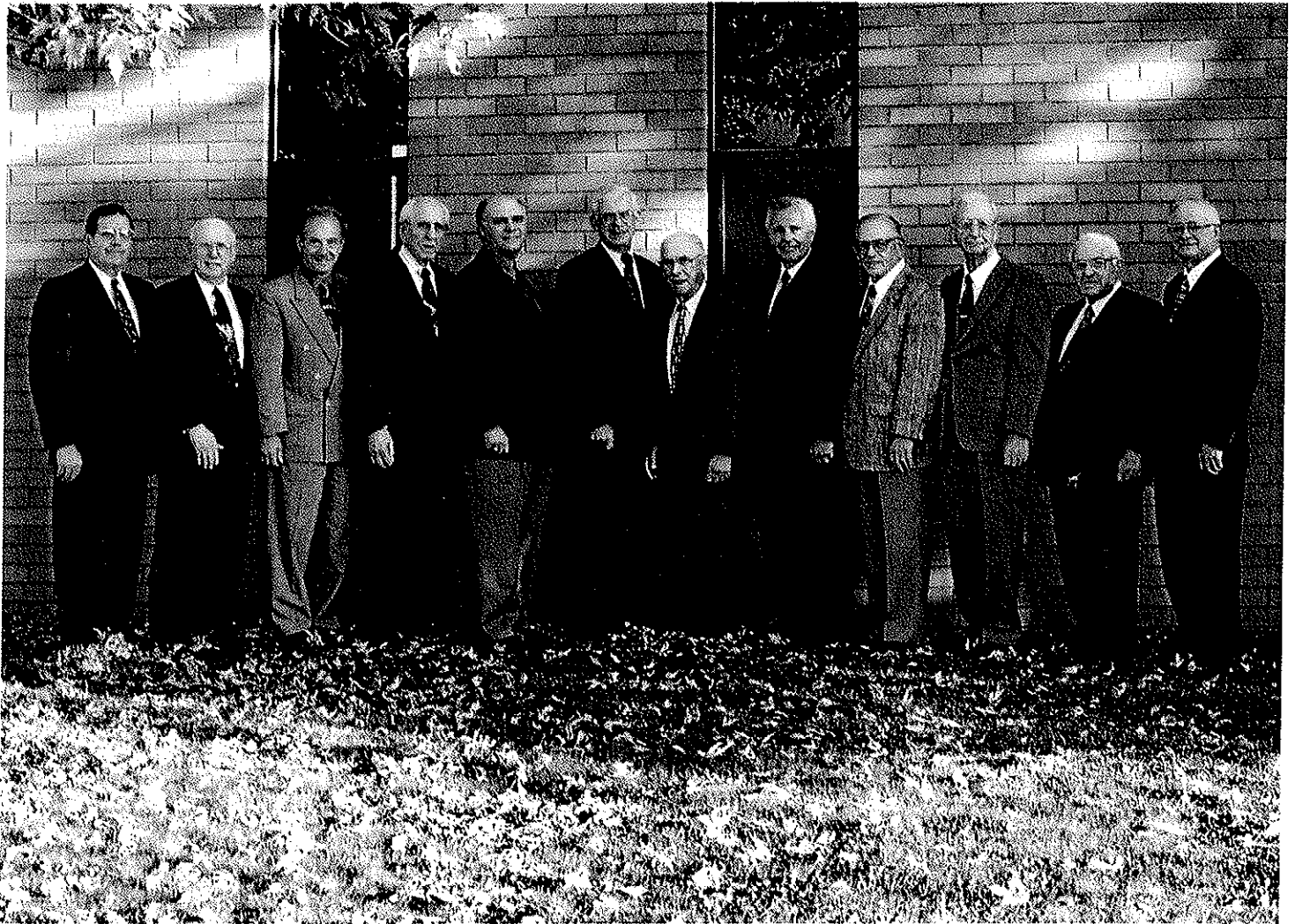


The Gospel News

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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.

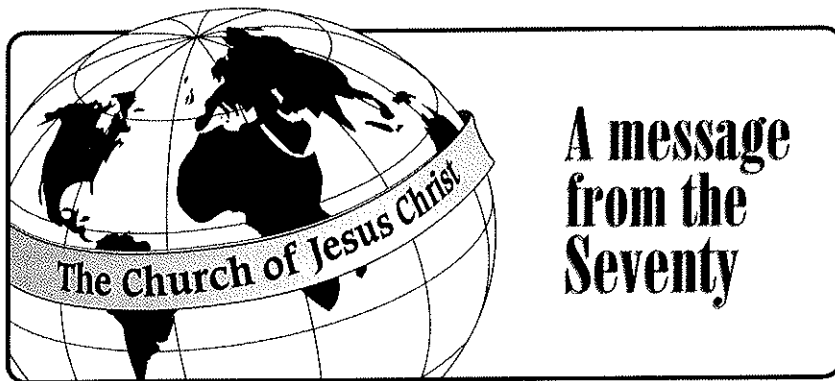
5. Let us resolve to work hard to keep God's commandments.

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.



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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 Carribean 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