 55  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 4T6  
519-822-4364

Nolfi, Chester and Phyllis  
1906 Mosser  
McHenry, MD 21541  
301-387-6339

Paxon, Jeff  
44590 Bayview Ave.  
Apt. # 12108  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038  
810-783-5551

Ramirez, Marco and Tanya  
684 Lambkins  
Saline, MI 48176  
734-429-0421

Root, Daniel and Teri  
26661 Baldwin  
Dearborn Hgts., MI 48127  
313-359-0211

**A Thought**

Practice makes perfect,  
so be careful what you  
practice.

**God's Blessings at Ohio-Midwest Region Conference**

Continued from Page 1

out of the mountain and it began to roll, we need to help the stone along and keep it rolling. We need to pray, breaking our hearts unto the Lord on behalf of the ministry and on behalf of the Church that we comprise, that we can do God's will and attain spiritual success in the world today.

Brother Wayne Martorana continued, assuring the saints that we are all an important part of the body of Christ. While our brother was expanding on the theme, a brother in the back of the auditorium became ill and passed out. Brother Wayne stopped speaking and asked the congregation to pray for our brother as the elders exercised their authority in anointing him. Immediately after the prayer, the brother opened his eyes and regained awareness. This was an example of the success God gives the ministry through His authority. We praise the Lord for His immediate response in answering the cries of His children.

Brother Wayne proceeded with the service saying that Jesus is the one and only Son of God. Brother Wayne felt the direction of the Lord to address the saints on the theme of remembering our spiritual identity; that this is the true Church with the sole authority given to us of Jesus Christ alone. He related experiences accepted by the Church that remind us of our identity and authority. We are so privileged to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul Palmieri then commented on this theme, asking a rhetorical question to the congregation. "Who do we say that Jesus Christ is? If we say that He is our Savior, then we need to serve Him. If we say He is our Redeemer, then we need to obey Him. Brother Paul told us to take it person-

ally; He is our Lord. This is our Church, and it is built upon the Rock of Revelation—Jesus Christ. He has given the Priesthood the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. The ministry has the authority given of God to open the door of salvation through Jesus Christ by taking each one of us into the waters of baptism. Through this authority, we have a chance for eternal life.

Brother John Genaro then related an experience where a minister of our Church introduced the Gospel to a minister of another church. This other man witnessed our ordinance of Communion and decided to bring it back to his church. However, when this man tried to pass Communion in his church, he heard a voice say, "This won't work here." Brothers and sisters, The Church of Jesus Christ has the sole authority given of God, and to no church, save it be His own, has the Lord granted His power and authority. We must truly value this awesome gift.

What a day! Our God is still on His throne. We have the authority of Jesus Christ in our Church. And together as the united body of Christ, we must labor for the Master. "Rich blessings do await you, and God will give you faith; you shall be crowned with glory and triumph over death; and soon you'll come to Zion bearing your many sheaves, no more to taste of sorrow, but glorious crowns receive."

P.S. At 6:30 AM, March 28, 1998, Sister Rose Palacios awoke and told her husband, Brother Frank Palacios, before he left for conference in Youngstown, "I dreamed that I saw Brother Joe Genaro speak in tongues and also a vision was seen by Brother Mike Nuzzi."

She felt to continue her fast from Friday, and prayed for the brothers to have a peaceful conference. Afterwards, she went to sleep and dreamed a second dream.

"I dreamed where God had spoken to a brother and told him, 'Tell my people to stay close to me. There is no other church. This is my Church. I've told my people many times, this is my Church, there is no other. Stay close to me that I might deliver you in the time of your need. The work is great before you, serve me.'"

## A Commentary on 2 Chronicles 7:14

Continued from Page 3

and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

"Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

"And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

"Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (Deut. 8:11-14).

Following are the commandments which the Lord gave concerning the deportment of kings:

"When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

"Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

"But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

"Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

"And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

"That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his king-

dom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel" (Deut. 17:14-20).

I suggest that the reader digest the above words before reading on.

(To Be Continued)

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

own hand, reached out and saved Peter from a watery grave. Who was Peter's life support? Who lifted him up? Who snatched him from death? None other than our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He was Peter's Saviour. He is our Saviour. He is the Saviour of the whole world.

There is another element and source of support for us in this world. What is it? Who is it? The answer lies within each of us. We are that other element and source of support. We need to support one another. We need to rely on each other for support, assistance and help. We cannot do it by ourselves. We need one another's prayers. Each of us needs the prayers, love and support of our brothers and sisters.

The scriptures ask us if we are willing to mourn with those that mourn? Are we willing to comfort those in need of comfort? The scriptures instruct us to bear one another's burdens. We are instructed to provide for the needy and to feed the hungry. We are instructed if a man is overtaken in a fault, we are to restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, always considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted. We are to help those who have become weak and lost their way. The Apostle Paul instructs us to warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, and be patient towards all men. He continues his instruction to include sharing the fruits of our labors to support the weak. Remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Let us look to the Lord for our health, our strength and our support. Let us help one another through the trials of life. Let us be an asset and support to one another. Let us be an asset to the Lord. Let us support His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ROSE RISOLA

Sister Rose Risola, passed on to her heavenly reward on June 27, 1998. She was a member of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. Sister Risola was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Sam Risola. She is survived by three sons, Brother Sam Risola, Dominick Risola and Paul Risola; one daughter, Sister Florence Lombardo; one brother, Brother Paul Scala; three sisters, Sisters Teresa Siano, Mary Vinci and Sophia Van Bree; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### JAMES LAWRENCE KING

Brother James Lawrence King of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on May 28, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Sister Betty L. Wilson-King; two daughters, Donna Jean King and Patricia King; three sons, James L. King, Jr., Brother John A. King, and Jeffrey A. King; one brother, Charles E. King, one sister, Sister Katherine King; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### ORON W. THOMAS

Oron W. Thomas passed away to his eternal reward on April 11, 1998. He attended the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. He is survived by his mother, Sister Ethel Thomas;

one sister, Katheryn Thomas Jones; five brothers, Brother John Thomas, Curtis Thomas, David Thomas, Larry Thomas and Raymond Thomas.

### RICHARD BENYOLA

Brother Richard Benyola passed away to his heavenly reward on May 25, 1998. He was a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. Brother Richard is survived by his mother, Sister Mary Benyola; one brother, Brother Leonard Benyola; one sister, Sister Maryann Graham; two nieces and two nephews.

### ALDORA L. CARSON

Sister Aldora Carson passed away to her heavenly reward on July 17, 1998. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Aldora was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest A. Carson and her son, Dennis Carson. She is survived by one son, Ernest A. Carson, Jr.; two daughters, Jacqueline Nader and Gayle Westbrook; one sister, Elsie Davis; three brothers, Martin, David and Robert Thompson; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

## \* WEDDING \*

Sister Heather Rose Davis and Derek John David were united in holy matrimony in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on May 9, 1998.

## Birth Announcement

Anthony Ottavio DiNardo was born on April 3, 1998. He is the son of Anthony and Donna DiNardo of the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

## Children Blessed

Lily Eileen Obradovich, daughter of Dane and Kelly Obradovich was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on April 12, 1998.

Maria Elena Valenti, daughter of Brother Jerry and Sister Pat Valenti, was blessed in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch on July 5, 1998.

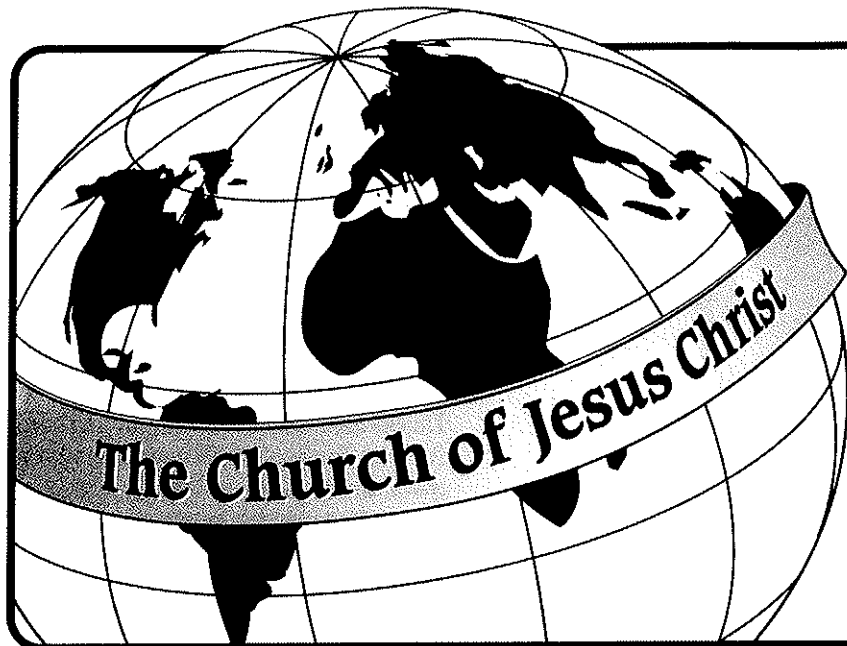
### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 1998

Volume 54, No. 10

## Green Oak, Pennsylvania Birthplace of The Church of Jesus Christ

*By Brother Richard L. Scaglione, Jr.*

"The Church of Jesus Christ was organized at Green Oak (Greenock) Pennsylvania in July of 1862." Brother William H. Cadman continues in the editorial column of the July 1962 *Gospel News*, "Our brethren and sisters assembled in conference on July 5, 6, 7, 8 in 1862 in our church building on the bank of the Youghiogheny River, at Green Oak . . . and organized The Church of Jesus Christ, whose headquarters are at Monongahela City, Pennsylvania at this present date . . ." This is our spiritual heritage; the birthplace of The Church of Jesus Christ as organized by William Bickerton.

After studying the establishment, apostasy and restoration of the Church in MBA class in Herndon, Virginia, we began to read our Church history. As we read the account, recorded on page number 111, of Brothers Alexander Cherry and Charles Ashton locating the foundation of the old Green Oak church building on July 9, 1907, a desire began to swell in my chest. I wanted to see the place where it all began. There is not much information recorded, but what I found was

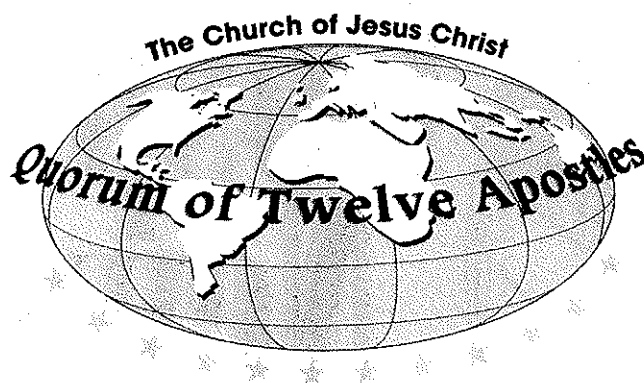
helpful.

The Green Oak Church building burned down just hours after a conference in 1871 and was never rebuilt. The property was sold in 1874. When our brothers found the site in 1907, it was owned by the Pennsylvania McKeesport Railroad. It took them about thirty minutes to locate the foundation. Brother W. H. Cadman found the location, "possibly six or eight miles from the city of McKeesport," in the summer of 1961. He writes that "the place was so badly grown up with bush, that hardly any trace of the building could be found." With this information in hand and a prayer in our hearts, my wife, Sister Jessie and I set out for the Allegheny County Building to do some research. We knew if we started with land that the railroad owned in the early 1900's in the McKeesport area we could narrow it down from there. We began our search on July 9, 1998 and knew that it would not be easy to find the location of a building that stood for such a brief time over 136 years ago. What happened next was nothing short of a miracle.

When we purchased a detailed

map of the area and found some possible locations, we decided to go to the town of Greenock to see what we could find instead of searching through the county land records. As we passed through town we saw a building, the Elizabeth Township Historical Society, and decided to stop. We noticed the building was closed but knocked anyway. The woman that eventually came to the door informed us the building was closed for the summer for repairs, but would reopen in September. While we stood there discussing what we would do next, she added, "The Executive Director is upstairs if you would like to speak with him." We went upstairs and introduced ourselves to an elderly gentleman sitting at a large table leafing through an old book. I told him that we were looking for the location of a church building that stood on the bank of the river in the mid 1800's. He immediately replied, "Do you mean the old Mormon Church?" I began to briefly explain the history of the Church when he interrupted, "The church is still in existence with a headquarters building in Monongahela. I know exactly where it was!" Jessie and I stood there in awe as he gave us exact directions to the spot where the old Green Oak church building once stood. He informed us that the foundation was removed in the 1930's by the railroad

(Continued on Page 6)



## A Commentary on 2 Chronicles 7:14

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

### PART II

Solomon prayed for wisdom in his early years as a king, and God blessed him with wisdom beyond his request (2 Chron. 1:10-11). God also made him very rich. But in a short time Solomon forgot the precepts of kings (Deut. 17:14-20), and broke every one of them. The commandments which he violated and dishonored will be taken one by one.



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

1. "He shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way" (Deut. 17:16).

Solomon had more horses and

chariots than any ruler on earth. He sent men to Egypt for horses against God's Word.

"And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen" (1 Kings 4:26a).

"And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem" (1 Kings 10:26).

2. "Forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."

Solomon was commanded never to go back to Egypt or send anyone there for anything, yet he did contrary to the Lord's wishes. It is written: "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself" (V. 17).

Solomon broke this commandment. He married Pharaoh's daughter. The Bible says:

"And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about" (1 Kings 3:1).

In Hebrew, the word *affinity* is *chathan* which means: making contract for marriage(s).

Contrary to the Lord's commandment, Solomon not only sent to Egypt for his wife, but he built her a house that was equal in splendor to the House of God.

"And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon

made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch" (1 Kings 7:8).

He at least had the good sense not to let his wife live in the city of David. It is recorded:

"And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come" (2 Chron. 8:11).

3. "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold" (Deut. 17:17a).

Solomon had more wives and concubines than any other king on the face of the earth.

"And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart" (1 Kings 11:3).

Solomon didn't waste his time on ordinary women. His three hundred wives were all princesses.

In condemning the act of Solomon, the Book of Mormon reads: "Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord" (Jacob 2:24).

4. "Neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold" (Deut. 17:17b).

Solomon amassed riches beyond any king or nation. It is written:

"And she (Queen of Sheba) gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

"And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.

"And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

"And king Solomon gave unto

the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

"Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold.

"Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country.

"And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target.

"And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

"Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.

"The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

"And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

"And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

"For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and the apes, and peacocks.

"So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom" (1 Kings 10:10-23).

In terms of today's monetary value, Solomon's yearly income was in the hundreds of millions of dollars. It staggers the imagination just to think about his wealth. All of this was contrary to the commandment of God concerning the "precept of kings" (Deut. 17:14-20).

Solomon committed and con-

doned idolatry. He permitted his wives and concubines to worship strange gods.

"Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father" (1 Kings 2 and 4).

Solomon became so arrogant that he placed himself above all other men. He was not accountable to anyone. He did as he pleased. All fear of God left him. This begs an important question: "Why didn't God punish him as He had others for breaking His commandments?"

The scriptures are silent on this question. However, they speak loudly and clearly on the punishment that would follow him and his posterity. At the dedication, the Lord accepted Solomon's prayer and all of their burnt offerings and sacrifices, but one shudders at the punishment in reserve if His commandments would be broken. It is recorded:

"And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

"Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.

"And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say,

Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?

"And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them" (2 Chronicles 7:17-22).

(To Be Continued)

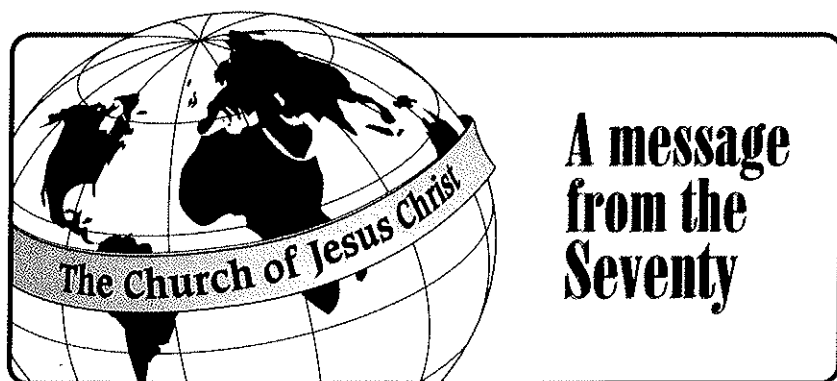
## A Day With the Saints

*By Sister Crystal Morris*

A day with the saints is like spending the day with Christ, not just in spirit but in flesh. It is a day of joy, love and peace. Forgiveness for all who have hurt you and forgiveness from God. It is a day of rejoicing and singing praises. It is a day of feasting from the Lord's table. Nothing can match a day with the saints. Don't we wish we felt this way all the time? Our spouses and friends are the saints, shouldn't we feel this way with them? Oh, a day with the saints. Let's rejoice and have another day with the saints.

## Publication Notice

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## The Church Registered in Poland

By Evangelist Joel Gehly

*(Evangelists Phil Jackson and Joel Gehly left Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Monday afternoon last July 27 for a ten-day Foreign Missionary Operating Committee trip to Poland where the Lord provided for their needs and made it possible for The Church of Jesus Christ to be registered in that nation. The following report, written by Brother Gehly, informs us of the wonderful progress that was made.— Evangelist Editor's note)*

We arrived in Poland on Tuesday morning, tired but excited to once again be with our Brother Edward and Sister Kathryn Spyra. Brother Edward and his friend, Mariusz, met us at the airport which began a ten day visit that was full of activity.

The agenda for our time there was long and varied. Spiritual considerations were, as always, most important. How were our Brother and Sister Spyra doing spiritually? What progress has been made in sharing the Gospel with people? What was the spiritual status of the two young men with whom we shared the Gospel on our last visit? Beginning the process of official "Church" registration was also of immediate focus.

Natural items included renting an apartment on the outskirts of Warsaw for a "Church" meeting place and assisting Brother Richard and Sister Kathryn in moving and settling into the Warsaw area. Following are details of the various key items.

### CHURCH REGISTRATION

The work of God was very evident in the registration. Numerous documents from the United States were needed in the Polish language, and this translation was accomplished within the first two days. The attorney, who was retained for help and counsel, advised us on a number of items and made important telephone calls to the Ministry of Religion on our behalf.

On Thursday, we found out that our documentation had been approved and that The Church of Jesus Christ was registered. The official documentation will be sent to the United States

and is to be effective as of September 1, 1998. What a tremendous miracle! God can do all things!!

Normally, registration can take anywhere from four months to a year, or even more. God accomplished the registration for us in one day! Registration allows us to officially operate as a Church organization: that is, establishing meeting locations, proselytizing, baptizing, and attending to other Church matters. The official registration in Poland will also save the Church the 22% tax on all items purchased or sent to Poland and to save on custom duties on items sent to the country.

### SPIRITUAL STATUS

Brother Edward and Sister Kathryn are doing well spiritually. They continue to share their testimony and have two young men and one young couple interested in hearing more about the Gospel. We spent time on Saturday evening with the three young men, answering questions about the Church, and they were also present on Sunday for the service.

On Sunday, we had a teaching/preaching meeting, followed by Communion and a time of fellowship. One young man, Thomas, is very close

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Karmel, Thomas, Sister Kathryn and Brother Edward Spyra, Mariusz, and Brother Phil Jackson.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovaivo

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**  
David Lovaivo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**  
John Ford  
1924 16th Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

**PACIFIC**  
Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

How many times in your life have you heard it said, "Nothing in life is free?" There is no doubt you have heard this quite often. You probably cannot count the number of times you heard this saying. Is this true that nothing in life is free? Not according to the scriptures.

What is free? What is available to you at no charge? Is there anything in life within your reach that does not require any monetary payment? Yes there is! It is salvation!

The scriptures declare that salvation is free! It is available at absolutely no cost to you. There is no charge. There is no down payment. There are no installment payments. There is no impact on your wallet, bank accounts, whether savings or checking. Salvation is free! It always was and always will be free! Jesus Christ will never charge you for this great gift!

What is salvation? It can be defined as the deliverance of one's soul from the power and penalty of sin. It is redemption from one's transgressions against the laws and commandments of God and Jesus Christ. Imagine! This is free! What a gift! Remember, Jesus Christ paid for this gift with His life! What a price! Oh, what a price!

One might think that salvation would cost a great deal of money. Yet, Jesus Christ has made it possible for all to obtain salvation. Even the poorest on earth, the penniless, can obtain His salvation. How? By simply rendering obedience to His commandments. This is done through faith, repentance, baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost and enduring to the very end. It is done through obedience to Jesus Christ and His precious Gospel! His words, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." How true! How glorious!

Throughout scripture, Jesus Christ declared His message of salvation and never associated any price or price tag with salvation. The Kingdom of God, your own mansion in the glory of heaven does not require any monies, any payment. Just think; no cost, no money!

We read in Isaiah 55:1-3, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

This beautiful scripture, written centuries ago still applies in our time. Read it carefully. It represents a divine pleading to all. It depicts that there is no profit in sin. You will readily see that Jesus Christ offers His salvation to everyone, a universal call, and it is there with no need of money and no price is associated with it. The invitation is to all those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Your thirst will be quenched; your hunger satisfied by that spiritual water and food from the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you had water from His well? Have you eaten from His table? You will also note that His salvation will cause a fatness of your soul. This spiritual fullness comes without charge. It is a marvelous gift that is only given by Jesus Christ. It is His and His alone to give. He will give it freely. If you want it, it can be yours. Ask, and ye shall receive!

Lehi in his wonderful address to his son Jacob, II Nephi 2nd chapter, makes it very clear that Jesus Christ would come to bring salvation to the entire world. Lehi told Jacob that the way was prepared from the very beginning, from the very fall of man, and that salvation is free. This is amplified in Helaman, 8th chapter when Alma instructs his son Helaman that many were ordained after the order of the Son of God long before Abraham. Why? So redemption, so salvation would be available to them! What a great God! What a wonderful Saviour!

The scriptures are full of accounts concerning the miracles of God and Jesus Christ. Some

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wanted a special toy really badly and been so happy to get it? After a few weeks, days, or even hours, have you ever gotten tired of it and wished for something else? Or, did you ever really want to go somewhere and once you were there felt bored or sad and wished it was over?

Not only kids feel like this. At some times, all humans do these things. Adults will plan and think and buy a new vacation house, or new car or beautiful piece of jewelry just to find out later that none of them bring lasting happiness.

No matter how rich you are, someone else is richer! Or, it takes all your time to watch and plan for the money to grow, so life becomes a constant worry. Because, money can always be lost. Investments can go down instead of up.

No matter how smart you are, someone else is always smarter. Or, there are new inventions needing to be studied and learned about. No matter how strong you are, you will still physically age. All bodies wear out. So even physical strength is something that can be lost.

Or, what if your family is having big problems that are not your fault and you feel scared and worried? What can you do? Whom can you tell? What if someone you love is sick or going to die?

Do you know what you can do? Do you know where you can go when your heart feels sick inside you? The answer is—go to Jesus. You go to Him in your mind with a prayer and in your heart with all your feelings.

The Book of Mormon explains to us that “Adam [from Adam and Eve]



fell [made the mistake of tasting from the tree of knowledge and disobeying God] that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy” (II Nephi 2:25).

Moroni tells us that He (Christ) is “the same, yesterday, today and forever.”

So, it really is a big part of God’s plan for us humans to deeply feel joy. It is also part of God’s plan for us to take our cares to Jesus.

Next time you are feeling overwhelmed by the problems of life, imagine yourself quietly (or loudly) telling Jesus all about them. Imagine just handing over all these problems to Jesus to deal with. Have faith; He can solve any troubles. Have hope and trust He will do it. Then trust Him. Love others. Jesus can work out everything.

With care,  
Sister Jan

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## WORD SEARCH

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## Green Oak, Pennsylvania

Continued from Page 1

and showed us the information on The Church of Jesus Christ recorded in the book “Between Two Rivers,” the history of Elizabeth Township. He also told us that our Church history was in their library and somewhere they have a picture of a church building in Wakpala, South Dakota that bears a sign which states it was organized in Green Oak, PA. He was surprised when I told him that, as a child, my parents were missionaries there and the church at Wakpala was a part of the same organization. After offering our thanks and promising to furnish him with a more accurate history for their book, we anxiously followed his directions.

The directions we were given led us to a heavily wooded lot located on the bank of the Youghiogheny River. It was so heavily wooded we could not walk through, but proceeded down the hill closer to the river on an adjacent property. With the foundation removed, I wondered, how could we ever confirm the location. As we gazed through the large old trees, we noticed a spot in the center of the lot that was grown up with weeds almost five feet high, but there were no trees. The sun shown brightly down directly on the spot. No doubt this is where the building once stood. After offering a prayer of thanks, we just stared at the spot. I believe it was no coincidence that we found the location on July 9th, exactly ninety-one years after Brothers

(Continued on Page 10)

Mark your calendars now and get your vacation plans going for  
The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference  
on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University. It's going to be a  
memorable time that you're sure to hold dear to your heart.

# OKAY, YOU'RE HUMAN. SO HERE'S ANOTHER REMINDER.

103

D.R.

## Remind Me, Dear Lord

Dottie Rambo

1. The things that I love and hold dear to my heart Are just  
2. Noth-ing good have I done to de-serve God's own Son, I'm not

bor-rowed, they're not mine at all;  
wor-thy of the scars in His hands; Je-sus on-ly let me  
Yet He chose the road to

use them to brigh-ten my life, So re-mind me, re-mind me, dear Lord.  
Cal-v'ry to die in my stead-Why He loved me, I can't un-der-stand.

CHORUS

Roll back the cur-tain of mem-'ry now



## Branch and Mission News

### Greetings from Gastonia, NC

By Sister Vera Jackman

Our Gastonia, North Carolina Mission has been blessed with many visits from members of the Priesthood during the past several months.

The Lord has a way of sending sunshine to our small mission at every meeting. Praise the Lord for His lasting gifts.

On April 26, 1998, Brother Art Gehly spoke of what the power of God can do for you and how to receive His blessings. After Brother Gehly's sermon, we sang continual praises to our Lord and Savior. What a spirit of singing!

At the close of the meeting, we enjoyed the fellowship with one another over lunch before we traveled to our distant homes.

My prayer for you is that each one will look upward and always find a rainbow everywhere. Please come and visit us. You are all welcome! God bless you all.

### Ordinations in Aliquippa, PA

By Brother David W. DeLuca

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch added three more workers for the great work of the Lord. Brother John Mark D'Antonio was ordained into the office of a Teacher and Sisters Janet Gibson and Wendy Giannetti were ordained into the office of a Deaconess. On May 3, 1998, we experienced the blessings of the Lord and the fellowship of the saints from many parts of the vineyard. There were several visitors from the following regions: Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Sister Marilyn Scolaro from

Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, sang the opening hymn, *For Those Tears I Died*. Apostle Peter Scolaro was the opening speaker and he issued the challenge for serving the Lord on a daily basis. The Church is for everyone whether you were born and raised in the Church or you were introduced to the Church. We all have the same baptism and we serve the same Lord. He used Matthew 11:28 as his opening scripture, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He stated that we accept the people in the Church because of the Gospel. The plan of God is to bring man back into His presence; as a result, everything in our lives is temporary and life with the Lord is eternal. He cited two examples in the scriptures. The first one was Jesus walking on the water. Peter was able to follow Him because he believed, then after he realized his human weakness, he started to sink, but the Lord was there for him. The second example was Peter's imprisonment by Herod. An angel of the Lord delivered Peter. He used the comparison of our everyday struggle to believe in the Spirit of the Lord. We go after those things that we desire in life; as a result, we should take up the yoke of the Lord and serve Him with all of our strength.

Brother Peter was followed by Brother Mark Naro from Lorain, Ohio. He used the comparison of people in prison not having any liberty and the lives of the saints having the liberty to serve the Lord. Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., followed with the admonishment of not letting anything cut us off from serving the Lord. We serve a living God who assures us by being with us in our lives. The Lord can do anything, but the greatest miracle is the healing of the soul. Brother Tony Ricci closed the morning meeting with the analogy of the report of the spies in the Old Testament. He encouraged us to always come back with a good report before the Lord.

Everyone gathered for lunch and a wonderful time of fellowship. We convened upstairs for the afternoon meeting where Brother Bruce Picciuto honored us with a musical selection, *In the Garden*. Apostle Paul Palmieri

opened the afternoon meeting and he referred to Romans 16:1. He referred to the life of the servant, Phebe. She was a good worker for the Lord and he stated that the verse in the Italian translation of the Bible uses the word, Deaconess.

The brother and sisters were set aside to be ordained. Brother Sela Palmieri washed Brother John Mark's feet and he was ordained into the office of a Teacher by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. Sister Joyceann Jumper washed Sister Wendy Giannetti's feet and she was ordained by Brother Chuck Jumper. Sister Mary Ross washed Sister Janet Gibson's feet and she was ordained by her natural and spiritual brother, Don Ross.

They all testified of the Lord working in each of their lives. The brothers read the confirming experiences for the callings and we witnessed the Spirit of the Lord in our presence. We thank the Lord for these callings and we pray He continues to work in our branch.

### Ordinations in Omaha, NE

By Sister Dorothy M. Miller

Three members of the Omaha, Nebraska—Bedford, Iowa Mission were called to labor; Brother Todd Wright to the office of Teacher, and Sisters Mary Harris and Valarie Wells to the office of Deaconess.

Brother Wayne Martorana from Niles, Ohio; Brother English Webb from Clairton, Pennsylvania; Brother Al Wiley from Quincy, Florida; and Brother Mitchell and Sister Vera Edwards and Brother Alphonso Hopkins from South Bend, Indiana traveled to Omaha to share in the blessings of the ordinations the weekend of May 9-10, 1998.

We began the weekend with a fast and prayer service on Saturday morning. Brother Wayne introduced the service using the theme hymn, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*. Prayers were offered requesting God's direction for the ordination service and thanking Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our efforts to

promote the Gospel in the Omaha area. God has truly blessed and protected our Mission, and for our growth we give Him all the honor and praise because in the missionary work of spreading the Gospel, the learning is in the doing where you find that with God all things are possible, and without God's direction, you can do nothing.

During the Saturday evening preaching service, the brothers admonished us to prepare ourselves for the latter-day work in Zion. We must be vessels of gold, allowing God to strengthen our minds with the written word. Our prayers, even as Nephi's prayer, should show our relationship to the Father whom we worship in spirit and in truth.

Sunday, which was Mother's Day, dawned bright and beautiful and we all gathered with much anticipation knowing that God was going to bless us. We were excited to see many visitors from the Omaha area because we know that God was giving them a chance to not only hear the Gospel preached but also to see how God ordains those whom He calls to service. Brother Clifton Wells, our Presiding Elder, welcomed all present and thanked our visiting members for their efforts and desires to be with us. Brother Wayne opened the service by recognizing the mothers present, thanking God for their contributions. He used as his text, Jeremiah 1:4-10, to explain how God knows our desires and capabilities even before we are called, and how God uses these offices to spread the Gospel and keep order in the Church.

Brother Mitchell followed giving testimony to his calling into the Ministry exhorting those to be ordained not to take the calling for granted, but to labor in the office that they may reap the reward. Brother Clifton spoke concerning the higher calling and responsibility of The Church of Jesus Christ because the spirit of truth has given us to know that in these last days, God is using us to build His Kingdom on earth even as it is in heaven.

Brother Todd Wright was called forward and set apart by his feet being washed by Brother Clifton Wells.

While his feet were being washed, Brother Wayne Martorana heard these words spoken, "All that was promised the saints shall be given." After the Elders prayed for direction, Brother Todd was ordained into the office of Teacher by Brother Mitchell Edwards.

Sister Mary J. Harris and Sister Valarie Wells were called forward and set apart by their feet being washed by Sister Dorothy Miller. After the Elders prayed for direction, Sister Valarie Wells was ordained by Brother Wayne and Sister Mary was ordained by Brother English Webb into the office of Deaconess.

It was manifested by God's Spirit that His wisdom, nurturing and direction requested in the prayers offered would rest upon the efforts to spread the Gospel in the Omaha area.

During testimony service, Brother English Webb told of his experience of how God "indicted" or charged him in 1981 with the commandment to go to Omaha and remain here for two years; during which time God used him to firm up the foundation of His work which was started in 1970 with the promise that "there would always be a remnant of His work in this part of His vineyard."

After sacrament and a beautiful spirit of testimony from our newly-ordained officers and from members and friends, *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*, was used as our closing hymn with Brother Calvin Matthews offering the closing prayer.

Remember Brother Todd, Sister Mary and Sister Valarie in your prayers as they begin to serve in their respective offices. They are young tender souls who have rendered obedience to the Gospel and are willing to stand on the "frontlines" for the Lord.

## Blessings from Forest Hills Branch, Holiday, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

The pure white ribbon that was seen connecting the branches and missions extended to the complete

unification of the Forest Hills membership. The Lord provided a series of blessings leading up to the General Church Fast and Prayer Day. We opened our Sunday School meeting on January 25, 1998 by singing hymn #79, in the *Songs of Zion, My Lord Can*. Our teacher, Brother Scott Griffith, opened the Sunday School in the spirit by speaking about fast and prayer and reading portions of the letter that came from the Apostles. He gave scriptural references on the importance of fast and prayer and how we should be humble when performing this beautiful ordinance. He then spoke about the recent FMOC meeting in Cape Coral and how there is progress of the Church going to many foreign lands. Brother Dewayne Eutsey commented on how sometimes it is easier to spread the Gospel in foreign lands than in our own backyards. Immediately after that statement, Brother John Griffith spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was, "The time of the latter-day glory is soon at hand." We then discussed what latter-day glory was and a reference was given to Revelation 21:22-27. Sister Carolyn Griffith also related a dream she had several years ago concerning the destruction.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., opened the meeting by reading the letter from the Apostles and commented on its importance. Brother Jim Speck then followed, testifying of a dream he had the previous night.

"I found myself in a small but beautiful clean building where I felt comfortable and secure. There was a force beaoning me to open the door and go out in the street, which I did. I walked down the street and found myself in water. As I proceeded further the water became deeper until it was over my waist. At this point, I turned to go back to the beautiful building but found it harder and harder to make it. As I kept trying to return, I became hungry and tired and noted that there were stores and motels on either side of my path. I inquired if they would help me get back to my building, but they would not help unless I paid.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Blessings from Forest Hills Branch, Holiday, FL

Continued from Page 9

At this point, I found that I had left my wallet back at the building and did not have the substance to pay what they wanted. At this point, I realized that the substance and rest that I needed was at the building I had left and I continued to struggle through the water to get back to the comfort of the beautiful building."

In discussing this dream with the Priesthood of the branch, it was determined that this is yet another warning from the Lord. We should continue to be ever cautious of the enemy of our soul and keep that door closed against the Prince of Darkness, and try all spirits.

Brother Phil Benyola, Sr., stated that while he was driving to Church, he listened to a song entitled, *When I Walked Into This Room, I Felt His Presence*. He said he truly felt that way when he walked into the branch that morning. Brother Phil then read a poem entitled, "Wait" that he received over the Church email list.

Brother John Griffith closed the preaching service by reading Isaiah 24:1 and 6 and various scriptures that prophesy of events in these, the latter days.

The blessings did not cease on Sunday. The branch met on Wednesday evening for fast and prayer. Prior to uniting in prayer, we recapped the blessings we just received and spoke of what we should petition the Lord for in our prayers. Brother John Griffith stated how the missionary committee felt great progress taking place among the Seed of Joseph. As he was speaking, Sister Pearl Zinzi quickly glanced up and saw a Personage behind him sitting upon a throne.

While in prayer, Sister Pearl mentioned her son Nick's desire to fast and pray on Saturday with The Church of Jesus Christ. Nick has progressive multiple sclerosis and requires nurses aides to take care of him. Truly his desire touched the congregation as we have been praying for quite a while on his behalf. As Brother Dan Risola was

praying concerning Nick, Brother John heard the words of the Lord, "I have not forgotten him."

Saturday, January 31, the branch met again for General Church fast and prayer. Many prayers were offered for the sick and afflicted and the needs of the Church worldwide and especially among the branch as we progress in our new building project. During the service, Brother Jim Speck said that he had words come to him, "We thank you Lord for the spirit of unity felt this evening."

The Lord greatly blessed our membership during this time of fast and prayer. Please remember us in your prayers that we may continue to keep that unity among the branch and preserve the pureness of that white ribbon so Jesus may come and claim His bride.

## Green Oak, Pennsylvania

Continued from Page 6

Cherry and Ashton. An overwhelming feeling came over me as I realized the foundation of the building had been removed, but the foundation that was laid on this site is still in existence today and will never pass away. It is the foundation of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

After His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people that "... whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24). Every child knows from Sunday School that this house stood firm when the tempest came. A firm and unmovable foundation was critical in the subsistence of this "house." If a person applies the teachings of Jesus Christ to their life this becomes a spiritual promise.

When Christ appeared to the people on the land of America after His resurrection, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, there was a disputation among them concerning what to name the Church. He quickly resolved this dispute, telling them it should be named after Him. Continuing, the Lord said, "... but if it (the Church) be called in my name then it is my

church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel." (III Nephi 27:8) The Gospel of Jesus Christ "is" the sure foundation. If we stand firm on this foundation, we have a promise that whatever storms come our way, our Saviour will not let us down. His rock shall stand forever. If we remain standing on "the rock," the foundation of the Restored Gospel, we too shall stand forever.

Recently, during one of our meetings as one of the Elders was preaching, the Lord permitted a sister to see that our brother was much larger in stature than he actually is. This brother was standing on the foundation of the Gospel he was preaching. He was not standing on his own; his words were that of the doctrine of Jesus Christ. He was standing on the firm foundation. This foundation will never pass away, fail or even be moved. Let us each build our lives on this sure foundation with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone. In the words of Helaman to his two sons, Lehi and Nephi, "And now my sons, 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, his shafts in the whirlwind, 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 the sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall" (Helaman 5:12). This is the foundation of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ organized in July of 1862 in Green Oak, Pennsylvania.

## Church Registered in Poland

Continued from Page 4

to baptism. He is very inquisitive and thoughtful, with a very nice spirit. We need to pray for him and the others, Mariusz and Karmel.

They all expressed a need for the Book of Mormon in the Polish language. They were instructed to study

with Brother Edward, with Edward reading from our English Book of Mormon. We took many pieces of Church literature with us for the young mission. It is all in English, however, and currently only Brother Edward and Sister Kathryn can read English. Our intent is to at least have the *Faith and Doctrine* translated into the Polish language at our earliest opportunity.

#### CHURCH MEETING PLACE

A very accommodating apartment has been rented on the outskirts of Warsaw. It has a large room for holding Church services, where we had the very nice service on Sunday.

The apartment will also be the living quarters for the Spyra family. There is also room for brothers (or a husband/wife team) to stay when they travel to Poland, thus saving hotel expenses in the future.

Primarily, the apartment gives the Church a much needed place of worship. Brother Edward, an ordained Teacher, will hold a teaching meeting every week on Sunday.

This trip was certainly not without problems and obstacles. Through it all, however, we were able to accomplish many of the things that we had planned to do. The Church in Poland is established, and we are ready to

press forward with a great effort to see what God has in His plan for His people.

We intend to involve as many as possible from the FMOC and elsewhere in this work to keep the momentum moving forward. God reinforced to us on this trip that He is in charge and can work out the most impossible problems.

Since our return from Poland and at the time of this writing, meetings have been held in the "Poland Mission," with at least three additional new people in attendance.

Please keep this work in your prayers.

#### Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

miracles were healings of the body. Many miracles were healings of the soul. Please consider a few of the following miracles.

The Lord healed every sickness that existed in the multitude in the land of America. He raised Jairus's daughter. He healed the woman with the issue of blood. He healed two blind men. He healed a man who suffered from palsy. He healed those possessed of demoniac spirits. He fed thousands with a few fish and a few loaves of bread. He healed the centurion's

servant. He healed a man that was sick with dropsy. He resurrected Lazarus. He forgave the thief on the cross. He extended salvation to the house of Zacchaeus. He forgave the woman at the well. He forgave Peter his denial that he knew Jesus Christ. He spared the more righteous on the land of America. He miraculously provided Communion, bread and wine, to a congregation during His visit on the land of America. All these miracles and examples of the goodness of Jesus Christ were done at no expense to the recipients. These miracles were free of charge! His forgiveness, His salvation to those repentant souls was free of charge!

The Lord Jesus Christ did not sacrifice His life to charge an entrance fee into the Kingdom of God. He willingly gave His life to offer salvation to those who believe in Him, follow Him, keep His commandments and adhere to His doctrine. Salvation is available to you. Will you take advantage of His offer? Remember, His salvation is free!

#### Note of Thanks

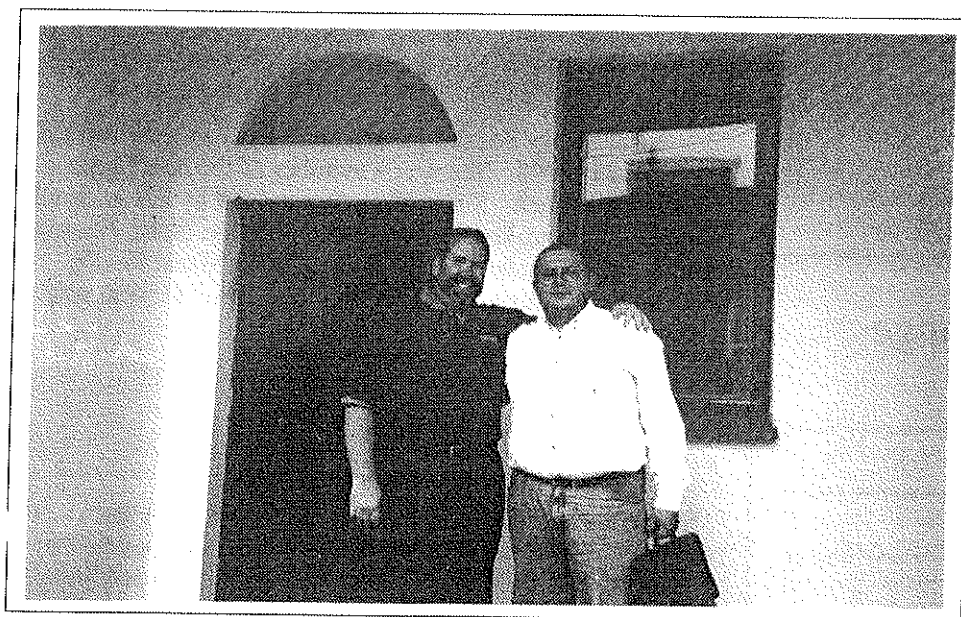
I would like to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends for the outpouring of love and concern in the recent loss of my husband, Brother Agostino (Gus) Giansante. The number of cards, flowers and prayers cannot be counted. My words cannot say enough or express the love and support from our glorious Church. Thank you and God bless you all.

Sister Antoinette Giansante

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Ciotti, Paul Jr., and Susan  
3004 Timbercreek Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
412-331-1064

Benyola, Philip Sr. and Linda  
5525 N. Pecos Terrace  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465  
352-527-4304



In front of Poland Mission House, Brother Phil Jackson and Brother Edward Spyra.

## Children Blessed

Sarah Ann Alessio, daughter of Brother Brian and Sister Lisa Alessio, was blessed in the San Diego, California Branch on June 14, 1998.

Lindsay Brooke Smith, daughter of Sister Nancy and Robert Smith, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on June 14, 1998.

Erik Juan Murillo, son of Salvador and Sister Nancy Murillo was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on August 23, 1998.

## Baptisms

William Snodgrass was baptized on August 9, 1998, in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Alexander Cherry and confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr.

Troy Allen Tate was baptized on June 28, 1998 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Michelle Lee Tate was baptized on July 26, 1998 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Joel Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Kenny Yanes was baptized on May 10, 1998 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri.

## Ordinations

Brother Karl Kenneth Kirschner of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on August 16, 1998. His feet were washed by Brother Jonathan Olexa and he was ordained by Brother Jim Moore, Jr.

Sister Joyce Ross of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ on August 16, 1998. Her feet were washed by Sister Arline Whitton and she was ordained by Brother Donald Ross.

Brother David DeLuca of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on August 30, 1998. His feet were washed by Brother Charles Jumper and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Ross.

## Obituaries

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

### AGOSTINO (GUS) GIANSAnte

Brother Agostino (Gus) Giansante passed on to his heavenly reward on May 12, 1998. He was a member of the Lockport, New York Mission. Brother Gus was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Antoinette Giansante; one brother, one sister as well as many nieces and nephews.

### MARY SACZKO

Sister Mary Saczko passed on to her heavenly reward on April 28, 1998. She was a member of the San Diego, California Branch. Sister Mary is survived by her husband, Brother Ray Saczko; four daughters, Sharon Nold, Francine Ann Saczko, Sandra Lee Ford, and Diana Marie Koeth; four brothers, Silverio, Adam, Elio and Alma Coppa; and one sister, Eva Cain.

### MARY GAVAGHAN-DAWSON

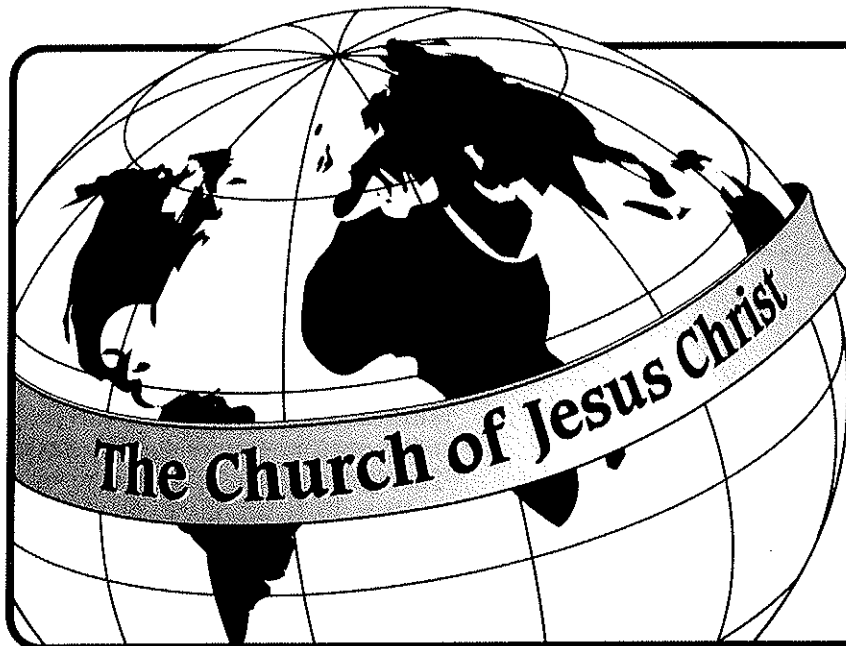
Sister Mary Gavaghan-Dawson of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on July 13, 1998. She is survived by her husband, Wilfred Dawson; two daughters, Colleen Christy and Mary Jane Suttis; one son, James Gavaghan; two sisters, Sisters Dorothy Schaeffer and Margaret Johnson and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

November, 1998

Volume 54, No. 11

## “How Could I Ever Sufficiently Praise Him”

### My Testimony

*By Sister Patty Kerby*

In December 1991, my husband Jim was involved in a traffic accident. Because he had driven himself home, I did not realize the extent of his injuries. I did not know, from that point, how his and our lives would change. The car needed some repair work, but because of the make of the car and the sturdiness of it, it did not seem very bad.

About an hour or so after arriving home, my husband started saying that his back was beginning to hurt. I guess he was in shock before that and did not really feel any pain. I told him he better go to a doctor. He decided to go see the chiropractor that was in town. From that point, he began to have a lot of pain in his back, his hands, legs and feet.

He continued to see the chiropractor as well as having many other tests done from other doctors. They told him his injuries were substantial, but did not warrant surgery. He could not continue working in hard labor, as a carpenter, which was his trade.

My husband had a friend that was a lawyer and he contacted him after a few days. He consulted with

him about what he should do. Since the accident was not my husband's fault, a court appearance was necessary to get the other driver's insurance company to pay for my husband's doctor bills, which were rapidly mounting up. My husband was able to collect unemployment for a short time and with myself working, we paid our bills and house payment for a short time. Jim applied for V.A. disability, and after much time and doctor reports, he was told he was rated 60% disabled. This meant he could not build houses like he had been doing. So along with his constant back pain, he did not know how he was going to support his family.

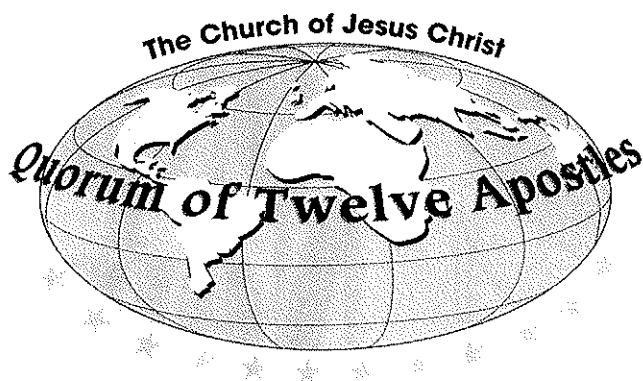
Now began the wonderful way God provided for us the next six years. My husband went to the chiropractor for about two years. He was also taking a lot of pain medication. After about nine months, we could not continue making house payments. Our bank made arrangements that we would not have to make any payments until we went to court. With Jim's disability checks, we were able to pay our other bills. After two years, my husband and his

lawyer went to court. We were awarded enough to pay the doctor bills, the lawyer fees and we received a small amount of money.

We realized that we had to try to sell the house. The bank had started foreclosure proceedings and we did not have the money to pay the back payments. I prayed to God to help us sell our home. We sold it in about three weeks time. This was a miracle. Our neighbors had been trying to sell their home for the past two years and they lost it and had to move. So in July 1991, we sold our home. My husband Jim still had a lot of pain and he decided he had to go into another line of work. The V.A. paid to retrain him to be a real estate appraiser. Our neighbor was an appraiser who ran his business from his home. He promised my husband a job.

So with the promise of a job and some money from the sale of our home, we were able to rent a home. God had provided another way for us again! After renting the home for fourteen months, the owners wanted to move back into it. They gave us three weeks to move! What was I to do? No one would rent to us. We did not have enough money coming in to show we could pay our bills. I started to look for a place to live. We were turned down. They refused to rent

(Continued on Page 11)



## A Commentary on 2 Chronicles 7:14

*By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo*

### PART III AND CONCLUSION

Solomon reveled in his power, heedless of the Lord's commandments. He taxed and laid burdens upon Israel which were unbearable (1 Kings 12:4); he enjoyed his dissolute life of adultery, wealth and idolatry until he was too old to engage in its sensuality. Then, and then only he proclaims, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Certainly! There was



**Apostle V. James Lovalvo**

nothing that he had not experienced. Now that he was in his final days, he realized that all the sinful pleasures he had engaged in were only to satisfy and gratify his vanity.

Let not the reader forget God's threat to Solomon (mentioned above), if he and the people should transgress

His commandments. The Lord's warning came to pass with a vengeance. I know that God is judge and jury, but this question is important: "Why wasn't Solomon punished personally as others had been before him?" He broke every commandment given by the Lord to govern kings, yet the scriptures are silent as to his personal punishment. However, an important factor has to be considered: Which is worse? To receive corporal punishment or have the wrath of God fall upon his posterity and land? The answer is clear. It would have been better for Solomon to be punished rather than his family and the land and nation he ruled.

Solomon's son, Rehoboam was an evil man. He caused Israel to sin; he laid heavier burdens upon the people than his father; the land became polluted, and eventually the Temple was destroyed according to God's word (2 Chron. 7:19-22).

Again I say that God is judge, not man. Solomon was truly an enigma. The Lord gave him wisdom above all other men. Under his reign, Israel had peace for many years. His fame as a wise man reached the extreme ends of the known world. Men and women of royal stature came to him from far and near for counsel and to see for themselves what had become a legend. Although he had excellent human wisdom, he fell far short of spiritual enlightenment. Despite his super intelligence and ruling acuity, the Lord did not forget Solomon's transgressions.

### THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

In reviewing 2 Chronicles 7:14,

one is overwhelmed with the disclosure of God to man. In His infinite foreknowledge, He approves the good which people do, although He knows that they will eventually break His commandments. Because He is God, He cannot deny His blessings whenever anything good is done or accomplished, though punishment will follow any transgression of His laws. His words to Cain, after he slew his brother, Abel, reflect His tolerance and punishment: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door" (Genesis 4:7ff).

The Lord accepted the house (Temple) which had been built, and promised His blessings upon it. He accepted the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the priests and people, by filling the Temple with His Spirit insomuch that no one could enter it. The people had a visual experience of God's acceptance of what they had accomplished in love.

Accompanied with His self-disclosure and acceptance of their work, there was however, a dire warning of what His wrath would bring upon them and the Temple if they should sin against His laws. One ponders why Solomon, as well as the people, didn't remember the punishment and destruction which befell those before them who sinned against the Lord. They should have remembered that in the days of their forefathers, crossing the desert was only an eleven day journey, but it took forty years to enter Canaan because they sinned against the Lord. They should have remembered how God punished King Saul for his transgression; and how David was punished for counting his military force, which sin caused the death of seventy thousand men the next day. Unfortunately, neither Solomon nor his people remembered those events. Because they forgot the past and transgressed God's commandments, their eventual punishment was grievous indeed.

It has always been the egotistic nature of man to believe that he will not fall into the same errors as his predecessors. Foolish man! History is replete with the consequences of

disobedience to God's laws and commandments. Nations which have risen to great heights have fallen because of breaking God's laws. Babylon, Medes and Persians, Roman and Greek Empires fell because of immorality and corruption, fruits of broken laws of God and nature. In modern times, it is no different. Rulers of nations have risen (all will arise) who have thought (and think) that they were (and are) better informed and equipped than their predecessors, only to experience misery, death and destruction. Will the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ride in the near future? May God help us all.

It is the same in the realms of religion. Christ established His Church in Jerusalem with the power and glory of His Spirit, and adorned it with gifts and blessings beyond description. But in process of time, His commandments were forgotten, changed and broken, giving birth to the apostasy.

The Reformation (Protestantism) came to light because men thought that they, the Catholic Church, were wrong and they could do better. The result was, at times, catastrophic. Catholics killed Protestants who slew Catholics in return. To worsen the era, Protestants warred against each other. History records that misery and death have followed because the Gospel of love and brotherhood became a gospel of hatred and the sword.

In the days of the Restoration (1820-30 A.D.), so-called Christians persecuted and killed other Christians because it was said that an angel from heaven, called Moroni, had delivered certain plates to a young man, Joseph Smith, who translated them by the gift and power of God. The translation was called the Book of Mormon. Prejudice, scorn and persecution followed. This happened in the United States of America which guarantees freedom of religion.

It grows worse. Today, religious prejudice is rampant. Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants are fighting for

supremacy. Islamic nations and Christian nations are wary of one another. And in the center of hatred, of course, is the Jewish nation. Yet every Creed has a theme of love in their precepts. Why then the prejudice? It is because the laws of God are not obeyed. In this world, there would be peace and prosperity for all people regardless of creed, color or nationality, if only the nations, beginning with the churches, would obey and put in effect the principles of love and brotherhood.

### CONCLUSION

Everything good that nations, churches and/or individuals may do is acceptable to God, as were the prayer of Solomon and the burnt offerings and sacrifices at the dedication of the Temple. But what should be considered and heeded meticulously is the warning of the Lord, i.e., do not transgress His commandments and laws, lest doing so will bring about the consequences of His wrath.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been established for the purpose of taking the Gospel of Christ to the world. God has often revealed Himself many times with the phrase, "You are My people." Since the community of Christ (Church) is the Temple of God, and it has been dedicated to His honor and glory, it is important that His commandments are kept holy, unbroken, unchanged, obeyed unconditionally and validated by righteous men and women who will "eschew that which has the very appearance of evil and look upon sin with abhorrence" (1 Peter 3:11; Alma 13:12).

The words of Jesus Christ resound with clarity and intensity: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I pray that the people of God will always humble themselves before God, pray to Him sincerely, seek His face daily, and turn away continually from the very appearance of wickedness.

## Note of Thanks

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and your thoughtfulness in giving money, clothing, furniture and household items to my daughter, Elaine Carson, and her sons who lost their home due to a fire. I also want to thank God for sparing their lives. I am the daughter of Brother Frank Giovannone. I hope all of you will continue to pray for my daughter and her sons.

Thank you and love,  
Evelyn Willforth

\* \* \* \* \*

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone for their phone calls, cards, and above all for their prayers on my behalf during my recent hospitalization. Thank God I am feeling much better and getting my strength back each day. Again, thank you and God bless you all.

Brother Dominick Rose

## Announcement

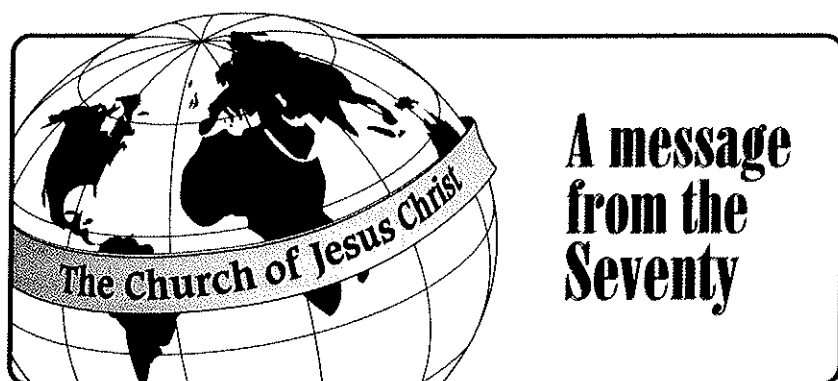
For November, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.00%
2 years	5.10%
3 years	5.15%
4 years	5.20%
5 years	5.25%

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



## Conference of the Americas Tijuana, Mexico

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto  
Mexico Missionary Operating Committee Chairman*

The annual Conference of the Americas was held in Tijuana, Mexico, August 3-9. It was a week of activities and blessings for all segments of the Church and was highlighted by a special blessing at the Thursday evening service.

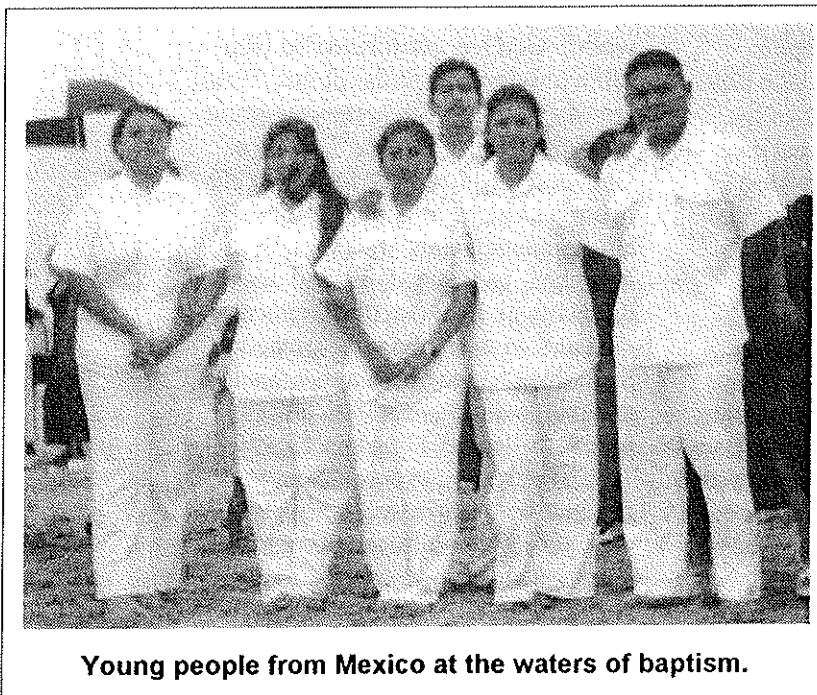
The saints in Tijuana spent several weeks preparing to host the conference. The Church buildings were newly painted, welcome banners were made, committees were organized to accommodate all of the visitors, and everyone was awaiting the conference with great expectations. This was the first time the conference was scheduled for an entire week with evening services open to all almost every night. Past conferences focused more on the development of the Ministry in Mexico and did not provide much activity for the general membership.

This year, however, everyone was looking forward to a week of spiritual revival as the brothers from throughout Mexico would have more opportunity

to preach and the saints would have more time to meet together in praise and worship.

### FASTING AND PRAYER

The conference began on Monday morning with a season of fasting and prayer by the Priesthood. In the



Young people from Mexico at the waters of baptism.

afternoon, the brothers gave their mission reports. There are currently nine established missions in Mexico that serve over five hundred members

of the Church. Although there are many challenges with the work, there is great potential for continued growth. The day was concluded with an evening preaching and praise service.

Mission reports were completed by the brothers on Tuesday morning. In the afternoon, they participated in a goal setting seminar coordinated by Brother Matthew Picciuto. Brother Vicente Arce, President of the Church in Mexico, conducted the annual business meeting in the evening.

On Wednesday morning, Brother Jesse Guerrero presented a seminar to the Priesthood entitled, "Keeping Our Identity as a Minister, Husband, Father and Man." In the afternoon, individual seminars were conducted for all ordained offices of the Church: Elders, Brother Stacey Light; Teachers, Brothers Flip Palacios and Daniel Mora; Deacons, Brother Abelardo Grenados and Joel Christman; and Deaconesses, Sisters Marcia and Orletta Liberto. The evening session was devoted to preaching, singing and praise.

Two seminars were presented concurrently on Thursday morning. Brother Joe Ciarolla presented a seminar to the Priesthood entitled, "For the Work of the Ministry" and Sister Carolyn Light presented a seminar to the sisters entitled, "Keeping Our Identity as a Sister, Mother, Wife and Woman." In the afternoon, Apostle Thomas Liberto, assisted by Apostles Joseph Calabrese and Isaac Smith, presented a seminar to the Priesthood on the Law and Order of the Church. The sisters began a special activity to sew a quilt that will be displayed at the

1999 World Missionary Conference.

(Continued on Page 11)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS****ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**

David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**

John Ford  
1924 16th Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

**PACIFIC**

Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**

James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**

Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Thanksgiving. A wonderful holiday! In our nation, the United States of America, we trace it to the early Pilgrims who wanted to give thanks for their rich blessings and bounty. They were in the "land of milk and honey." Thanksgiving is associated with giving thanks to God for His goodness.

It is time to reflect on God's mercy, grace, blessings and goodness towards all of us. Think of what the Lord has done for you this year. Think of what the Lord has done in your branches and missions this year. Think of what the Lord has done in The Church of Jesus Christ this year.

A personal reflection will show how much God has blessed each of us. Our tables have plenty of food. Many have built new homes. All of us have wonderful homes that provide places of solitude and shelter from climate and weather. The closets in our homes contain changes of clothes for the seasons. Many enjoy good jobs. Many have embarked on new careers. We have good health. Some may be experiencing illness, some severe. But, the health we truly enjoy is spiritual!

Consider your spiritual welfare, your spiritual health. You have the joy of the Lord. You have the peace of the Lord. You have the promise of eternal salvation because of your decision to repent, to be baptized and to serve the Lord all the days of your life. You have the greatest gift that any man or woman can receive, the "Love of God." Is it safe to say, even ask the following two questions: "Do you love God above all? Do you love your neighbor as yourself?"

Remember, two commandments cover all the law and the prophets. The Lord commanded us to "love God above all," and "to love our neighbor as ourselves."

We read in Matthew 22:37-40, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

When you keep and obey these two commandments, Jesus Christ, cannot and will not withhold His blessings from you. When you make the love of God preeminent in your life, it will be full of the goodness and rich, very rich blessings of God. This should and will create a thankful heart.

Reflect on what the Lord has done in your branches and missions this year. Think of the number of blessings. Think of the number of healings. Think of the number of miracles. Think of the number of experiences; visions, dreams, gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues. Think of the number of baptisms. Think of the number of children blessed. Think of the number of ordinations. Some of the membership have built new buildings. Some have done extensive remodeling of their building to make it more comfortable and even more presentable to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Some have found more comfortable and suitable places to conduct their meetings.

Now, think of what the Lord has done for The Church of Jesus Christ. It has shown wonderful growth this year. Two recent examples exemplify this growth. In the October issue of the *Gospel News* was an uplifting and encouraging article about The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of Poland. It shows real promise in this newly liberated country. It is now liberated in the Lord! In this current issue is a superb article about the growth and spiritual well being of the Lord's Church in the great country of Mexico. The Church of Jesus Christ is now located

(Continued on Page 12)

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## The Wicked City of Ammonihah

(Alma 7-16)

Dear Boys and Girls,

The Lord loves His creation and He gives His people many chances to repent. The Bible tells us about Abraham, Lot and the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Book of Mormon tells us of Alma, Amulek and the evil city of Ammonihah.

In the ninth year that Judges ruled (instead of kings), Alma gave up being Chief Judge and remained as Chief Priest. He began fasting and praying and traveling to places where God sent him to preach.

When he got to the great city of Ammonihah, the people rejected him, saying, "We don't want you or believe you! Go away!" Alma left with a heavy heart when an angel of the Lord came unto him saying, "Alma, lift up your head and rejoice! You have much to be happy about because you have been faithful in keeping God's commandments. I am sent to tell you to return to the city of Ammonihah and preach again to the people to repent or God will destroy them. The people in that city are studying ways to change the laws so they can destroy the liberty of your people. This is against the judgements and commandments He has given unto His people!"

So, after this, Alma immediately returned to Ammonihah and entered on another side of the city. He had fasted many days and was hungry. As he entered, he saw a man and asked him, "Will you give a humble servant of



God something to eat?"

This man, named Amulek, answered saying, "I am a Nephite and I know you are a holy prophet of God. An angel told me in a vision to receive you. I know you will be a blessing to my house." Amulek was called to join Alma in preaching.

As the sin in the city increased, so did the efforts of these two honest men of God. They were falsely accused by lawyers and judges. They were put in prison, starved, beaten and left naked. They never wavered or stopped. They continued to honestly tell sinners to stop.

The angels ministered to them and they warned the people. They said, "If it wasn't for the prayers of the righteous who are still in this land, you would be visited with utter destruction!" (Alma 10:22).

Eventually, many did repent and believed their words and began to search the scriptures. But the greatest number were full of hate and still wanted to destroy Alma, Amulek, and the new believers. They threw them out of the great city of Ammonihah and sent men to cast (throw) sharp rocks at them.

They gathered their families together and murdered by fire and also burned the Holy Scriptures. Alma and Amulek were commanded by God to leave and go to the land of Sidon to be with those who left Ammonihah. Eventually, they returned to Zarahemla, Alma's home, together.

Only the wicked were left in Ammonihah. In the eleventh year, the armies of the Lamanites made a surprise attack on the great city of Ammonihah. Before the Nephites

could raise a big enough army to drive them away, they had destroyed the city!

Every living soul was destroyed in one day! The dead bodies were heaped on the face of the earth and covered with a shallow covering. So bad was the smell that no one went back to the city to live for many years. When the righteous were gone, the wicked were destroyed. God kept His word on this land, as He did in the Bible in Sodom and Gomorrah.

### WORD SEARCH

WICKED	PRAY
CITY	GONE
AMMONIAH	IN
HATE	ONE
AND	DAY
KILLED	STINK
GODS	DID
PEOPLE	STAY
PAST	FOR
TO	YEARS

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

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
To All Our Readers

It's time for the young men and women to start planning their vacations for The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University. Come see our missionaries and their colors proudly displayed.

# IT'S A BLESSED EDUCATION! IT'S ALTERNATIVE RECREATION! IT'S THE START OF A BRAND NEW DAY!

75.

## WAVE THE FLAGS OF ZION

(1 Chronicles 12:22-40)

Words and Music by  
Arlene Lea BuffingtonArranged by  
Eugene F. Amormino

1. It's time for the young men — to come to the aid of their  
2. With Christ we find vic-t'ry. — the hill we have loved we have  
3. An old ship for cer-tain. — Her an-cient woods weath-ered the

country. — It's time for young wom-en who  
tak-en. — The land of our fa-thers no  
ag-es. — The storms are be-hind her, the

love the Lord to stand. — A bat-tle is wag-ing. — our  
long-er held by sin. — The bells ring the mes-age. — the  
dark night sees are past. — Her ban-ners were stream-ing — while



## Our Women Today

### Aliquippa, PA Ladies' Uplift Circle Marks 75th Anniversary

*By Sister Dora Rossi*

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Ladies' Uplift Circle was organized May 20, 1923 in the home of Sister Filomena Jackman. Sisters Hanna

Skillen and Concetta Dintino helped in the organizing of the Circle. The first meeting was held May 22, 1923 in the home of Sister Jackman.

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the sisters presented a program for the Aliquippa Branch on May 20, 1998. Apostle Paul Palmieri was the guest speaker. He read from Judges, chapter 4 for his text, regarding Deborah the prophetess. He commended the sisters for their help to the General Church and the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. They have kept the Ladies' Circle active since its beginning. When there were needs for the foreign missions, the Ladies' Circle complied with their

requests.

God has blessed our sisters throughout the past seventy-five years. Our elderly sisters have set a wonderful example to the younger generation. Their dedication and service to God has been proven in many ways over the years. Four of our faithful elderly sisters are Mary Ross, Sabina D'Antonio, Josephine Ross and Erma Rossi. These sisters have been an asset to the Aliquippa Ladies' Circle and the Aliquippa Branch. We have twenty-eight Circle members at the present time. We trust God will continue to bless our Ladies Circle.



## Branch and Mission News

### Sterling Heights, MI

*By Sister Jill Chambers*

Oh, what an exciting day this Sunday, February 15, 1998, was going to be! God has not only brought another child into this world, but has called a saint back into the Church as well. Everyone arrived with great expectations of the blessings God had in store for us. After opening prayer, Brother Lou Vitto called a few people up to be anointed upon their request. After the anointings, Sister Roseanne and Brother Larry Champine sang a song in dedication to the blessing of Nathaniel Russell Hynes, the son of Sister Diane Hynes and her husband, Russ. As the song was sung, you could instantly feel the joy as the congregation watched this little child in its mother's arms, completely innocent in the eyes of God. After the song, Brother Gary Champine, Sister Diane's father, stepped forward and took the baby into his arms and prayed to God, asking Him to bless his grandson and the parents.

Brother Larry Champine opened our meeting with a message that God had directed him to speak this day.

The theme of his sermon was in the form of the question, "What is the intention of your heart?" He spoke about how a child is free from sin, and it is our duty as parents to teach them the ways of God, that they might have joy in their hearts. Brother Larry then briefly spoke about how he found The Church of Jesus Christ and in conclusion stressed, "You love God because you want to serve God. Is this your intention this morning? As long as you have the true intent in your heart to seek Him and know Him, He will always enter." After Brother Larry concluded, we could all feel the Spirit of God move within our hearts and the blessings that prevailed inside the building.

We then sang a hymn as Brother Lou Vitto called his daughter, Karyn Vitto-Romanski to the front for another special event that the congregation was anticipating today. Brother Lou announced the reinstatement of Sister Karyn into The Church of Jesus Christ was going to take place and the joy he felt in his heart to see his child come back into the Gospel. He spoke of how God has blessed Karyn with many experiences and gifts that confirmed that this was the right time. The brothers of the Ministry began to come forth, and proceeded to kneel in prayer for direction from God on who would confirm Sister Karyn. After the prayer, God directed Karyn's uncle, Brother Frank Vitto to reinstate her

into the Church. As Brother Frank was praying, the congregation could feel the power of God in his voice. In the middle of the prayer, Brother John Straccia spoke in tongues, immediately followed by the interpretation of the tongues. The word of the Lord in tongues was, "I have seen you when you wept and slept. I have seen you in laughter and in your quiet moments. I have never left you. The words of the critics shall fall for I am pleased with you today, thus saith the Lord." We were all blessed to know that this was God's true intention this morning and the meeting ended in great praise unto Him!

### Visitors at Imperial, PA

*By Sister Becky Tarbuk*

Brother Rusty Heaps was welcomed in Imperial, Pennsylvania. This visit was the culmination of ten years of visiting various parts of the Church. At the same time, his wife, Sister Maryann was in Guatemala, tending to the IMA School.

Brother Karl Kirschner was visiting from Monongahela, Pennsylvania and was asked to teach the Sunday School. We enjoyed the lesson very much. We were impressed by a recent experience he had where the Lord told him to read Deuteronomy 33 and 34. This was all the more interest-

ing because a sister in Imperial recently had a similar experience, being told and directed to read Deuteronomy.

Brother Rusty opened our meeting with scripture from II Peter 3:11, "What manner of persons ought ye to be . . . ?" He spoke concerning the natural desire to want to emulate someone else. He went on to explain how men and women in the scriptures at times failed yet there was a better part within them.

He spoke of Noah saying, "If I wanted to be like Noah, I would emulate his consistency, dedication and obedience. God told Noah to build an ark. Although Noah may have never seen rain before, he worked building that ark for one hundred twenty years: consistency. That is the manner of man we are supposed to be!"

He then spoke of David saying, "If you want to be like David, be repentant. When David was told of his sins he threw himself down before God and said, 'Purge me with hyssop and make me whiter than snow.' Take that good part!"

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son in complete obedience and Ruth submissive saying, "Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God."

Brother Rusty closed by saying, "I've led you to Abraham, David, Noah, and Ruth. Now I want to lead you to somebody else . . . Jesus Christ. If you want to emulate someone today, emulate Jesus Christ. He was without sin, without guile, without anger, without hatred. Emulate Him!"

We said goodbye to our brother and thanked him for coming our way—one of many trips to our branch. Let us always try to do that which is honest, true and right before God. Let us want that good part. God bless you all.

## My Testimony

*By Brother Jim Adkins*

It has been a little over two weeks since April 5, 1998, when I was reinstated as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. God has worked a miracle in my life to bring me back to

His Church after I have been away from The Church for over eighteen years.

On June 10, 1979 I was baptized in New Orleans, Louisiana by Elder Ron Genaro. Fifteen years before my baptism, I had read the Book of Mormon and heard of the restoration of the Church. It was through the Utah Church that I came in contact with the Book of Mormon. After joining the Utah Church, I realized their teachings were not consistent with the Book of Mormon, which is said to contain the fullness of the Gospel.

I went through two other factions of the Restoration before God led me to The Church of Jesus Christ in 1979. At that time, I had the witness of God's Holy Spirit that the authority and truth of God was found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

It had been a long road to God's Restored Church. It makes me sad to say that very shortly after my baptism I grew discouraged by feelings of isolation, and I gave up the fight for truth. I withdrew from the Church and began wandering in the wilderness of religious confusion. It is a miracle that God continued to deal with me, never letting me be happy in any church that was not The Church of Jesus Christ.

In December 1997, God gave me a dream and I saw how I feared His watchful eye. I knew I had not lived up to the things God had revealed to me. I knew that as it says in Alma 12:24, this life is a probationary state and that we are granted a space in this life to prepare to meet God. That same month I called the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch and made contact with the Church again. From that point, God used His saints to help me, a prodigal son, return to my Father's house.

Through the encouragement of brothers and sisters, I can testify that God is kind, loving, and patient with those who go astray. This is "The Church of Jesus Christ" and God is calling all people no matter their condition or where they may live.

I would like to thank the faithful sisters in the New Orleans area who have held on through the years. But most of all, I would like to thank my

Heavenly Father for His mercy and my reinstatement in The Church of Jesus Christ. I ask the saints that they remember me in prayer. God bless you all.

Editor's note: Please send your greetings to Brother Jim. His address is:

1303 East Fairview  
Waynesboro, MS 39367

## Ordination in New Orleans, LA

On Sunday, June 7, 1998, a wonderful blessing was felt with the ordination of Sister Marlea Bucci Frentzos as a Deaconess. Sister Marlea has been a member of the Church for almost thirty-three years and has been in New Orleans for over thirty years, upholding the banner of The Church of Jesus Christ. Now God has called her to new responsibilities.

The weekend began with saints from around the Southeast Region gathering in New Orleans on Saturday for a seminar on prophecy and then a singspiration, both of which took place at the New Orleans YMCA. Brother Skip Swanson taught the late afternoon seminar. He used text from the books of Daniel and Revelation. Everyone enjoyed the subject and the discussion. Following a light meal, we sang various hymns from the *Saints Hymnal* and *Songs of Zion*. Sister Marlea honored us with a solo. Brother Jim Adkins, recently reinstated into the Church, and Brother Ken Staley each sang solos. We closed the meeting in a circle of prayer.

On Sunday morning, we gathered again at the YMCA for worship service and the ordination. Brother George Kovacic welcomed everyone and explained what was to transpire. After opening prayer, Brother Jim shared another solo for us. Then a new set of sacrament cloths, made by Sister Kelly Kovacic, was consecrated with prayer by Brother Ken Staley. Brother Mark Kovacic then read some scrip-

(Continued on Page 10)

## Ordination in New Orleans, LA

Continued from Page 9

tures regarding service to God and the work of a Deaconess. He also read from the Church's *Deaconess' Manual* about the qualities of a Deaconess and her duties.

Sister Sharon Staley then washed Sister Marlea's feet, setting her apart. The Elders formed a circle around Sister Marlea and a prayer was offered. Then Brother George anointed her with oil and ordained her as a Deaconess. Brother Ken then asked everyone to come up front and greet our new Deaconess. A wonderful blessing was felt in this show of love.

Brother Ken then began preaching by stating that he would give two tests. One was for him and one was for the rest of us. The tests were that we would allow ourselves to be led and directed by the Spirit of God. He said that at the end of his preaching, he would ask us if we felt we were led and directed by the Spirit of God. He noted that two of the scriptures Brother Mark read, he had intended on reading as well. He noted that the ordination was not about Sister Marlea, but about fulfilling the will of God, as God is seeking willing workers. He then related an experience he had with Sister Marlea's father, Brother Timothy Dom Bucci, when Brother Ken was a teenager. He said that Brother Bucci encouraged him to be a diligent worker for Christ. Brother Ken then read and expounded the words of I Timothy 3 to Sister Marlea, regarding service to God. He mentioned her diligence after all of these years and how she held firm to the Restored Gospel, even helping others to find The Church of Jesus Christ.

During the testimony service, Sister Hilary Gipson related the beautiful dream she had about Sister Marlea, where she saw Jesus communicating with Sister Marlea. The Southeast Region had previously approached Sister Marlea about the office of Deaconess, but she said it was not for her. Then, she fasted and prayed with another sister and asked God that if it was meant to be, that He would reveal it to another. All of this

was unknown to Sister Hilary. Shortly after Sister Marlea had made that request to God, Sister Hilary had her dream. Sacrament was passed and then the meeting was brought to a close.

In attendance were Sister Marlea's husband, George, her sons, Chris and Andreus, and her new daughter-in-law, Jan. It was a beautiful and blessed day.

## Memories

*By Dolores Coppa-Clements*

On June 6, 1998, I went to Church after being away for many years. I went to be anointed because of my bad health. As I sat there, my thoughts went back to my childhood days, and my memories of growing up attending Church. It was in the late thirties and early forties when I started going to Church with my grandmother, Sister Caroline Mazzella.

I remember we got ready for Church on Saturdays! Church on Sunday was an all-day affair. So we cooked our Sunday meal on Saturday and packed our lunches. I remember how my grandmother Sister Caroline got the Communion linens ready, and how carefully she prepared the bread for Communion by cutting off the crust of the bread. She had everything prepared on Saturday to set the sacrament table on Sunday.

Our Sunday morning started with Sunday School. My Sunday School teacher was Sister Irene DeFabio. We had preaching in the English language in the morning meeting. After lunch, we reconvened for the afternoon meeting which was conducted in the Italian language, both preaching and testimony.

After Church, we went home for dinner. I remember in the evening, Brother Joseph and Sister Jenny DeMercurio and family would come over. The grown-ups talked in the front room and the children all played in the kitchen.

I also remember the candy store down the street from Church on Ardnt Street. After lunch, we would take our

pennies there for candy and be ready for the afternoon service. A few of us girls would sit in the back of the Church. If we were noisy, we were split up and taken back to our parents.

I remember going to the Detroit River at Belle Isle for baptisms. The Elder and the person to be baptized, dressed in overalls, walked into the river while we sang, *Shall We Gather at the River*.

We used to have conferences at South Eastern High School. That was a good gathering, with a lot of people coming from all over, staying with people overnight in their homes.

Church was a very peaceful place for me as a child. In 1946, I was married at my aunt, Sister Sally Romano's home on Coram Street. Brother Peter Capone married us. My oldest son, John, was blessed as a baby in this Church.

I drifted away but The Church of Jesus Christ was always in my thoughts and heart. I am back again, as an old lady, looking for the peace I knew as a child. Thank God for the peace He gives us. Please remember me in your prayers. God bless you all.

## A Thought

Please Lord, give me  
the wisdom to make  
stepping stones out of  
stumbling blocks.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Campitelle, Rosalie  
40836 Woodside  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Carlini, Larry and Olena  
734-944-6639

Dell, Samuel and Geneva  
101 N. Olds Blvd.  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Humphreys, Brenda  
512 Magazine Street  
Carnegie, PA 15106  
412-278-0609

Palmieri, Paul Aaron and Kim  
103 Shaker Heights Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15367  
724-378-4326

Pusateri, Jean  
4071 Glenwood Ave.  
Apt. #201  
Boardman, OH 44512  
330-782-5582

Rutledge, Nickolas  
8463 Simons Rd.  
Williamsfield, OH 44093

Stevens, Chuck and Carla  
412 W. Wilhelmina St.  
Anaheim, CA 92805-2645  
714-758-0919

Zamora, Hortensia  
2345 Tahoe Circle, #A  
Hemet, CA 92545

came just in time. Food came from places when I did not know how we were going to eat. Somehow our rent and bills got paid. God is so wonderful when we put our trust in Him every-day.

After six years from the time of the accident, my husband finally got a job and went back to work. This was also a miracle since he was out of work for such a long period of time. I knew God would take care of us and He continues to do so today. Also, after a few months, we were able to buy a home again. I am still not sure how it all happened. But, I praise God for all His blessings.

I have learned to trust Him, no matter what comes in life. Sometimes we may think God does not hear our prayers, but He does and He answers them in His way and in His own time. Thank you dear brothers and sisters for all your help through the years. Thank you most of all for your prayers. God bless you.

and the testimonies of their peers. The preaching that preceded was indeed wonderful, the congregational singing was inspirational, and the specialty group singing was moving; but it took God's Spirit, in His own way and His own time, to call the sinners to repentance.

On Friday morning, Apostles Joseph Lovalvo and Paul Benyola joined with the other Apostles to conduct a question and answer session for the Priesthood. In the afternoon, Apostle Joseph Lovalvo led a seminar on the history of the Church. The evening service was a nostalgic look at the work in Mexico over the years through historic pictures and testimonies of some of the first members of the Church. Brother Flip Palacios put together a video of pictures from the archives of Brother Eddie, Sister Evelyn Perdue and Sister Norma Kennedy. It was very touching to see how God blessed the efforts of Brother and Sister Perdue over the years.

#### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Saturday morning's activities consisted of a field trip for the young people and a fellowship service for the adults. In the afternoon, Evangelists Paul Ciotti, Sr. and Daniel Picciuto addressed the congregation. The evening service was highlighted by words of inspiration and encouragement from the Apostles, followed by Communion.

The conference was concluded on Sunday. Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., was the opening speaker. He was followed by Brother Hector Gastelum of Ahome, Sinaloa, and Brother Joe Ciarolla. God's Spirit was felt throughout the day in the preaching, singing, testimony and prayer. Once again, God confirmed that wherever the saints gather, He will bless them. The saints in Mexico are looking forward to the next Conference of the Americas and welcome you to join them in Tijuana on March 26-28, 1999. However, if you cannot join them in Tijuana, plan to meet them at the World Missionary Conference in June, 1999. That will be a conference none of us should miss!

### A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

#### THURSDAY EVENING

In the evening, after several brothers had preached, the young people were asked to sing. Over sixty of them, some pre-teens, many teenagers, and some young adults in their twenties, began to sing. It seemed that their singing was especially blessed that evening. They sang with unusual power and God's Spirit began to permeate the group. Tears began to flow. Some of the young people began to give their testimonies. There was more singing, and more tears. Then there was sobbing and the release of a soul set free! What joy there was as this young group began to praise the Lord and embrace each other with the joy of God's Spirit! They continued to sing, and they continued to give praises and testimonies. God continued to call them. This continued for over an hour, and when it was over, six souls had asked to be baptized. All of the new converts were touched by the singing

### How Could I Ever Sufficiently Praise Him

Continued from Page 1

homes to us because my husband was not working.

I did not know what to do; we only had a few days to find a place to live. I prayed and cried to God to help us. By some miracle, because our credit was still good, I found someone that would rent to us. I know God was in the matter. There was no other way it could have worked out; only God could have made this happen.

My husband continued to send out his resumes to try to get work. Twice we thought he had a job as an appraiser. But, he never got paid. So he was still unemployed. The Church continued to pray that Jim would find work. As I look back, through the years while my husband was unemployed, so many times money came from unexpected sources. It always

## \* WEDDING \*

Brother Greg Davis and Dora Tiller were united in holy matrimony on August 22, 1998 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

## Baptism

Susan Koeth Genaro was baptized on June 21, 1998 in the Niles, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Genaro and confirmed by Brother Phil Jackson.

Karen Brown was baptized in the Columbus, Ohio Mission on May 3, 1998. She was baptized by Brother Alan Metzler and confirmed by Brother Adam Costarella.

## OBITUARY

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

### ERVIN RUSSELL BUFFINGTON

Brother Ervin Buffington passed away to his heavenly reward on August 3, 1998. He was a member of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch and an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Buffington is survived by his wife, Sister Martha Christman-Buffington; three sons, Brothers Robert, Daniel and Herb Buffington; three daughters, Sisters Margaret Roscart, Shirley Pershin and Darla Mae Corrado; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Children Blessed

Alyssa Christine Morle, daughter of Brother Ron and Sister Kim Jones-Morle was blessed in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch on August 16, 1998.

Andrew Aaron Capone, son of Peter and Lori Capone was blessed on April 12, 1998 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Julian Granados, Jr., son of Brother Julian and Sister Yolanda Granados was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on July 12, 1998.

Amber Dawn DeCredico, daughter of Heather Joy DeCredico, was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on August 23, 1998.

Camille Alexandra Hamet, daughter of Brother Frank and Sister Shannon (Lambert) Hamet, was blessed at Branch #2 in Allen Park, MI on September 27, 1998.

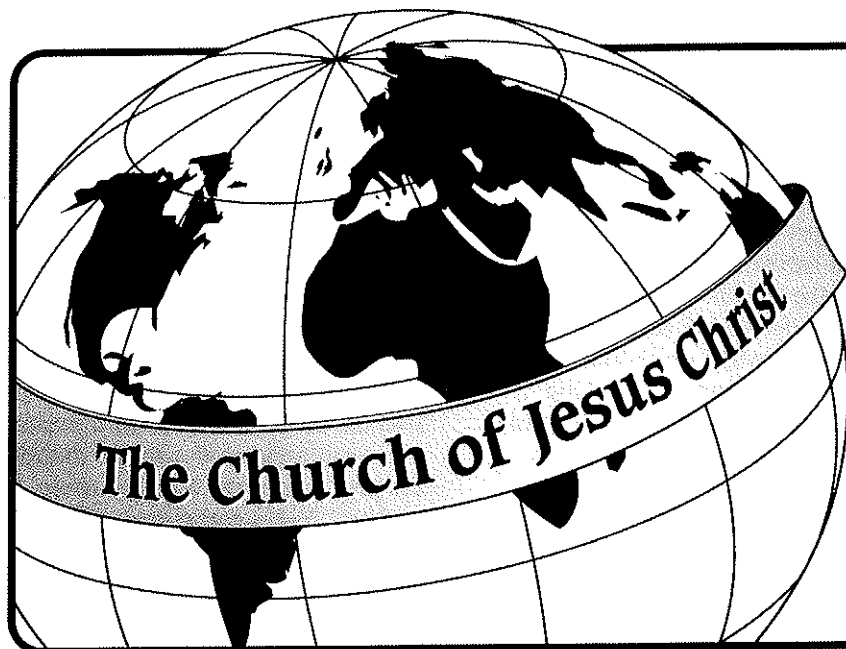
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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Continued from Page 5

in twenty-one countries and still growing! Imagine! It was approximately a short, very brief, fifteen years ago, The Church of Jesus Christ was located in six countries. We repeat, six countries. A short fifteen years later, it has more than tripled! It continues to grow and will continue to grow. Its growth will not be slow! In fact, its growth will increase in velocity! The growth of the Lord's Church will be rapid, yes, very rapid. Nothing will stop it. Nothing will be able to stand in its path as it moves forward to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. It is bigger than anything and anyone. It is more important than anything or anybody. It is God's Church. He controls it! He steers it! He is in command! He and He alone is at the helm that guides the ship! He will use His Ministry, His sons and daughters, all of us, to help spread the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through preaching, testimony and example, He will use His people to further His great plans! How grand! How marvelous! How wonderful! Are you thankful? You have to and must answer, yes!

There is absolutely no way that any member of The Church of Jesus Christ can let this Thanksgiving holiday pass without giving thanks to God. There is absolutely no way that any member of His Church can let any day pass without thanking God in prayer and in deed for His goodness, bounty and rich blessings. We often use the medium of prayer to ask for something from our Lord. Let us get in the habit, let us make it a daily practice to use the medium of prayer to express our thanks to God for all He does for us, each and every day. Let us practice Thanksgiving every day. He will bless us for it.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

December, 1998

Volume 54, No. 12

## Blessings and Ordinations in Dallas, Texas

*By Brother Jeffrey Giannetti*

Over the past year, the Lord has greatly blessed the Dallas, Texas Branch. It has been our privilege to witness the wonder-working power of God in action as a new work of the Church has been established in Fort Worth, Texas. Since September 1997, we have seen fourteen souls become members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They are: Margaret Vallejo, Marcos Vallejo, Hortensia Avinia, Dora Garcia, Olivia Valasquez, Velia Monsavias, Andres Hernandez, Sulema Jackson, Kathy Jackson, Helen Reyes, Kevin Jackson, Joel Monsavias, Sr., Virginia Gonzalez, and Joel Monsavias, Jr. Each of their testimonies represent a demonstration of God's power and the tremendous blessings our Church offers to those seeking to know Jesus Christ.

As we watched this work grow from an occasional visit, to meetings with weekly attendance ranging between thirty to fifty and climbing, we have enjoyed an overwhelming outpouring of God's spirit and power. Countless afflictions have been instantly healed; marriages have been mended; those down in spirit have been revived by the Lord; a chronic affliction persisting for over twenty-

five years, removed in a moment by God; an individual given up for dead, returned to health and later baptized. Words simply cannot capture the spirit, power and blessings we have enjoyed. We simply extend an invitation to all readers to, as Philip said to Nathaniel, "Come and see."

The growth experienced over the past year has created a need for more workers in both Dallas and Fort Worth and as always, the Lord provides. During the weekend of September 18 and 19, 1998, four individuals were ordained into God's service.

With visitors present from the Atlantic Coast, Ohio-Midwest, Penn-Mid Atlantic, Southeast and Southwest Regions, we began a weekend of meetings with an open air service in Fort Worth on Saturday night. With nearly sixty in attendance, many first time visitors, Southwest Regional President and member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Brother Isaac Smith opened our service speaking from the second chapter of Isaiah. Brother Isaac asked all present if we really know Jesus Christ. Our brother explained that to those who truly come to know Christ in the Gospel Restored, great are the blessings and

miracles God has in store. Brother Isaac explained we have no other Gospel and nothing else to offer but the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, to those in need, this Gospel has all of the answers. Apostle Joseph Calabrese, Elder Pete Giannetti, Sr., and Evangelist Russell Martorana each followed on the same theme and spoke with great power as guided by God's Spirit. The service was then opened to testimony and prayer as darkness fell upon our outdoor service. What a blessing to hear the testimonies of praise to God and to see the Lord caring for those in need. We concluded our service and looked forward to the ordinations to come the following day.

On Sunday morning, we began our ordination service with an overview of the duties of Deaconess, Teacher and Deacon. We then heard numerous experiences confirming the callings of each individual to be ordained. We then proceeded to ordain our brothers and sisters from Dallas and Fort Worth into the following offices:

Brother Joseph Giannetti, Dallas Branch, was ordained into the office of Teacher. Brother Joe's feet were washed by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti and he was ordained by his father, Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr.

(Continued on Page 10)

## The Joy of Salvation

By Evangelist George Neill

I would like to read to you from the 51st Psalm, verses 10-12: *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

Friends, I have quoted the words of David. As I read them, I am impressed with the last verse, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation . . ."

David was a great man in his day. If we were to go into his life extensively this morning, we could say many good things about him. In short, however, we shall say that David was called upon by God to be king over God's people. He was anointed by Samuel, and the Scriptures say, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward." As time went on, however, things happened in David's life which caused him to speak as I read this morning.

It is true that David made many mistakes in his life, but, being a man after God's own heart, he sought forgiveness and repented whenever he learned that he was wrong. He knew the joy of serving God. He knew the joy of salvation, and, so he cried aloud to God to restore this joy to him.

We are sure that, if David could speak to us this morning, he would acquaint us more fully, than I possibly can, with the joy of serving God, or the joy of salvation. We might ask, "What is joy?" Joy, as interpreted by the world, is nothing more than a mere bit of fun. It may be compared to a ripple on the surface of a pool of water; it is not permanent, and it is of a brief duration. Joy, as defined by the worldly crowd, is just a means whereby one can forget, momentarily, the cares and aches of a troubled conscience.

The people of God do not have fun in serving God; they have JOY—and not just for a moment. Their joy does not end when life comes to a close. It goes beyond this life and

reaches all the way into heaven, from whence it came. The Son of God brought joy into the world. He brought salvation. The hymn says: "Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King . . ."

Friends when we individually receive Jesus Christ as our King, it brings joy into our hearts—unspeakable joy, full of glory. It is joy to know that our sins are forgiven.

The Saviour, when here upon the earth, spoke words like these to His humble followers: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." What did He mean? Did He have a joy to give to men and women? Did this Man, of whom Isaiah spoke of as one, "despised and rejected . . . a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief . . . wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities . . . oppressed, and he was afflicted . . ." have a joy to transmit to men and women? Why, it was more than a pleasure even to be in His company.

Do you remember the two disciples who were walking along the way to Emmaus, when Jesus appeared, walked, and talked with them? After He had gone, they remarked to each other how their hearts burned within them as He walked and talked with them on the way.

Friends, to walk with God in this life means eternal joy. We may never walk with Jesus as these two did; but, by walking in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.

Paul says in Hebrews 12:2, ". . . who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame . . ." What was the joy which was set before Jesus Christ, so that He was so willing to endure the cruel cross? We know there is joy in giving. Does it not bring joy to give a friend help, to give someone something that he needs? It is more blessed to give than to receive. Jesus Christ, going by the way of the cross, gave us salvation, or eternal life.

The name "Saviour" means "life-giver." The right to live had been lost; all were dying. The Life-

Giver came to provide everlasting life for the dying race. We thank God for a Life-Giver, yes, a Great Able to save unto the uttermost. Yea, there is joy in the cross of calvary. This joy, as we have already said, does not end when this life comes to a close, but it accompanies us to heaven. Heaven, friends, must be a wonderful place—our weak minds are not able to fathom the joys which await us in blissful regions. Yet, we can sing with the poet: "When by His grace I shall look on His face, That will be glory, be glory for me."

There is another joy we anticipate which seems to touch and vibrate our hearts when we think about it; and, that is, our reuniting with loved ones who have gone before us. The clasping of their hands and the face-to-face meeting are bound to bring joy. May I ask, "Is that all?" No, for it is written: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

These things are only experienced by those who take upon them the name of Christ and walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. I wish to close with the beautiful words of the hymn, "Adoration," by Haldor Lillenas:

O Christ my Lord, my heart shall sing  
The wonders of thy grace,  
My longing eyes would fain behold  
The glory of thy face;  
I pour the offerings of my love  
Unmeasured at thy shrine,  
And pray that thou wilt live and move  
Within this heart of mine.

Thy mercy like a river flows  
Throughout the passing years;  
Its power has healed my deepest woes  
And banished all my fears;  
Thy love is broader than the sea,  
And higher than the stars,  
That love has stooped to rescue me  
And broken sin's strong bars.

O Christ my Lord, in thee is found  
A wealth beyond compare,  
Thy tender mercies still abound,  
Thy glory everywhere.  
O wilt thou deign to dwell in me,

(Continued on Page 11)



## Our Women Today

### ... Thou Wilt Live and Move Within This Heart of Mine ...

*By Sister Joyce Ross*

And the Lord did move within the hearts of the sisters of the Herndon, Virginia Branch and they were blessed with the desire to organize a Ladies' Uplift Circle.

On Saturday, October 3, 1998, this author met with Marjorie Beach, Iva Bordeaux, Ashley Orr, Nellie Maletta, Judy Neagle, Karen Smith, Sylvia Smith, Luann Udosen, Mfon Udosen and Hythia Young to form yet another Ladies' Uplift Circle in the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, making a total of ten locals in this Area Circle.

The President elect of the Herndon Circle is Sister Sylvia Smith, and the Secretary elect is Sister Karen Smith. Sister Karen was recently baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 20, 1998.

We felt such joy at this special occasion, the joy of serving God. We invite all ladies to share in the special blessing received by supporting the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The 51st Psalm, verses 10-12 reads in part: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. . . . Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

### Cups Are Filled

*By Sister Karen Progar*

The atmosphere changed in Charleston, South Carolina as the sisters of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ

arrived on Thursday, July 16, 1998.

The Spartanburg Circle introduced our fellowship weekend with a program which emphasized a lifting of burdens. Sister Shirley Gray, using scriptures, introduced the weekend's theme, "Fill My Cup, Lord." Sister Gloria Kennon placed several heavy bags in the corner, which signified burdens. Sister Flo LaRosa sang the weekend's theme and testified what the Circle means to her and what it taught her in life. The Spartanburg sisters continued in song, testimony and scripture that focused on the theme. A certificate of appreciation was presented to General Circle Officers, Sister Arline Whitton, President, and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President. A sister had a vision that showed a flame encircling our sisters. She was given to understand the flame was the Spirit of the Lord. It was a wonderful evening, a beginning.

On Friday, our group of nearly one hundred and twenty, divided into four seminar groups. Each group discussed a number of cups, specifically: quietness and temperance, encouragement and gentleness, forgiveness and love, trust and faith, communion and peace, strength and longsuffering, thanksgiving and joy and finally, service and goodness.

Sisters Sharon Staley and Susan Coppa took charge of the Friday evening activities. Upon arrival, everyone was given a questionnaire. Sister Sharon shared some of the responses on topics that ranged from natural and spiritual goals to things we would like to do. Sister Susan continued on the theme, showing the diverse characteristics which join us together.

Saturday began our conference. Before Sister Kathy Onorato prayed, she told us an experience which showed her the Lord would arrive before us, and He surely did. Sister Arline Whitton thanked everyone for working so diligently toward the success of this weekend. At this meeting, funds were dispersed to assist the great needs of the missionary work within the Church as follows: Indian Missions \$2,452; \$2,670 to be

divided equally among Ghana, Nigeria, India, Kenya, Italy and the General Church Missionary Foundation; \$3,628 to the World Missionary Conference. The day's collection of \$629.00 was allocated to the World Missionary Conference, which is our current special project.

During the day, we heard four keynote speakers; Sister Judy Dyer who spoke on the cups of faith and courage; Sister Donna Dante on the cups of hope and peace; Sister Suzette Huttenberger whose topics were grace and joy and Sister Virginia Suprenant who addressed love and commitment.

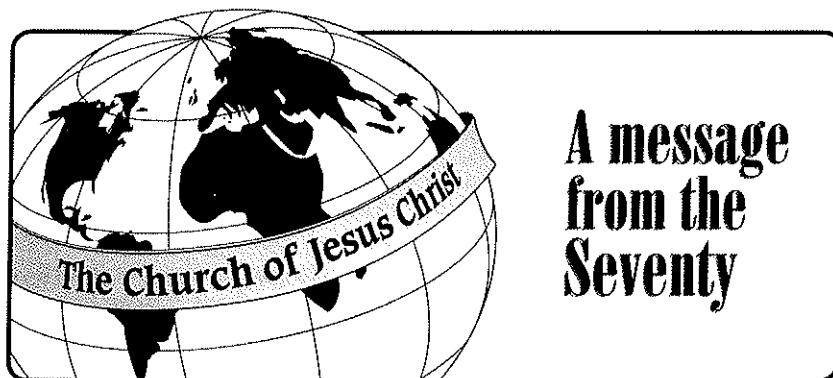
Sister Judy Dyer reminded us that we must have courage in order to have faith. She stated that sometimes our cups have to be cleansed before they can be filled. Finally, Sister Judy told us how the Elders apparently stumbled upon her grandmother's home en route to Six Nations years ago. Sister Julie (Judy's grandmother) knew that they had not been lost, but had arrived as an answer to her fervent prayers. These prayers left Sister Judy a legacy of faith and courage.

Sister Donna Dante told us that as a small child, she worshiped in a humble building in the San Fernando Valley of California. She said that she had hope for her life. After many trials, the Lord provided for her needs, her job and gave her peace that only He can grant.

Sister Suzette Huttenberger shared the blessings the Lord had bestowed in her life. She admitted that many times her cup was also empty and that only the Lord can fill our cups and only when we extend them toward Him. She continued by stating that joy is the expression of God's love in us and that God created us to magnify His glory. She concluded by telling us that He gets the praise and we enjoy the blessings.

Sister Virginia Suprenant, our final speaker, encouraged us to fill our lips with shouts of joy and reminded us that we can only give love if we have it. Sister Virginia spoke to us of the abundance of

(Continued on Page 11)



## Quorum of Twelve Meets with Seventies

By Brother Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles interrupted their meeting at the World Conference Center on Thursday, October 8, to gather with the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists at their Conference session just after it had begun. As they heard the Evangelists singing hymns of praise, the Apostles, who were discussing the unity and love felt between the Evangelists and them, were inspired to leave their room and go directly to the Seventies who were in the adjoining area.

As the two groups joined hands and sang a hymn together, everyone felt the solemnity of the moment and were instantly alerted to the significance of the occasion. This was the first time that anyone present could remember that such a joint period had occurred.

Apostle Dominic R. Thomas, General Church President, stated how they had been directed to come and pray together for the benefit of The Church of Jesus Christ. He asked the two groups to work diligently for the Lord and to confront the devil. Stirring, he emphasized the righteousness required and the absolute necessity to work for the proper maintenance and growth of the Church. He said that every branch and mission must get stronger and that great efforts must be expended to accomplish this strengthening. Perceptively and devotedly, he reminded the Evangelists that they are to stir up the spirit of our members wherever they go and to be strong in their resolve to spread the Gospel. He

likewise pointed out the importance of all members of the Ministry in doing this to overcome any spiritual risk which may be present in the Church. His heartfelt words for unity, peace, and love reflected the weight of concern and need for care felt by all workers and incitefully reminded everyone of what is required.

### PRAYER OFFERED

Brother Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, prayed, asking God to seal the peace and unity being experienced. He prayed for every branch and mission of the Church and all the laborers who are working on behalf of the Lord.

After the prayer, the Apostles came to the front of the meeting area and most of them expressed their feelings and concerns for the welfare of the Church. Their candid remarks which follow offered everyone a cross section of the responsibilities which must be satisfied.

Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church First Counselor, spoke about the relationships between husbands and wives. He stated that we should tell our loved ones how much they are appreciated and to be sensitive to their needs; and he encouraged everyone to take the initiative to speak about this to all our members and to urge everyone to work together with their families.

Brother Isaac Smith related a dream in which God asked him whether he wanted a blessing that

night. He was advised that we must be acceptable to God to receive His blessings. He said that we must all continue to be more righteous.

Brother Paul Benyola stated that the world is being humbled morally and economically. He said that it was important for us to be more spiritual and not to be discouraged about what is going on around us.

Brother Peter Scolaro said that we must continue to positively touch lives and that there is so much more which can be done to influence many countries around the world. He emphasized that we must all examine ourselves and strive to be closer to God.

Brother Joseph Calabrese said God is talking about unity, and he referred to the hymn, *Unity, Unity*. He said that the devil is not happy about what we are doing, but he said soon happy things will happen.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo claimed it was an honor to be there. He said he felt the glory of God in the room and he said we must move ahead, pointing out that there are great opportunities for the Church to progress. Brother Lovalvo stated that each person's duty is to always be a role model, and he implored everyone to do more fasting and praying.

### PRAISE GOD SUNG

After everyone sang *Praise God From Whom All Blessings*, Brother Robert Watson expressed himself about the work among the Seed of Joseph. He reminisced about the beginning of the labors at the Muncey and Six Nations Indian Reservations in Ontario, Canada in the 1930's and 1940's and his working with many now departed brothers who were active at these locations. Brother Watson traced his travels to California and subsequently to New Mexico where his family has resided the last twenty-five years at the area of the Navajo Indian Reservation. He asked everyone to keep the Seed of Joseph uppermost in their minds, prayers, and activities.

Brother Thomas Liberto told how much respect he had for the Seventies

(Continued on Page 11)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Donald Ross  
201 Royalbrooke Drive  
Venetia, PA 15367

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
713 Bryson Way  
Southlake, TX 76092

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Scolaro  
Alex Gentile  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Mandy Genaro  
1501 Difford Drive  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**REGIONAL EDITORS****ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**GREAT LAKES**

David Lovalvo  
12431 Kent Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**OHIO-MIDWEST**

John Ford  
1924 16th Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

**PACIFIC**

Annette Azzinaro  
910 St. Andrews St.  
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**

James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**

Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It is the Christmas season once again. A time when the majority of people take time to acknowledge and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For some, a once-a-year event. People's faces are full of smiles. Many exhibit a joyous, festive holiday spirit.

Yet, during shopping for gifts, this holiday mood oftentimes is forgotten, even lost. In department stores and shopping malls, the lines seem endless. What happens? Moods seem to change. Some become argumentative. Pushing and shoving seem commonplace. Civility somehow gets pushed aside. How sad. What a change of spirit. The significance of the birth of Jesus Christ appears to take second place. It may even be lost to some if not many.

His magnificent birth is first in the minds of those who worship Him in spirit and in truth. It is first in the minds of those who love Him with all their heart, mind and soul. Thank God there are those who understand the meaning of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is salvation of souls. That is the message of The Church of Jesus Christ: faith, repentance, baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost and soul salvation. This salvation is for all, regardless of race, color or nationality.

We sing a hymn that is not synonymous with the Christmas season. It is not a Christmas Carol; however, it captures the Spirit of Jesus Christ and His message. Hymn #130, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* tells a powerful story. The first verse states, "Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down; Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart." Do not stop with this verse. Read the remaining three verses. A beautiful story and message of Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Isaiah made several prophecies of the coming of the Lord. His book on a number of occasions describes the Lord and His marvelous coming, birth, mission and character.

Isaiah 7:14-15 tells the sign of His birth. He tells of His virgin birth and His name would be Immanuel. Butter and honey would He eat, that He may know to refuse evil and to choose good. Isaiah not only called Him Immanuel, he called Him by many names. Some of them are: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Righteous King, Divine Servant, Arm of the Lord, Anointed Preacher and Mighty Traveler. Isaiah also said Jesus Christ would be a Judge, Illuminator, Law-giver, Reprover, Sin-bearer, Burden-bearer, Liberator, Intercessor and Only Saviour. He depicts the Lord's character as wisdom, justice, righteousness, spiritual discernment, gentleness, perseverance, compassion, meekness, suffering, sinlessness, greatness and saving power.

The Apostle John had his portraits of Jesus Christ. He referred to the Lord as the Soul-winner, the Water of Life, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, the Conqueror of Death, the Great Physician, the Defender of the Weak, the Good Shepherd and the King. There are other descriptions by the Apostle John of the Lord. When you read these titles, how can you not be stirred? How can you not serve Him? Oh, What a Saviour!

The Apostle Paul describes the Lord as the Only Foundation, the Sacrificial Lamb, the Image of God, the Redeemer, the Great High Priest, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and the Head of the Church. Did the Apostle Paul know Him? As you read the scripture, did he describe Him accurately? Jesus Christ as the Apostle Paul said is the Captain of Our Salvation. What a Master!

The Apostle Peter calls the Lord the Only Source of Truth, the Shepherd and Bishop of Souls and the Son of the Living God. What truth! What a Shepherd!

Without Him, we could do nothing. Without Him, we would surely fail. Without Him, life

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## "God Keeps His Promises"

Dear Boys and Girls,

Today, in North America, We are blessed with safe lives. If we go into areas where someone may hate or fear us, we can leave. But in the days of Moses, in Egypt, the Israelite people could not leave. There was no safe place for them.

Their baby boys were murdered by soldiers so they wouldn't grow up as men to fight them. They were beaten and whipped and made to work in the cruel, hot sun of Egypt, making bricks. They were not free to take a day off, have fancy toys, or go on vacation. They were slaves.

What could they do? Only God could deliver them. They cried out to God and He remembered them. Over four hundred years ago, He'd promised Abraham, the great grandfather of Joseph, that his descendants would live in a beautiful land of milk and honey that was now called Canaan. Other people lived there but God had all power.

God planned for a baby named Moses to be born and then raised by a princess of Egypt. He was trained and educated as a leader. The Egyptians understood mathematics, government, warfare, writing and more. At age forty, Moses became angry when he saw an Israelite being beaten by an Egyptian soldier. He killed the soldier then had to run and hide in the desert.

The next forty years he lived as a shepherd learning about the desert. He was married to a woman whose father, Jethro, understood and worshiped the



one, true God, not statues or spirits like the Egyptians. Moses also changed and learned. The Bible says Moses was the meekest man on earth. Meek means "teachable." So, you see, God had prepared this wonderful man, Moses, to keep learning and to allow himself to be changed to be used by God.

God appeared to Moses by a burning bush. Moses fell on his face while God spoke to him, and explained His great plan to free the Israelite people.

Moses was not eager to go back to Egypt or even speak to the Israelites. God became angry when Moses said, "I am slow of tongue and speech." So God sent his brother Aaron to speak for him. Together they delivered God's messages and plan to the Israelite people and Egyptian rulers.

God sent ten terrible plagues, like hail, lice, millions of frogs, boils (sores), locusts, darkness, death of the first born, upon Egypt. Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go.

These people saw many great miracles. They were guided by a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Yet over and over, they rebelled against Moses, their new way of life and God. Many wanted to rule Moses and return to Egypt. These complainers were not ready to be a new nation.

Finally, God declared that only their children would enter the Promised Land. They would wander for forty years. Clothes never wore out, their feet were strengthened, special food (called manna) fell six days a week from the sky, and the Ten Commandments were given. A new nation marched forth from the desert.

God keeps His promises. Think

about the promises we have about the Choice Seer, the destruction, beautiful Zion and remember the great plan of God. He loves you. He chose you. Ask Him to keep you. He hears the cries of His children. He cares.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

GOD	WAS
HAD	PREPARED
A	FOR
PLAN	A
TO	NEW
FREE	WAY
ISRAEL	OF
FROM	LIFE
SLAVERY	BY
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P	S	O	N	R	G	R
I	M	L	I	F	E	P

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

To All Our Readers

297

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

WADE'S CANTUS DIVERTI

Tr. by FREDERICK OAKLEY

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, O  
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold Him,  
 sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God, all  
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

## REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels.  
 glo - ry in the high - est. O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord. A - men.

# O COME YE, O COME YE, TO KANKAKEE.

An adorable holiday gift idea might be paying someone's way  
 to The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference  
 on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University.

O come now, let us at least think about it.



## Area MBAs Meet in OH

*By Sister Karen Progar*

A number of brothers, sisters and friends met in Cambridge, Ohio for what turned out to be a wonderful time of fellowship.

On Saturday evening, we all attended a play which depicted the life of Christ. Later that evening and the next morning which was Sunday, we were afforded the opportunity to fellowship, followed by a truly wonderful worship service.

Brothers Ron Genaro from the Youngstown, Ohio Branch and John Ali from the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch handled the Sunday meeting, which was held at the Holiday Inn. The meeting was appropriately begun with the singing of *God Morning, God*, after which Brother John chose John 3:16 as his text. He rehearsed how Christ's love caused him to die for each of us and how great that love truly is.

Brother Ron followed on the same theme, the Lord's love. He reminded us that we can actually feel when someone loves us and truly today we feel God's love toward us. After Brother Ron concluded, we enjoyed a beautiful season of testimony. It was a joy to hear the testimonies of brothers and sisters with whom we do not normally worship. It gave us an insight into their lives which we would not normally have had the occasion to experience. It also affords us the opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper spiritual level.

Shelley Markazene had a desire to be prayed for prior to her return to college and our brothers quickly granted her request. Brother Ron Genaro brought our meeting to a close by thanking Brother Larry Ali, President of the Pennsylvania Area MBA, for all of his efforts towards making this weekend a spiritual experience and success. We were truly blessed by

meeting together, feeling privileged to meet and enjoy one another's company, as well as an abundance of musical talent. Brother Charlie Licata offered prayer prior to our departing.

## Cincinnati, OH Mission Hosts OH Area MBA Outing

*By Sister Ruth Batson*

The Cincinnati Ohio Mission hosted an Ohio Area MBA picnic on July 11 and 12, 1998. We enjoyed a beautiful day of fun and fellowship with visitors from various branches. Some of them included Sister Dee Nuzzi of Niles, Ohio; Sister Christy Rogalla of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; Sister Megan Jackson and Brother Nick Rutledge from Kinsman, Ohio; and Brother Darin Amormino and friend Nicole from Michigan. Also, the Columbus, Ohio Mission was represented by both the Pennell and Metzler families.

On Sunday we met together at the Music Center in Cincinnati. The meeting started with testimonies from a number of individuals who attended the GMBA Campout in California just two weeks prior. They expressed their thankfulness to God for the blessings they received and the many gifts and experiences that were manifested at campout.

Brother Chuck Maddox spoke to us concerning our walk with Christ. Can others who look upon us see that we have been with Jesus Christ? He was truly inspired and you could feel the presence of the Lord among us. Immediately following, there were those who came up for prayer including some of our children seeking a healing from God. Christine Maddox came to Church afflicted that morning and after being anointed, testified that she felt much better.

We thank God for His many blessings. After service, we had lunch together, enjoyed the fellowship of one another and returned home feeling spiritually fed by the Lord.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My wife and I want to thank all of you for your fastings and prayers and your many cards in our behalf. While there is a very slight improvement, I have to continue walking with a "walker." Although the pain and discomfort is still present, we are nonetheless trusting in God and your prayers to see us through this ordeal.

It is indeed comforting to know that there is an army of valiant saints behind us whose prayers are the spiritual ammunition needed to overcome all afflictions. We are hoping and praying that we will see each other soon. Behind the clouds, there is always the sun shining in its glory. God bless you.

Bro. V. James and Sis. Mary Lovalvo

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards and gifts of love in the passing of my beloved husband, Brother Ervin Buffington. I pray that God will bless you all.

Sister Martha Christman-Buffington

\* \* \* \* \*

To All Dear Brothers and Sisters in  
The Church of Jesus Christ,

We are very thankful for your cards, encouraging words, supports, thoughtful concerns, and unceasing prayers for us in the time of the loss of our little boy, Subas Baral. We were not able to send thank you notes to all as we were immersed in grief and mourning for a long time. Though we are speaking to you through this newsletter, accept our thanks personally for all the loving kindness of each of you. We are doing better by the power of your prayers and the grace of God.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Brother Ram and Sister Kusum Baral  
and all the grieving family members



## Branch and Mission News

### The Lord Provides His Own Witnesses

By Sister Karen Progar

On Sunday, June 14, 1998, a beautiful morning began in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch as Brother Jason Monaghan of the McKees Rocks Branch sang, *God Will Take Care of You*. Apostle Paul Palmieri opened in prayer. Brother Paul then read from the 43rd chapter of Isaiah which Apostle Joseph Lovalvo used as the test for his sermon.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo began by stating that God always has a witness. He cited throughout the Bible and Book of Mormon numerous witnesses to Christ. Jesus concluded His ministry by commissioning His disciples to be His witnesses.

Brother Joe shared with us a number of experiences he had during his life in the Church. As a young man, he had asked the Lord to reveal Himself to him and promised the Lord his heart if He would. He dreamed that he climbed a high mountain and in the process got all cut up and bloody, but at the top saw God, who called him by name and showed him the Church. This experience confirmed to Brother Joe that God loved him. He fell to his knees and began to praise God. He continued by reminding us that all God asked is a broken heart and a contrite spirit. In conclusion, Brother Lovalvo thanked God for allowing him to be one of His witnesses.

During the anointing portion of our service, an experience was had in which one of our brothers saw the hands of Jesus. When he saw the Lord's hands over the hands of the brother who was performing the anointing, he asked within himself, "How do I know these are Jesus' hands?" In response, the Lord turned his hands over and the brother saw Jesus' scars. We were all truly blessed knowing that God dealt

personally with the saints in the Bible and Book of Mormon, worked with Brother Joe throughout his life and works with each of us daily.

### 50th Anniversary Lorain, Ohio

By Sister Iva Davis

On June 6, 1998, we, the Lorain, Ohio Branch, celebrated fifty years since the building of our Church. We held a dinner for all the brothers and sisters associated with the branch, as well as those that were involved with the building's construction.

The brothers and sisters gathered and brought pictures of their families, along with pictures of the construction and later renovations of the building. We also viewed a video that was created about the Lorain Branch. Before dinner, we were privileged to hear from Brothers Lou Ciccatti, Frank Giovannone, Fred Olexa, Dominic Thomas and Joseph Calabrese say words on how our branch was started and how the building was built. We also viewed a video message from Brother Alfred Dominico of San Diego who was presiding elder of the branch at the time of the building's construction.

Many stayed over for our meeting on Sunday. We were privileged to have five Apostles occupying our rostrum; namely, Brothers Dominic Thomas, Joseph Bittinger, Isaac Smith, Paul Palmieri and Joseph Calabrese. The Spirit of God surely prevailed when Brother Dominic called our young Elders of the Lorain Branch (Brothers Mark Naro, Tony Calabrese and Joel Calabrese) to come forward and he asked Brother Lou Ciccatti to pray for them. Then he called on Brother Fred Olexa to offer prayer for the Lorain congregation. These prayers asked that God might continue to bless us as a branch and to be a lighthouse to the city of Lorain and that the Elders would be directed by God and to plant them deep. Brother Frank Palacios spoke under the Spirit saying, "Love them, my people. They

are your Elders."

What a special weekend. May God continue to bless the Lorain Branch for another fifty years to come. Remember us as we strive to serve Him.

### Evangelistic Weekend in Lake Worth, FL

The weekend of June 6 and 7, 1998, was a wonderful two days of Restoration oriented presentations, testimonies, songs and preaching. The Southeast Region Evangelists had planned the weekend around a seminar about the Book of Mormon by Brother Eugene Perri. They also recognized Brother Cleve Baldwin for his many years of service as a Minister and Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Saturday evening began with many saints gathering in Lake Worth to enjoy a presentation and seminar by Brother Eugene Perri about the Book of Mormon. Brother Gene has been chairing the General Church committee

(Continued on Page 10)

### Announcement

For December, 1998, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.00%
2 years	5.10%
3 years	5.15%
4 years	5.20%
5 years	5.25%

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

## Evangelistic Weekend in Lake Worth, FL

Continued from Page 9

for the publishing of a new edition of the Book of Mormon. During his many long hours of studying and reviewing material he has uncovered many interesting facts, as well as being inspired by many of the book's great messages. For example, Brother Gene noted the following:

1. What is written in it applies to "all" people, and especially to us right now.

2. We don't need to say more about the Book of Mormon, but we need to do more with it! And in the same way, the Book of Mormon is not on trial, but we are on trial as to what we do with it (1 Nephi 22:8-9; 2 Nephi 30:3-5; 3 Nephi 26: 8-9; Ether 4:13; 12:6 and Mormon 9:25).

3. It is not a geography book of Ancient America, nor is it a secular history of the people who lived in America in ancient times, although it does provide some information about their mode of travel, agriculture, and governments.

He also reviewed the structure of the Book of Mormon and the various plates or records that were mentioned and/or used. Brother Gene stated that Jesus is the true author of the book, as described on the Title Page and elsewhere. Brother Gene related the purposes of the Book of Mormon, particularly it being carried to the descendants of Joseph and for the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ. Finally, he covered some of the many doctrinal points found in the Book of Mormon and some interesting facts about the words and terms used in it.

Sunday morning services began with a number of songs, including *An Angel Came Down* which is one of Brother Cleve Baldwin's favorite hymns. Brother Gene as Chairman of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists for the Southeast Region, welcomed everyone. After the opening prayer, a brief history of Brother Cleve was read and shared with the congregation. Brothers Gene Perri and John Griffith asked the Baldwin family to come

forward as a special plaque was presented to Brother Cleve. It noted he has served twenty-eight years as an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Marlea Frentzos, visiting from New Orleans, Louisiana was asked to share her testimony. She thanked God for His goodness and mercy towards her and her family.

Several brothers of the Ministry spoke: Brothers Matthew Rogolino, Mark Kovacic and John Catone. Their theme was how we must worship God in spirit and truth. It was a beautiful day in the Lord. We thank Him for all He does, His goodness and mercy.

Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-746-8819  
Fax 724-746-7079

Mitchell, Monica and Randy  
15 Ciotti Lane  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-745-2670

Owens, Florence  
17432 Kingsbrooke Circle  
Bldg. #9 Apt. #101  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038  
810-263-0562

Zeh, Renee and James  
23 Ciotti Lane  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-746-3008

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Boggs, Diane  
51 Moore Rd.  
Imperial, PA 15126  
724-899-4057

Carradi, Ronald and Marilyn  
2957 Devereaux Dr.  
Perry, GA 31069  
912-988-4570

Ciaravino, Antoinette  
13300 Los Coches Rd. E. #115  
El Cajon, CA 92021-2027  
619-561-0975

Ciotti, David and Angela  
27 Ciotti Lane  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-746-8930

Ciotti, Ralph and Arlene  
724-745-1115

Giannetti, Joseph and Tina  
9713 Sean Dr.  
Frisco, TX 75035  
972-335-5575

Giovannone, Ron and Cindy  
6826 Pinebrook Ct.  
Austintown, OH 44515  
330-799-9987

Lewis, Debra and Kevin  
19 Ciotti Lane

## Blessings and Ordinations in Dallas, TX

Continued from Page 1

Sister Margaret Vallejo, Fort Worth, was ordained into the office of Deaconess. Sister Margaret's feet were washed by Sister Darlene Ignagni and she was ordained by Apostle Joseph Calabrese. Sister Margaret is the first Deaconess ordained in Fort Worth.

Sister Pamela Benyola, Dallas Branch was ordained into the office of Deaconess. Sister Pam's feet were washed by her mother, Sister Linda D'Orazio and she was ordained by her brother, Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Brother Marcos Vallejo, Fort Worth, was ordained into the office of Deacon. Brother Marco's feet were washed by Brother Juan De LaCruz and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Ignagni. Brother Marcos is the first Deacon ordained in Fort Worth.

We concluded our meeting with a joyous season of testimony and enjoyed the Lord's Supper after having the communion table set by our two new Deaconesses. We thank God for a glorious weekend and solicit your prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters called to serve and for the work of God in Dallas and Fort Worth. May God bless you is our prayer.

## The Joy of Salvation

Continued from Page 2

And claim me for thine own?  
My guide, companion, sovereign be  
To reign upon my throne.

*This article is based on a sermon by Evangelist George Neill (deceased) and is taken from The Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.*

## Cups Are Filled

Continued from Page 3

God's love and that our love for Him is shown by the degree of love we show others. The definition of commitment is a willingness to do something which you have promised, even when you no longer want to.

Before we knew it, it was Sunday. Sister Shirley Gray thanked us for both attending the fellowship weekend and lifting up their Circle. We were all uplifted.

Apostle Paul Palmieri, General Church Ladies' Circle Liaison, and Apostle Dominic Thomas, General Church President, addressed our group. Brother Paul opened, stating he finds the topic, "Fill My Cup" very interesting. He said some people view a cup as empty, some partly full, and some full to overflowing so that they must drink from the saucer. It is up to us to seek the blessings of God. The world asks for your best, the Lord asks for your all! It was a joy then to hear Brother Paul's own testimony regarding his background and calling.

Brother Dominic followed and said it is imperative that we love the Church because it is not just an organization; it is every brother, sister and family. He then bore his testimony regarding his repentance and his request for baptism.

A wonderful season of singing and testimony followed our brothers' addressing the group. Many testified and before we knew it, it was time to conclude and depart for our respective homes: Maine to Florida, New Jersey to California, and Canada to Mexico. We had a renewed joy in our hearts.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

and their plans for the future. He said he would be willing to go anywhere the Evangelists would want him to go for the Gospel. He thanked the brothers for their prayers and care, and he said we must be ready to react as the Lord directs us.

### COMMENTS REVIEWED

Brother Dominic Thomas then briefly reviewed the comments of all the other Apostles. He said, "Nothing can be done without the love of God," and he testified that love is what attracted him to The Church of Jesus Christ. He concluded by saying we have declared war on the enemy and that everyone must press forward.

The chorus to the hymn, *My God, I Am Thine* was sung as the Apostles left the room. The uplifting words of the chorus represent the hope of all members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

*Press forward, press forward, the prize is in view;*

*There's a crown of bright glory awaiting for you,*

*Is awaiting for you, is awaiting for you,  
There's a crown of bright glory awaiting for you.*

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Continued from Page 5

would be hopeless. Without Him, we would be like a ship without a sail. We would be rudderless and aimless. No where to go. No one to turn to in a time of need or trouble.

If the Lord had not come, there would be no hope. Life would be a meaningless existence. There would be no avenue to overcome sin. There would be no need for repentance, no spirit of repentance. There would be no way to seek and obtain a state of righteousness. There would be no spiritual dreams, no visions, no baptisms, no healings, no gift of tongues, no need to pray, no angel administration, no need for paradise, no need for

heaven and no charity!

Without the Lord, death would be a permanent state. The sting of the grave would be eternal. There would be no communion! There would be no salvation! Only an endless grave!

Oh, but there is a Lord. His name is Jesus Christ. He has come. He came to give us life and life more abundantly. He came to offer us forgiveness. He came to restore our souls. He came to give us an opportunity to serve Him and gain eternal life. He came to save our souls. He came that we might have joy. He came that we might have peace. He came that we might have healings and blessings. He came for our spiritual well-being. He came to redeem us, provided we reach out and serve Him. What do we have to do to experience this magnificent Lord? Acknowledge our nothingness. Acknowledge our sins. Have faith. Repent. Be baptized. Receive His Holy Spirit. Obey His commandments. Serve Him with all your heart, mind and soul.

Would you like to experience a daily holiday? Would you like to smile, be happy, joyful and have peace in your life? Would you like to save your soul? You can. Simply, serve Him!

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Julie Scolaro and Brother Brett Gibson were united in holy matrimony on July 4, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan.

Nicole Ruyle and Nicholas Smith were united in holy matrimony on September 25, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan.

## Children Blessed

Jhanel Bailey, daughter of Sharon Bailey, was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on April 12, 1998.

Nicolas Alexander Luciano, son of Carlo and Lorri Luciano was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on September 13, 1998.

## Baptisms

Christina Pizzaia was baptized on August 2, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Bob Pizzaia and confirmed by Brother David Catalano.

Edward Pittman was baptized on August 2, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jonathan Olexa and confirmed by Brother Arthur Searcy.

Thomas Pizzaia was baptized on August 2, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Bob Pizzaia and confirmed by Brother Phil Arcuri.

Gregory Jusinski was baptized on August 2, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jonathan Olexa and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Debra Lynn Shall was baptized on September 6, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Louis Pietrangelo and confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Todd Randall Shall was baptized on September 6, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

Joseph Anthony DiBattista was baptized on September 6, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas.

Lisa Marie DiBattista was baptized on September 6, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto.

Ryan David Forster was baptized on September 6, 1998 in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola and confirmed by Brother Tom Everett.

Patricia Rose Peacock was baptized on September 27, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo.

Robert Neal Bradwell was baptized on September 27, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Tony Ricci.

Sterling Tate was baptized on September 13, 1998 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tony Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Joel Calabrese.

## Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

*We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives.*

Sister Edith R. Terrill of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty-five years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 6, 1998.

## OBITUARIES

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

### LORETTA O. LOWTHER

Sister Loretta Lowther, passed away to her heavenly reward on August 25, 1998. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Lowther was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Richard W. Lowther. Sister Lowther is survived by four sons, Joseph D. Lowther, John W. Lowther, Charles V. Lowther and Brother Richard R. Lowther; two sisters, Sister Thelma Petrosky and Geraldine Addis; ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### MARY "THERESA" VENUTO

Sister Mary "Theresa" Venuto passed on to her heavenly reward on May 26, 1998. She was a member of the Edison, New Jersey Branch. Sister Venuto was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Frank Venuto. Sister Venuto is survived by three sons, Frank Venuto, Richard Venuto and Brother Bob Venuto; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### ETHER DiFALCO

Ether DiFalco passed on to his eternal reward on June 6, 1998. He attended Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He is survived by two daughters, Sister Denise Alderson, Sister Lisa Lopez; one son, Anthony DiFalco and four grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_