

The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

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When Shall These Things Be?

By Brother George Kovacic

After Jesus prophesied of the destruction of the temple, He was approached privately by His disciples and was asked the following:

"Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3).

The last two of these three questions have haunted the followers of Jesus since He began His ministry almost 2,000 years ago. The answer to the first question would be seen in only a few years from that time when the Roman Army besieged Jerusalem in 70 A. D. The temple was literally torn down as Jesus had described it would be by the army of General Titus. We could not imagine today the horror the inhabitants of that great city must have felt to see the center of Judaism destroyed. This crushed the pride of the Jewish nation and ended for many centuries their ability to worship there.

We are now left with two questions unanswered. The first, "When will Jesus return to Jerusalem?" The second, "When shall the end of the world come?" The most obvious reason for questions concerning these two events still being unanswered is that they have not happened. We

would have to admit that the disciples have not been the only ones to wonder about these two events. Certainly, believers over the past hundreds of years have pondered over these same questions. During the time of the Apostle Paul it was a subject of discussion as he noted to the Thessalonians.

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by 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 . . ."

The indicator that Paul uses here is the "falling away" or what we commonly refer to as the Apostasy. We know that event has occurred and we are now living in the "brightn'g" skies of Restoration. We can therefore assume that we are drawing closer to the time of the fulfillment of the above events.

Jesus warned His disciples that many would come in His name and numerous people would be deceived. Various times, throughout history, men and women with little hope have

followed people who have claimed authority from Christ. Ultimately, these impostors' works proved differently. This is happening even today as we write these words. People who have made this claim have most often led their followers to destruction. Is that the way Christ would come back again? It states the following in the Book of Acts:

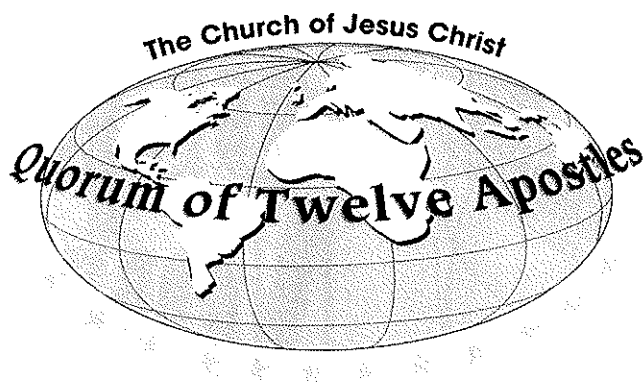
"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he [Jesus] went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so **come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

This indicates that as Jesus ascended into heaven so shall He return; viewed by many so their testimony will be the same as those who walked with Him in His earthly ministry. Even more so, it will be like those in the Land Bountiful who witnessed His descent after the terrible destruction here upon the Americas when He was crucified in Jerusalem.

Jesus Himself describes His return in the following way:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27).

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A History of the Printing of The Book of Mormon

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

It is my intent to summarize the development of the Book of Mormon from its earliest manuscript through the printing of the different editions, working toward the version we use in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Let me begin by directing you to the Book of Mormon published by our Church some time after the year 1923. Please refer to the page entitled, "The Publishing of This Work," across



Apostle Robert A. Watson

from the page with the testimony of the witnesses. You will find there the following information: The committee of Thurman Furnier, Charles Ashton and W. H. Cadman did not have access to the original manuscript nor the Palmyra edition of the Book of

Mormon, the first one published in 1830. They used the following as a basis for the publication of our Book of Mormon.

1. The Nephite Record, published in 1899.
2. Book of Mormon, published in 1920.
3. Book of Mormon, published in 1923.
4. Book of Mormon, published by J. O. Wright & Company of New York. This book by J. O. Wright was a reprint of the third American edition and was published around the year 1858. The committee, as mentioned above, was governed mostly by the 1923 edition. They found slight variations in the different editions which they used, mostly due to the setting of the type. I will now review the history of the original manuscript and also the first edition of the Book of Mormon, namely the Palmyra edition. (Please keep in mind that our Church's committee did not have access to either of these works.)

When the Book of Mormon was being translated, there were two manuscripts in existence, one that was kept by Joseph Smith and the other by Oliver Cowdery. When arrangements were being made for printing, Joseph Smith went to Harmony, Pennsylvania; but before he went, he left the following directions:

First, that Oliver Cowdery should transcribe the whole manuscript.

Second, that he should take but one copy at a time to the office of the printer, so that if one copy should be lost or destroyed, there would be one copy remaining.

Third, that in going to and from the printer, he should always have a guard attending him for the purpose of protecting the manuscript.

Fourth, a guard should constantly be kept on watch night and day at the house, to protect the manuscript from malicious persons who might seek to destroy it.

All these things were apparently strictly adhered to.

The manuscript that was written and copied from the original by Oliver Cowdery is the only complete manuscript in existence today. (It was purchased by the Reorganized Church on April 18, 1903 for \$2,450.) The history of this manuscript is as follows: It was the one used by E. P. Grandin, the publisher who printed the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith translated the records and the manuscript he used was copied by Oliver Cowdery and was given to Grandin for printing.

Joseph Smith retained the original copy, which he placed in the cornerstone of the Nauvoo house in October 1841. When the cornerstone was opened forty years later, it had deteriorated so badly that many of the pages were undecipherable. The few that were, were divided between Joseph Fielding Smith of the Mormon Church and Joseph Smith of the Reorganized Church, and possibly a few others.

Meanwhile, the copy of the original manuscript was in the possession of Oliver Cowdery up until a few months prior to his death in March of 1850. At that time Cowdery gave the manuscript to his brother-in-law, David Whitmer, who was one of the three witnesses who were shown the plates by the power of God. When Whitmer died in January 1888, this manuscript was given to one of his grandsons, namely, George Schreck. It was from him that the manuscript was purchased by the Reorganized Church.

But back to the printing of the

original Book of Mormon. When the translation from the plates was nearly finished, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris solicited Egbert B. Grandin, manager and principal owner of the *Wayne Sentinel*, a newspaper which was printed in Palmyra, New York.

Mr. Grandin first declined the job of printing, thinking it was a poor proposition. Joseph Smith then went to Thurlow Weed, printer of the *Rochester Telegraph*, who after examining the manuscript also refused to print it. When Smith went back to Grandin a second time, he agreed to print the book at a fee of \$3,000 for 5,000 copies.

Martin Harris mortgaged his farm to Grandin, and on August 25, 1829, a contract was drawn up. Harris agreed to pay Grandin the \$3,000 in a period of eighteen months after the printing began.

Hyrum Smith took approximately twenty-four pages at a time to John H. Gilbert, who was Grandin's typesetter. He hid the twenty-four pages under his vest, with his vest and coat tightly buttoned. The manuscript was taken back at night. During the process of printing, one called Equire Cole stole some of the proof sheets and began printing them in serial form in the *Palmyra Reflector* on January 2, 11, 13 and 22 of 1830. He titled the series, "Joseph Smith's Golden Bible."

When Hyrum Smith and Oliver tried to persuade Cole to stop, he refused. Joseph Smith then came from Harmony, Pennsylvania and threatened Cole with arrest for violation of copyright law. Cole then stopped, which angered the people of Palmyra. They held a mass meeting and pledged themselves not to purchase a copy of the Book of Mormon when it was published, and also to use their influence in preventing others from buying it.

This anticipated boycott caused Grandin to stop printing the book. However, following meetings with Joseph Smith, he received cash and on March 26, 1830, there appeared in the *Wayne Sentinel*, along with the title page of the Book of Mormon, the following advertisement: "The above

work, containing 600 pages of large duodecimo (a size of paper) is now for sale, wholesale and retail, at the Palmyra Book Store by Howard and Grandin."

Referring back to the paper that was published by Mr. Cole, it was called the *Dogberry Paper on Winter Hill*. He promised his subscribers that he would publish one form of Joseph Smith's Golden Bible each week, thus giving them the principal part of the Book of Mormon without them having to purchase it from Joseph Smith. The *Dogberry Paper* was printed at Grandin's place, where the Book of Mormon was being printed. It appears that Cole did his printing during the night and on Sundays when the press wasn't being used by Grandin.

Mr. John Gilbert, typesetter for Grandin, in his memorandum states that Hyrum Smith brought the first installment of twenty-four pages and that the handwriting of the manuscript he used was the handwriting of Oliver Cowdery. He also stated that every chapter was one solid paragraph, without any punctuation marks from beginning to end. (This was refuted, however, by B. H. Roberts in his history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, wherein he states that this was only partly true and that the printer's manuscript was well capitalized.) Mr. Gilbert claimed that he did much of the punctuating of the manuscript, and that the work commenced in August of 1829 and was finished in March of 1830, a period of seven months. He also said that Oliver Cowdery looked over the manuscript when most of the proofs were read, and that Martin Harris and Hyrum Smith also reviewed that manuscript. Mr. Grandin felt that these men were the best qualified to identify any discrepancies between the manuscript and the Palmyra edition, especially Oliver Cowdery, who wrote the manuscript. Mr. Gilbert also claimed that Joseph Smith only visited the printer on one occasion, and that was only for fifteen or twenty minutes.

During the winter in which the Book of Mormon was being printed, some doubt manifested itself whether Martin Harris was going to be able to

sell his farm to pay for the printing of the book. David Whitmer said that it was suggested to Hyrum Smith that the brothers should travel to Toronto, Canada for the purpose of selling the copyright for a considerable sum of money—that is, to sell the rights to publish the book in Canada, not to dispose of the copyright altogether. Joseph Smith inquired of the Lord, and he received a revelation that some of the brothers should indeed go to Canada to sell the copyright. Oliver Cowdery and Hiram Page went, but they failed in their purpose. This caused doubts among the brothers, and they went to Joseph Smith for an answer. It was at this time that he received instruction of the Lord, that some revelations are from God, some are from men, and some come from the devil.

The first copies of the Palmyra edition of the Book of Mormon were taken to parts of the USA, Canada, England, and elsewhere.

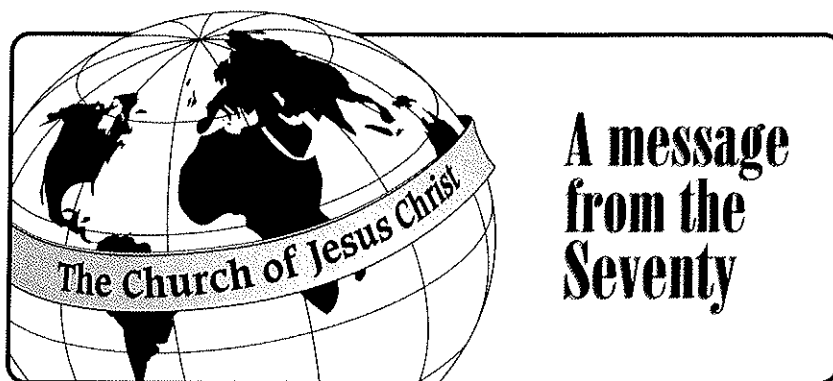
As the book went through its first and second printings, Joseph Smith examined the pages for errors in spelling and grammar, and upon completion of the project, a third edition was printed. This was in the year 1840, and it is from this edition that the current printing of the Book of Mormon is taken.

The subdividing into chapters and verses was done by Orson Pratt in the year 1879 in England. The third edition originally carried the phrase, "Third edition, carefully revised by the translators." This phrase has been omitted from subsequent printings. Also, page format and chapter and verse adaptations have been made as recently as the year 1920.

B. H. Roberts also states that the Book of Mormon has gone through many editions; how many is impossible to say. It can be followed through ten to twelve editions in the United States and England, and some editions are not traceable because of the use of electrotyped (copied) plates and various missions using them.

The Book of Mormon has also

(Continued on Page 11)



Evangelist Services in Atlantic Coast Region

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

A series of Evangelistic services were held in the Atlantic Coast Region the weekend of October 23-25, 1998. The theme was "Spiritual Help for the 21st Century."

Evangelists Leonard Lovalvo, Chairman of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, Anthony Picciuto and James Huttenberger from the Pacific Region; Leonard Anthony Lovalvo and Louis Vitto from the Great Lakes Region, and Elder Ron Genaro from the Ohio-Midwest Region participated during the weekend.

FRIDAY EVENING

The first meeting was held Friday evening in the Hopelawn, New Jersey church building, which was filled to capacity and where a good spirit was prevalent to begin the edifying period of time together. Brother Joseph Perri, the Atlantic Coast Region Evangelist Chairman, welcomed and introduced the visiting brothers and turned the meeting over to the visitors, all of whom shared some feelings and expressed their happiness for being in the Atlantic Coast Region.

Congregational singing, encouraging words that were spoken, particularly to the young people on the need to serve God during these troubled times, and testimonies of the saints occupied the time of the wonderful first session.

IN METUCHEN ON SATURDAY

On Saturday morning, the visiting

brothers met with the Ministers, Teachers and Deacons of the Atlantic Coast to discuss the topics for the seminars which were presented that afternoon at the Elks Pavillion in Metuchen and for which branch/mission and regional follow-up was suggested.

At the seminars, the adult group was led by Brother Leonard Anthony Lovalvo, assisted by Brother Genaro. The subject was "Developing Values and Relationships That Will Strengthen and Preserve Families."

The young people's seminar was entitled, "Seeking Direction from God and the Need to Have Him in Our Lives." Brother Huttenberger was the leader, assisted by Brothers Anthony Picciuto and James Sgro.

Sisters Lori Schmitt and Lydia Zaino conducted a class for the children, showing a Bible story on video and teaching them two songs which they sang for the brothers and sisters at the evening service.

SATURDAY EVENING

Brother Leonard Anthony Lovalvo was the first speaker at the night meeting. He took for his text the words of Jesus in St. Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

He expressed the importance in taking Jesus at His word by going to Him for all our needs in life. He stressed how important it is to have Jesus Christ to rely upon in preserving our marriages and families, but, most importantly, to find the avenue to obtain eternal life and rest for our souls. Brother Leonard spoke briefly of the near death automobile accident in which he was involved and how imperative it was for him and his family to have the Lord for his survival, lengthy rehabilitation, and healing of his body. He also cited the comfort the Saviour brought to his wife and children during the traumatic and difficult period.

Brother Genaro and Vitto followed, speaking on the subject and acknowledging the need for Jesus in our lives. Musical selections were sung by Brothers Bruce Picciuto and Patrick and Jason Monaghan, visiting from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, as did Brother Tom Goode, accompanied by Brothers Patrick and Jason. A group of brothers and sisters from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch sang a selection also.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday morning service brought the entire Atlantic Coast Region church membership to the Elks Pavillion. The congregational singing, as in most other meetings, was led by Brother Vitto. The Atlantic Coast Choir sang two selections, and the trio of brothers from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region also presented a song.

Brother Anthony Picciuto was the first speaker. He took for his text several accounts from the Book of Mormon, starting with Helaman 5:6, where Helaman spoke to his sons, Lehi and Nephi, who were given the names of their first parents who came from the land of Jerusalem, telling them they should remember them because the works of their predecessors had been good. He stressed how important it is to have a good name that would be remembered after departure from this life. Brother Tony also referred to the faithfulness of Moroni, as recorded in

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**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 . . .

A New Year is here! Time does not stand still. Our watches and clocks may stop on occasion because of electrical or battery failure, but time rolls on. Imagine we are in the year 1999, the last year of the 20th century. We are only twelve months away from a new century!

Apostle Isaac Smith reminded us of the words of Moroni during the November GMBA Conference. In Mormon 8:22 it states, "For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled."

The plan of God marches on. Every prophecy will become a reality. Every word that Jesus Christ uttered dealing with the future will come to pass. The cause of Christ will continue on with or without us. It is imperative that we be part of that cause and march. Our spiritual survival depends on our participation. Our salvation is dependent on our involvement.

The time has come that we take a stand for Jesus Christ. The time has arrived that we stand up for The Church of Jesus Christ. The time is now that we stand up for the Book of Mormon and the Bible. The time is now that we stand up for the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The time is now that people everywhere know that the Book of Mormon is another scripture of Jesus Christ.

It is incumbent upon us to tell people that the true way and true doctrine of Jesus Christ is on earth. We must tell people that the doctrine of Jesus Christ has been restored in His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. It is important that we tell people that there is a true way to serve God. It is a tremendous responsibility we have to tell people everywhere there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Please note there is only one of each. This is emphasized by the question posed by the Apostle Paul to the disciples at Ephesus. He asked, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" Their response was, "Unto John's baptism." The Apostle Paul went on to explain that John the Baptist preached that they should believe on him that would come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. As a result of this question and subsequent conversation, the disciples were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. You will find this episode and dialogue in the nineteenth chapter of Acts, the first seven verses. This is a magnificent example of taking a stand for Jesus Christ. We must be like the Apostle Paul. We must take a stand for Jesus Christ.

We have to articulate the message that Jesus Christ came to give His life that men and women everywhere might receive soul salvation provided they believe in Him. We have to tell people that Jesus Christ did die and He did resurrect. His blood was shed for all. It covers all. His atonement is eternal and infinite. He gave His life that people everywhere might live. People have to hear that Jesus Christ requires them to have faith, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. The human family has to hear they must refrain from the very appearance of evil. They have to hear and learn to refrain from sin. They must be told the consequences of living a life without Jesus Christ. People have to hear there is a first and second resurrection and the meaning of each of these resurrections.

Mankind must hear the promises of the Lord. Why? Because they will come to pass and be fulfilled. Because they are important for all people.

The Lord made a number of promises. Remember, His purposes (plural) are eternal. People have to hear that a Choice Seer is coming. They have to hear and know his role, his message and his responsibility. People have to hear that the Native American will be restored to the presence of Jesus Christ and restored to their place within the House of Israel. Mankind has to hear that the Gentiles will be nursing fathers and mothers to His people. People have to hear that the House of Israel will be restored to its rightful place. People have to hear that through the Seed of Abraham, all nations shall be blessed. People have to hear that an entirely new city, a metropolis, a New Jerusalem will be built upon the land of America. People have to hear there

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the Book of Mormon and Bible teach us that God does not prejudice us? He is not prejudiced for or against us if we are black, white, Jew, Gentile, fat, thin, male, female, young, old, rich, important or unimportant (Read II Nephi 26:33).

God really and truly sees our hearts and gives us many chances to start over. In the Bible, Moses went through years of very different kinds of life. For forty years, he lived as a Prince in Egypt doing everything rich, privileged people do. The story tells us ships sailed up and down the Nile River carrying rich people enjoying feasts while musicians played beautiful music. Chariot races were attended and fabulous pyramids filled with treasures were built for the Pharaoh by poor slaves.

Many of these slaves were Hebrew people who served God but also did many ungodly things. They cried out as they suffered and God heard them. He knew they needed a leader, a Priesthood, Elders and Ten Commandments. God was preparing Moses to lead His people from slavery and idolatry to freedom and religion.

Moses killed a soldier beating a Hebrew slave and had to run away from Egypt because the law was to kill him. He lived forty years in the desert, far from palace life, until it was safe to return. During these forty years, he married his first wife, a daughter of a priest, Jethro. He learned of God and followed God's plan to go with his older brother Aaron and return to Egypt. God called him to lead the people free. The Hebrew slaves witnessed the horrible plagues sent by



God on the Pharaoh and his followers. They saw God's mighty hand in parting the Red Sea so they could walk across. But they were used to their old ways, their old food and meats. They constantly complained and rebelled.

Moses grew discouraged (Numbers 11:10-30). He went to God and said, "I am not able to bear all these people [complaining and with problems] alone . . . it is too heavy for me . . .", so the Lord told him to call seventy of the Elders and good leaders together.

God said, "I will come down and talk with you . . . I will take of the Spirit which is on you and will put it upon them: And they shall bear the burden of the people with you."

And God did. "And when the Spirit rested upon them [the seventy Elders], they prophesied and did not cease."

But two of the chosen Elders had not gone up to the tabernacle (Church) but stayed in the camp. One was Eldad, and the other Medad; and they prophesied in the camp to the people. Joshua went and told Moses and said, "Forbid them!"

And Moses answered, "Enviest thou for my sake? [Are you jealous or worried for me because someone else can prophesy?] I wish that God would put His Spirit on all people and all the Lord's people were prophets."

So now the burden was shared. Moses and the Elders went among the people and began to prophesy. But more trouble occurred. Moses remarked. He had not been raised as a poor slave. He was from a different world, one of education, knowledge and power. He chose for his second wife a

woman from Ethiopia. This is a country in Africa.

His sister Miriam and brother Aaron were displeased and spoke against Moses. God came down in a cloud and angrily said, "I speak mouth to mouth with Moses. Why aren't you afraid to criticize him?" And for one week, He struck Miriam down with the terrible disease of leprosy. Her skin was dead and white as snow. All of the Hebrew nation could see God's displeasure with Miriam and Aaron for judging their brother.

God is a fair God. He judged Miriam's heart, as He judged the heart of Moses, and as He judges ours. Be careful of what you say about those who serve God. Remember, God knows all of our thoughts. Repent when you're wrong and start over. Love one another. He cares for you.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

GOD
CARES
ABOUT
YOU
HE
SHARED

HIS
SPIRIT
WITH
THE
SEVENTY
ELDERS

I	D	E	R	A	H	S
I	S	R	E	D	L	E
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HAPPY
NEW YEAR
To All Our Readers

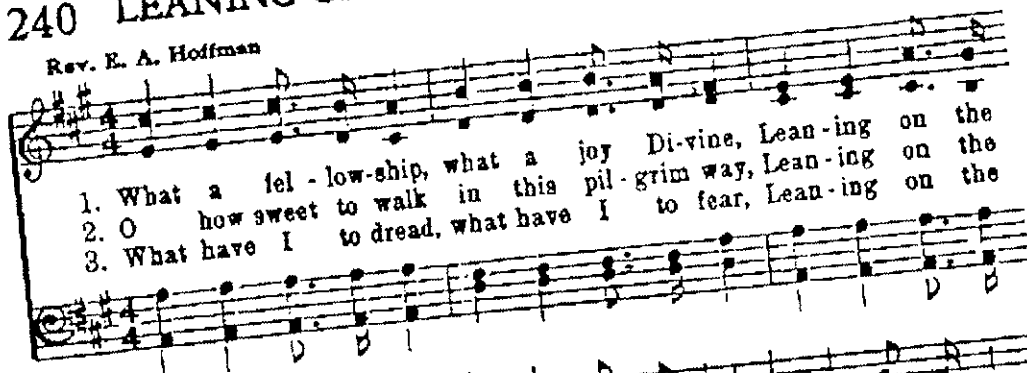
O how sweet to walk in this conference way.
 Don't miss The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference on
 June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University.
 You'll have peace complete with your Lord so near! (We know, it didn't rhyme)

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP! WHAT A JOY DIVINE!

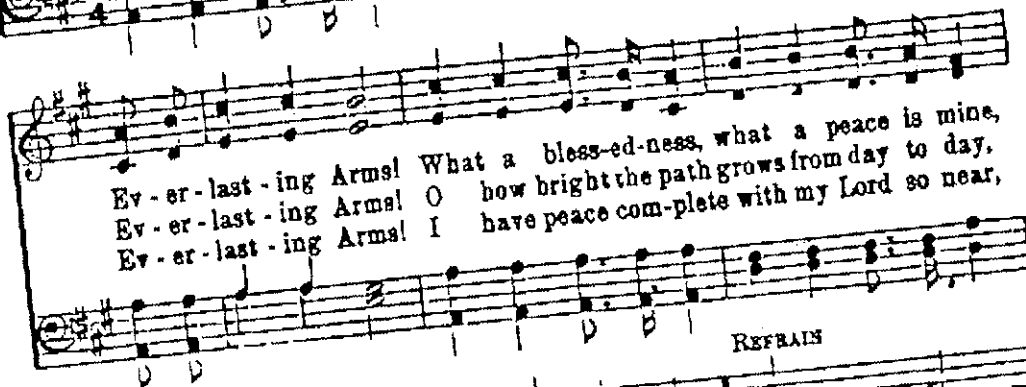
240 LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

A. J. Showalter

Rev. E. A. Hoffman

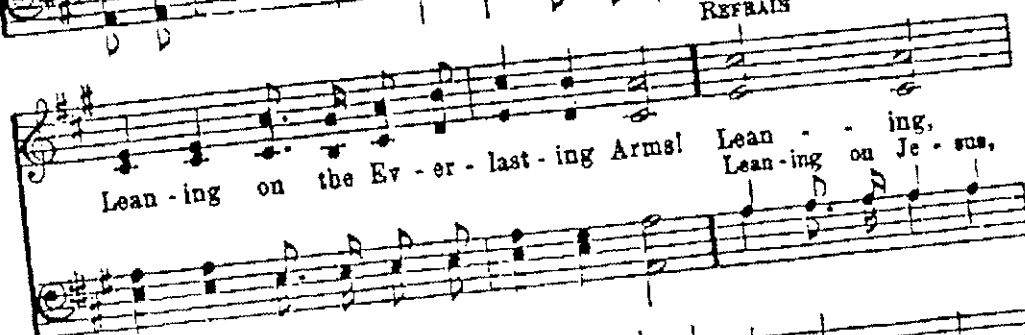


1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy Di-vine, Lean-ing on the
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, Lean-ing on the
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Lean-ing on the

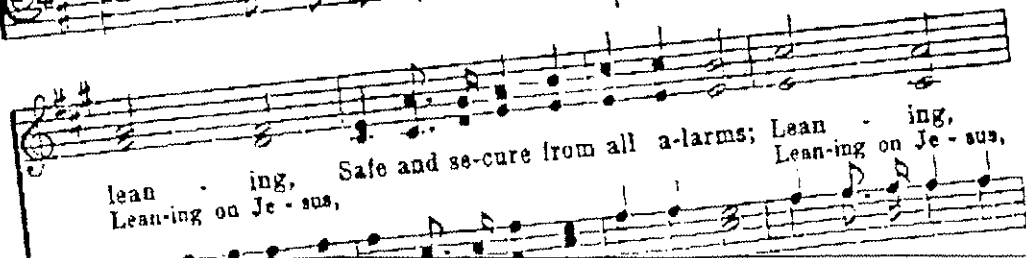


Ev-er-last-ing Arms! What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 Ev-er-last-ing Arms! O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 Ev-er-last-ing Arms! I have peace com-plete with my Lord so near,

REFRAINS



Lean-ing on the Ev-er-last-ing Arms! Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,



lean-ing, Safe and se-cure from all a-larms; Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,



Branch and Mission News

Being a Witness for Jesus Ordinations in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

"Being a Witness for Jesus" was the theme for the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on Sunday, July 26, 1998 as Brothers Cletis Hill and Johnnie Gray were ordained Teachers. An added blessing came from the many visitors we had to witness this joyous event including visiting Elders Paul Ciotti and Bill Colangelo from Pennsylvania; Jonathan Molinatto and Joe Catone from North Carolina and other brothers and sisters from New Jersey and North Carolina.

Brother Harold Littlejohn introduced the two candidates at the beginning of the service and talked of the seriousness of the calling on these brothers' lives and encouraged each one of us to love and support them. Brother Harold then called the hymn, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother Paul Ciotti opened the meeting and spoke about the calling of Moses and the commission God put on his life. It took him forty years tending sheep in the desert to humble him and to prepare him for the calling of one of God's greatest prophets. Each one of us has a calling on our lives, as well, as saints of the Most High God. There is no other calling. We are all "witnesses" for God and we need to share our testimony with others.

After the other visiting Elders spoke, our two brothers gave their testimonies about being called into the office of Teacher. Brother Darrell Rossi then washed the feet of Brother Cletis Hill and Brother Harold Littlejohn washed the feet of Brother Johnnie Gray after which we all sang, *O God, Give Strength*.

Brother Paul Ciotti was then inspired by the Lord to lay hands on Brother Cletis and ordained him into

the office of Teacher followed by Brother Bill Colangelo laying hands on Brother Johnnie and ordaining him likewise. What a humbling and joyous occasion it was to witness the ordinations of our brothers as they both embraced each other and the other brothers and broke down and cried. Truly the sweet Spirit of the Lord was on our brothers and with each one of us throughout the day.

After receiving Communion, we ended the meeting with all the children singing, *Ready*. We then retreated to the back of the church where we enjoyed more good fellowship with each other and a delicious dinner prepared by the sisters of the Church.

Please continue to pray for our brothers as they take on the duties of Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. And no matter what position you may hold in the Church, each and everyone of us are all called to be "Witnesses for Jesus." God bless you all.

Blessings at the Pacific Region Spiritual Conference

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On May 2, 1998, brothers, sisters and friends gathered together in Anaheim, California for a day of blessings. The President of the Pacific Region, Brother Paul Liberto, had arranged a series of workshops entitled, "Spiritual Horizons for the 21st Century." This was a new idea for our Region Conference, and we anticipated a great time together. There were six workshops for adults and one for children which were designed to enrich our spiritual lives, and we were given our choices of workshops to attend.

The seminars were conducted by various brothers and sisters, and some of the subjects included an open discussion for young people entitled, "Does anyone care what we think?" There was a workshop on spiritual goal setting and one on family finance. The workshops were a great success, and many of our members commented

that they would like to see more of this type of conference in the future with topics of vital importance to us in our continual striving to better serve God.

On Sunday, May 3, 1998, we listened to Brother Randy Ciccatti of the Anaheim Branch who felt inspired to speak to us on the subject of our spiritual standards in life. Brother Randy exhorted us to keep our standards high, and on the straight and narrow road. He reminded us that we, as God's children, should be a people who stand for something in our lives, and that if we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything.

Before the anointing of the sick, the Elders knelt in prayer together. During this prayer, Brother Edmund Buccellato felt hands upon his head, and felt called to anoint and pray for Brother John Azzinaro, Sr. for healing of cancer that is upon his body. Since then, we have learned that Brother John's cancer is in remission and he has no more pain! Praise God! Our prayer is that Brother Paul Gray also will receive a healing. Many more anointings and testimonies followed. It was a beautiful weekend filled with God's blessings and it will be long remembered as a gathering for learning, studying, and praise for the glory of God.

News From Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta, Georgia Branch has rejoiced greatly in recent months, as we have witnessed two baptisms, two renewals, enjoyed many visiting saints, and hosted the Southeast Region Conference.

Sunday, July 19, 1998, was surely reminiscent of Alma at the waters of Mormon, when the Atlanta Branch witnessed the baptism of Sister Betty Wragg. The site, located in a heavily wooded area on the property of Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel, was shrouded in serenity. Sister Betty was baptized by her son, Brother Malcolm Paxon. Also in attendance at this most sacred event were sixteen members and friends from the Mid-Georgia Mission (located in the Macon area) who came to participate in a joint

feet washing service with us. Sister Betty was confirmed during the service by Brother Ron Carradi of the Mid-Georgia Mission.

On August 15-16, 1998, we hosted the Southeast Region Conference for the first time in the history of the Atlanta Branch. We had visitors from New Brunswick, New Jersey; Cincinnati, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Saline, Michigan; and Dallas, Texas. Apostle Isaac Smith and Apostle Paul Benyola and his wife, Sister Dottie, were also in attendance. Brother Harold Littlejohn of Spartanburg was the opening speaker. He used several portions of scripture, exhorting us about how to "live good in a bad world." He was followed by Brother Horace Huggins of the Quincy, Florida Branch and Brother Paul Benyola, who both shared their conversions into the Gospel. Also during the Sunday service, Alyssa Christine Morle, infant daughter of Brother Ron and Sister Kim Morle, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Tom Jones.

We rejoiced on Sunday, August 23, 1998, as Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel were renewed into fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. Visiting Apostle, Russell Cadman, spoke from John, chapter 14, encouraging us to believe in Jesus Christ, to appreciate His sacrifice on Calvary, and to also be thankful for the knowledge of the Restoration of the Gospel in the Latter Days. Our brother briefly shared many personal experiences of how God had blessed his life and provided for his needs through his years of service in the Church.

As the congregation sang, *It Is Well With My Soul*, Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel came forward and were surrounded by the Ministry. Sister Bonnie was reinstated by Brother Malcolm Paxon, and Brother Bill was reinstated by Apostle Russell Cadman. Many inspired testimonies and hymns of praise were enjoyed by all in attendance. Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie expressed their great joy at being renewed into fellowship, and also to have all of their children present

to share in this special occasion.

On Monday evening, August 24, our MBA met in the home of Brother Sam and Sister Theresa Kunkel. Brother Russell Cadman was our guest speaker. We read various passages from Ether, Jacob, and II Nephi, and discussed the role of the Gentiles in the Latter Days and the future events yet to unfold.

The following Sunday, August 30, 1998, the Atlanta Branch was thrilled to witness yet another baptism. Sister Melanie Flores was baptized by Brother Ken Staley and confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxon. Sister Melanie was blessed to have in attendance her great aunt, Sister Pearl Nester, from the Simi Valley, California Branch. Also present to witness this blessed ordinance were several members of Melanie's family, along with friends of the Kunkel family visiting from Pennsylvania. Many of these individuals, visiting the Church for the first time, expressed how much they enjoyed the day's events.

Our sincere desire is that the Atlanta Branch will grow and thrive spiritually. Please remember us in prayer, that God will continue to call others into His fold in this part of the vineyard.

Plumbrook Branch Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Diana Stigleman

There is no greater joy than witnessing a soul answering the call to become a soldier for Christ. On July 26, 1998, Brother David Ausilio walked into the waters of life. His journey had been long, and for quite some time now, laden with much illness and pain.

The fact that Brother David could even make it into the water comes just short of a miracle. He was baptized by Brother Dan Parravano while being assisted by Brother Paul Whitton.

After returning to our church building on Plumbrook, one of our visiting brothers, Gerald Benyola, offered a joy-filled opening prayer.

Then God chose Brother Gary Coppa to lay hands on Brother David for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

This established another remarkable event. You see, Brother Gary had just undergone throat surgery and was told to refrain from using his voice. Our brother's prayer began quietly; almost a whisper. Suddenly, Brother Gary's voice filled the room as he requested that God bestow upon Brother David the "gift of the Holy Ghost."

Following several anointings and sacrament being passed, all of the sisters who had attended the Ladies' Circle gathering in South Carolina were asked to sing for us. Then Sister Kathy Peshl described the spiritual, stress free, quiet, forgiving environment each of the sisters acknowledged experiencing on their trip. They all agreed coming home was a bit of a letdown.

Another visiting brother, Dan Parravano, was entrusted with the morning service. Brother Dan's first words expressed what all of our hearts felt. He had "looked forward, for a

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Announcement

For January, 1999, 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

Plumbrook Branch

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long time," in seeing his natural brother-in-law, David, become his brother in Christ.

Much of Brother Dan's sermon spoke to those who had not yet answered the call of baptism. He said, "God holds the door open for each of us."

As he read to us from Psalms 103, Brother Dan reminded us all what "wonderful benefits" that come with serving the Lord. He commented on how many times we have felt God's kindness and mercy in our lives even though "we don't deserve it." Then he reminded us, just as King David had done, we should bless the Lord for His love.

After Brother Dan's sermon, we were blessed with Sister Judy Coppa's beautiful voice. She was asked to sing, *Mary Did You Know?* The final line of the hymn states, "He is the Great I Am." Indeed He is!

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Shall We Gather at the River

By Sister Peggy M. Stroko

Sunday, September 6, 1998, saints, family, and friends lined the river bank of the Youghiogheny River at Dawson, Pennsylvania. The sun shined brightly as Brother Joe Ross took Linda Lowther by the hand and led her into the water. Silence came over the crowd as Brother Joe raised his right hand and said, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." He then immersed Linda. Another one of God's children had their sins washed away. She is a new creature in Christ.

At the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch, Sister Linda took her seat in front of the building. The Ministry encircled her, kneeling as Brother Lawrence King offered prayer, asking God to choose one for the laying on of

hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Richard Lowther, Linda's husband, was overcome as he placed his hands upon her head, thanking God that now they can be a family, worshiping in the House of God. He asked God to grant unto her what she stands in need of and to give her the fruits of the Spirit.

I Surrender All was sung as everyone welcomed Sister Linda Lowther into the fold by embracing her, one by one.

Brother Fred Olexa spoke, telling us if we have patience and faith, everything will come. He said, "The Holy Ghost is an indwelling spirit that never leaves us. It is there to strengthen us, to help us understand life and to be a light unto us as we walk through this life." He read from III Nephi, 27th chapter, verses 20 and 21. Addressing Sister Linda he said, "You have repented, been baptized, filled with the Holy Ghost, and now you must endure to the end."

The service continued with Brother Joe Ross speaking. He said, "Finish the race, so you can enter the Paradise of God. Be strong in the Gospel. Raise your level of righteousness."

Sister Linda Lowther expressed herself in testimony. Saddened by the recent passing of our beloved Sister Loretta Lowther (Linda's mother-in-law), she said that God had opened her eyes that past six weeks as she cared for Sister Loretta, day and night. Sister Linda stated that she wasn't afraid when they brought Sister Loretta home from the hospital because God was with her. Sister Linda said, "He gave me strength and stood by me and now it is time for me to stand by Him."

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Carr, Jesse
Ark Senior Services, Inc.
105 Sandra Drive, Room 207
Delmont, PA 15626
724-468-9934

Giannetti, Joseph and Tina
972-335-6692

Heath, Marguerite
22824 Tuscany
P.O. Box 437
Eastpointe, MI 48021
810-778-5176

Perkins, Larry, Kathleen, Andrew,
& Kimberly
424 Wedington Ct.
Rochester, MI 48307
248-650-3536

Wood, Shannon
502 39th St.
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
561-840-6573

When Shall These Things Be?

Continued from Page 1

These words verify that Jesus' return will not go unnoticed but shall be extremely dramatic.

When we read the response that Jesus gave to His disciples' questions in the 24th chapter of Matthew, we find one very important point that He is trying to establish. In verse 13, He states:

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Whether Jesus returns today or one thousand years from now, the most important thing we can do, till He or the end comes, is to be faithful to the covenant we made with our Heavenly Father at the waters' edge. Jesus states in III Nephi 15:9:

"Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life."

In life we learn that it is not only how we begin something but it is whether we finish it or not. We are judged daily by what we accomplish; by what we finish. Endurance is a factor in our lives as saints that we cannot ignore. Let us continue on that straight and narrow path that leads to everlasting life. Let us not be swayed by any wind of doctrine but remain firm in the faith delivered to the saints in these last days.

A History of the Printing of the Book of Mormon

Continued from Page 3

been translated from English into many languages throughout the years. To name a few:

Danish	1851
Welsh	
French	
German	
Italian	1852
Hawaiian	1855
Swedish	1878
Spanish	1886
Maori	1889
Dutch	1890
Samoan	1903
Japanese	1909

In reviewing the printing of the Book of Mormon by the Reorganized Church, we find the following:

The Plano edition was first printed by the Reorganized Church and the Lamoni edition was based on the Plano edition. The Plano edition was based on the 1840 edition.

The Reorganized Church appointed a committee in 1906 to print a new edition of the Book of Mormon for the purpose of dividing it into chapters and verses. They also wanted to eliminate the misprints and the grammatical errors of the 1830 Palmyra edition, together with any that appeared in the 1837 Kirtland edition. The new edition, published in 1906, was known as the authorized edition.

So you see, there were many editions for our Church's committee to draw from, and since we did not have access to the original manuscript or the 1830 Palmyra edition, it was difficult for our committee to arrive at which edition of the Book of Mormon was suited to our Church's particular needs.

I have also pointed out that there were grammatical and spelling errors made in the 1830 Palmyra edition which were corrected in later editions. Critics of the Book of Mormon have been quick to cite these changes, claiming fraud and misrepresentation on behalf of Joseph Smith.

Many who find fault with the Book of Mormon apply inflexible standards to Joseph Smith, standards

that they are not willing to apply to other men in ecclesiastical and political history. For every apparent inconsistency these critics find in the Book of Mormon, there is a similar difference recorded in the Bible. For instance:

In Acts 9:7, it says, "And the men which journeyed with him [Paul] stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." But in Acts 22:9, it is recorded, "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spoke to me."

Note the difference in these accounts relative to one saying those who were with Paul heard a voice and the other stating that they did not hear a voice. Likewise in Luke 24:4, we read that "Two men stood by them in shining garments," and in Mark 16:5, it is recorded, "And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted."

Again note the difference between one angel in one account and two angels in the other. These differences do not in any way take away from the validity or the inerrancy of the Bible. They merely reflect the differences in observations of the various authors. We must also keep in mind the many translations that the Bible has gone through. Why, then, cannot the critics of the Book of Mormon, especially those of many religious persuasions who firmly believe in the Bible, allow for changes in the Book of Mormon mostly due to typesetting, grammatical, and spelling mistakes?

Some of the historical material in the above article has been taken from the following sources:

History of the Prophet, by Lucy Smith.

History of Church Reorganization, The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Joseph Smith and the Restoration, by Ivan J. Barrett.

A memorandum of September 8, 1892 made by John H. Gilbert Esq. at Palmyra, NY.

History of the Church, by B. H. Roberts.

Mormonism Challenge and Defense, by Rodgers and Gunn.

A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Alma 46:12-13; the admonition to the people by King Benjamin in Mosiah 5; and the promise written in I Nephi 13:37, "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day . . ."

In closing, Brother Tony also testified how God had spared his life while he was in the U.S. Air Force training on the Atlantic Coast in his younger days. He recalled that he almost lost his life in the Atlantic Ocean but that he was spared. Later, he was able to meet with Brothers August D'Orazio and Joseph Perri in Korea and reported of a healing he received

while in prayer with these brothers there.

Brothers Huttenberger and Leonard Lovalvo were the next speakers, and they impressed upon the baptized to be loyal and obedient to God, to fight against the powers of evil, and to maintain their faithfulness in the Gospel. They also extended invitations to anyone present who had not submitted themselves to the Lord and asked them to make their desires known.

Apostle Paul Benyola invited Sister Colleen Pittius to tell of her recent healing. She stated that the doctors had determined there was a growth in her body which would have to be removed. The fears were that there was a very serious malignancy, the same as had previously claimed her mother's life at the age of 57. Sister Pittius prayed with much faith to God and she requested prayer by the Ministry. She said that, when she was being anointed, she felt a burning in the area of the lump and she knew that God had heard the prayers, knew her concern, and healed her. When the final testing was done to determine the need for surgery, the doctors could not find the growth. God took it away. Brother Paul said, "God never changes. He is still the same today, as He was yesterday, and He will be the same forever. God is ready and will bless His people when they exercise faith, trust, and serve Him, as we are instructed to do."

A beautiful weekend to be remembered for some time thus came to an end!

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Ryan Lesperance and Sister Jennifer Paxon were united in holy matrimony in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch on September 12, 1998.

Brother Chad Hood and Sister Tawnya Meredith were united in holy matrimony on September 26, 1998 in Nampa, Idaho.

Children Blessed

Sofia Leli O'Connor, daughter of Jody and Sister Carolyn (Gentile) O'Connor, was blessed on November 15, 1998 at Branch 2 in Allen Park, MI.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

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

Sister Sally Romano of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty-three years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on March 31, 1998.

Brother Jack Pontillo of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 11, 1998.

Ordinations

Brother Michael McLaughlin of the Edison, New Jersey Branch was ordained a Teacher on August 23, 1998. His feet were washed by Brother Arthur Searcy and he was ordained by Brother Philip Arcuri.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

LENA MOELKE (DiDONATO)

Sister Lena Moelke passed away to her heavenly reward on August 23, 1998. She was a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. Sister Lena was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother William H. Moelke. She is survived by two sons, Brother Karl Moelke and Lawrence Maduri; two sisters, Sister Madeline Loughren and Elizabeth Moody; one brother, Brother Frank DiDonato and two grandsons.

KATHRYN VIVONA

Sister Kathryn Vivona passed on to her heavenly reward on July 25, 1998. She was a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. Sister Kathryn was preceded in death by her late husband, Isador Vivona. She is survived by two sisters, Sister Sarah LaPlena and Sister Rose DiDonato.

BERNARD R. DAVIS

Mr. Bernard R. Davis of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on September 9, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Ann Davis, one son and four daughters. Mr. Bernard Davis was the son of the late Sister Virginia Davis.

Editorial Viewpoint

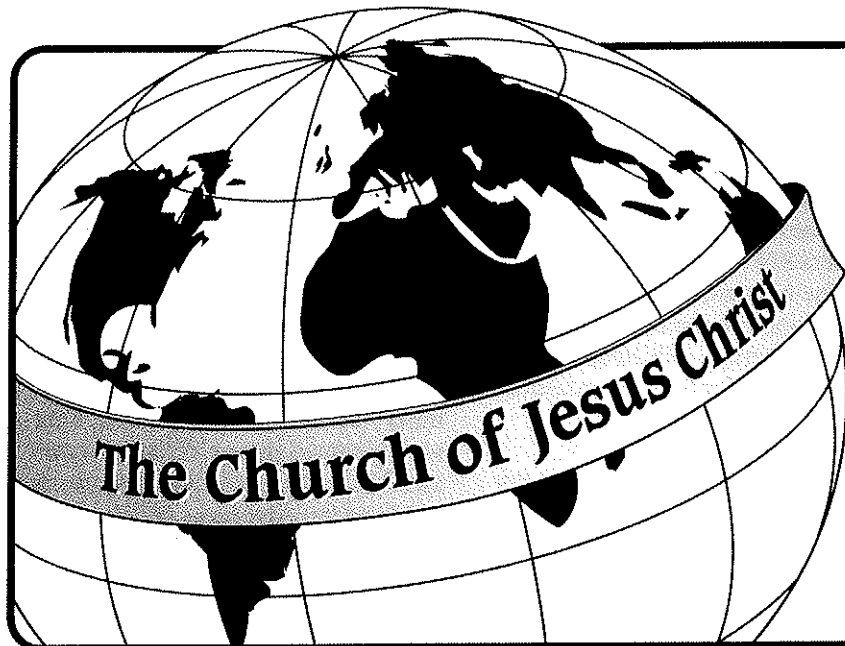
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is a New Jerusalem built by the hands of the Lord. It descends from heaven. Its light will be none other than Jesus Christ. It is the abode and final resting place for His children.

We sing a hymn entitled, *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*. It simply states, "Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss; From victory unto vict'ry, His army shall He lead, Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed."

Do you take a stand for Jesus Christ? Will you take a stand for Jesus Christ? The Lord took a stand for you. He gave His life for you. He did not question. He did not falter. He did not vary from His word. He was bold, yet humble. He was as meek as a lamb. He was the Sacrificial Lamb for the entire human family. He still bears the scars from this great and eternal sacrifice.

We are instructed to use boldness but not be overbearing. We cannot be cautious or timid in telling people about Jesus Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ. Do you realize how fortunate you are to know Jesus Christ, His Gospel and His Church? Do you want to keep this for yourself? Perhaps you should share it. Tell your family. Tell your neighbors. Tell your friends. They have to hear and know. You heard and you know. Give them a chance. Stand up for Jesus Christ. Help His eternal purposes roll on.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

February, 1999

Volume 55, No. 2

GMBA Campout "For Even Me"

By Sister Linda Ali

The 1998 GMBA Campout was held at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, from June 27 to July 3, 1998. The theme, "For Even Me," was one that touched the hearts of everyone who attended. Even before the start of the camp, God showed us that He would be there blessing us. Sister Kay Gray had a dream, prior to the camp, in which the Lord had sent angels to prepare and guard the camp for His saints. Experiences were numerous and I will share a number of them with you in this article.

We were also blessed to have seven Apostles, including, Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church, with us during the week.

Sunday morning we were introduced to those visiting from England, Japan and Italy. These sisters shared their beautiful testimonies of how the Lord has blessed their lives. Sunday evening was set aside for Communion. Brother Larry Watson blessed new sacrament cloths and the deaconesses prepared the table. Brother Paul Palmieri stressed the importance of taking time to honor our Father, for how He al-

lowed His Son to be humiliated by His own creation.

Monday evening we learned that even though Sister Fay Lovalvo sprained her ankle earlier in the day, after being anointed, was able to walk a quarter of a mile to the meeting. Praise God! *Blessed Assurance* was sung and all those who were over the age of seventy came forward. There were thirty-four brothers and sisters over the age of seventy for a total of 1,200 plus years of service to God. What an example these brothers and sisters are to each of us.

Tuesday, during the children's chapel, they were told that if they asked and had faith believing, they could see Christ. That evening during the meeting, a seven year old saw the face of Jesus. Sister Theresa Cihomsky asked for her baptism during seminars, and a sister was healed from migraines and another from lupus. Whatever we ask, in the Lord's name, will be granted, *For Even Me*.

Wednesday morning the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was, "I have my arms open, I have my arms open. Come unto me so I can put my arms around you." In addition to Sister Theresa Cihomsky, Alexis Micale and Anna Metzler were baptized and confirmed.

While preparing for the baptisms, our group met a woman by the name of Helen. Helen worked at the

site where the baptisms were performed. Helen was introduced to the Church, and was very anxious to meet all the brothers and sisters. Helen witnessed the baptisms and was even anointed for pains in her knees. Later that evening, a brother called Helen to ask for permission to return to the waters on Thursday. During the course of their conversation, Helen mentioned that the pain in her knees was gone. She could not wait to see everyone again. She was very touched at the waters that day and was told where she could find the closest branch.

Thursday we returned to the beautiful, breathtaking mountainous baptismal site to witness the spiritual births of Jennifer Donkin, Ryan McDonnell, Andrea Meo and Marilu Metzler. Following is a poem written by Sister Jennifer shortly before her baptism:

For Even Me

Oh, how my life changed in a day
My life to God I gave away
Such sweet peace at last I feel,
As humbly at His feet I kneel.

I fought so long to stop this day,
But what I've learned along the way!
I've learned to trust, I've learned to love,
I've learned to wait on God above.

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Washington's Vision

The last time I saw Anthony Sherman was on the Fourth of July, 1859, in Independence Square. He was then ninety-nine years old and becoming feeble, but though so old, his dimmed eyes rekindled as he gazed on Independence Hall, which he had come back to look upon once more before he was called home.

"Let us go into the Hall," he said, "I want to tell you an incident of Washington's life, one of which no one alive knows but myself, and if you live, you will before long see verified."

"From the opening of the Revolution we experienced all phases of fortune. Now good, now ill, one time victorious and another conquered. The darkest period we had, I think, was when Washington, after several reverses, retreated to Valley Forge, where he resolved to pass the winter of 1777. I have often seen tears coursing down our dear commander's careworn cheeks as he would be conversing with some confidential officers about the condition of his poor soldiers. You have doubtless heard the story of Washington going to the thicket to pray. Well, it was not only true, but he used to often pray in secret for aid and comfort from God, the interposition of whose Divine providence brought us safely through the darkest days of tribulation."

"One day, I remember it well, the chilly wind whistled through leafless trees. Though the sky was cloudless and the sun shone brightly, I noticed his face seemed a shade paler than usual and that there seemed something on his mind of more than ordinary importance."

"After a preliminary conversation of about half an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of dignity which he alone could command, said to the latter, 'I do not know whether it is owing to the anxiety of my mind or what, but this afternoon as I was sitting at this very table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something in the department seemed to disturb me.

Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me a singular beautiful female. So astonished was I, for I had given strict orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire the cause of her presence. A second, a third and even a fourth time did I repeat my question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of the eyes. By this time, I felt strange sensations spreading through me. I would have risen, but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I assayed once more to address her, but my tongue had become powerless. Even though my body itself became paralyzed, a new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession of me. All I could do was to gaze steadily, vacantly, at my unknown visitant. Gradually the surrounding atmosphere—seeming as though filled with sensations—grew luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarefy; the mysterious visitor herself becoming more airy and yet more distinct to my sight than before. I now began to feel as one dying, or rather to experience the sensations which I sometimes imagined accompany dissolution. I did not think; I did not move. All were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly at my companion.'"

" 'Presently, I heard a voice saying: 'Son of the Republic, look and learn;' while at the same time my visitor extended her arm eastwardly. I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance, rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated and I looked upon a strange scene. Before me lay spread out in one vast plain the countries of the world; Europe, Asia, Africa and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America the billows of the Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific.' "

" 'Son of the Republic,' said the mysterious voice as before, 'look and learn.' At the moment I beheld a dark, shadowy being like an angel, standing or rather floating in mid-air between Europe and America. Dipping water out of the ocean in the

hollow of each hand he sprinkled some on America with his right hand, while with his left he cast some on Europe. Immediately a dark cloud arose from these countries and joined in mid-ocean. For awhile it stayed stationary, and then moved slowly westward until it enveloped America and its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning gleamed through it at intervals and I heard the smothered groans and griefs of the American people. A second time the angel dipped out water of the ocean and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then drawn back to the ocean, in whose heaving billows it sank from view. A third time I heard the mysterious voice saying, 'Son of the Republic, look and learn.' I cast my eyes upon America and beheld villages and towns and cities springing up one after the other until the whole land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was dotted with them. Again I heard the mysterious voice say, 'Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn.' At this, the dark shadowy angel turned his face southward from Africa. I saw an illuminated specter approach out land. It fluttered slowly over every town and city of the latter. The inhabitants presently set themselves in battle against each other. As I continued looking I saw a bright angel, on whose brow rested a crown of light on which was the word 'Union' bearing the American flag, which she placed between the divided nations and said, 'Remember, we are brethren.' Instantly the inhabitants, casting from them their weapons, became friends once more and united around the standard.' "

" 'And I heard the mysterious voice say, 'Son of the Republic, look and learn.' At this, the shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth and blew three distinct blasts and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa. Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene; from each of these countries rose thick black clouds that were soon joined into one. Throughout the mass there gleamed a dark red light, by which I saw hordes of white men, who moving with the clouds, marched by

land and sailed by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. I dimly saw the vast armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns, and cities that I beheld spring up.' ”

“ ‘As my ear listened to the thundering of the cannon and clashing of the swords and shouts and cries of missions in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, “Son of the Republic, look and learn.” When the voice had ceased, the dark shadowy angel placed his trumpet to his mouth and blew a long and fearful blast. Instantly a light, as of a thousand suns, shone from above me and pierced and broke into fragments the cloud that enveloped America. At the same moment the angel, upon whose crown still shone the word “Union,” and who bore our national flag in one hand a sword in the other, descended from Heaven, attended by legions of white spirits. These immediately

joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were well nigh overcome, but who immediately taking courage again closed up the broken ranks and renewed the battle.’ ”

“ ‘Again, amid the noise of the fearful conflict, I heard the mysterious voice saying, “Son of the Republic, look and learn.” As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of America victorious. Then once more I beheld the villages, towns, and cities springing up where I had seen them before, while the bright angel planted the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them, and cried with a loud voice, “While the stars remain and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Union last,” and taking from his crown on which blazed the word

“Union,” he placed it upon the standard while the people, kneeling down, said Amen.’ ”

“ ‘The last scene instantly began to fade and dissolve and I saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I had first beheld. This also disappearing, I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice as I heard before, said, “Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted. The most fearful is the third. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land, and Union.’ ”

“ ‘With these words the vision vanished and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown to me the birth, progress and destiny of the United States.’ ”

“Such, my friend,” continued the narrator, “were the words I heard from Washington’s lips.”

From Youth Comrade, 1919

A Remarkable Testimony of Conversion

One evening in January, 1937, Brother Joseph Loyalvo was teaching an MBA class on the Book of Mormon in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, when they heard a knock at the door. An elderly lady asked whether she could come in. She stated, “The Lord sent me here.” Brother Joe answered, “If the Lord sent you, come in.” He invited her to sit down and join them.

Mrs. Knight, which they later discovered her name to be, wept through the entire meeting. At the end of the meeting, Brother Joe asked her whether she would like to say something. She said, “I belong here. I was walking on Wyandotte Street, praying to God and asked Him, ‘Where is your church?’ I have been to so many and have joined a number of them, but I have never found love anywhere. I came to the corner of Pierre Avenue and a voice spoke to me and said, ‘turn left.’ This occurred three times, and the third time I obeyed and came in front of The Church of Jesus Christ.”

She thought at first it was a

Chinese laundry with the half-curtains across the front windows with a sign. The voice again spoke to her and said, “This is My Church.” Mrs. Knight then said, once again, “I belong here! When I came in, you all had the same look on your faces, the image of Jesus Christ.”

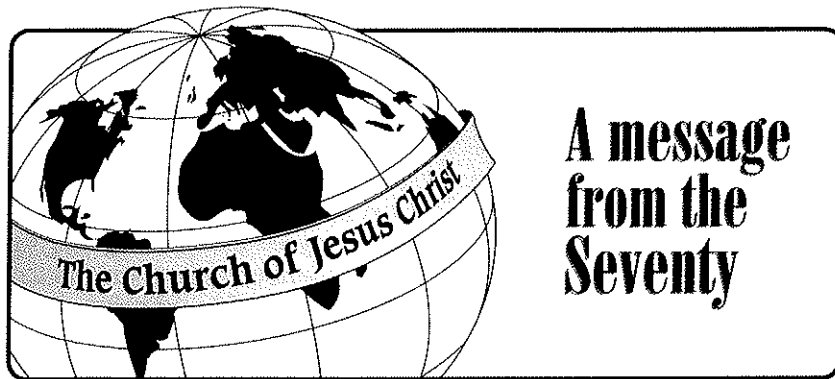
The saints showed her great love. They picked her up and brought her to every service and took her home. But when they would teach or preach from the Book of Mormon, she would become very rebellious. This went on for five or six weeks. In February, 1937 at a Friday MBA service, she confronted Brother Joe Loyalvo, pointing her finger in his face and speaking with a strong voice said, “Young man you cannot shove that Book of Mormon down my throat. The Bible is my book and that is the way it is going to be.” She was asked, “Why don’t you pray and ask God to reveal to you about the Book of Mormon and also that you must be baptized by the Ministers who have

the Authority of Christ.”

When she went home, she prayed to God, asking whether the Book of Mormon was true and whether she had to be baptized under the authority of The Church of Jesus Christ. She fasted and prayed from Friday night to Sunday morning. On Sunday morning, she presented her Bible to God and asked, “If what Brother Joe says is true, show it to me in the Bible.” She let her Bible drop and it fell open to the 4th chapter of Ephesians, where it says, *One Lord, one faith, one baptism . . .* and immediately a voice spoke to her and said, “That is the baptism Brother Joe is talking to you about and the Book of Mormon is a true and sacred record.”

We picked her up that Sunday morning, and while the preaching was going on, she stood up and requested to be baptized. Brother Joe wanted to be sure that her intentions were sincere, so he told her of the terrible weather conditions outside. It was snowing and the temperature was

(Continued on Page 10)



Trip to India—To Go or Not To Go

By Brother John Straccia

"I send My people, be not afraid;
For I send you to this land, John and John.
You have the key for these people;
The compassion of your heart will
open the doors.
Let My people pray, let My people pray."

During the morning service last November 1, 1998, at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch, the Ministry felt directed to pray for me prior to my departure with Brother John Genaro for three weeks to India that evening. Before the prayer, I felt to express myself, and during that time, tongues were spoken and the above interpretation was given.

Planning for this trip had been especially difficult because of the illness of Brother John Genaro's father, Brother Armand who has been battling terminal cancer for some time. In late August, he was hospitalized, referred to hospice care and given very limited time to live. September 15, 1998, was our deadline to purchase tickets and apply for our visas; however, the uncertainty of Brother Armand's condition put a great deal of pressure upon Brother Genaro and his family. It was further complicated by the fact that there was no one else available at the time to make the trip. Knowing the Lord sent them out "two by two," this meant that if Brother John Genaro could not go, neither of us could go. We also knew that the cost of the plane tickets were not refundable or transferable. This was the situation that existed as we prayed for the Lord's help and direction in this matter.

As the decision date approached, Brother Genaro felt confident that the Lord would not cause anything to happen to his father while he was in India. After all, this trip to India was the Lord's work. So Brother John decided to speak to his father and family about whether to make the trip.

When Brother John approached his father, he was not certain of his father's feelings. He explained the situation and the urgency of a "go" or "no go" decision. Brother Armand responded by telling his son "that if the Church had work for him to do, that he should go ahead and do it" and not worry about the family situation. Brother John felt a great deal of relief, yet as the eldest son he was still feeling the responsibility to remain home and uncertain of how the remainder of his family would feel.

When Brother John approached his mother and explained his difficult choice, she, not knowing what Brother Armand had said, repeated almost the exact words of her husband and encouraged him to go. Brother John got a similar response from his sister, Sister Barb Nuzzi. So he stepped out in faith, purchased his tickets and applied for a visa.

Soon after this, Brother Armand had a dream in which an old man approached him and told him that he would die at twelve o'clock noon. As the dream continued, Brother Armand looked at his watch until twelve o'clock noon came and passed, then he awoke. The next day he spoke with his son and asked him what he thought of

the dream. Our brother felt he knew the interpretation immediately—that there was a time appointed for his father to die, but the time had passed and the Lord had extended his life.

A week prior to his leaving, at the dedication of the new Kinsman church building, a sister from Lorain, Ohio approached Brother John and told him that she had a dream concerning him and his father. She explained that in her dream, she saw Brother Armand and Brother John standing side by side. A man walked up behind the both of them, placing one hand on each of their shoulders, and began to speak into Brother John's ear. Brother John, anxious to know what this man had said in the dream, asked our sister what was said. She stated his words were, "You will go on your trip and return and your father will still be here when you return." Elated with this message, Brother John and his family continued with the trip plans with the full assurance that the Lord was in the matter. In fact, as the departure date of the trip neared, Brother Armand was getting better and stronger, to the surprise of the doctors.

While in India, Brother John Genaro felt directed to testify at every location about how God had extended his father's life so that we could come to India. This was a demonstration of how much love God had for the people of India. As our trip progressed and we more aggressively testified of what God had done for Brother Armand, we received news from Brother John's family that Brother Armand was getting better every day. Doctors, who only gave him two weeks to live a month earlier, now removed him from the need for all day oxygen. These additional words were added to Brother John's testimony wherever we went. The brothers and sisters in India rejoiced with us and again witnessed the power of God when our brothers from the Parent Church came to visit them.

Two years earlier, through the prayers of the saints, they saw a cyclone reverse its direction so our Brother Joseph Calabrese and Steve

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**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 . . .

The year has begun with a strong reminder by nature what frail creatures we are; the frailty of the human family. In many parts of the country, January 1999 began with severe snow and ice storms. Many branches and missions were forced to close because of treacherous road conditions.

For some, there was no electrical power, which meant no heat, and possibly no water. How quick we are reminded of our nothingness and helplessness. How quick the human family is brought to its knees!

It is appropriate to ask ourselves some questions. "On whom do we depend?" "On whom do we rely on?" "Who do we trust?" "Who will deliver us in times of trial and need?" The only answer is, "Our dependence, reliance, and trust is only in God and His Son, Jesus Christ."

We must depend on God, who spoke, and the world was! Please note He only had to speak! The sun, moon, stars, earth, and all elements of nature responded to His word, His voice. They obeyed His word, His voice! Do we?

There are several passages of scripture that instruct us not to trust in man; only trust in God. Consider these few scriptures which represent a small sample of what is written about placing our reliance and trust in God.

Psalm 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalm 37:3, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." II Nephi 4:34, "O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm."

The Israelites were completely dependent on God. During their forty year walk in the desert, their one pair of shoes and clothing lasted throughout their march. They did not have time to plant gardens or fields of vegetables for food. They had manna, bread from heaven! So, their food and clothing were provided by God.

Lehi left everything he had in Jerusalem. He took no money and no compass. His family gathered what little food they could, what little clothing they could carry and relied totally and completely on God. Lehi's family went from riches and a mansion, to tents and wilderness living! How did they survive? They were dependent on God. They trusted in God for deliverance. God provided the compass, the Liahona. Just like Jesus Christ, it pointed them the direction they should travel. It also pointed them to food. It eventually pointed them to the promised land, a land of milk and honey.

When David faced Goliath, he did not rely on the arm of flesh. He did not rely on Saul's armor. David relied on his God, the God of Israel. God provided the armor, strength and deliverance. David knew he would be victorious. His faith and trust was in God. David did not ask amiss. He knew that God gives liberally to all those that ask Him, to all those who trust and obey Him.

The time is rapidly approaching that we must rely more on God. Actually, the time is here! Today, we are comfortable; good jobs, nice homes, a beautiful place to worship. The scripture tells us the signs and times. These signs and times are all around us. There are wars and rumors of wars. Brother against brother. Father against son. Children rising up against their parents. Nation against nation. Famines, pestilences, earthquakes and disasters of every kind. Good is recognized as evil and evil is recognized as good. How long will God continue to be patient? How long will He stay His hand? Only He knows. The times and seasons are known only to God. It is for us to be prepared and trust in God.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's

Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Nephi's Father Dreams

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you feel if your father woke up one morning and told you that you and your family had to move? If he told you that you were going to leave your beautiful, safe home and live in tents would you be happy?

Nephi's father, Lehi, told his wife and four sons that they had to leave everything behind and go into the wilderness. God was going to allow the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and the wicked people there to be taken as slaves. But the family of good Lehi was going to be saved. God planned to take them to a new land, far away, a land of promise.

Two of Lehi's sons, Laman and Lemuel, were really mad that they had to go. They didn't want to leave their friends, their plans, and the property and riches they would someday own. They did not believe anything could destroy a city as important and big as Jerusalem.

Every step of the way they muttered and murmured against their father. Anger filled them until they were like the Jews in Jerusalem who tried to take Lehi's life. The two younger brothers, Sam and Nephi, began to wonder who was right, their father or their older brothers.

After walking for several days from Jerusalem, Lehi had enough of his older sons. The Spirit of God filled him and he began to talk with Laman and Lemuel. Such power was there that those young men shook. They were so overcome that they did not dare to keep complaining against their father, and they did as he commanded them.



Now Nephi was a very young man, although he was the size of a full-grown man. Yet he began to wonder about the mysteries of God. He wondered if God had really showed his father everything he said God had. And Nephi cried unto the Lord.

The Lord heard Nephi, and visited him and softened his heart until he believed the words of his father. Nephi told his brother, Sam, about the love of God and Sam believed him.

But Laman and Lemuel still hated and disbelieved. Nephi was broken-hearted that his brothers were so hard. He went to God in prayer for them, and God showed Nephi that everything was under control.

All four sons of Lehi were going to a Promised Land. The Lord told Nephi that in the future the people that descended from Laman and Lemuel would go against the people descended from Nephi. In that day God would curse them. They would be lazy, full of trouble, and not able to beat the people of Nephi. The people of Nephi would rule over them as long as they served God.

The Lord continued to bless Nephi as time passed. Nephi saw many wonderful things in dreams. He was shown the dreams of his father, Lehi, and many more things. He saw Jesus Christ before He was even born on earth. He even saw the Lord's mother.

All of this happened according to God's plan and because one young man, Nephi, had a desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi gave up a comfortable life he knew well to journey in the wilderness and cross the mighty oceans. What if sometime we

are asked to give up something familiar, and safe because God's Holy Spirit shows us to? Would you be willing to ask God, to believe your dreams, and to open your heart to a new life? As God helped Nephi, He could help you, and He would, but you have to ask first.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

JERUSALEM	JEWS
RETURN	CRY
TO	PRAY
NEPHI	SHAKE
SAM	LOW
LEHI	STONE
DREAMS	BOW
GOD	

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

Note of Thanks

Thank you, brothers, sisters and friends for the outpouring of love and prayers regarding our recent legal situation involving my five-year-old daughter, Emily. Never before have I felt the power of prayer so strongly. It witnessed to me how the Lord can take any situation and turn it completely around for His honor and glory. "Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62:8).

May God richly bless you,
Sister Mary Gehly

Unfortunately, the wells of accommodations for The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference WILL eventually run dry, so register quickly in early Spring. (Wait, that's another song...)
It's being held on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University.

SAVE YOUR TEARS FOR THE ONES WHO MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL CONFERENCE!

26.

COME ALL YE THAT THIRST

Arranged by
Eugene F. Amormino

(Isaiah 55:1)

Words and Music by
Arlene Lea Buffington

Tender and flowing



- 1. My Fa-ther looks down _____ on a dry, dy-ing
- 2. Cry not for the aged, _____ and no tears for the
- 3. My Fa-ther con - trols _____ the times and the



- na-tion, _____ Ex-tend-ing His hand _____ to _____ all who pass
- in-fant, _____ Tho' death cuts the heart _____ man-y times like a
- sea-sons, _____ And He knows the hour _____ when _____ mer-cy goes



- by. _____ And I hear Him call out _____
- knife. _____ Save your _____



Branch and Mission News

News from Niles, OH

Jacob wrestled with an angel, seeking a blessing from God, not willing to give up he struggled all night long.

On Sunday, June 14, 1998, with great joy we welcomed to our meeting many visiting brothers and sisters who were once members of our branch and through the direction of God had moved to different locations. It was very exciting to feel the depth of love we share with them, but something even more exciting was being felt that morning—the Spirit of God. He was waiting for us and sweetly pleading, come home my children and rest after a long week.

Our opening speaker was Brother Frank Natoli who related that as he was preparing himself for Sunday, the Lord put on his heart that there were many needs in the congregation and the scripture that he should use was Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” As he expounded on the verse, we could begin to feel the strength and power in the words. They had begun to come alive and burn in our hearts. Then Brother Robert Batson followed by saying let us look at the instructions in this verse; ask, seek, knock, the first letters spell ask. These are action words . . . what are we waiting for? Let us take action and ask. As the preaching ended, we felt very blessed and encouraged. Looking back it seems as if a foundation had been laid for what the rest of the meeting would bring.

As the testimonies began, the feeling of struggling (in spirit) went through the Ministry and then through the congregation. What were we struggling for? Brother Wayne Martorana stood and declared, “Whomever needs something from the Lord come forth.” The Spirit spoke through Sister

Rose Palacios saying, “Pay heed unto the Lord.” At this time our Presiding Elder John Genaro said that he felt the Ministry should be united in a circle and plead with the Lord to cleanse and sanctify them so that when they pray there would be no hindrance. After the circle was formed, Brother Frank Natoli related that he had a dream the previous Wednesday night. He saw the Ministry standing in a circle praying and pleading with the Lord. After the anointings, the Lord’s Supper was passed and the meeting seemed to be over. However, Brother John said he felt to wait a little longer for the feeling of struggling was still so strong. Moments clicked by as we waited in silence; a sister asked for prayer for she had a broken heart and a little girl was anointed for an illness that she had since birth. The Word of the Lord came forth, “Keep knocking.” Again the meeting seemed to be over. Brother John began to make announcements and was surprisingly interrupted by Brother Mike Nuzzi who said, “Thus saith the Lord, one last call.” Brother John looked at the congregation, silence fell again, the struggling was so great. Struggling for what?

As we waited, Sister Tina Martorana was told by the Lord to go to the cry room and stay with the children so Susan Genaro could come into the meeting. As Susan took her seat, she began to feel something, not sure if it was the Spirit of God, she asked Him, if this is your Spirit make my heart pound, and it began to pound. Susan came forward for prayer. A prayer was offered by the Ministry before they anointed her and the gift of tongues came forth through Brother Joe Genaro saying, “Come forth and be covered by His blood and be healed.” As they prayed the Spirit spoke through Brother Frank Palacios saying, “The spirit you feel is My Spirit.” Susan then expressed that she was not sure that it was the Spirit of God she was feeling or was He finally calling her after a very long wait. The Spirit spoke again, “Don’t fear that calling.” As she greeted the Ministry, she asked for her baptism. The struggling ceased—joy set in, we were fighting for a soul, Susan’s soul, now we

received our blessing.

The man said unto Jacob, “Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me . . . And he blessed him there (Genesis 32:24-32).

The Perfect Homecoming

By Sister Karyn Vitto Romanski

Have you ever imagined the “perfect” way that you’d like the Lord to call you home? If today was your very last . . . what would be important? I’ve never given it much thought myself. It’s a little morbid, perhaps. But let me tell you about what the members of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch witnessed on September 13, 1998.

Our meeting began as usual, and we had several brothers and sisters that needed prayer. One of these was Sister Mary Rasponti. She asked for prayer for strength . . . and when she walked back to her seat, she seemed to have had a burden lifted from her. Brother Sam DiFalco told us that he had studied certain passages of scripture the night before, only to have been directed just before he got up, to speak on “Praise!”

The theme for our day appeared to be “Praising the Lord,” and when the meeting opened for testimony, Sister Mary Rasponti was the first one up on her feet. She testified that during the previous night, she felt that her mind was confused. A widow, living alone, she became frightened and prayed all night that the Lord would just protect her through the night so that she could get to Church in the morning. Sunday morning, when her daughter arrived to pick her up, her legs went weak when she tried to stand up. Again, she prayed, “Oh Lord, just let me get to Church.” She continued by expressing that she felt perfect peace after being prayed on, and that she couldn’t “Praise God” enough for always answering her prayers. I personally remember thinking that I had never heard Sister Mary sound so

relaxed and peaceful, and that her testimony was one of the most beautiful and sincere I had ever heard.

Minutes after she gave her testimony, she slumped in her chair. She didn't seem to be experiencing any pain, and the Ministry immediately anointed her again. After our resident nurse, Sister Anita Znoy recognized that she seemed to be paralyzed on one side . . . we called for an ambulance.

Sister Mary had a massive stroke and never woke up after she left the Church. She died a day later. Our sadness kept us from seeing the true beauty of the situation until a few days had passed. We even found out after that Sister Alyse Genaro had sung her very favorite hymn for us that day. "My God and I . . . walk through the fields together . . ."

Everything is so very appropriate when God plans it. Instead of dying alone, perhaps unable to call for help, Sister Mary experienced joy and God's richest blessings that Sunday morning. She raised her voice in praise to Him, for being the friend she could always depend on . . . and then she went home. I can almost picture her walking through the fields, hand in hand with Him. He planned a Homecoming like none any of us had every experienced. "Praise God, for He is an awesome God! He loves His precious children. It's good to be reminded once in a while, just how very much."

A Spiritual "Funday" in Saline, MI

By Pete Oestreicher

On Thursday, July 30, 1998, the Saline, Michigan Branch conducted a children's spiritual "Funday" at its building from noon to 3:00 PM. "Funday" was planned as part of "Operation Outreach," an effort to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Saline, Michigan community. This activity was planned to provide a day of fun for the children of friends and neighbors, offer religious and Biblical lessons, and introduce their parents to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Nineteen children were present and they participated in a children's community singspiration, singing praises to the Lord.

Three lessons were conducted to demonstrate the Christian values of honesty, fairness and kindness. Each lesson contained a corresponding song and Biblical verse to emphasize its importance. These verses were: **honesty**, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32); **fairness**, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31); and **kindness**, "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).

Saline, Michigan is a growing community. This is especially evident by a new ninety home subdivision being built whose entrance is directly across from the Church building. It is imperative that every effort be made to spread the Gospel and introduce friends and neighbors to The Church of Jesus Christ. This is the purpose of "Operation Outreach," and the spiritual "Funday" which was conducted. Please pray that the Saline Branch is successful in all its spiritual efforts.

News from the Denver, CO Mission

By Brother Walt Jankowski

Greetings from the great state of Colorado where the Denver Mission is enjoying the blessings of God from 5,280 feet! The time has flown by and as we look back over the seven years since Sister Carrie and I moved to Denver, we have seen God's work develop. We now have eleven baptized members meeting regularly in our home on Sundays and in the home of Brother David and Sister Janice (Benyola) Anderson on Wednesdays. When considering spouses, significant others and children, we now have a total of twenty-two people.

We were able to take a picture of our group which has grown to a considerable size. The brothers, sisters and friends from left to right are: Sister Pat and Brother Doug McClellan; Sister Janice (Benyola) and Brother David Anderson; Karen (Jankowski) Houston holding her son Tanner; Jeni Micala; Brother Walt and Sister Carrie Jankowski; Joan and Brother Charles Micala; Kelly Hillmer; Sister Doreen Dino; Brother Mike Tamburrino; Sister Cindy Parravano; Francesca Dino and her dad, Ross Dino. Missing from the picture are Brother Art Landrey, Jr., his wife Kendra and their boys, Joshua, Caleb and Seth.

We are thankful for the visits that many have made to Denver this past



Children who attended spiritual "Funday" at Saline, Michigan

(Continued on Page 10)

News from Denver, CO

Continued from Page 9

year. Among the visitors were Sister Stella Benyola from Dallas; Sisters Jennie Schmidt, Susie Arcuri and Edie Blazer along with Brother Jim Schmidt and Robin from Metuchen. Brother Joe and Sister Mary Perri from Freehold were here and Brother Jim Sgro from New Brunswick. We also had Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie Smith from Phoenix, Brother Rusty Heaps and Brother Jim and Sister Lynette Huttenberger from Anaheim. Brother Tom Liberto, Jr., and Sister Lillian and their family came from the San Diego Branch. Brother Mark Coppa from Modesto was passing through on his way to Michigan and Sister Jan Cornell from McKees Rocks was able to spend a Wednesday evening meeting with us too. Everyone brought blessings, visions, testimonies and love which we, like you, need very much.

Since many of us are from big branches, we really miss the fellowship of the saints and the gatherings of so many. Your visits mean a lot to us and they serve to boost our spirits to a higher plain (even though we are already at 5,280 feet). Let any of us know if we can accommodate you for a vacation or just passing through. We

appreciate the blessings that you will bring and I know that you will be blessed as well.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Deccola, Genevieve
6819 Woodcreek Dr.
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130
216-267-7834

Difalco, Janet
10332 Sunrise Lakes Boulevard
Bldg. 178, Apt 207
Sunrise, FL 33322
954-749-7834

Draskovich, Jim & Alicia
3858 Coral Tree Circle, Apt #308
Coconut Creek, FL 33073
954-978-3553

Rogalla, Jon
11975 SW 12th Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
954-441-9939

Yoder, Dan
11975 SW 12th Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
954-441-9939

A Remarkable Testimony

Continued from Page 3

about zero. Mrs. Knight got up and said, "Young man, my soul is in your hands, I'm going all the way with Christ." They broke twelve inches of ice and Brother Ross Collison baptized Sister Knight.

Apostle Robert A. Watson
General Church Historian

(This experience is found in the General Church Conference Minutes of October 1997, pages 3624 and 3625—Editor's Note.)

GMBA Campout

Continued from Page 1

The angels came to watch my birth
On mountainous spot of holy earth.
So many prayers were answered there
As I gave Jesus all my cares.

For even me He lived and died,
For even me my Savior cried
And now for Him I've quit the fight
For only Him will I live my life.

The following asked for their baptisms and returned home to share this beautiful occasion with their families: Jennifer Azzinaro, Melissa Wolfe, Mandy Evans and Gabe.

The theme for camp was especially meaningful to the author of this article. One morning, another sister and I were on our way to teach a seminar when I fell down approximately ten concrete steps. Needless to say, this was a painful experience. Immediately three Elders who did not witness the fall, felt a tremendous power come over them and came to my assistance. Without any verbal communication, one of the brothers showed me the holy oil and began to anoint me. The Spirit of God fell upon me and instantly the pain was removed. I praise God He still performs miracles, "For Even Me."

Words cannot express and this article does not do justice to the Spirit



The congregation of the Denver, Colorado Mission

that was felt all week in the speaking, seminars, crafts, sports, and in the sweet fellowship we had one with another. Space does not permit listing all the beautiful experiences that were had. The Lord poured out His blessings to all in attendance from the youngest to the oldest, baptized and unbaptized, "For Even Me."

Trip to India

Continued from Page 4

Champine could make a visit to the Tadepallegudem area. Then last year, when Brother Joseph Calabrese and I were stranded when the rains prevented the trains from operating, we attempted to get seats on private and government buses, but nothing was available. Finally, with nowhere else to turn, Brother Joe said let's pray and seek God's help. Within five minutes, a strange man walked up to us and soon we had two seats on a private bus to our destination. When our people learned that our train was canceled, they were fearful of our being alone in an unfamiliar area of India. At midnight, they hired a taxi to drive them to the place they thought we were stranded. As they began the six hour drive, the taxi broke down. With no other taxis to be found, they returned to the train station. Meanwhile, we arrived at the bus station and felt directed to go to the train station where we found the brothers and sisters still waiting for us. God provided the way and without human communication, brought us all together.

With God preparing the way before we left, we knew that the Lord would be with us and we were not discouraged. On at least eight different occasions, the Lord gave me scripture and a message to speak on before the meeting began and Brother Genaro opened on the same thought. At our meeting in Ambattur, the Spirit of God was so powerful, that on the next day, three people asked for their baptisms. In Singarajapalem, we were going to witness fifteen baptisms, but the power of the Spirit in that meeting brought an additional eight souls to the waters.

Overall, we witnessed thirty-one baptisms, but because of time constraints, approximately fifty more were to be done at a later date.

While in India, we visited well over twenty locations and our orphanage, bringing the message of Jesus, the Restored Gospel and God's love wherever we spoke. With each visit we heard the joyful expressions of praise in singing. Much time was spent telling them of the various miracles and healings throughout the Church, which with their telling, brought shouts of praise and increased faith. We visited a new village where the Church was just beginning and gave approval for the work to begin in several other new villages or areas.

With each of the three areas of the Church in India, we held interactive conferences with all the ordained, speaking to them about being members of the Body of Christ, the duties of the ordained, spiritual warfare and the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. Being directed by the Holy Spirit a little differently in each area, we did not just speak the lesson to them, but sat among them and gave them great latitude to express their desires, experiences and feelings about their salvation and calling into various positions. The result was expressions of joy, tears and praise that I had never seen from these people before. We closed each session putting into effect the powerful tools we have been given in this spiritual warfare, believing that things in India would change through their faith. The willingness, openness and power of their prayers were overwhelming.

Brother John and I offered more than four hundred anointing and blessing prayers. The grace of God was seen in the form of healing on several occasions. For example, Brother Yohann's wife who had arthritis for a long period of time, had to be fed by others because the crippling pain prevented her from feeding herself. The day we prayed for her, the pain was relieved and she fed herself for the first time in six months! On the second day, her healing had progressed to the point that she was able to cook for her whole family. Praise God!

Another time a small child who had a blistering fever found relief under our hands as we prayed for her. Before we said Amen, her body temperature was normal. Praise God! As a result of being in and out of villages so quickly, it sometimes takes months for good news to reach us. Many other wonderful things could be cited. Let us close by saying this: "The Spirit of God is alive and well in India."

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

Some now advocate storing food and buying a gun! This is an interesting, novel and unique theological concept. Is the gun to hunt for food or is it to protect one's food? The Lord does not instruct an individual or a nation to take up the sword and follow Him. He simply says, "follow me." Jesus Christ is stronger and more powerful than any sword, gun or weapon. He can melt every weapon at His command! The Lord can immobilize armies.

There are examples in scripture where the Israelites were outnumbered by their enemies in the field of battle. How did they overcome their enemies? By relying and trusting in God.

The Israelites were freed from the tyrannical hand of Pharaoh by the hand of God. They were not made free by their strength. It was the strength and power of God that delivered them from their enemy.

When God moves His hand, we must be found like the five wise virgins we read about in the 25th chapter of Matthew. Just as they were prepared for the Lord, we must also be prepared when He moves His hand. We must be ready and wise. We must not be fooled. We need to depend on the Lord.

Flesh dies. Jesus Christ and His Father are eternal. By depending, relying and trusting in the Lord and His Father, we can also become eternal. By trusting in God and His Son, we can and will overcome all things. We can overcome any adversity. Trust Him! There is no other!

* WEDDINGS *

Brother James Draskovich and Sister Alicia Kaplin were united in holy matrimony on June 20, 1998 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Celeste Amormino and Brett Markley were united in holy matrimony in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan on August 15, 1998.

Sister Dana Nardozi, of the Columbus, Ohio Mission, and Michael Nathan Archer were united in holy matrimony on October 10, 1998 in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

Nicole LeBoulche and Brother Darin Amormino were united in holy matrimony on October 17, 1998 in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Birth Announcement

Corey Steven Vecciarelli, son of Sister Kristie and Steven Vecciarelli of the Hollywood, Florida Branch was born on October 28, 1998.

Children Blessed

Sarah Anne Counts, daughter of Gregory and Liz Counts, was blessed on July 26, 1998 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Dayana Aleta Cosme, daughter of Chandra Young and David Cosme, was blessed in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on October 17, 1998.

Lucas Benjamin Ali, son of Brother Larry and Sister Vicki Ali, was blessed at the GMBA Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on November 15, 1998.

Baptisms

Michelle Pereira was baptized on November 8, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Tony Ricci and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Anna Marie Metzler was baptized on July 1, 1998 at the GMBA Campout in California. She is a member of the Columbus, Ohio Mission. Sister Anna was baptized by Brother Alan Metzler and confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Marilu Metzler was baptized on July 2, 1998 at the GMBA Campout in California. She is a member of the Columbus, Ohio Mission. Sister Marilu was baptized by Brother Dwayne Jordan and confirmed by Brother Isaac Smith.

Jarvia Udosen, of the Herndon, Virginia Branch, was baptized on October 17, 1998 by Brother Chatman Young.

Zachary Matthews was baptized on December 6, 1998 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ralph Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Tony Ricci.

OBITUARIES

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

MELVIN OBRADOVICH

Brother Melvin Obradovich passed on to his heavenly reward on September 3, 1998. He was a member of the Hollywood, Florida Branch. Brother Melvin is survived by his wife, Sister Letti Obradovich; two sons, Brothers Dane and Douglas Obradovich; one daughter, Nedra Obradovich and seven grandchildren.

WARREN "Ed" NELSON

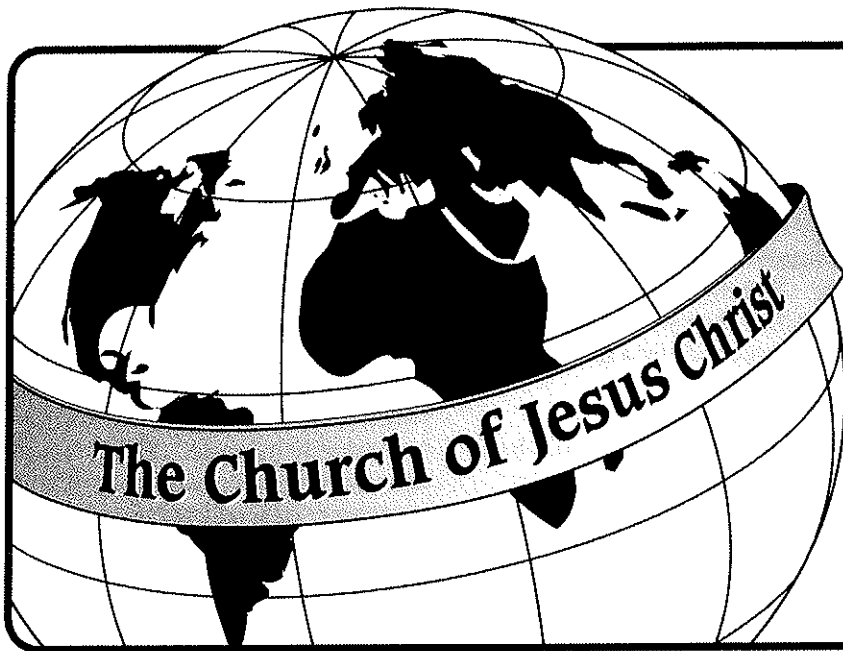
Warren "Ed" Nelson of the Columbus, Ohio Mission passed away to his eternal reward on June 30, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Sister Loretta Nelson; four sons, Clifford John, Michael, Warren, and Theodore Nelson; one daughter, Kathy Miller; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

March, 1999

Volume 54, No. 3

Southeast RMOC Gathering

By Brother Mark Kovacic

On Saturday evening, September 5, 1998, the Southeast Region Operating Committee (RMOC) under the guidance of the Region's Evangelists, held its first ever Native American "empowerment" session to train all interested members and friends about sharing in the Divine Commission of the Church. With over sixty in attendance, a special excitement was felt as the great latter-day work was discussed.

Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., RMOC Chairman, opened the training session. He noted its importance in preparing us to be used of God in performing the work of God. He then turned the meeting over to Brother Mark Kovacic, Vice-Chairman. Brother Mark distributed an outline containing information about the missionary work. He explained the format of the meeting and the general program.

The following brothers participated in the training: George A. Kovacic, J. Miguel Bicelis, James Sheffler, Eugene Perri and Dennis Moraco. The training covered such areas as what the Divine Commission of the Church is; what it means to be empowered to carry the message;

what scriptural and Native American knowledge is required; the different approaches to Native American Indian work; the importance of being guided by the Spirit; long-term commitment is needed; what it means to be nursing mothers and fathers; some do's and don'ts in working for and with Native Americans; and how important feedback is to the committee.

Brother Dennis Moraco brought the session to a close with encouraging comments about making a difference. He used examples from the scriptures and then said the same is true for us. He also noted the uniqueness of our message compared to the rest of the world. "Are you ready to work?" he asked. "Grasp the Spirit of the Restoration and carry it forward." He then related an experience of going to the home of Brother Charles Ashton when he was a boy and that one of the brothers offered a prayer that the Spirit of the Restoration that was alive in Brother Ashton would be alive in them. "Ask God to use you in the great work of the Church."

The weekend continued with a gathering on Sunday hosted by the Regional Evangelists. Over one

hundred and ten brothers, sisters and friends gathered in the House of the Lord to hear the Restored Gospel preached, the saints testify of God's greatness, and to fellowship with one another.

Brother Eugene Perri, Chairman of the Southeast Region Quorum of Seventy, welcomed all to the meeting. Brother Dennis Moraco opened the service by preaching about our belief on the establishment of the Church by Jesus and His Apostles. He pointed out how the saints in that day recognized the Spirit and power of God and how the news of God's power traveled quickly without the use of modern technology, like email, a modern tool of communication. And although they had their problems and concerns, they met together often and the Spirit of God was with them. They gave up their belongings to the Church, dedicated themselves to the cause of Christ, and their testimonies, and the signs that followed them changed the world.

Brother Dennis noted that although there was an apostasy, the promises of God are eternal and that we are living in exciting days. "The 'good old days' weren't so good in many ways. Even for the blessings of God, we cannot live in the 'good old days.' We cannot look into the past, but we can simply look around us

(Continued on Page 11)

Has God Cast Off All Israel?

By Evangelist Alfred D'Amico

Our text will be taken from Romans, 11th chapter, verses 1-5, 11, 12, and 15.

"I SAY then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

"Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

"But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"

In the first part of the text, it is the Apostle Paul's objective to call attention that all Israel was not cast off from God's special favor. Their rejection was not total as God has reserved a remnant, or portion of Israelites through the same grace by which he, Paul, was also spared. His conversion was evidence that all Israel was not cast off, for he too was an Israelite, being the seed of Abraham and of the tribe of Benjamin.

In the latter part of our text, the Apostle Paul proceeds to show that

the rejection was not final. They would be cast off from God's special favor only for a time, and the Gentiles would occupy the place which they so long held. The time would come, however, when they would again be restored, or received, into the favor of God.

God, in covenanting with Abraham, told him that he would be a father of many nations. In his seed, the nations of all the earth would be blessed, and God would establish His covenant with him and his seed in their generations, as an Everlasting Covenant, so long as they would observe His laws and commandments.

God blessed Abraham in his old age with a son, whom he called Isaac. Isaac begat Jacob, and Jacob begat twelve sons, who made up the House of Israel, better known as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. As a blessing to him, Jacob received the name or title of Israel from an angel of God.

Joseph, who was the eleventh son of Jacob, was used as an instrument in the hands of God. After he was sold into Egypt by his brethren, he preserved life not only for the Egyptians but for all Israel as well. When Joseph made himself known unto his brethren, he said,

"... be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

The Prophet Moses also played an important part in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, but Israel soon forgot the goodness and mercies of God and became rebellious and disobedient not only towards Moses but towards God as well. Eventually, they were scattered into the northern countries and upon the islands of the sea.

It was God's wisdom which made Him preserve a remnant. Did Israel not know that God would call the Gentiles? I say, "Yes!" Did not Moses tell the Israelites that God would provoke them to jealousy by them that are no people and that by a foolish nation He would anger them?

The Prophet Esaias said, "... I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

In the days of the Prophet Elijah, when idolatry and other wickedness remarkably prevailed, Elijah thought that, surely, there was not another true worshiper of God besides himself remaining in Israel. The Lord, knowing all, saw no less than 7,000 who did not bow down to Baal; thus, a remnant was preserved, according to the election of grace. God also has preserved a remnant even until our day and time. This remnant is the American Indian.

Among the many perplexing questions which confront the human family today is, "From where did the American Indian originate?" Many theories have been offered, so this mystery might be solved. I shall dwell upon this subject and, perhaps, throw out a ray of light. Although it may seem preposterous and incredible, what I say is true and infallible.

Briefly, in 1827, a young man named Joseph Smith, after receiving many experiences and heavenly visitations, was directed and permitted by the power of God to remove a number of plates from the hill, called Cumorah, near Palmyra, New York. The inscriptions, or hieroglyphics, on these plates were not legible. Only by the power of God was Joseph able to translate as much of them as he was permitted to translate. We now have them in book form, entitled the Book of Mormon.

The Book of Mormon, is a history of the American Indians, who are descendants of the Joseph who was sold into Egypt. As the Bible is a history of the Jews, telling of God's dealings with them, so the Book of Mormon tells of God's dealings with the descendants of Joseph on the land of America.

Now back to the question, "From where did the American Indian originate?" Upon reading the Book of Mormon, we find that a certain man, named Lehi, who lived in Jerusalem

600 years before Christ, was warned by God of the calamity which was to befall Jerusalem. Being commanded by God, he fled into the wilderness. Two of his sons, Laman and Lemuel, became disobedient and rebelled against him. Nevertheless, Lehi and his family continued traveling until God permitted them to embark for the promised land, the land of America. With God's guidance, they finally reached America safely.

Nephi, who was also a son of Lehi, was favored by the Lord very much. He, like his father, received many heavenly experiences. The followers of Nephi were called Nephites, and the followers of Laman were called Lamanites. The Nephites were a righteous people; the Lamanites unrighteous. God told the Nephites that, so long as they would worship Him, they would prosper unto the promised land of America. After many years, however, the Nephites began to lift themselves up in pride. They became so proud in their hearts from their self-elevated esteem that they would not repent of it. God eventually caused the Lamanites to destroy them.

After the Gentiles came to America, the Lamanites, or American Indians, were driven to and fro by them until they were killed by the hundreds. Today, we have only a few, or a remnant preserved by the hand of God, of the millions who once roamed the hills of America. This remnant is of the seed of that Joseph who was sold into Egypt. Speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem, Jesus said, "... other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice..." After His death and resurrection, this was fulfilled, when He made His appearance in America and spoke to the descendants of Joseph.

Speaking of a sign that would be given to this remnant in this, our day, 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." 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; ... when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;

"For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father..."

"... if they [the 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,..."

The Church of Jesus Christ was established, or returned, among the Gentiles in 1830. Joseph Smith, a Gentile, was used as an instrument by God in the Restoration of His Church.

It is written that, after the Gentiles receive the Gospel, they should, in turn, bring it to the remnant which has been preserved. Then, the Gentiles may be numbered among the House of Israel. The Gentiles are to also assist the seed of Joseph, along with the Choice Seer, to gather all Israel who have been scattered upon the face of the earth.

"... then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

"And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people..."

God has not cast off all Israel, because He did not permit them to stumble into everlasting destruction. Rather, He has overruled their obstinate unbelief and has sent His Gospel to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, by accepting it, may provoke Israel to emulate accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If the fall of Israel meant the reconciling of the world, or the enriching of the Gentiles with the Gospel and all its inestimable blessings, then how much more shall the faith of the Gentiles be confirmed, and their blessings increased when Israel returns? How much more glorious will the Gospel of Jesus Christ be to the Gentiles in sharing God's bless-

ings, along with His Covenant People. It will be giving life to the dead.

Then, the mountain of the Lord's House will be glorious in that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be established on the top of the mountains. It will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will flow into it. The Gentiles will walk together with Judah and Israel. The covenant of God with Abraham will be fulfilled, so that, in his seed, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. In that day, the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

This article is based on a sermon by Evangelist Alfred D'Amico (deceased) and is taken from the Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.

Notice

A spiral-bound photo scrapbook is being planned to capture the World Missionary Conference scheduled for June 26-July 2, 1999. It will be twenty to twenty-five pages of photographs, both color and black and white (predominantly color), and will be 8 1/2 x 11 in size.

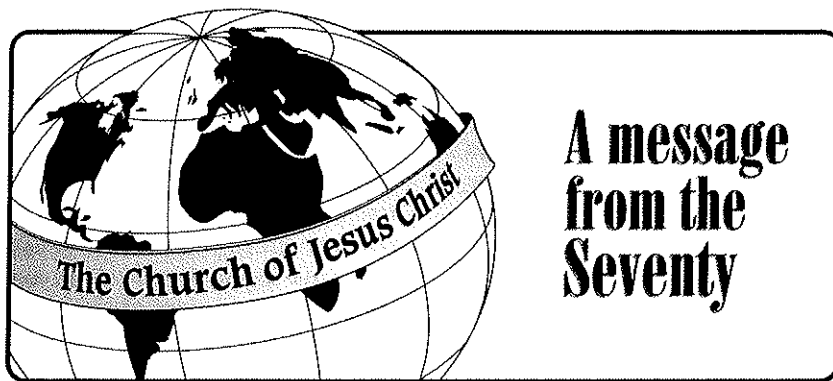
The price will be \$25.00 each. All proceeds will go to The Church of Jesus Christ in support of missionary work around the world.

For this project to be viable, we need at least one hundred (100) ordered, a minimum order quantity of one (1) each is acceptable. This photo scrapbook (album) will be a wonderful "Book of Remembrance" of a blessed spiritual event.

To place an order, please contact:

Sister Dana Lowe-Smith
703 Chilt Drive
Brandon, FL 33510
813-684-5760
email: danaandjohn@juno.com

Make checks payable to The Church of Jesus Christ, and send them to Sister Dana Lowe-Smith when placing your order. God bless you all.



Gospel Moves Forward in Peru

By Evangelist Richard Christman

God continues to call people into The Church of Jesus Christ in the nation of Peru in South America. The latest converts were a new sister, Urbelina Aguilar, and a new brother, Elia Cardenas, who were baptized by Brother Daniel Mora on a recent trip he made there in mid-December with Brother Richard and Sister Pat Christman.

The seeds which have been planted on previous trips have become very fruitful, as the Gospel moves forward in this nation. The Lord has manifested Himself to those who have come into the fold.

The baptisms took place in the picturesque Arequipa area where the water is swift and running from the mountains located over 18,000 feet high. The site used was at an elevation of about 7,500 feet.

JOY AND ENTHUSIASM

The Lord's blessings were prevalent as the converts were immersed. The joy and enthusiasm of the small group are very evident, as our Peruvian brothers and sisters are diligent in giving their testimonies and in telling others about the Gospel. They are great assets and forerunners in the missionary endeavors there. Incidentally, Sister Urbelina is the mother of Sister Erica who was baptized the last time we were in Peru.

Both Sisters Urbelina and her daughter, Sister Erica, live in a town called Magis, which is a small commu-

nity about two hours from Arequipa where our services are held. Unfortunately, they are not able to get to the meetings as often as they would like. To help provide fellowship for them, the congregation travels to Magis once a month to have a scripture study and spend time together. The desire to meet and praise God is very strong with our brothers and sisters in Peru. They are very desirous to have feet washing and inquire about having a feet washing service as soon as we arrive.

Much of the travel is done by bus on roads that are not always paved. The most common means of transportation is walking, and everyone seems to be able to walk several miles as a

normal daily occurrence. It is not unusual for children in the highlands (mountains) to walk two hours to school without adequate shoes.

Our prayer is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will develop to the point that God will prosper the land. It is the only hope, and yet we know it is a sure hope and promise that if God's people will turn to Him, He will bless and prosper them.

BUSY SCHEDULE

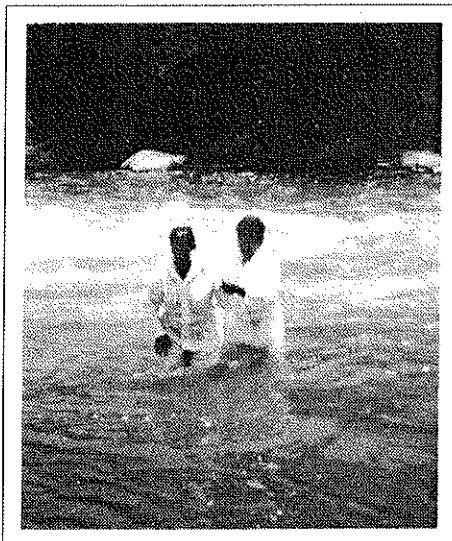
A busy schedule was kept during our stay. Meetings were held, with the time spent in preaching, praying, testifying, singing, and teaching the flock, in addition to having feet washing. Experiences which have been received were also related. A wonderful spirit prevailed.

The brothers and sisters are continually learning about God's workings among them and are growing stronger even though they are constantly surrounded by the opposition. The sincerity and love of God which are present are bringing the group closer together, thus allowing the Lord to work with them. The economy is very depressed and many people are unemployed. Also, they are recovering from the devastating storms and floods which have brought great destruction to them, as they have in other parts of the world.

FIRST TRIP IN 1995

Our first trip was taken to Peru in 1995. This exploratory visit revealed that there was great promise for the future, in keeping with a revelation that the work of the Lord should go to that nation. Several areas have been visited and the reception given us has been exceptional.

On the initial trip, a man met us as we were leaving to come home. He asked what we were doing there. When our mission and our interest in the people of Peru were explained to him, the gentleman stated that he was interested in those who would help his people. He invited us back and said he



Brother Daniel Mora baptizing Sister Urbelina Aguilar in Peru.

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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. 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 . . .

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a wonderful example of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. It is a powerful compliment to the Lord's commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Why did Jesus Christ use the example of the Good Samaritan? Why was it so appropriate? Why is it so appropriate?

Please remember the Good Samaritan was used in the Parable versus a priest and a Levite. All three crossed paths with a man who was set upon by thieves. They not only robbed him, they wounded him and left him half dead on the side of the road.

Let us begin with a very brief historical search on the Samaritans. Who were they? Where did they originate? Was there animosity by the Jews toward the Samaritans? If there was animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans, why did it exist?

It is not an exaggeration to say the Jews disliked other peoples. They especially disliked the Samaritans. This dislike, perhaps hatred, may have its foundation in the Samaritans persistent efforts to claim a racial relationship. Samaritans were a mixed people. When the Ten Tribes of Israel were led into captivity by the King of Assyria, foreigners, actually heathen colonists, were allowed to populate Samaria. These foreigners intermarried with the Israelites. They eventually modified the religion of Israel and were then viewed as unorthodox and yes, reprobate! The Jews would have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Against this background, is it any wonder that James and John, the Sons of Thunder, said, "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?" This statement was uttered when the Samaritans showed no respect for the Lord during a planned visit by Him to their village. What was the Lord's response? Luke 9:55-56 states, "... Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." In lieu of retaliation and vindictiveness was the expression of love and mercy. What a magnificent contrast! Love instead of hate. Love overcoming hate. Is it any wonder the Apostle Paul states charity as, "... is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth . . ."

Looking at the Gospels and the attitudes of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John towards the Samaritans, Matthew appears hostile, Mark ignores them, Luke, while fair, is distant. John appears to have become conciliatory. Might John's conciliatory attitude, his softening of heart, been the result of his hearing the Lord's Good Samaritan example? The Parable of the Good Samaritan was used shortly after the episode of James and John requesting permission to destroy the Samaritans and their entire village by fire! In fact, it is in the very next chapter!

The Parable of the Good Samaritan began with a question—a lawyer's question asked to tempt the Lord. Can you imagine the audacity of someone tempting the Lord Himself?"

The lawyer asked a question of the Lord. His question, "... Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The Lord's response, as He often did, was a question to the lawyer. "... What is written in the law? how readest thou?" The lawyer knew the answer and it was based on the two commandments on love. To paraphrase the lawyer's answer, Love God above all, Love your neighbor as yourself. The Lord then tells the lawyer his answer was correct and if he put his answer into action, he would live.

Foolishly, the lawyer continues and asks, "... And who is my neighbor?" He wanted to justify himself. Self-justification. How foolish!

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

A belief in witchcraft has begun in this Promised Land. People do not attend churches like The Church of Jesus Christ where we feel and see the great power of God. They are searching for some meaning and power.

Small children, little babies even, are watching video tapes and cartoons about magic, wizards, ghosts, and witchcraft. Older kids are watching too, and playing complicated video and computer games about evil, doom, magic, and power. Authors of books are writing the same kind of scary ideas to make us afraid and give us bad goosebumps.

These things are "not" for us. The people of God are known as "peculiar" (different). We know how to pray and call upon God's power. We know how to trust God and not feel fear. We must think about the things we are letting creep into our lives.

People say, "Oh it's harmless. It's just pretend." But it is "not!" The Bible warns us in Ephesians 6:12 that we battle each day not against flesh and blood (humans) but against "principalities, against power, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." That means that we are to realize that there is an evil power, Satan, and we are fighting him.

But, do not fear. The Bible tells us in James 4:7, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." That means, think twice. Turn off that bad show. Throw away the video game about evil and do not play it at someone else's house. Do not go see movies about witchcraft and wizards. Don't read books where evil wins. Resist, say "No!" In your heart and mind tell God you'll be better. Then, do be better.



Most of all realize that this is all part of God's plans. We are in a period of time that ancient people knew would happen. It is called the Latter Days. Very soon, it has been prophesied that Satan will be chained for a thousand years.

The people in this world will be so full of love and care, we each will constantly keep watching ourselves for little mistakes. Then we'll ask God for forgiveness, in the name of Jesus, so we can change. The old devil will have no power over the minds and hearts of each of us. Children will be safe to go anywhere. Guns, violence, kidnap-

pings will not happen.

Satan will not be allowed to influence or hurt us. We each will resist the devil and he will flee (run away) from us. So practice now. Get started by putting away witchcraft, magic or anything that praises or fears evil. You are Christ's child. He cares for you. He will make you strong.

Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

JAMES	THE	WILL
FOUR	DEVIL	FLEE
SEVEN	AND	FROM
RESIST	HE	YOU

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

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Berticelli, Elizabeth and Kimberly
P.O. Box 256
Newcastle, ME 04553
207-563-2311

Cherry, Alexander and Melissa
90 Ridge Road
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-8130

Curtin, Tom and Sally
163 West Main Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-846-6596

Eutsey, Milford Sr. and Shirley
3705 Blackhawk Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34652-6455
727-847-4545

Heckerd, Larry and Carol
1947 Tumbleweed Drive
Holiday, FL 34690-2446

Melnikov, Katharine
3033 East Thunderbird—#2121
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-953-9713

Onorata, Jr., Richard, Cynthia and
Heather
10 Starbird Corner Road
Bowdoin, ME 04287
207-666-3687

Perrello, Donald and Ann
72 Highland Road
Newcastle, ME 04553

Scolaro, Anthony J. and Linda
114 Rutgers Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840-1336
732-452-1408

Vucinich, Mary
1908 Faith Ave.
Haines City, FL 33844-4842
941-419-1133

WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Listen to the Trumpeters

June 26 - July 2, 1999

Name _____ Home Phone _____
 Address _____ Arrival Date _____
 _____ Depart Date _____
 _____ Ordained Offices _____

Special Dietary Needs _____
 Guardian Needed: Yes ___ No ___ Medical Training _____
 Home Branch/Mission _____ Home Region _____

Individual Names	Age	Sex	On-Camp	Crafts

Meal Attendance

List number of persons eating each meal

Meal	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Breakfast	No						
Lunch	No						No
Dinner							No

Rates: On Camp	Per Day	Per Week
Adult (13 & over)	\$37.50	\$225
Child (4-12 yrs)	\$19.00	\$114
Infant (0-3 yrs)	Free	Free

Off Camp (per person/per day)	Meals	Registration Fee
Adult	\$17.00	\$10
Child	\$8.50	\$5
Infant	Free	Free

On-Camp	Fee	_____
Off-camp	Fee	_____

Total Registration Amount _____

Please make payments out to: **World Missionary Conference**

Forms must be received on or before May 15, 1999.

Registration Forms should be mailed to: **Mike and Karen Pandone**
14920 Anne Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101

If there are any questions, you can contact the registration committee by E-mail: **mikekjo@juno.com**

Registration forms being submitted by credit card can be faxed to: **(313) 386-2958**

If paying by credit card, please circle one:

Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date _____

Persons 17 and under not coming to the conference with their parents **must** have a completed consent form submitted with their registration.

_____ **Please send me information about the Shuttle Service.**

Nearby Lodging (less than a mile):

Lees Inn (815) 932-8080 *
Holiday Inn (815) 932-4411 **
Fairfield Inn (815) 935-1334 **
Hampton Inn (815) 932-8369 **
Motel 6 (815) 933-2300
Super 8 (815) 939-7888

* Mention our church's name for discount.

** Mention Olivet University for discount.

If staying off-camp, please indicate location for emergency purposes:

Lodging Name _____

There will be many activities for children between the ages of 2-12. Many people are needed to make these activities a success. If you would like to volunteer to help, please specify how much time during the week you will be available. All help will be greatly appreciated!

I would like to help with the children's activities for _____ days/hours.

For Office Use Only:

Date Received	
Form #	
Check #	
Check Amount	\$



Our Women Today

Let's Get Ready

By Sister Karen Progar

It has proven to be a long hard winter with many of us Northerners unexpectedly housebound. This is a very good time to start thinking about spring and the numerous activities and opportunities for fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. Begin making plans now to attend the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference which will be held on April 24, 1999 at Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan.

Reflecting on our October 10,

1998 Conference and the blessings we enjoyed, Sister Arline Whitton began our conference by reporting on the wonderful fellowship weekend we experienced last July and promising the group additional blessings as we prepare for our participation in the 1999 World Missionary Conference and anticipate the joy we will share at that event.

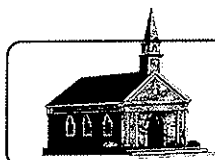
The Area Circle Presidents once again gave exciting reports of the activities which have taken place in their respective Circles. We were delighted to hear that membership in many of the Areas had grown and that our sisters were active providing support to the missionary work of their regions.

Our General Circle disbursements were also a delight to hear. We donated \$2,183.00 to the Indian Mission work; \$2,640.00 was split evenly between the works in Ghana,

Nigeria, India, Kenya, Italy and the General Church Missionary Foundation, and over \$11,000.000 was donated to the General Church in order to assist the World Missionary Conference expenses. The Lord has blessed our nearly six hundred members with a real desire to serve His Church.

In our afternoon session, Brother Phil Jackson addressed the group regarding the World Missionary Conference. A real feeling of excitement was present. The day seemed to fly by as we listened to God's word, sang praises to Him, enjoyed our officers' reports and the reports of our activities of the previous months.

If you were at our conference, our hope is this reflection brought a sweet memory to you. If you were not able to attend, our hope is you feel prompted to mark your calendar for April 24th in Michigan. We hope to see you there!



Branch and Mission News

Five Beautiful New Sisters in Windsor, Ontario, CN

On Father's Day, June 21, 1998, it was a beautiful morning as we gathered on the shores of Lake St. Clair. We had many visitors from the Great Lakes Region to see our five new sisters make their covenant with the Lord. Some of the girls had recently been to an area campout and brought back that calling spirit with them. Brother John Collison first led Crystal Labute down into the water and then followed with Margaret Smith. Brother Dick Lobzun baptized his two granddaughters, Jessica and Rebecca Lobzun. Brother Bob Stanek then baptized Stephanie Martiere. Each face was such a beautiful sight to behold.

We returned to the Windsor Branch and Brother Frank Vitto invited the Lord into our meeting. We sang the hymn, *Somebody Bigger Than You and I*. This was the same hymn that

was being sung when the girls began calling for their baptisms the week before. Our sisters were called to the front as our brothers formed a circle and offered a prayer for the Lord's direction. Brother Don Collison then laid hands on Sister Margaret for the reception of the Holy Ghost; Brother Mike LaSala confirmed Sister Stephanie; Brother Dick confirmed

Sister Crystal; Brother Matt Collison confirmed Sister Rebecca, and Brother Bob Stanek confirmed Sister Jessica.

Brother Bob Stanek expressed the blessing he was feeling and said he felt the righteousness of this people. A young sister testified that two of the young sisters who were baptized were

(Continued on Page 10)



The converts and Ministry on Windsor, Canada's special day.

Five Beautiful New Sisters

Continued from Page 9

the fourth generation in the Gospel and this was proof that the anchor holds.

This truly was a beautiful Father's Day. We all felt the richness of the blessings of the Lord. We closed the meeting by singing, *We Have an Anchor*. Please remember our young sisters in your prayers. God bless you all. Come visit us in Windsor, Canada.

A Double Blessing in Herndon, VA

By Sisters Mary Gehly and Hythia Young

On October 17, 1998, we were truly blessed in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. The day was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. Brother Chatman Young opened the meeting and was inspired to read from the Book of Joshua. He reminded us that we should try with all our might to keep the promise that we have made to God. Our service to God, in keeping with the commitment that we made to Him, should be the most important thing in our lives. Brother Rick Scaglione spoke on this subject as well. The difference between the saint and the sinner, Brother Rick reflected, is that the saint, even though he may fall, keeps getting up.

After the preaching service, Dayana Aleta Cosme, who was born on October 4, 1998, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Chatman Young. She is the daughter of Ms. Chandra Young and Mr. David Cosme.

During the testimony service, Sister Tirann Udosen exhorted each of us to pray for the children of the saints. The world, she reminded us, is just waiting to swallow them up. Following Sister Tirann's testimony, her daughter, Jarvia, rose to her feet and asked for her baptism! "I know that only God can keep me safe," she said. We all gathered at Lake Fairfax to witness our new sister's baptism. Jarvia was taken into the water and baptized by Brother Chatman Young.

Brother Rich Scaglione laid hands on our sister for the reception of the Holy Spirit. It was such a beautiful, spirit-filled day. Praise God for His love and His mercy toward the children of men.

Blessings in Plumbrook Branch Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Diana Stigleman

On October 4, 1998, Sister Elizabeth Loffredo mentioned to her husband, Brother Rick, "Wouldn't it be nice if Brother Dominic Thomas came to our branch today?"

God must have overheard her conversation and decided to reward Sister Liz with additional blessings. God's bountiful package included not only Brother Dominic Thomas, but also Brothers Paul Palmieri and Mark Coppa.

Our very blessed day began as Brother Mark Coppa offered a prayer for God's presence in His House. When Brother Paul Palmieri opened as our main speaker, he reverently spoke of how God has made us promises, given guidelines and established His Church. To receive those promises, he added, we need to be dedicated in our service and His work. We must place Him first in our lives.

Still, Brother Paul's most profound words came as he said, "All of us coming out of the waters of regeneration felt clean." He implored us to use that water which we have received. He then concluded, "Tell people what God has done for you!"

Brother Mark Coppa followed in speaking. He humorously reflected back to his youth. Going through some rebellious years, he often heard his father say, "Do you know who you are talking to?"

Then Brother Mark compared our natural rebellion with our spiritual rebellion. "We see things a certain way. God has to tap us on the shoulder and say, 'Better do it My way.'" Later, Brother Mark presented his words in a more serious tone. During that time he reminded us, "If the Lord

is alive in your life, people will see."

After Sacrament, the testimonies began to flow. Each one was beautiful, but one in particular was confirmation of God's Spirit in our midst. These are the words of Sister Ruth Coppa.

"Brother Paul Palmieri was speaking and I saw a bright light all around him. I said, 'God if this is from you, please show me something else.' I did not want my eyes to trick me. As I looked up at Brother Paul, the light grew about two to three feet above his head. It was much, much brighter. I said, 'Thank you Lord.' Then as Brother Mark Coppa spoke, the same light encircled him."

One, of Many Blessings

By Sister Lydia Link

Recently, Brother Jim and I had the privilege to accompany Brother Dominick Rose to the Mission in Dedham, Massachusetts. While there, we took the opportunity to visit with Sister Dora Calisi. During our visit, Sister Dora related a few of the many blessed experiences she has had since her conversion into The Church of Jesus Christ several years ago. I would like to share her testimony of the miracle of healing upon her daughter.

One day, an unsettling feeling concerning her daughter came over Sister Dora. She put through a call to her daughter inquiring about her health. Her daughter reassured her that she was fine. The same feeling prevailed. Sister Dora called daily, always receiving the same reply, "I'm fine mother." Our sister then went into prayer concerning this fear she was experiencing. That night she had a dream, and in her dream she saw her daughter dressed in white, lying on a white bed, and near her head was a little baby. She also saw that her son-in-law was standing there looking down at her daughter. Upon awaking, Sister Dora's fears were greater than ever. She was given the impression that the baby represented her daughter's soul. She again called her

daughter, and when the response came back that she was fine, Sister Dora related her dream to her, and immediately her daughter was in tears. She then told her mother that she had been in pain for many days and that she was going into the hospital for what could be something wrong with her gall-bladder. Our sister spent the entire night and morning before surgery in prayer and fear. She called the hospital about 10:30 AM and was told that her daughter was not out yet. Her prayers and fears intensified without ceasing, when suddenly, at one point that afternoon, all her fears were lifted. She knew in an instant that the Lord had answered her prayers.

Upon calling the hospital, her daughter answered and said, "Mother, they found no cancer!" No surgery had been performed and from that day on, her daughter has suffered no pain.

We continually thank God for His unfailing blessings and for the strength we gain from the testimonies of His saints.

Southeast RMOC Gathering

Continued from Page 1

today for the blessings of God." Brother Dennis related an experience about his grandmother and the Personage in white who would visit her in the hospital each morning taking the pain away from her. Then he related many experiences from today. "I don't have to look back to my father's days for blessings; I can look around me today, as the promises of God are alive today!" He concluded by saying, "I better not let it pass me by; I can't lose sight of what He did for me and what He has in store for me in the future. Let's take the restriction off of God as to what He can do for us in our lives by saying, 'Lord, here I am.' Seek what God's plan is for us in our lives."

Hallelujah, the Gospel is Restored, was sung and Brother John Griffith spoke next. He continued with the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, noting that we are being challenged today about the concept of a Restoration. Brother John read some of the scriptures foretelling of the

'falling away.' "If there was a falling away, then there must be a Restoration!" He warned how Satan can even appear as an angel of light, "the dirtiest trick he has!" Brother John explained that today, freedom and liberty in this nation has become its stumbling block because it is used for evil purposes. He continued about how the plan of salvation came forth and was restored in the latter days for us to be able to taste the goodness of God, not only in this life, but the life to come.

Brother Mark Kovacic addressed the saints as to our goal of achieving eternal life. He described how we see dignity from those the world least expects it when the Spirit of God is upon them. He explained that although we may dress up in our best clothes, spiritual dignity comes from God. He has seen true dignity in brothers and sister from the Church. "You are beautiful because of the Spirit of God that rests upon you as the people of God." He read from Revelations 7:9-14 and specifically drew our attention to the thirteenth and fourteenth verses. Brother Mark stated that although we may feel good about how we dress, it is the robe of righteousness that God places upon us that gives us spiritual dignity, which will separate us from the world and carry us into the next life. "We gave up our clothes of sin for a robe of righteousness when we rendered obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to walk out of this building with our heads held high and our shoulders back, showing the dignity that God has given us through the Restored Gospel." He noted that, as Isaiah said, we are like the bride with our jewels and the groom with our garments, waiting for the wedding. "Truly, we are the bride of Christ, arrayed in white, waiting for our groom." He concluded by stating that the world will see us in righteousness and say, "who are these arrayed in white?"

The Lord's Supper was then passed in a solemn time of reflection and self-examination by four brothers of the Priesthood. Brother Eugene asked if there were any in the congregation who would like to share their testimony. Several quickly raised to their feet and bore inspiring testimonies

to the power of the Restored Gospel in their lives. The young people came forward and sang a hymn, after which the entire congregation encircled them and prayer was offered by Brother Isaac Smith. Brother Isaac Smith (the youngest) sang, *To See the Morning Light*. A wonderful spirit was felt by all, as he masterfully sang of our future hope in Zion and the Peaceful Reign. Thank God for The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

would open his home to our people and would make us comfortable. He asked for a promise that we would return and come to his home. The promise was made and we have returned and accepted his hospitality. Since then, the Gospel has moved on. We pray for your continued support.

We look forward to the day when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We all must work towards that goal with a sure knowledge that God's Kingdom will come and His will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Praise God for that prayer and promise and for His Son, Jesus Christ.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

Jesus proceeds with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Again, He uses three different individuals in the parable; a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan. The priest passes by the half dead man. He avoided him and offered no help. In fact, he crossed the road to totally avoid the man. Next, the Levite passes by. Same thing. Same response as the priest. The Levite also avoided the man at all cost. He crossed the road as well and walked on the other side. The priest and Levite, both religious men offered no assistance. Apparently they were void of love, compassion and mercy, the very characteristics they were to

(Continued on Page 12)

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Donald Perrello and Ann Marie Verney were united in holy matrimony on October 3, 1998 in Damariscotta, Maine.

Laurie A. Schuette and Emmett J. Brown were united in holy matrimony in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on October 10, 1998.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo and Sister Christina Lynn Hobbs were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on December 19, 1998.

Child Blessed

Christiana Yvette Green, daughter of Stasha Michelle (Boykin) and Christopher Earline Green was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on November 15, 1998.

OBITUARIES

LYDIA LaCIVITA

Sister Lydia LaCivita passed away to her heavenly reward on August 31, 1998. She was a member of Branch #4, Redford, Michigan. Sister Lydia is survived by one brother, Brother Tullio LaCivita; two sisters, Sister Irma Nerone and Ann Williams and many nieces and nephews.

ELI LaCIVITA

Brother Eli LaCivita passed on to his heavenly reward on November 28, 1998. He was a member of Branch #4, Redford, Michigan. Brother LaCivita was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother LaCivita is

survived by one brother, Brother Tullio LaCivita; two sisters, Sister Irma Nerone and Ann Williams and many nieces and nephews.

NORMAN CAMPITELLE, SR.

Brother Norman Campitelle, Sr., passed away to his heavenly reward on August 2, 1998. He was a member of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch and an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Norman leaves to mourn his wife, Sister Rosalie; one daughter, Sister Denise Bodo; one son, Norman, Jr.; four sisters, Mildred Domuiat, Esther Campitelle, Lucy Hemp, and Mary DiChiera; and one granddaughter.

JAMES (JIM) GRONDAHL

Brother Jim Grondahl passed on to his heavenly reward on October 19, 1998. He was a member of the Modesto, California Branch. Brother Jim is survived by his wife, Sister Francis Grondahl; three sons, Joseph Cardinale, John Cardinale and Brother Anthony Cardinale; two daughters, Darlene Murphy and Maryann Cardinale; thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

CARMELA SANTARCANGELO

Sister Carmela Santarcangelo passed away to her heavenly reward on January 6, 1999. She was a member of the Modesto, California Branch. Sister Carmela is survived by her daughter, Sister Grace Lovalvo, five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 11

possess and represent on behalf of the Lord.

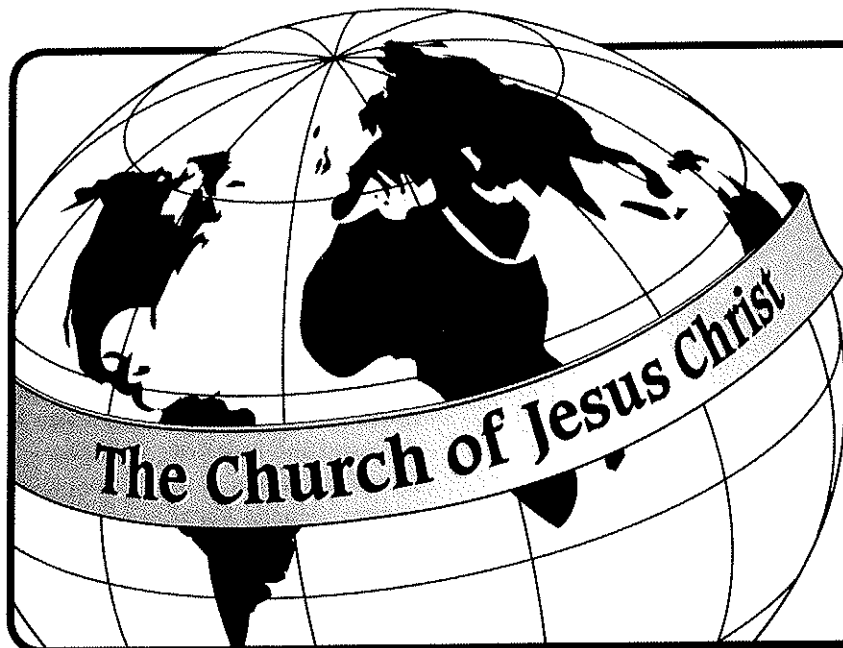
Now the Good Samaritan arrives on the scene. A man despised by the Jews, the audience of the Lord, including the lawyer, as the Lord expounds His beautiful parable. What does the Good Samaritan do? First, his heart had compassion towards the injured man. He bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine, put the injured man on his beast of burden and took him to an inn. He took care of him. The Good Samaritan apparently walked to the inn, beside the beast of burden, which was carrying the injured man. The care by the Good Samaritan continued into the next day. Although the Good Samaritan had to leave, he paid for additional care and if it was insufficient, offered to pay the difference upon his return. Who was the injured man's neighbor? The lawyer's answer, "... He that shewed mercy on him." The Lord commanded the lawyer, "... Go, and do thou likewise." This commandment still applies. All of us should have compassion on our neighbor. Remember, "Go and do thou likewise." It will not fail! Love never fails!

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 1999

Volume 54, No. 4

Resurrection, A Living Hope

By Brother Alexander Cherry

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; And behold, I am alive for evermore, amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18).

So says our Lord Jesus Christ, stating emphatically that in His hands rested the power over condemnation and of death, both spiritual and temporal.

In Romans, Paul states that by one man (Adam), sin and death entered into the world, and death passed upon all men, since all have sinned (Romans 5:12). He also said death (and we think its accompanying fear) reigned from Adam to Moses, even to those who had not sinned in the manner of Adam. Paul further states that by Adam's offence, all men therefore came under condemnation. But, by the righteousness of Jesus, the free gift of God's acceptance was put into effect. In Romans 5:21 it states, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ, our Lord."

We must understand that in many cultures, ancient and present, mankind has believed in some sort of afterlife which sprang from a hope that the grave would not be the end of

existence as he knew it, thus denying the finality of death. But, many "learned" men, even today, deny an afterlife, believing the grave is the end.

The saints of God having accepted Jesus' atoning sacrifice are aware of the conviction that it should be we who deserve the punishment that He accepted, that though pronounced justified by God through our faith, we can only accept gratefully that He stepped into our place and received that penalty due us.

We are humbled by this certainty, not only in our conscious mind, but in the inner, regenerated man that has been transformed by our Lord. For us, then, the true glory of that momentous day was the work of resurrection begun, though we are all too mindful of the agony of Jesus to accomplish this. Thus in our communion, "this [we] do in remembrance of Me," a privilege not taken lightly.

There is a story that a missionary was showing slides on a mud wall for a tribe of African converts. When a slide showing Jesus appeared on the wall, one man leaped to his feet and cried out, "Come down, Son of God. It is I who should be hanging there, not you." So say we all!

When Martha, sister of Lazarus,

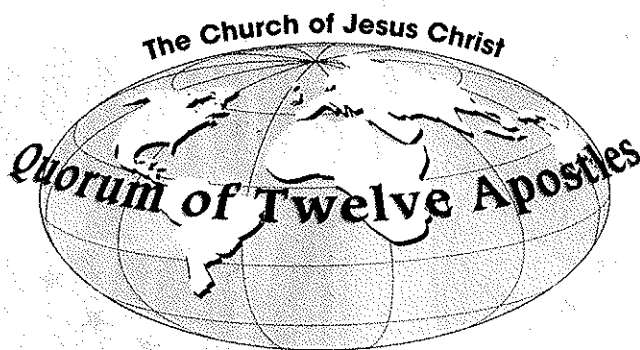
tearfully exclaimed to the Lord that her brother need not have died had He been there, Jesus replied, "Your brother will rise again." She responded she knew he would arise in the resurrection. Here, I have always pictured the Lord tapping His chest gently (and for emphasis), then saying, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in Me, even if dead, yet he shall live again. And anyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" His question to Martha. His question to all mankind.

The two angels asked of the women at the tomb, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Is not this our hope, that we are accounted to be alive in Christ and not dead in apathy and indifference, and possibly transgression?

We have received the most solemn promise of the Lord and His prophets. In the Gospel of Matthew 24:13, the Lord promises, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." How? The resurrection of his "seed."

And in Moroni 7:41 it states, "And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of His resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in Him according to the promise."

Let it be so, Lord Jesus.



The Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in India

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

PART I

It all began in the early 1970's when, as Correspondent for the General Church, I received a request from a group of people in India. They indicated that they would like to merge with The Church of Jesus Christ. After much correspondence and many efforts to go to India to establish the Church, God opened the



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

way during the April 1981 Conference.

Brother Arulanandam Devanandam had come to the United States of America in March 1981. He was the Director of an orphanage called "HOINA" (Home of the Indian Nations) in India. The HOINA Board

of Trustees asked to come to the United States because they were anxious to meet and talk with him.

While Brother Dev was here in America to report to "HOINA," he was also here to report to God. He wanted to be baptized. This baptism took place in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch (Fairless Hills), during the first week of April 1981.

While here, Brother Dev was asked to appear at our General Church Missionary Board meeting, which was held in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He related how through the revelation of God (His experience has appeared in the Gospel News) he was shown the true Church of Jesus Christ.

The Mission Board referred him to the Quorum of Twelve. The Quorum questioned him, and they found him to be a very humble brother in Christ with a humanitarian spirit that hungered for souls to come to Christ, especially his own people in India. Detecting this, the Quorum of Twelve recommended that Brothers Russell Cadman, Anthony R. Lovalvo, and Joseph Calabrese go to Levittown, Pennsylvania (Fairless Hills) and instruct Brother Dev in depth of the Faith and Doctrine of the Church.

This mission was to be undertaken the week after the Conference. As assigned, the three brothers went to Levittown, Pennsylvania. Each day started with fasting and prayer.

Each day the Spirit of God was with us hour after hour as we instructed our new brother.

On Friday of that week while in prayer, hymn 205 was given to Brother Joseph Calabrese through the voice of God's Spirit. When we reached the third verse, "Millions now in sin and shame are dying; listen to their sad and bitter cry. Hasten, Brothers, hasten to the rescue, quickly answer, Master here am I." The power of God and the Spirit of God fell upon us so strongly that there was no question in any of our minds. God had spoken, go to India. Brother Samuel Dell was also with the three brothers and Brother Dev in this meeting. We all rejoiced and closed the week of instruction of Brother Dev. We were all satisfied and happy.

After the meeting we went back to Brother Samuel Dell's home. We called Brother Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve, and reported to him what God revealed to us. We informed him that we knew by the revelation of God that the time had come for the Church to be established in India and that two brothers should be sent as soon as possible.

On Saturday morning, April 25, we met in fasting and prayer in Metuchen, New Jersey. Again, we were blessed by the Spirit of God. Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo had a vision of hymn 140, *Tell Others of Jesus*. The second verse reads, "Hasten away while in sorrow they cry, 'Tis for the Gospel they hunger and sigh; Someone must tell them the news ere they die, Go and tell others of Jesus." The chorus, "Go and tell others of Jesus, Go and tell others of Jesus; Many in darkness are waiting for you, Go and tell others of Jesus." We sang it, and again we were blessed as we felt the Spirit of God upon all of us.

After the meeting we went to Brother Joseph Perri's home. While we were there, Brother Russell Cadman went to lie down to rest. While asleep in the afternoon, he had a dream. "In the dream I was on my father's farm preparing the field for the planting of wheat. I knew that we

always planted wheat by the 20th of September. A calendar of the month of September appeared, and I said I will be ready and have the fields planted by the 10th of September and I awoke."

On Saturday night Brother Russell Cadman had the second dream. "I dreamed again of preparing the field of my father's farm for the planting of wheat and I awoke."

By September 10 the Foreign Mission Board had indeed met. In fact, they met on August 31, 1981, to plan for two brothers to go to India at the request of the Quorum of Twelve. The Quorum had recommended that Brother Russell Cadman and Brother Joseph Calabrese be sent to India. In the meeting the Foreign Mission Board agreed with the recommendation, and a motion was made to forward it to the General Mission Board and the General Church. It was made official at the General Church Conference. However, by Conference time Brother Russell Cadman had undergone surgery; and the doctor thought it was best for him not to go. Therefore, the Board chose Brother Alvin Swanson to go in his place.

Upon being officially chosen, we prepared for our departure. Reservations were made to depart on November 17, 1981. Brother Joseph Calabrese was to leave from Cleveland Hopkins Airport and Brother Alvin Swanson from Miami Airport. We arrived at J. F. Kennedy Airport only ten minutes apart. Some of the brothers and sisters came to see us off. About 9:00 PM, we had prayer, took some pictures, and prepared to leave. At the airport we were given a microscope to take to Sannyasi Paul. It was a gift from "HOINA" to help him study his medicines and work at the Leprosy Colony and the association of "HOINA."

The plane was an hour late, but we were airborne by 9:25 PM. The first part of the trip was to London, then on to Delhi, Bombay, and Madras. After arriving in Delhi, we had an hour layover and then departed to Bombay. We spent nearly a whole day trying to go through customs.

They made us open the box that held the microscope. Customs put a 1,500 rupee charge on its value before they would allow us to take it into India. Brother Calabrese had to sign an agreement to pay it on the way back home if we could not obtain a release from Sannyasi Paul for it. (The charge would be about \$200 in American money.) Talk about the need for patience; we surely needed it in Bombay.

We boarded the plane for Madras and once airborne, flew over some very beautiful land, and we were low enough to see rice paddies and great Hindu temples. We finally landed in Madras at approximately 9:25 AM India time. Praise God, the long journey was ended.

We went through customs again and were then met by Dr. Livingston, Brother Dev, Rajasekhara Babu, and a Jewish boy name Zegyperetz. Dr. Livingston placed a beautiful lei of flowers around our necks. We posed for pictures and then were taken to a taxi. We were about eighteen miles from the airport and our drive took us to town to find a hotel room. We found a nice room at the Hotel Connemara.

Our company came to our room, helped us get settled, and then excused themselves so that we could get some rest. We arranged a meeting with them for the evening. They returned several hours later, and Brother Joe asked Brother Swanson what we should discuss. He suggested we ask each one to express themselves in whatever way they felt, especially about their hopes and expectations and of spiritual things. We recorded their experiences and testimonies.

At this point I asked Brother Dev if he had any experiences since he was baptized and after the week of instructions that we had with him. He said he had. About two weeks after he had arrived home, he had a dream. He saw a group of people. As he heard them singing, he saw a man coming toward him. The man took him by the hand and asked Brother Dev to follow him. The people were all dressed in white. The man raised his hand and said to Brother Dev three times, "You

are a blessed man." Brother Dev's garments then changed to white. Brother Alvin Swanson then asked him who the man was. Brother Dev replied, "Jesus." Our company then left us, and we retired for the night.

In the morning, Dr. Livingston came to our room. We had asked him to visit us before he returned to his home about 350 miles north of where we were staying. We talked with him at length. In our discussions with him, we saw the repentant spirit and humbleness that are seen when one asks for baptism, which he wanted very badly. He said he had made a mistake when he came to the United States in 1974 and did not ask then. We made plans to go to his home town in Tadepalligudem to baptize him on December 5, 1981.

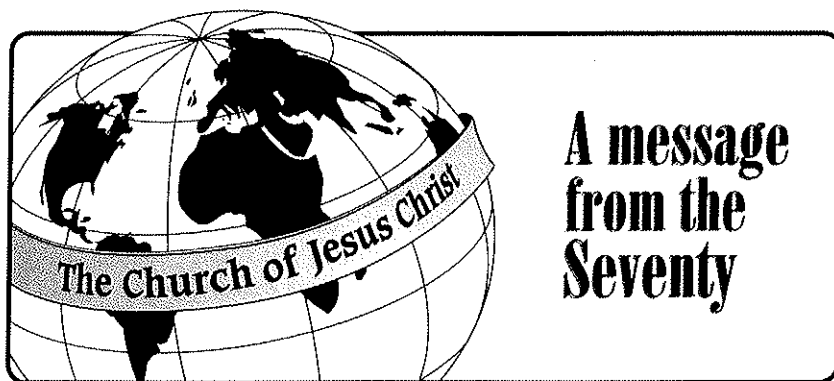
We also made plans to go to Thiruniravur to visit the village where the Church would be built. The boys that met us at the airport came, and we were brought to Brother Dev's home.

Based on the experiences he shared with us and our own appraisal of the situation, we decided to ordain Brother Dev on Sunday, November 22, 1981. This, of course, would also make him available to baptize others on November 29, the following Sunday.

We took the train back to the hotel and we experienced the traffic at night. What a confusion! Never have we experienced such traffic. People, buses, cars, motor cars, bicycles, cattle, etc., were everywhere, and all were going the wrong way. Here they use the left lane as in London. We were so tired when we returned, we went straight to bed.

In the morning our friends came again. We had told them to find us a less expensive room, which they did. We moved to the Imperial Hotel, which was similar to the hotel we were leaving but cost much less. Here we wrote our first letter home. Brother Dev had come for dinner. We wanted to go over our agenda with him for the service on Sunday. We then informed him that we had

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Ordinations in Sinaloa, Mexico

By Brother David B. Ciccati

Blessings . . . blessings . . . blessings are the words to describe our trip to the State of Sinaloa, Mexico. Brothers Vicente Arce, Evangelist and David B. Ciccati joined Brother Joe Ciarolla in supporting the ordinations of six brothers and sisters in the missions of Ahome and San Isidro.

Our four day visit from October 23 to 26, 1998, to Sinaloa began as we arrived in Los Mochis by air and then drove to the Ahome Mission for a night meeting of singing and scripture study. The members enthusiasm and gratitude for our visit was evident by their warm and loving greetings. On Saturday, Brothers Joe, Vicente, David and Hector Gastelum journeyed to Las Lajitas, a small fishing village on the Pacific Ocean, to visit some Church members there. Just as we would proudly tour visitors of our home cities, the brothers took us out to sea on their fishing boats to show us their fishing waters and how beautiful their village looked from the ocean.

When we returned to shore, Brother Joe Ciarolla began to teach the young people about the seriousness of their relationships and how God should always be in the matter as the dating process begins. He counseled them to make God an important part of their life's decisions and He would always direct them to good. Later, music filled the air as the members began to sing the *Songs of Zion*.

Upon leaving Las Lajitas and inviting all to the Sunday ordinations, we drove to another small village

called Huatabampito where we had another service Saturday even. It is held in the backyard of a member's home and loud speakers are directed out toward the village. As the members sang and later there was speaking from the scriptures, the message was carried to all who might hear the Restoration story. After the meetings, we visited at the home of Brother Cornelio, had dinner and retired for Sunday's anticipated blessings.

FROM ALL AREAS

Sunday began absolutely beautifully as the brothers and sisters from all areas began to arrive by car, bus, truck and on foot. The singing carried outside the building and was a warm welcome to all. As three sisters took charge of the forty plus children outside, four other sisters began food preparation for the 150 people who would eventually fill the Ahome Church building for the service.

After many beautiful songs were offered to the honor and glory of God, we began the meeting with Brother Hector delivering a wonderful sermon about the seriousness of these callings and the desire we should all have to want to work for the Lord. He gave great examples in the scriptures of those chosen by God to do His work. He encouraged all to be receptive to God's working in our lives and to allow Him to direct us with His Spirit.

The ordinations of each of our brothers and sisters were filled with God's blessings and authority. Those ordained to the office of Deaconess

(Continued on Page 10)



Left to right: Bro. Cornelio Zacaris (Ahome), Deacon; Sis. Arisbeth Soto (San Isidro), Deaconess; Sis. Maria Castro (SI), Deaconess; Bro. Jesus Valenzuela (AH), Deacon; Bro. Enrique Anaya (SI), Minister; Bro. Teodoro Arguellez (SI); Deacon.

**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. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Mandy Genaro
1501 Difford Drive
Niles, OH 44446

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Karen L. Progar
277 Holt Rd.
Alliquippa, 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 . . .

Do you know the difference between an excuse and a reason? An excuse is an explanation offered to justify or elicit forgiveness. A reason is a declaration made to explain or justify an action, decision or conviction.

They appear to be closely related, yet they are quite different. People have many different explanations why they do not attend Church services. Consider the following. Do they sound familiar? Are they excuses? Are they reasons? You decide!

I do not have time. I have to do my chores. I have to go shopping. I have tickets to the game. I think my brother is going to visit me on Sunday. I might receive a phone call from my aunt on Sunday. I am so tired. The children want to go to the park. Sunday is my only day to relax and take it easy.

Throughout the annals of time, people have always made excuses why they could not do something for the Lord. Many were prominent individuals, others were common people. Excuses have no boundaries. They are used by people from all walks of life.

Moses used the avenue of excuses to try and avoid going back to Egypt to lead Israel to freedom. Even though he saw the burning bush that was not consumed by fire; even though he heard God speak to him from the burning bush, he tells God, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh . . .?" He even tried to explain or used the excuse that the children of Israel would ask him what is His, meaning God's, name? Moses asked God, "What shall I say unto them." Who shall I say sent me?

Moses said he was not an eloquent speaker. He claimed he was slow of speech and slow of tongue. It is interesting that Moses had no difficulty in speaking with God. He did not seem to be slow of speech or slow of tongue in his conversation with God. Remember, Moses had just seen the burning bush, his rod turned to a serpent and his hand become leprous then clean. He was a witness to the power of God. He had just seen more than one example of the power of God. He saw that God can do all things. Yet, he still made excuses why he was not the right choice. It seems he tried a number of excuses why he was not the appropriate person to be used by God for the liberation of Israel.

There were others that gave the Lord excuses why they could not immediately follow Him. On one occasion, a man said to the Lord, "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father." Another man said, "I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." These statements sound reasonable but they were not acceptable to the Lord. To one, the Lord simply said, "Let the dead bury the dead . . ." To the other He said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

There is another excellent example of using excuses to justify one's lack of attendance and bidding of the Lord. It is the Parable of the Great Supper. It is found in the 14th chapter of Luke, verses 16-24 and this scripture is easy to understand. It is a powerful example of why excuses simply are not acceptable with the Lord. In this parable, everyone of the original parties that was invited to the feast made an excuse. In fact, this scripture states that they all with one consent began to make excuses.

One just bought a piece of ground and said he had to go see it. He asked to be excused. It is interesting that the man bought the ground without seeing it before buying it. He had not seen what he bought! Usually, people buy things after they see them. Consider the purchase of a home, furniture, clothing, a car. It is highly unlikely that these types of purchases would be made without seeing them before making the purchases. What an excuse!

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Job Fears

Dear Boys and Girls,

There is an interesting story in the Bible about a contest between God and Satan. It is the story of a man who honored and feared God and avoided evil. This man, named Job, was the richest man in the eastern part of the country. He was blessed by God with possessions, land, servants, power, and family. He cared for them all. In fact, as the story begins (Job, Chapter 1 in the Bible) Job even wondered if his seven sons might have sinned or cursed God in their hearts. So, Job offered sacrifices and prayers up to God on his sons behalf. And Job did this continually.

And how did God respond? God placed a protection around him, like you would imagine a huge strong hedge of trees or tall bushes surrounding a house. And He put a protection around everything that Job owned and God blessed the work of Job's hands and everything he owned in the land increased also.

Then one day, when the sons of God came before the Lord, Satan came there too. God asked him, "Where have you come from?"

And Satan said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

The Lord asked him, "Have you noticed my servant Job? There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God and avoids evil."

Satan answered, "Of course he worships you. You've given him great protection and riches. Take all that away and he will curse you to your face."



God told the devil, "Go ahead. Everything, except him, is in your power."

So the old devil sent robbers to steal his huge caravans of camels, and other robbers to take the oxen and asses that were working in the fields. Then Satan destroyed the sheep and shepherds in the field with lightening fire from heaven, and finally, a huge windstorm, like a tornado, hit the four corners of the house where his sons and daughters were eating and they all died. When people ran to tell Job, he tore his clothes and shaved his head as a sign of great mourning and sadness, he fell down upon the ground and he still worshiped God.

Job said, "I was naked when I was born [did not have anything] and I will be naked when I die [we can't take any of our riches or people with us when we die]. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed is the name of the Lord."

In all of this Job did not sin or blame God. Satan noticed and came before God again. God told him, "Have you noticed? You brought evil against Job who had done nothing wrong and he still did not curse me. He still is a righteous man."

Satan answered, "Touch physically, his skin, his bones and then he will curse you."

God told Satan, "Go ahead, but do not take his life." And so Satan covered Job's body in terrible sores, called boils. He burned and itched from his hairline to the bottoms of his feet. His wife, who was also hurt from all the evil that had happened told him, "Do you still have integrity [faith in his beliefs]? Curse God and die." She felt

that there was nothing to live for so deep was her anger and sorrow.

But Job answered her, "You speak as one of the foolish women. Don't you know that we can receive good or bad from God?" He did not speak against God.

Then Job's friends came to see him. They couldn't believe what had happened to Job. It probably scared them because they knew what a good man their friend was. So they asked themselves and Job if maybe he had done something wrong to displease God. Job knew he had not; he told them so. But they did not help him. Instead, they blamed him. People still do this today when they fear. Many times someone will need a true friend to say, "I believe in you. I care about you even if everything seems to be going wrong. I will pray for you, and

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

DELIGHT	YOU	THE
YOURSELF	THE	FUTURE
IN	DESIRES	TRUST
THE	OF	GOD
LORD	YOUR	HE
AND	HEART	CARES
HE	DO	FOR
WILL	NOT	YOU
GIVE	FEAR	PSALMS

H	P	L	E	S	R	U	O	Y
T	S	U	R	T	H	F	T	F
S	E	G	O	D	E	H	H	U
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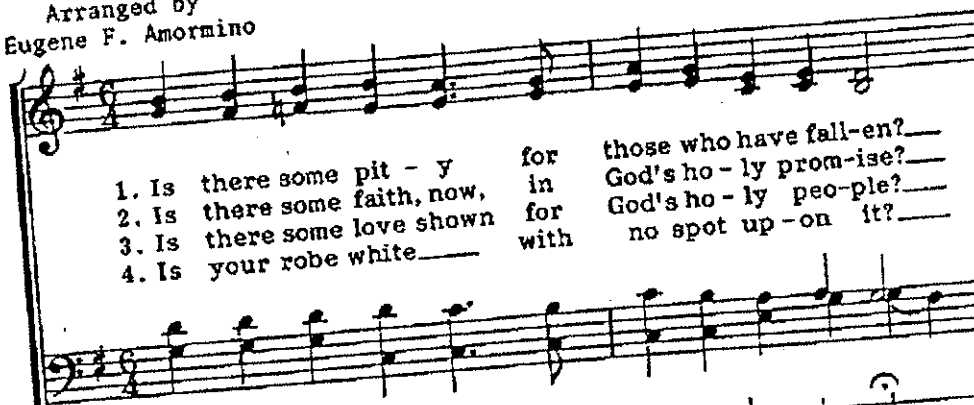
Meet brothers & sisters from around the world at The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference on June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University. You should register early, because we expect a big crowd, but, hey, once that's done, then you can enter in.

IS THERE SOME LOVE YOU WANT TO SHOW FOR GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE?

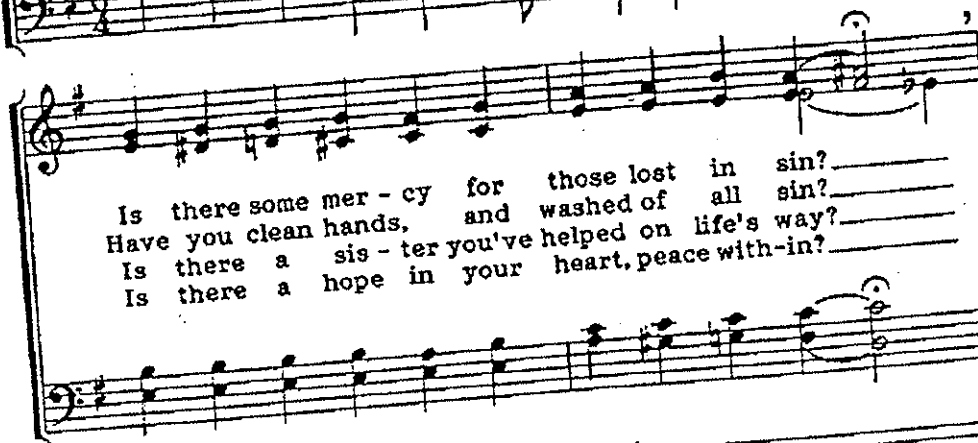
11. THEN YOU CAN ENTER IN

Arranged by
Eugene F. Amormino

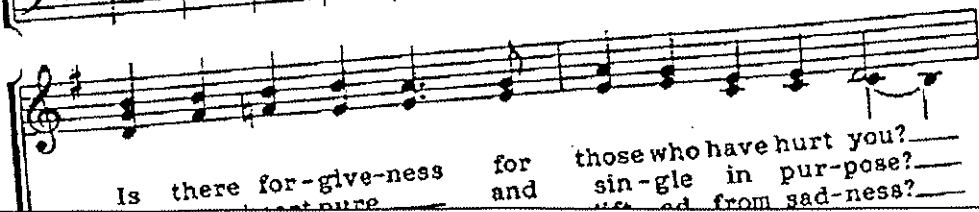
Words and Music by
Arlene Lea Buffington



1. Is there some pit - y for those who have fall-en? —
2. Is there some faith, now, in God's ho - ly prom-ise? —
3. Is there some love shown for God's ho - ly peo-ple? —
4. Is your robe white with no spot up-on it? —



Is there some mer - cy for those lost in sin? —
Have you clean hands, and washed of all sin? —
Is there a sis - ter you've helped on life's way? —
Is there a hope in your heart, peace with-in? —



Is there for-give-ness for those who have hurt you? —
and sin-ple in pur-pose? —
used from sad-ness? —

World Missionary Conference Notice

This is to inform all concerned there will be no crafts at the World Missionary Conference. Although it is stated on the registration form that crafts will be part of the program, there is not enough time in the afternoon to accommodate them. We regret any disappointment and inconvenience.

The attendees of the World Missionary Conference that are not staying on the university grounds, please send in your registration forms, including the off-site camp fee and monies for your meals as soon as possible. We need to determine as accurate a number as possible for the meals required to be served at the university campsite. Thank you very much. We look forward to seeing you there. God bless you all.

One Last Stop Before Illinois

As you know, the entire Church is gearing up for the World Missionary Conference in June of this year. Missionaries will be arriving from around the world and we are greatly anticipating the blessings of God at this weeklong event. In preparation, the GMBA is viewing our May Conference as a launching pad for the Missionary Conference. This is the Church's last major gathering prior to the conference and we would like to use a portion of our conference to continue building the excitement all of us have felt as the date for the World Missionary Conference approaches. We are expecting a wonderful turnout and greatly anticipate the Lord's blessings.

We are also very excited to announce that we expect many, if not all members of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles to be in attendance at our conference. We thank our brothers for their support and look forward to having the Quorum address our young people and the entire congregation

throughout the weekend.

Begin making plans now for one last stop before Illinois. The May 1999 GMBA Conference will be held on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16, 1999 at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. We look forward to seeing you in May and at the World Missionary Conference in June.

Yours in Christ,
The GMBA Officers

Mel and Ruth Mountain Foundation

The family of the late Brother Mel and Sister Ruth Mountain has created a non-profit foundation in their name. The foundation's sole goal is to raise funds to support the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ. This is done through the creation and selling of greeting cards.

Sister Paulette Griffith and Brother David Jordan at different times were given the inspiration to create greeting cards. Thus the foundation was formed with a total emphasis on missionary work, at home and abroad.

The collection of cards are for both holiday and everyday greeting cards. The verses and designs are based on the Bible and Book of Mormon. These cards can be purchased at any time during the year. Any requests or suggestions for specialized cards will be appreciated. The desire is to produce cards to suit the membership's needs. The line of cards will be modified occasionally and new brochures will be sent out reflecting the line of cards for sell. Remarks about the line of cards has been very positive, well done, very professional and the scripture verses are very appropriate.

Over \$800.00 has been donated to missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. Anyone interested in purchasing cards can contact: Sister Paulette Griffith, 12305 W. Cambridge Avenue, Avondale, AZ 85323, 602-935-6935, or Sister Kimberly and Brother David Jordan at

E-mail: djlav@juno.com.

Purchase your greeting cards from the Mel and Ruth Mountain Foundation and help the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

New Meeting Place for Elkins, WV

The meeting place in Elkins, West Virginia has changed to Beverly, West Virginia. The meeting room has been provided by Donna and Josh Small. Donna is the granddaughter of the late Sister Hattie Benyola. The address is:

Rt 219/250 South
Beverly 4-Lane
Beverly, WV 26253
Phone 304-637-8010
Fax 304-637-2662

The Sunday morning meeting starts at 10:45AM and is conducted by brothers from the Penn-MidAtlantic Regional Missionary Operating Committee. For additional information and directions, contact Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr., 412-655-9463.

The Establishment of the Church in India

Continued from Page 3

decided to ordain him. He choked up and said, "Praise the Lord!" He was very humbled by it all.

Sunday, November 22, we had a driver (David) who was to be with us all day. Again, there was traffic everywhere. The Church was simply a roof of palms about 30 by 50 feet. There were no sides, and there were only mats on the floor for seats. There was music, and they were singing hymns. After the hymns two little girls greeted each of us with a lei of flowers. They placed them around our necks; it was very impressive.

Brother Dev then addressed the people about their upcoming baptisms. Brother Swanson also spoke of the same. Then, Brother Joseph Calabrese

followed and explained our purpose for coming to India. Incidentally, there were over two hundred men, women, and children in attendance.

The time had arrived to ordain Brother Dev. We read an appropriate scripture for the occasion; then Brother Alvin Swanson washed Brother Dev's feet and Brother Joseph Calabrese ordained him. I asked him how he felt when his feet were being washed? He said he had felt a pain in his heart. I said, "You mean you felt humble?" He said, "Yes! Yes!" I then asked him how he felt when he was being ordained? He said that when the oil touched his head and we laid hands on him, he felt like lightning went through his body. There was a beautiful spirit present.

After the meeting an old woman came toward us and threw herself at our feet. Brother Swanson helped her to get up. Brother Dev said she only wanted to pray for us. Later we found that she too had undergone an experience. She had seen a light over us as Brother Dev's feet were being washed and while he was being ordained. After the meeting others came to us, reaching out, kissing our hands, and not wanting to let go. It is something we shall never forget. We returned home late at night thinking about what happened and thanking God for it all.

During the week we made plans to have more informal meetings before the next Sunday to prepare for the baptisms. We also planned to do some sightseeing and shopping. We wanted to see the temples we had seen from the air. Our driver took us out one day. On the way to Gangalore, his car overheated. He stopped and did a foolish thing. He removed the radiator cap, and the boiling water blew up in his face, burning him. When I offered to help him, he assured me that he was okay. I knew he was just being brave because he was burned.

We visited the ancient temples. One of the temples is about 2,000 years old. Another was about 1,300 years old. Yet another was built about 1600 B.C. They are Hindu temples constructed of black granite. We drove back to Madras via the way of the Bay of Bengal. The country is indeed beautiful, and there are many acres of

rice paddies. We saw many people working in the fields, still doing everything by hand and oxen.

Upon our return, our driver who had been burned said he would go to see a doctor. Brother Joseph told him he had tried to help but could not make him understand. We showed him the holy oil and asked him if he would like to be anointed. He agreed. We anointed him, and the next day he came back and showed us he was 90 percent healed. He said it was the holy oil, but we told him it was God who had healed him. He said, "No need doctor, thank God!"

We did some shopping and purchased some gifts to take home. The time was passing swiftly, and the meeting for Sunday the 29th was fast approaching. We had some spare time one day and went to see where the Apostle Thomas was martyred. History tells us that he had come to India and was killed at this place.

Thanksgiving Day came and we shared our thoughts about what everyone was doing back home with their turkey and all the trimmings, etc. Of course, we missed all of the holiday warmth; so we decided to send a cable home to let our companions know that we were well and all was going as planned.

Brother Dev had come to visit us, and we are still instructing him and preparing for the big day Sunday so that all would go smoothly for us. He is a pleasure to work with. God is blessing him with good spiritual vision. He is always fasting and praying. He will make a good shepherd.

There was yet more preparation for the service. Utensils had to be bought for the ordinances. Brother Dev has been holding cottage meetings with his people and counseling them. Things are beginning to take shape. Thank God for His protection and guidance but more for the thought of having new brothers and sisters in the state of Tamil Nadu, South India. We plan an early start.

Our driver arrived and we once again began the long, time-consuming drive. We arrived at the building where Brother Dev stays. The children were all ready. The utensils, pans,

water cups, towels, sacrament cloths, cup and bread dish, and olive oil had to be blessed before we went to the Church building. We wanted to be ready for all the ordinances.

As we had done the previous Sunday, we arrived at the Church area, sang hymns, and prepared to open the meeting. Again, they put a lei of flowers around our necks. Brother Dev had a professional photographer taking pictures of all the events for history. It is indeed history. Brother Dev had stayed all night in fasting and prayer so that God would bless us. We already had begun to feel His blessings as we opened the meeting.

While at the hotel, the Lord had given Brother Joseph the scripture found in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . ." He related how fitting it was that as Jesus had introduced the Scripture to the people for the first time in His day, we were introducing it today in much the same way through His Church. Brother Dev made the announcement to go to the lake to take care of the baptisms. Brother Swanson spoke on John 3:5, which speaks on baptism. We closed the meeting in prayer and began to assemble the people. It was one of the

(Continued on Page 10)

Notice

We recently received a request for a subscription to the *Gospel News*. The request was from a gentleman named Kenneth Jensen. He is now receiving the *Gospel News* and is also reading the Book of Mormon, which he never read before, and the Bible. Please take a little time and write him. He would like to hear from us and needs our prayers. His address is:

Mr. Kenneth Jensen, N-63296
Danville Correctional Center
P.O. Box 4002
Danville, IL 61834-4002

The Establishment of the Church in India

Continued from Page 9

most impressive scenes one could ever want to see. Brother Swanson, Brother Dev, and Brother Calabrese led the way. Over 200 strong, we walked to the lake about 1-1/2 miles away. Our journey took about 20 minutes. We recorded things as they were happening.

After we all assembled at the lake, 14 men and 26 women were baptized by Brother Dev. It was a beautiful sight to behold, one after another in and out of the water. We returned to the Church.

After a hymn and prayer and an explanation of the confirmation by scripture, we confirmed our new brothers and sisters. We then explained the sacrament once again and had Brother Dev serve. We wish all could have seen how reverently the people received it. Next came the feet washing. How quickly they learned. What a blessing! Never had they seen such things. Next came the ordinations of a Teacher, a Deacon, and a Deaconess. Last but not least we held the blessing of the children. Each one of us blessed one child. Brother Dev will bless more when we are gone. How sweet it is to hold the little innocent ones and dedicate them to God.

We were then through doing the work that the Church had sent us to do. Therefore, we felt that it was indeed important to say to them, "Having the authority given to us by the Church and by the Spirit, by which the Lord had anointed His Church, and having complied with doing all that is required to effect an organization, we hereby declare that The Church of Jesus Christ is officially established in the land of India." The meeting was closed in prayer.

It was 4:00 PM. The services had taken five solid hours. The people began to be tired and hungry. Brother Dev had an experience that the people should be fed, so he had made plans to have rice for everyone.

The Elders were served separately. They served us using a leaf that they had sewn together with thread with no spoons or forks. We were

obliged to eat with our fingers (another good experience.)

We returned to our hotel some twelve hours later, tired but happy. Brother Dev said it best, "Praise the Lord!"

(To Be Continued)

Message from the Seventy Continued from Page 4

were Sisters Maria Castro (San Isidro) and Arisbeth Soto (SI); Brothers Teodoro Arguellez (SI), Jesus Valenzuela (Ahome) and Cornelio Zacarias (Ahome) were ordained Deacons; and Brother Enrique Anaya (SI) was ordained a Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ.

of the Church, and she felt an electricity go through her as He passed by and stood outside the Ministry's circle. As the ordinations began, each brother participated and placed God's calling upon the respective person. As Brother Enrique was the last, Brother Hector stepped forward, poured the oil upon his head, and placed his hands upon Brother Enrique as the brothers encircled them. For many seconds, Brother Hector wept and shook as he prepared to pray. He offered a wonderful prayer upon our brother invoking God's power upon Brother Enrique's ministry.

As Brother Hector concluded his prayer, he did not immediately remove his hands but, rather, after many seconds, slowly pulled his fingers from off Brother Enrique's head. Brother Hector testified that as he laid hands



The Youth Group from Ahome and San Isidro, Sinaloa Missions.

EXPERIENCES PRESENT

Several experiences to testify of God's presence in our meeting are included for your blessing. As the Ministry knelt in a circle prior to the ordinations and Brother David Ciccati was offering the prayer for God's Spirit and power to be evident, a sister had a vision of a bright light coming down upon each Minister and then resting upon each of the six brothers and sisters. Another sister had a vision of a Personage walk by her to the front

upon our brother, God's Spirit was like an electric current throughout his body, and when he was finished with his prayer, Brother Hector had to wait for the Spirit to subside before he could very slowly remove his hands.

HEARTFELT PROPHECY FULFILLED

Also, in many testimonies, God's presence was glorified. As Brother Enrique was invited to share his testimony and experiences, it was evident that God's blessings are going

to be upon this brother. He shared an experience he had six years ago in which a Personage descended from heaven and stood in front of him saying, "In the future, you will be ordained a Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. A Minister will wash your feet who cannot speak nor understand Spanish." Of the six Ministers present, three resident and three visiting, only Brother Joe Ciarolla fit that description in the experience; and it was Brother Joe who had knelt before our brother and washed his feet to set him apart. Brother Joe shared his desire with the Ministry even before the service to wash our brother's feet and he offered a beautiful prayer. God's ability to know the future and work His wonders are always awe-inspiring and this experience and its confirmation touched everyone.

After the meeting, the sisters prepared a delicious lunch for the membership and a time of visiting was enjoyed by all. Later that evening, we met in Macapul with other brothers and sisters for a night of singing, testifying, and sharing of experiences.

The flight home was a bittersweet

trip because of the many blessings we had experienced, yet already missing the brothers and sisters in Sinaloa. Remember in prayer the many works that God has established throughout the world and among the Seed of Joseph.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

Another man asked to be excused because he had purchased five yoke of oxen. He said he had to prove them. Again, another purchase without seeing what was being bought. You would think that this type of purchase warranted the animals being proven before the transaction became final. The man did not seem to know whether the animals were healthy or able to perform the duties for which they were bought. What an excuse!

Another had just married and stated he could not attend the supper. This is not a reason. This is another unacceptable excuse.

It is important to note that none of these excuses in the Parable of the Great Supper were acceptable. The parable concludes with the statement that none of those men that were invited shall taste of the Lord's Supper or feast. They were now excluded from the feast.

In the Book of Mormon, Alma 32nd chapter, Alma said there were many who say, "If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe." This is simply an excuse for a lack of faith.

All one has to do is look around. There are signs all around us. The sun rises every day. The birds fly through the air. The water continues to flow. The rain falls on the just and on the unjust. God is everywhere!

Excuses deter desire. Actually, excuses will eventually destroy one's desire. There is a line in Hymn 484 which states, "Freedom and reason make us men." Do not make excuses. Exercise reason. Attend The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord will bless you.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

trust in God for you." We need to remember to do this in times of trouble.

Job told his friends, "This is the thing I feared and it did come upon me." This is also interesting, because we all should know and understand that God is in control whether we are rich, or poor, well or sick. Jesus tells us not to fear things in the future. As long as we have God and our faith, we will be all right even when we suffer loss, sickness, or deep pain.

Everywhere Job was surrounded with his loss. What could he do? Even the neighborhood children whose parents Job would never had hired to watch his sheep were rude to him. Family was dead or not there to help him. Can you imagine how alone and full of grief he felt?

Through all of this, Satan was hoping Job would fail. But God was watching him, listening still. God finally answered Job out of a whirlwind. He reminded Job that He was in control over everything and everyone in the world. God threatened to harm them unless they repented by offering burnt sacrifices and asking Job humbly to pray for them.

Everything was returned to Job: his health, his fame and riches. In fact, God gave him two times as much money, riches, and fame. Job lived to be a hundred and forty year old cared for man. He even had ten more children whose grandchildren he knew and loved.

Can you imagine all the peace he had knowing that God had let him suffer, but that God truly loved and blessed him? Can you imagine Job's peace knowing that no matter how bad things ever got, God was in charge and could take the pain away? Do not turn your back on friends that are suffering. Bring them back to God with your prayers. Do not fear the future or "anything." Just "delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalms 37:4). He really cares for you.

Love,
Sister Jan

Announcement

For April, 1999, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	4.30%
2 years	4.40%
3 years	4.50%
4 years	4.60%
5 years	4.75%

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

Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

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

Sister Mary Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated seventy years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on December 9, 1998.

Sister Sabina D'Antonio of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated seventy years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on January 27, 1999.

Sister Mary Tamburrino of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on January 30, 1999.

Brother Dan Tamburrino of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on January 30, 1999.

Sister Olga Mavrich of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on February 19, 1999.

Children Blessed

Jacob Joseph Bogle, son of Sister Donna and Brother Joseph Bogle, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on December 27, 1998.

Kohl Joseph Brown, son of Emmett and Laurie Schuette-Brown, was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on November 22, 1998.

Joshua James Merichko, son of Jim and Kim Merichko, was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on January 10, 1999.

Kaleb Nathaniel Barnette, son of Sister Nicole Marcantonio and Lance Barnette, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina on January 17, 1999.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

* WEDDINGS *

Courtney Marnicio and Brandon Hunt were united in holy matrimony on June 20, 1998 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Brianne N. Ruddy and Brother Timothy J. Gibson were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on August 15, 1998.

Lynette McDaniel and Charles Oravitz were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on September 5, 1998.

Cindy Newtz and Gary Tamburrino were united in holy matrimony on November 7, 1998, in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Susan Davis and Angelo Scime were united in holy matrimony in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on January 16, 1999.

Brother Bryan Griffith and Sister Heylen Bicelis were united in holy matrimony in Key Biscayne, Florida on May 23, 1998.

Sister Julie Ann Ciccatti and Ritwik Mukherjee were united in holy matrimony in Phoenix, Arizona on August 15, 1998.

OBITUARIES

VINCENZA (ENZA) ONORATO

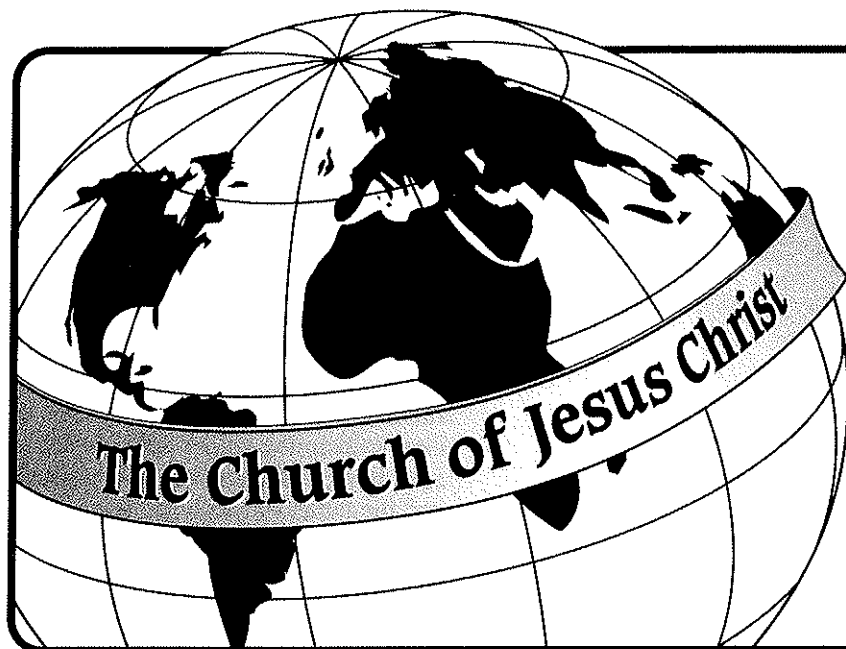
Sister Enza Onorato of the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on December 17, 1998. She is survived by her husband, Mario Onorato; two sons, Daniel Onorato and Brother Sam Onorato; two daughters, Sarah Sims and Rachel Jordan; one brother, Frank Barlozzari and one grandchild.

ROSE VALENTI LAESSIG

Sister Rose Laessig of the Brunswick, Maine Mission passed on to her heavenly reward on August 11, 1998. She was preceded in death by her late husband, George Laessig. Sister Rose is survived by four sons; Brothers Frederick, Stephen, Eric and Walter Laessig; one daughter, Sister Sally Curtin; one brother, Brother Anthony Valenti; one sister, Sister Lydia Link; and one granddaughter.

SARAH PALMIERI

Sister Sarah Palmieri of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on August 30, 1998. Sister Sarah is survived by her husband, Brother Sela Palmieri; two daughters, Sister Donna Bogle and Sister Barbara Andruccioli; two sons, Richard and Brother Mark Palmieri; four sisters, Sister Joan Gibson, Sister Mary Tamburrino, Sister Eva Ondik and Sister Betty Eiler; her mother, Sister Sabina D'Antonio and five grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

May, 1999

Volume 55, No. 5

Great Lakes Region Conference November 8, 1998

By Sister Lynne Nieves

Though the weather outside was cool, there were warm feelings of fellowship as we entered the building and saw each other's familiar faces. For me, the anticipation of spiritual blessings and edification began its fulfillment as we joined voices and hearts singing hymns of praise to our King. The seats were filled to overflowing in the congregation. I remember looking up at the Ministry seated just a few feet in front of me. Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Joe Calabrese, and Peter Scolaro were the Apostles present, along with twenty-five Evangelists and Ministers representing the Great Lakes Region. At that moment, I felt such a deep respect and reverence for their dedication and devoted service to God. The thought then came to me how much greater Christ's sacrifice was. My spirit felt encouraged to press forward just by looking at them, and the meeting hadn't even started yet! Brother Sam DiFalco, of the Sterling Heights Branch opened our conference in prayer. The children's choir from Branch #1 sang two songs to open our hearts, *Jesus, You Alone Are Worthy*, and *We Are*

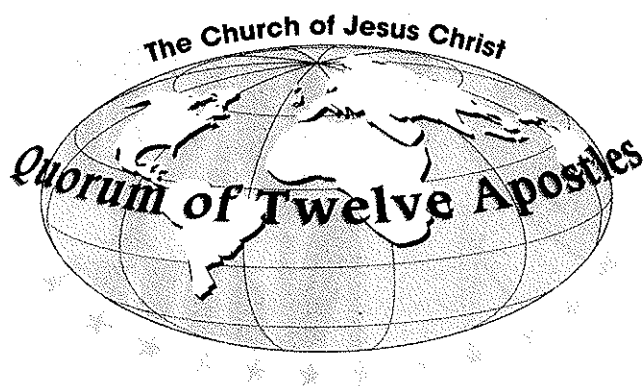
Singing for the Lord Is Our Light.

Brother Tom Everett opened the service by relating how the Ministry had been praying about who would speak at this conference. He said that all week he had a feeling that Brother Alex Gentile, our Regional President, was going to ask him to speak at the last moment, and sure enough, Saturday, the day before conference, Brother Alex called him and asked him to open the meeting. That was the first confirmation of the Lord's Spirit. Then Brother Tom revealed that all week he also had a particular scripture on his mind and the Saturday before conference he had a meeting with the Regional Officers and told Brother Alex and Brother Lyle Criscuolo that all week he'd had this scripture on his mind. Brother Lyle replied that he had just taught that very same scripture this past week in a Bible study, and that while he was teaching, he got goose bumps from the power that he felt as he taught the lesson. This was the second confirmation of the Lord's Spirit and plan for the message to be heard this day.

The scripture was Joshua 3:5

which reads: "And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." He commented that the people (the Israelites) had a different attitude under Joshua's leadership than when they were in the wilderness with Moses. The difference in attitudes was that while they were in the wilderness with Moses, their attitude was one of fear, doubt, and murmurings. By the time they were under Joshua, their attitude was, "Yes, the Lord has told us what to do, let's do it!" Brother Tom expounded that Moses sent ten spies to spy out the city and eight of them reported that the people were giants and too numerous to take the city. But two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua had, according to the scriptures, "... had a different spirit." Their report was, "Yes, there are giants in the land and they are probably more numerous than we are, but, the Lord said He's given us the land, let's go and take it!" Well, the people had a vote, and the majority decided that despite what the Lord had said and Joshua and Caleb's report, they were not going to take the city. Due to this lack of faith and trust in God, the Israelites walked around in circles for forty years for a trip that should have only been eleven days. Caleb was from the tribe of Judah. Joshua was

(Continued on Page 9)



The Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in India

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

PART II

We are going over yesterday's blessings; it was indeed a glorious day. Last night Brother Joseph Calabrese had an experience to send Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo the account of our work here, so he could type it for us.

It is Tuesday, December 2, 1981, and we are ready to leave for our trip



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

north to the Bethany Leprosy Colony at Bapatla, South India. We took a train and the ride was approximately 8-1/2 hours long. The scenery was simply beautiful.

As we were preparing to leave the train at our destination, we were jammed with people trying to get off

the train too. Nelson, Sister Raja's brother who had come with us to be our guide, managed to get off the train, but Brother Joseph and Brother Alvin could not. What a predicament! What now Lord? We were in the middle of who knows where! No sooner had the train begun to leave and all these thoughts going through our minds, a person tapped us on the shoulder and said, "I am Samson." He too is a brother of Sister Raja, and somehow he jumped on the train as it was leaving. God surely had heard our cry. The next town was twenty miles farther; and when we got there, we took a bus back. We finally arrived at Bapatla Botanical College, had a bite to eat and retired to bed.

In the morning we went to the leprosy colony. We were greeted by Sannyasi Paul's staff. Never had we seen such things; it will take a long while to digest everything. Sannyasi Paul was in the process of operating on a patient's infected eye that was caused by the leprosy. When he concluded this operation, he started another. The second patient could not close his eye due to nerve damage caused by leprosy. He connected it by sewing one side of the eye together. It was a real experience for Brother Joseph and Brother Alvin to watch the operation, especially since Brother Joseph had undergone eye surgery in the past. Thank God for

the knowledge He has given to man.

We began to move about the compound. A woman complimented Sannyasi Paul, saying that he was like a father to approximately 600 of them because there are 600 lepers there. The compound is on 8 1/2 acres and they raise goats, pigeons, chickens, rabbits, and buffalo for milk. This is done to help the colony become self-sustaining. Besides the medical work and the industrial activity, there is also a small school. The Jewish boy (Zegvperetz,) who was with Rajasekhara when we arrived, has charge of the children and a couple of their helpers. He told us that he is seriously reading the Book of Mormon that we had given him when we arrived.

When the day was completed, Sannyasi Paul and Kumer, another helper, accompanied us to our room. Brother Alvin wanted to interview Sannyasi Paul because he wants to write an article about him and his work. Included in the interview was a very lengthy and deep discussion on our Church.

Incidentally, before we left to go to our room, a mother brought a little girl to be examined. He did not tell the mother directly that the child had leprosy. He told her to bring her daughter in every week for treatment. As mother and daughter left, Sannyasi Paul told us the child, who was five or six years old, definitely had leprosy. We could not say too much, only that we would pray for her. We said to ourselves that we were sure if the Church at home knew this, the entire Church would go into fasting and prayer for her; and we will certainly mention it when we return home.

The next day, we continued our tour of the compound. After touring, we departed for Tadepalligudem, where Dr. Livingston lives. When we arrived, Dr. Livingston and some friends greeted us. Again, we were greeted with a lei of flowers. Dr. Livingston greeted us with a holy kiss. Dr. Livingston's friend, K. Vankateswarlu, and his driver took us to the house where Mrs. Livingston, her daughter, Mary, and two sons, Daniel and Solomon greeted us. After eight

years we realized that our dream of India had come true. Here we saw everything that Dr. Livingston had described to us many times in his letters; his hospital, his orphanage, and home. It is a very large compound, all made of concrete. We went to the roof of the hospital, where once a month some leaders of the villages meet to fast all night. Here they too prayed that one day the Restored Gospel would come to India. We talked awhile and then went to bed.

In the morning, we talked with Dr. and Mrs. Livingston. We asked her if she had any objection to her husband's and two sons' desire to be baptized into this Church. She said, "No, they were old enough to think for themselves." She and her daughter, Mary, are Lutheran.

After our conversation, we visited a village that Dr. Livingston visits once a week. It is also a leprosy colony. Here they meet in a church (a hut). Dr. Livingston, a preacher, and an assistant talked to the people first. The preacher was very good; then Dr. Livingston spoke and we noted that he spoke on the Restored Gospel. We spoke to them as well. After the service, each person was examined by Dr. Livingston. When the examinations were finished, we returned to the Church and waited until everyone was done. We sang a hymn and took a freewill offering. The offering (as little as it is) is used to help the less fortunate people, if there can be such a group, for what we have seen cannot be described. Before the service was closed, for our benefit, Dr. Livingston asked how many were ready for baptism. We saw about thirty-five hands go up. However, it is not that simple because Dr. Livingston said, "I have been talking to them over a year about the Restored Gospel, and I do not believe they are knowledgeable and ready yet." Dr. Livingston said he had seven more villages like this that we could see. In fact, he had informed them we were going to visit them, but time did not permit us to do so. We returned to Dr. Livingston's home for dinner. After dinner we planned to talk to Dr. Livingston again because the time for his baptism

was getting closer. There are five others who are sufficiently knowledgeable about the Church and the Gospel, two are his sons. We talked to him at length and sought further guidance from God.

Later that evening, we were taken to see the children. They were all dressed for us in the best clothes they have. We were warmly greeted. They sang for us and showed their talent in the scriptures. Brother Alvin talked to them as did Brother Joseph. It was one of the most pleasant experiences we have had.

Today is Saturday, and a friend of Dr. Livingston's came to visit. He and Dr. Livingston planned to take us to visit the hill tribes. As we have Indian reservations, they too have them. After Dr. Livingston's friend left, we asked Dr. Livingston to meet with us privately. We went over the entire period of time with him from when he had first come to the United States until now. While we were engaged in this, the Spirit of God fell upon us (it is all recorded) and we were led to ask him about the ministry or being ordained as an Elder. He cried, indeed, God confirmed it with His Spirit on the morrow we would ordain him. This would be December 6, 1981. We asked if he personally had any experiences that indicated his calling into the Priesthood. He reminded us that when he came to the United States in December 1974, Brother Joseph Calabrese had seen him as Cornelius. This had happened while they stayed at Brother Meredith Griffith's home. Also, he was approached by a sister in Monongahela who said she had seen him in an experience two months before he came to America. Another sister in New Jersey had also seen him in a vision even before he was preaching the Gospel to his people. Upon receiving this, he thought that God was going to use him throughout the country of India. However, he said he now sees this means that he was to work in the state of Andhra Pradesh. These experiences helped us to feel that God indeed has a work for him in his own area. Brother Alvin closed our discussion in prayer, and once again

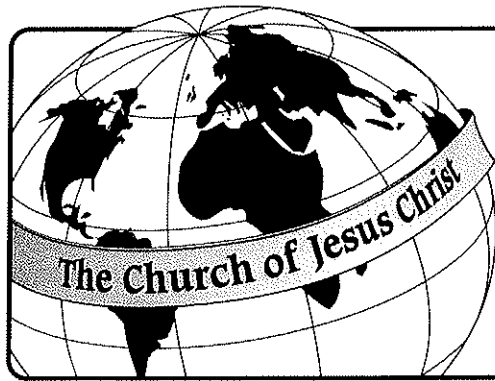
we felt God's Spirit with us. God moves in a mysterious way.

Shortly, Dr. Livingston's friend came with his driver and car. The trip to see the hill people on their reservations was to take about six hours. We enjoyed the trip. We visited the village school and the people. The area is indeed primitive, however, the people appear to be happy and satisfied.

During the trip we noticed that the gas gauge said empty. They had to find some petrol, and this far into the woods there was none to be found; so they took another way home, and it was the roughest ride of our entire trip. In fact, no road existed and we prayed that God would see us through. We then had a flat tire in the middle of nowhere. We prayed hard. Thank God they changed the tire and we arrived safely home, though very late.

The next day, we went to Godavari River, which was approximately thirty miles away. We gathered for prayer. There were six people to be baptized (five men and one woman). We reached the river and it was a beautiful scene. Dr. Livingston had chosen the place very well. It had to be a very private place (a "waters of Mormon scene") because we could not baptize in India and also because there were no Elders but us. Please note that Brother Dev was unable to make the long journey; therefore, we looked to God to guide us. Brother Joseph spoke briefly to them, and Brother Alvin prayed; and once again we felt the Spirit of God. Brother Joseph questioned each one and baptized them. We thanked God for His divine guidance and returned to Brother David Livingston's home. He had a room in the hospital prepared for the confirmation, sacrament, and ordination service. We told them to be very attentive to what would take place because we were going to call upon the Authority of God for all things; and if He chose to, He could give us a taste of the gifts of the Church and experiences of some kind. Truly, God blessed us.

(Continued on Page 10)



A message from the Seventy

Kenya Trip

"These men did not come to make money;
or see Africans;
or look at the land;
but they came with the Word of God."

Samson Ratumo
Chief of the Kisii District, Kenya,
East Africa
in his address to
The Church of Jesus Christ
in Kiogosi, Kisii, Kenya
Friday, February 19, 1999

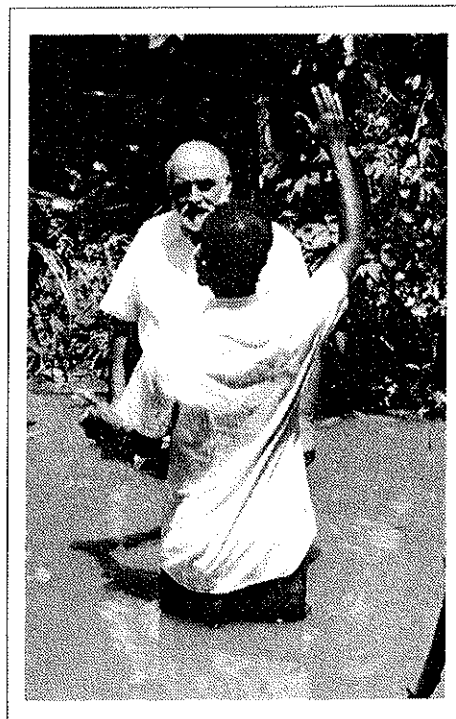
It is not often that The Church of Jesus Christ is recognized by the outside world. But the words quoted above were uttered to the saints gathered for an afternoon preaching and communion service. Brothers Mark Kovacic and Lyle Criscuolo were visiting their last village before leaving the Kisii District, and the Chief of the District wanted to meet and greet the brothers after hearing that they were in his area. This event typified their trip to Kenya.

Leaving their respective hometowns on Thursday evening, February 11, the brothers met in London and then proceeded to Nairobi, Kenya, where they arrived Saturday morning. As they disembarked from the plane, they peeked through the doorway and saw Brothers Stephen Osaka and Joseph Nyabuto. They waved to their Kenyan brothers and felt such joy and excitement.

The purpose of the trip was to encourage and strengthen the young Church in Kenya, where the majority of the members have been obedient to

the Restored Gospel for less than five years. On the agenda were training for ordained officers, visits to the villages throughout the area, and ordinations of additional workers, Teachers and Deacons. But even prior to leaving America, the Lord revealed His will.

On Monday night prior to their departure, Brother Lyle had a dream in which he saw Brother Mark lay his hands on the head of a brother and say, "I ordain you a Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ." While discussing possible ordinations during lunch on Saturday in Nairobi, Brothers Stephen and Joseph were asked about Brother Dismas Abuga being called into the Priesthood. Brother Stephen said the



Brother Dismas Abuga baptizing new convert with Brother Lyle Criscuolo training.

Elders met on Tuesday morning, but came to no conclusion. As Brother Andrew Ontomwa, the third Elder, was walking home from that meeting, the Lord spoke to him and said, "Ordain him a Minister." Accounting for the difference in time zones, God revealed His will to both brothers simultaneously. Praise God!

As Brothers Mark and Lyle visited the villages on Monday and Tuesday, the meetings were filled with the Spirit of God. Brother Lyle remarked about how loving and receptive the members were. On Tuesday, a meeting was held for the first time in the village of Itumbe, the tenth village to receive the Gospel, where some members of the Church reside. Previously, they walked 10-12 kilometers to the nearest village to fellowship and worship with the saints, such dedication!

On Wednesday, the ordained officers met for a lesson from the American brothers, "What does it mean to be a Peculiar People," and topics presented by the Kenyan brothers. The topics included fasting and prayer, tithing, feet washing, using the Bible and Nephite Record as one, the Holy Ghost and baptism.

Communion cloths were consecrated and communion was served among the brothers. Brother Lyle noted, "I have never seen such reverence for the body and blood of Christ." A lesson on anointing and use of blessed oil was given and a supply of olive oil for the Elders was blessed.

As a diversion from the studies, the brothers were taught a *Song of Zion* in English, *Come All Ye That Thirst*. It was so appropriate, as the Kenyan brothers expressed their desire to expand the work of God in Kenya. A drought had hit that area, but the night the American brothers arrived in Nairobi, sufficient rain fell so that the people were able to plant their corn. By the time the brothers were leaving, young corn stalks could be seen pushing up through the fertile soil.

On Thursday, gathering in the village of Omossasa, Brother Dismas Abuga was ordained into the Priest-

(Continued on Page 11)



Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When we meet people for the first time, the courteous thing to do is to introduce yourself to the other person. In our society, an introduction helps put the parties at ease, thus making conversation easier and hopefully, more pleasant.

Introductions are sometimes accompanied with much fanfare especially when celebrities or famous people are involved. From a human perspective, this gratifies their ego. This is one way they are noticed and become the center of attention.

There were two great introductions that occurred centuries ago, actually over nineteen hundred years ago. Both of these introductions involved Jesus Christ. Both times, He was introduced by His Father, God Almighty. These introductions had nothing to do with ego gratification. They dealt with the great gift of salvation, Jesus Christ!

The first great introduction occurred after the Lord's baptism. It was done by God Himself. The God of all the universe introduced His Son in Matthew 3:17 which states, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." This introduction followed the opening of the heavens and the Spirit of God descending on the Lord in the wonderful form of a dove, the emblem of peace. Can you imagine the awe and feelings of John the Baptist and others who may have witnessed this great event, this great introduction? There they were, under the sound of the voice of God and in the presence of Jesus Christ.

The second great introduction happened after the Lord's resurrection. It occurred on the Promised Land, the land of America. The introduction preceded the Lord's descending out of heaven to visit His people on this great land. We read these words of God in III Nephi 11:7, "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him."

Imagine the feelings of the multitude of people when they heard this voice, as they saw Jesus Christ descending from heaven, clothed in a white robe and eventually standing in their midst! What a way to be introduced to the Savior of the world! What a way to meet the Lord of Hosts! They could not open their mouths. They mistakenly took Him for an angel. When He spoke and declared, "I am Jesus Christ," they fell to the earth! They were overcome. They now knew who was speaking to them. They were in the presence of none other than Jesus Christ! What a marvelous experience to witness the arrival of the Lord!

God surely glorified His Name in His Son, Jesus Christ. Here was the Lord who suffered the will of the Father. Here was the premiere and supreme example of obedience, salvation, love, kindness, gentleness, sinlessness, grace and mercy. Here was life standing among them near the temple of God. The Lord was alive! He overcame the power of death and everlasting darkness. Jesus Christ had come to set them free. Free from what! Free from sin and spiritual death. What did they have to do? Simply stated, "Hear ye him." They had to listen and put His words into action in their lives.

He gave them an opportunity to see and feel His scars from His crucifixion and awful death. They witnessed first hand the resurrected Savior and evidence of how He was put to death for all mankind, including themselves.

God's introduction of His Son included a commandment, "Hear ye him." We have to hear the Lord. We must listen and do His will. We must obey His words and commandments.

Those of you who have not met the Lord, please allow Him to introduce Himself to you. You will never regret it! Your life will take on an entirely new dimension. It will be a life of goodness, hope, love, mercy and above all, salvation. It will be a life that experiences the lifting of the

(Continued on Page 12)

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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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Helaman 1:22

Dear Friends,

There are many things about serving God that seem very strange to us. One is the Lord's teachings about forgiveness. In the Bible, someone asked Jesus, "How many times shall I forgive someone? Seven times?"

Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven!"

In the Book of Mormon days, judges ruled the people of Nephi instead of kings. God wants this land to be a land of religious freedom. In those days, and now, He wants each person to have liberty (freedom) to choose between right and wrong.

In the fortieth year that Judges ruled the Nephite nations, Judge Pahoran died. Three of his sons wanted to be the Chief Judge. Their names were Pahoran, Pacumeni, and Paanchi.

A bitter fight broke out. The Nephite people selected Pahoran as their Chief Judge and ruler. Pacumeni agreed to help Pahoran when he realized he'd lost. But Paanchi was furious.

He started sneaking around, trying to work with his bad friends to get the Nephite people to rebel. But, before he could do this, Judge Pahoran heard about it.

Paanchi was arrested, tried in the Nephite courts according to their laws and sentenced to die. He had deliberately broken the laws; he'd raised up in rebellion. He'd tried to destroy the liberty of the people.

Meanwhile, no one was guarding the gates of the big cities because of all the troubles in the government. The enemy Lamanites in the next country



attacked! They marched to the beautiful cities, killing everyone and taking over. Men, women and little children were killed by the soldiers.

The Nephite armies gathered together to fight back. They surrounded their enemies and fought with swords, arrows, and knives. Finally, the Nephite army (who believe in God) won. The Lamanites gave up.

So what do you think the people who believed in God did to their enemies? Did they forgive them, or did they put them to death?

Remember, these Lamanite soldiers were ignorant of God's laws. They fought to win power and possessions from their Nephite enemies. They were ignorant of God's laws of freedom and love.

The answer is that the rulers, judges and Nephite people allowed them to go free. Usually, they had to promise never to fight again against the Nephite people.

They were forgiven and freed to leave the land in peace. This is the strange way God's people behave; with power and forgiveness.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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DIRECTORY UPDATE

Campagna, Lena
22310 Gordon
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081
810-776-6482

DiFalco, Anthony F.
37050 Emery
Clinton Twp., MI 48036
810-463-5245

King, Helen
174 Jess-King Rd.
Grindstone, PA 15442

King, Lawrence E., Susanna and
Katherine
517 Pleasant View Smock Rd.
Smock, PA 15480
724-677-2125

Knowles-Furnari, Lydia
10311 Ponderosa
Bellflower, CA 90706
562-920-0457

Krumpe, Jonathan and Joyce
4679 Barcroft Way
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
810-979-1436

Palposi, Edward and Frances
50104 S. Angelo Ct.
Chesterfield, MI 48047
810-948-1359

Swanson, Alvin Jr. and
Bortz, Marguerite
964E Case Rd.
LaBelle, FL 33935
941-674-0386



Stand Up for the One Who Stands for You!

By Sister Mandy Genaro

"It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country. It's time for young women who love the Lord to stand." This was the message for our November GMBA Conference, held on November 14-15, 1998. The Saturday morning service was opened by Brother Ike J. Smith, who spoke of Christ and His relation to little children. We must become innocent like little children, concentrating on what is good and holy, so we can operate the Kingdom of Heaven in purity and truth. Our minds were geared on spiritual things as we entered into the business portion of the meeting. The newly elected leaders of our GMBA are Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, President; Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, Vice President; and Brother Ike J. Smith, Chaplain. As always, we want to keep these brothers in our prayers as we all work together to bring the GMBA forward with the direction and inspiration of the Lord.

Our Saturday evening service was opened by Brother Ike Smith, Sr., who said, "The Lord's eternal purposes must go on." God has a real purpose for each of us, and the young people should play an important part in the Church. We need to carry on the eternal purposes of God: responsibility of the Gospel, responsibility of the Restoration, responsibility for Jesus Christ. We need to stand up for the Lord and proclaim the truth to the world. No matter where you are or what the opposition, stand up for Jesus and ensure that the Gospel goes on. Following the message, Sister Roseanne Champine sang, *Stand Up for the Restoration*.

Brother Doug Obradovich continued with this theme and asked, "Who makes the stand for you? When

we had no qualifications, no experience, nothing to offer, Jesus stood for us." The Lord stood for each of us even when we didn't deserve it, when we were unworthy, when we failed time after time. He always gives us another chance. It's time to be courageous and stand alone for the Lord. Stand alone, separate from the world, and stand for Christ, His teachings, the Bible and Book of Mormon, and the Restoration. It's our turn, because when we couldn't stand, Jesus Christ stood for us.

A motivating message was fed to the children of God, and many did stand and testify to the goodness and graciousness of God in their lives. We left spiritually fed, and after the service, we were naturally fed by our brothers and sisters who prepared a Mexican fiesta. We really enjoyed the evening of fellowship together, and we anticipated further blessings as we would reconvene on the Sabbath Day for more spiritual nourishment.

The Sunday morning meeting began with the blessing of Brother Larry and Sister Vicki Ali's newborn son, Lucas Benjamin. A group of young brothers sang a song entitled, *I Want To Be Just Like You*, which describes a father's desire to follow in Jesus' footsteps in order to set a good example for his son. Brother John Ali blessed his grandson, and then our deaconess sisters set the table while Sister Roseanne Champine sang, *The Debt of Love I Owe*.

Brother Chuck Maddox opened the preaching service, and the Lord's message was continued on standing up for Christ. Brother Chuck said, "Today is the day to stand up for Jesus Christ and say, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' " If we don't stand, who will? Stand up and be counted as one of His. When we asked for our baptism, it was a response to God's calling—don't question it. Don't let Satan discourage or confuse you. Stand up and claim Him today. I Nephi 3:7 says, "I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." He has called us to be

His children, and He will help us through life each day. A simple analogy is of a young child playing "Chopsticks" on the piano. Of itself, the song is not very elaborate, maybe not very impressive; however, when the piano teacher sits down next to the child and adds additional notes of harmony, the simple piece becomes beautiful and pleasing to the ear. Likewise, we need to leave room on the "piano bench" for Jesus. Allow Him to add His beauty to our lives so we might be pleasing to Him.

Following these words, Brothers Jeff and Pete Giannetti, Jr., sang, *Follow Me*. Brother Peter Scolaro continued the preaching service saying, "We are each individuals, and we need to know the Lord and His Gospel as 'I.' " Individually, we need to have that personal knowledge of Christ and have a personal relationship with Him. Then, we can relate to each other and work together, harmonize together, play "Chopsticks" together in unison. In unity, we must lift up the name of Jesus Christ. Our lives must exhibit the mysterious ingredient the world is missing—the Spirit of God. As siblings in the Gospel, we need to be connected, to work together to show others the love we have found in The Church of Jesus Christ. Soon afterward, a sister had a vision of a large book. Where the pages would be found, she saw a man rising up from out of the book and people kneeling at His feet, praying to God.

Brother Jeffrey Giannetti followed saying, "Siblings have so much harmony and likeness because they're of one blood. That's us, brothers and sisters, we are of one blood—Christ's blood. When we decided to follow Christ, His blood covered us and made us one in Him. Brother Jeffrey related an experience he had while traveling on an airplane. He found himself kneeling at the throne of God. He saw a few steps and then the bottom of a robe. He felt the love of Christ wash over him, and he knew he made it. Brother Jeffrey said he had a desire to sing to the Lord, and he looked and saw a *Saints Hymnal*. He sang #344, *My*

(Continued on Page 11)



Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

On Sunday, December 6, 1998, the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission witnessed the baptism of our new sister as she rendered obedience to the Gospel. As the early morning sun started to break through a heavy fog and brighten up the sky, Sister Melinda Jean Rao walked into the waters of regeneration and was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn and later



Left to right: Brother Darrell Rossi, Sister Mindy Rao and Brother Harold Littlejohn.

confirmed by Brother Darrell Rossi for the reception of the Holy Spirit. Sister Mindy started attending The Church of Jesus Christ for many years while living in Indiana and going to the Cincinnati Branch. She and her husband then moved to Kentucky in 1996. In June of 1998, she and her husband moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina and started attending the Spartanburg Mission.

On Sunday, November 29, 1998, Brothers Joe Ross and Dick Lawson from Pennsylvania were visiting the Mission. Brother Dick Lawson opened the meeting with a message of the

importance of our calling into the Church. He had mentioned in his message that if you were not already baptized then you should be. This stayed with Sister Mindy throughout the rest of the meeting. As she drove home after the meeting, she testifies that she had a tingling feeling all the way home and it continued with her even after she reached home. She called Brother Harold Littlejohn and told him about this experience and she thought maybe the Lord was calling her into the Church. She met with Brothers Harold and Darrell later that night and discussed this matter. She then decided this was, indeed, a calling from the Lord and asked for her baptism.

We rejoice with our new sister that she was receptive to the message God had for her that day and she obeyed her calling into the Church. We solicit each and everyone of your prayers for our new sister and pray that the Lord will keep her strong in her faith and walk with Him all the days of her life.

Visitors in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

Brother Lou Vitto from the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch and Brother Tony Piccuito from the Lindsay, California Branch visited our branch in honor of Sister Carmela Santarcangelo whose funeral took place on January 9, 1999. There was a beautiful season of praise and testimony during her service, and the Spirit of God accompanied Brother Lou Vitto's theme of serving the Lord, on which he spoke that day. There was a sadness in her loss, but a joy in the knowledge that she is in Paradise with God.

On Sunday, Brother Tony opened our meeting, speaking on the goal of our Church—to process souls into the Kingdom of God. He used an analogy of a factory to describe the production process of sanctification and preparation of our souls that takes place during the years of our lives. He asked us, "Are we taking inventory of how

well we have processed our spiritual lives? Do we allow the changes to occur in us through the power and Spirit of God so that we will be ready to enter into the Kingdom of Christ when He calls our name?" He prayed that, in all of our wisdom, in our study of His word, by walking and talking with Him daily and dedicating our lives to God that we'll have some hindsight, as well as insight and foresight of what awaits us in the Kingdom of God. We have experienced the power of the Holy Ghost, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Ghost. It was a processing in the "spiritual factory" of Jesus Christ, so that we will know what is right because God has written it upon our hearts. We must exemplify the personality and characteristics of Jesus Christ. Brother Tony stated that as we go through our lives we should ask ourselves, "What kind of contact do we have with God; am I in tune with God, is He speaking to me, guiding me, and do I make decisions based on the Holy Ghost so I don't make mistakes?" There is a plan of salvation, and we must endure to the end, holding on to the rod of iron to achieve it. Our brother reminded us that we've all been hurt, but he urged us to drop the bag of refuse that we may be carrying so we might go forward in our spiritual lives.

Brother Lou Vitto followed, reminding us to praise the Lord; the more we praise Him, the more we grow the Holy Spirit, and the closer to us He becomes. Brother Lou asked us, of those of us who call ourselves Christians, "How many of us are disciples of Christ?" Many of us "play church." He exhorted us to be ready when Jesus comes for us, not to be caught "playing church." We need to get our eyes off of the devil and focus them on Jesus.

The benefits of God are so great! We will receive the crown of eternal life if we stay faithful. We are living in a spiritual war, and we need to get on the ship of Zion. We need to let Him steer our lives. It's necessary to be completely dedicated to our commitment, our covenant to Christ. Sin is around us every moment, and we must rid our lives of sin. He reminded us that grace is not a license to sin.

Brother Lou encouraged the

brothers and sisters to come forward if there were any who needed to be delivered; if any were experiencing family problems, spiritual problems, or those of a physical nature, that Jesus could deliver them. Many members, both individually and as couples came forward for deliverance through the anointing and laying on of hands by the Priesthood, and there was a powerful spirit of love and humility among us.

On Sunday night, several brothers and sisters gathered at Brother Leonard and Sister Grace Lovalvo's home, where there were testimonies, anointings and prayers to rededicate ourselves to the Lord and to one another in love. A brother who felt bound by Satan was released by the Lord's power. Praise God!

Along with the dawning of the New Year, we feel that this weekend has been a revival for our branch, which has recently suffered losses of membership. This is a direct answer to our prayers, and we look forward to a very blessed 1999. May God bless each of you as well.

Note of Thanks

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the brothers, sisters, and friends for their prayers on behalf of my late mother, Sister Rose Laessig. She greatly appreciated all the cards, telephone calls, and visits. Sister Rose always derived much joy, peace and strength in hearing from the saints. It was her desire to personally respond to everyone, but she never regained the strength to do so. God bless you all.

Love in Christ,
Sister Sally Curtin

* * * * *

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest
words as any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all,
but just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much,
Whatever the part.

We want to extend our thanks to everyone who shared in the passing of our loved one, Evangelist Cleveland Baldwin.

The Baldwin Family

* * * * *

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of
The Church of Jesus Christ,

I, with my dear wife, wish to thank you for the many prayers which were offered up in my behalf during my recent heart by-pass surgery and recovery. I want to assure every one of you that it did bring much comfort and reassurance during those early days after the operation. When everything seemed so uncertain, knowing that so many beautiful people were praying for me brought much security to my heart.

I am deeply grateful for God's help in seeing me through this ordeal, and for His kind protection throughout my life. The doctors discovered that I have scar tissue on my heart, meaning that I did have a heart attack sometime in the past, but I had not noticed any symptoms. It is amazing how close we can get to eternity without even knowing it.

Thank you also for the beautiful cards and phone calls. They were very uplifting. God bless you all for your kindness toward me.

Love in Christ,
Brother Reno Bologna

Great Lakes Region Conference

Continued from Page 1

from the tribe of Joseph. The Lord told them to go and take the land. We, today, have two records, one of the tribe of Judah (the Bible) and the other of the tribe of Joseph (the Book of Mormon), and today the Lord is telling us the same message: "Go and take the land!" When you are in a situation that looks grim and you don't think

you can do it, remember Caleb and Joshua and say to yourself, "I am capable for the Lord is my help!" In closing, Brother Tom said that the Israelites trusted and respected their leadership. Joshua and Moses earned their trust by being good examples with their lives. Today, our leadership should be trusted and respected and they too must earn it by being good examples with their lives. In this life, our faith will constantly be tested. What attitude are we going to have? Will we say, "Yes, we'll do what the Lord has said, with respect and reverence for our leaders." Or, will we be found murmuring, having fear and doubt, wandering in the wilderness? May we all possess the right attitude and claim God's victory in our lives.

Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine sang a song Sister Rosanne had written which was so appropriately titled, *Determined*. The chorus reads: "I am determined, to win the battle, for I am confident the Lord will see me through. And in His name, I'll claim the victory, For there is nothing, with God's help, I cannot do."

Brother Mark Coppa having just returned to his home state of Michigan after a twenty year stay in California, spoke next. He posed the question to us, "As the Israelites made the decision not to go and take the land, how many of us have made decisions on our own and not listened to the direction of our Heavenly Father?" We've all been taught the lesson some time throughout our lives, that doing things on our own doesn't pay. What seems logical is not always the right thing to do. What made Joshua a great leader was that he depended on God and not man. Joshua also set forth a vision for the people. It's our responsibility, as the people of God, to bring forth that vision to everyone that we come in contact with, that the Restored Gospel is the hope and salvation for all mankind. He concluded by saying, "Take courage! We may not have Joshua in the flesh, but we have the Spirit of Jesus Christ to lead us across the rivers of life."

The congregation joyfully sang, *We're Marching to Zion*. Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

Great Lakes Region Conference

Continued from Page 9

Paul Palmieri related that Sister Marie Lunham from the Muncey Indian Reservation said that while Brother Tom Everett was speaking, she saw a white glow around him. This was the third confirmation of the Spirit, and the message the Lord wanted to come forth. Brother Paul reminded us of the good examples set by the early leaders of Israel and that we, today, have the best example of all, Jesus Christ, and how much more so we should follow Him and be good examples for our fellow man. We have much to rejoice about. We have the Gospel, the Church, and Jesus Christ in our hearts. We have the blessed assurance of our names being written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Be excited! Tell others of what God has done for you in your life, not only naturally, but most importantly, spiritually. What could be more valuable than a way of salvation?

After the congregation sang *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*, Brother Peter Scolaro spoke. He said that he's got a habit of after having had an important discussion, he needs to be assured that the message was heard and see immediate action taken in response to the discussion. He posed these questions to the congregation, "Did you hear the message? Are you going to listen and follow up with action?" We've all had some occasion where we're standing before the River Jordan and had to ask ourselves, "Am I going to take a step out in faith and cross this river knowing God will see me through or will I feel doubt that the Lord might not do this miracle for me and the walls of water might come crashing down?" There is no need to question God's abilities or to put ourselves in that position of doubt. Know of assururity that God is faithful and can do all things. Joshua knew it and the Israelites saw his faith. God fulfilled every promise He made to them. Those same promises are available to us today. Believe on them and go forward listening to the message and take action immediately.

Brother Alex Gentile made

closing remarks and praised God for His wonderful message. Only the Spirit could conduct a meeting with such perfection as if it were rehearsed. Man's most educated scholars cannot surpass the Spirit of God. The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother John Buffa from Sterling Heights. We enjoyed a season of fellowship over lunch and went home rejoicing full of God's joyful inspiration to listen to His words of direction and be assured that, "We can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us."

The Establishment of the Church in India

Continued from Page 3

We then asked them to testify. Brother Mark Raju was the first; and as he rose, we could see and feel the Spirit of God upon him because he could hardly speak. He said that while Brother David's feet were being washed he had a vision. He saw Jesus Christ come into the room in a glowing white robe with His disciples, and he heard Him say, "Let us kneel and pray." He had never had an experience before like this one. Brother Daniel Livingston, Brother David's second son (22 years old), arose and he too couldn't speak immediately; for the Spirit of God was upon him. He too had seen a vision. When he was being confirmed, he saw an angel come into the room. In his hand he had golden plates. He said they were so bright that they were blinding to the sight. Praise God! God indeed proved to us that we had done the right thing in Tadepalligudem. We declared that here too, as in Thiruninravur, The Church of Jesus Christ was officially established. Among those baptized were Brother Timothy Babu and his wife. Our new brother is blind. When he was nine months old, he had yellow jaundice. Some person put some drops in his eyes and that caused his blindness. However, Brother David taught him in the scriptures; and he desires to be used by God. Please pray for him. We also anointed a young boy (15

years old). He is the son of Brother David's pharmacist, George. He needs a valve replacement in his heart. They have asked us to tell the Church to pray for him. Soon after the meeting, the news began to travel of the wonderful experiences. Friends began to come to see us. Some of them asked to be anointed. How wonderful God moves upon His people, and we are confident that God will multiply this new work with many souls.

The time had come to say goodbye. Brother Solomon was to be our guide to Madras. Brother Alvin prayed before we left, and it was a sad goodbye. There were so many tears, for who knew when we would meet again.

We boarded the train. We had to change trains at a place called Vijayawada. When it came time to purchase tickets, none could be had. We cried, "Lord help us!" Brother Mark Raju who works at the station, along with Brother Solomon, talked to the conductor. We heard him say, "No! No! No room!" Brother Alvin prayed that the Lord would change the conductor's mind. The conductor then said, "All right I will give them my seat." It was a long, hard ride but we arrived safely in Madras. Brother Solomon Livingston, who had been with us, took an evening train back to Tadepalligudem.

The next day Brother Dev took us to the airport to confirm our tickets. Another trial! When we presented our tickets, that which we feared the most happened. The computer said we were "dumped." The clerk said she would follow through and call us tomorrow, December 9. Oh, how we prayed! Only four days left to return to see our loved ones. Brother Alvin was very encouraging. He said, "Remember there are two messengers of God with us, one on each side."

We tried again at Air India. Praise God, the tickets were confirmed. We spent the rest of the week with Brother Dev. We needed to give him as much instruction as we could.

Sunday, December 13, was our last day here. We went to the meeting and there were eight baptisms. Brother Dev was doing his work well while we

were away up north. There were experiences to accompany these callings. For example, one young mother, a Hindu, did not get baptized when her husband did on November 29. She desired to do the right thing, but she wanted to be sure. This past week she had a dream that she joined her husband in baptism. Now, they are both happy serving God together.

Brother Dev hugged us and cried. Our plane had now arrived, and it was time to say goodbye to India. However, it was different than when we had first arrived—different because the truth of the Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ have now been established.

Our trip home had some exciting moments. In Bombay as we faced customs again, we paid the duty for the microscope. However, when we went to check the luggage to New York, Brother Joseph left his small suitcase at the counter. It contained money and all my reports to the Foreign Mission and the General Church Mission Board. It has been said that God watches over His children. I went back to the counter, and the suitcase was still there. Again, in the same airport when I went through customs, in the midst of all the paperwork, I left my ticket at the counter; so I had to return for that. Finally, we were on our way.

Brother Alvin said to Brother Joseph, "You will always remember this experience, and it will have a definite bearing on your life forever." How true. We look forward with the greatest anticipation for the progress in the coming years in India.

We ask that all who read this report, please remember all the brothers, sisters, children and friends in India in prayer, for God has blessed the Church with a new family.

What country of people next? God only knows, but one thing is sure that every nation, kindred, tongue, and people will know the true love of God. Wherever He leads, we shall go. Before we left for India, an experience came forth that the Messengers of God would be with us; and from all that we experienced, we are sure that they were with us all the way. Praise God!

(To Be Continued)

A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

hood. A member of the Church for over five years and a Teacher for four years, this brother is active in both studying and preaching the Gospel. His knowledge of the Book of Mormon amazed the brothers, as he quoted Nephi, Jacob and Alma in his talks.

The Priesthood, the four Kenyan Elders and the two American brothers, proceeded to ordain five Teachers and five Deacons. What a blessing to see these humble and willing servants of the Lord. All of them have proven themselves in both word and deeds, understanding the Restored Gospel and the Faith and Doctrine of the Church. Their main desire is to have more copies of the Book of Mormon and to have it published in their language of Swahili; the translation is 99% complete and being prepared for printing.

Next came the baptisms. Brother Lyle performed the first few and then taught and assisted our new Elder, who performed the remainder. In all, twenty-four souls rendered obedience to the Restored Gospel. And all of it was done in an orderly and spiritual manner, with such a sweet spirit present.

Friday brought visits to two more villages, including the village from where the Chief came. We felt honored not only by his presence, but his kind words. He said he had two favors to ask. "First, please come back. Second, please consider establishing a mission house here among my people." He noted that he has seen the good The Church of Jesus Christ had done, not in converting the converted, but converting the sinners and lost souls of his villages. What a testimony! And he is willing to assist the Church with land!

The walk up the mountain to the Kiogosi church shelter brought another blessing, as Brother Lyle recognized the adjoining mountain as one he had seen in a dream some time before. How beautiful God would hold back that view until the last village of the trip to confirm all that had been experienced.

Also, Friday afternoon the brothers met with the Kenyan Deaconesses; and what a blessing it was. They heard about the work the Deaconesses were

performing in working with the sisters and children and what the village Ladies' Uplift Circles were accomplishing. Some of those activities are raising hens, planting tomato gardens, sewing Circle uniforms of different colors, and planning activities that would bring other village women to their meetings, crocheting circles.

The brothers left Kenya Saturday night, February 20. Although the visit was short, it was eventful and spirit-filled. The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya is growing and maturing in the Lord. Everywhere the brothers visited, the members would echo three thoughts: "Take back our greetings in the Lord to the saints in America, ask them to pray for us that the work of the Lord may continue to move forward, and tell them we love them."

Evangelist Mark Kovacic

Stand Up for the One

Continued from Page 7

Jesus, I Love Thee, and choirs of angels joined him in song. He knew he was the Lord's child, and he was covered in the blood of the Lamb. Praise God!

We then partook of the Lord's Supper, and Sister Lucetta Scaglione related a vision she had while thinking about Brother Jeffrey's experience. As sacrament was being passed, she saw an angel of the Lord roll the stone away and she saw Christ emerge from the tomb. Jesus is alive!

Brother Paul Palmieri concluded our service by saying, "Rejoice that your names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. The Gospel doesn't require us to be highly educated or hold high status and positions in life; it has been revealed unto the babes." The Lord is looking for simple believers—babes in Christ—willing to accept the Lord with all our faults, and He wipes us clean with His blood. Stand up for the Savior. Thank God for the simple obedience we have found in the Gospel. Be quick to tell others of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. He lives for us, and He lives today!

* WEDDING *

Wayne "Sam" Mehera and Patricia Peacock were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on February 27, 1999.

Children Blessed

Casey Thomas O'Sullivan, son of Dina and Paul O'Sullivan was blessed in the San Diego, California Branch on January 31, 1999.

Baptisms

John Stansbury was baptized on February 14, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother William Colangelo.

Carrie Nolfi was baptized on June 7, 1998 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi, and confirmed by Brother Alma Nolfi.

OBITUARIES

RUBY LOUISE KINSER

Sister Ruby Kinser passed on to her heavenly reward on January 12, 1999. She was a member of the Mesa/Phoenix, Arizona Branch. Sister Ruby is survived by one daughter, Betty; two sons, Charles and James Kinser; and several grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

JOSEPH DALE KING

Brother Joe King passed on to his heavenly reward on October 9, 1998. He was a member of the Mesa/Phoenix, Arizona Branch. Brother Joe is survived by his wife, Sister Grace (Taormina) King; four sons, Brother Patrick, Michael, Ralph and Douglas King; one daughter, Louise DeCarlo; nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

RICHARD C. ADAMS

Richard C. Adams of Wellsburg, West Virginia and Cleveland, Ohio passed on to his eternal reward on February 17, 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Tripoli Adams. Left to mourn is one son, Richard; one daughter, Ellen and two grandchildren.

GLADYS GIBSON

Sister Gladys Gibson passed away to her heavenly reward on February 22, 1999. She was a member of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch. Sister Gladys leaves to mourn six children, thirty-four grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

burden of sin. It will be a life of being able to overcome adversity and the trials of life.

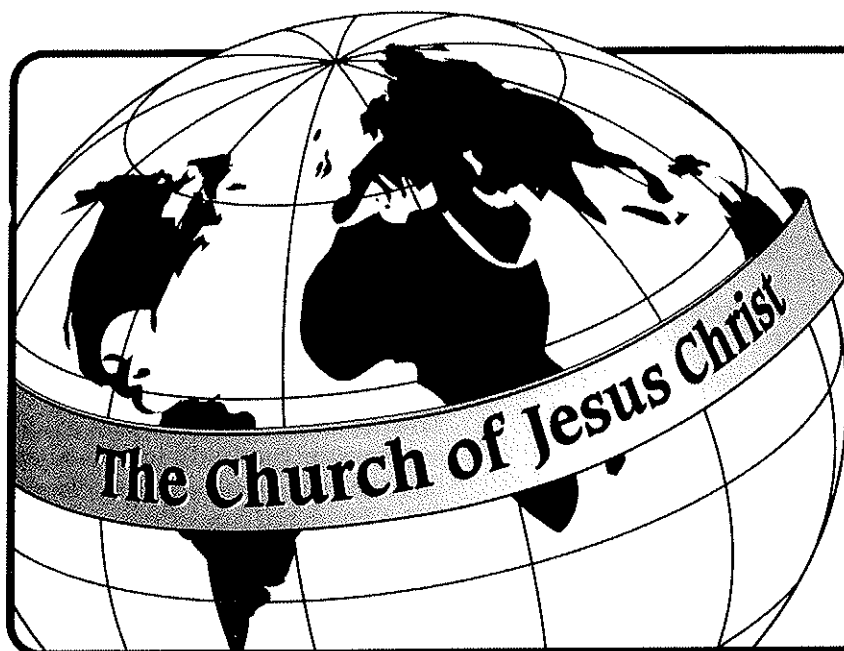
When you meet the Lord, you will hear His voice. It is a still, soft voice that will pierce your heart and soul. His calling is sweet. His Spirit is sweet. His Spirit will make a lamb out of a lion. He will transform you. He will change you. He will give you a new heart. He will give you a new tongue. He will bless your soul. Where there is fear, now there is hope. Where there is dislike, now there is charity.

When you allow the Lord to introduce Himself to you, you will feel like a new creature. You will become a new creature. When you "hear the Lord," you now will possess the mind of Christ. What a gift. A new way of thinking. A new way of acting and conducting one's life.

You will feel the goodness and mercy of Jesus Christ. It is very difficult to describe. You must experience it for yourself. Once you do experience the calling of the Lord, the introduction of the Lord, you will declare as others have before you, "Now I know!"

You will meet new people. You will meet people who possess the love of God. You will see the human family, the creation of God in a new light. You will now understand the true meaning of life.

Allow the Lord to introduce Himself to you. There is no other voice; there is no other way to salvation. You will rejoice when you, "Hear ye him."



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

June, 1999

Volume 55, No. 6

Building Dedicated in Kinsman, Ohio

By Megan Jackson

The weekend of October 23, 1998, was filled with much happiness as the Kinsman, Ohio Mission dedicated a new Church building to the honor and glory of Jesus Christ. On Friday night, the MBA held a sing-spiration that was open to the public. Saturday, we watched a slide presentation put together by Sister Francine Jackson, and on Sunday the dedication service was held.

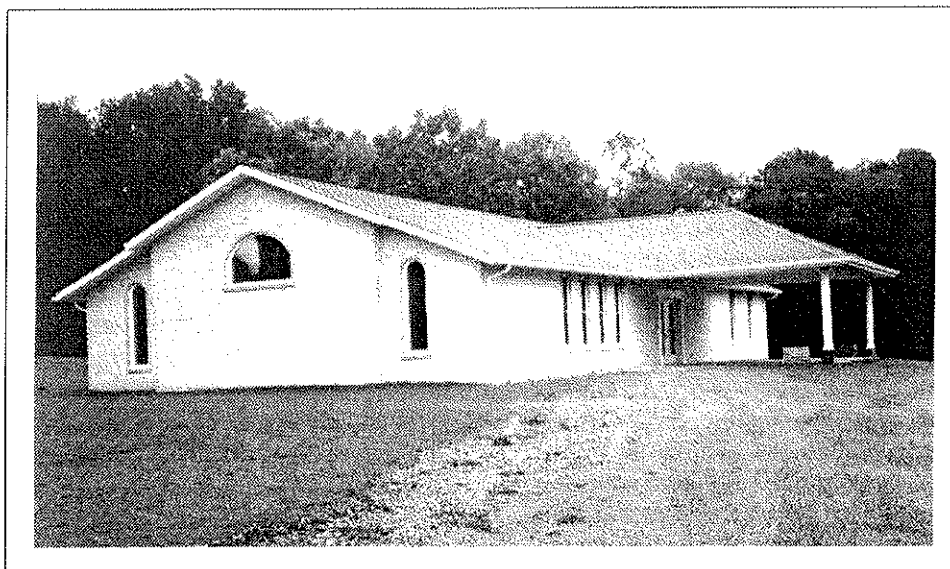
We were honored to have the President of The Church of Jesus Christ, First Counselor, Vice-President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, five Apostles, and two General Church Trustees with us at this service. Brother Philip Jackson welcomed everyone.

Brother Brian Martorana offered the opening prayer. During the prayer Sister Angela Reyes, from Freehold, New Jersey had a vision where God let her see each one, and a hurricane came directly towards us and began cleansing us little by little. Sister Angela said that it was like a white mantle covering us little by little and turning us completely white. The Kinsman choir followed by singing, *Have Thine Own Way*, *Blessed Assurance*, and *Standing on the Promises*.

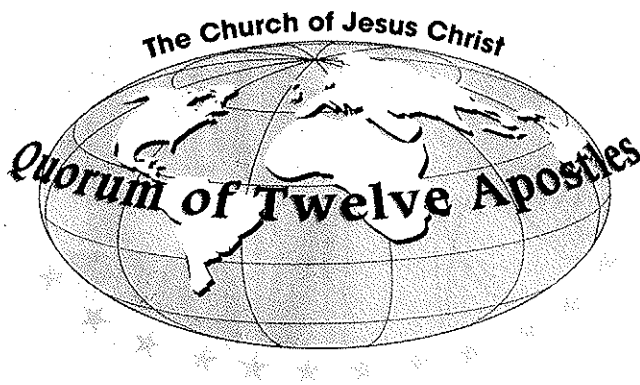
Sister Rosalie Mott then related the history of the Kinsman Mission. She told how, through God's direction, The Church of Jesus Christ was brought to Kinsman, Ohio. Kinsman was made an Established Mission under the Niles, Ohio Branch on April 21, 1956 with a membership of ten. Many years of God's blessings followed and a foundation was formed upon which many years of service were built. Now, forty-two years later, we had come to dedicate a new building.

The materials were gathered through God's help and the generosity of brothers, sisters, friends, as well as many in the community. Brother Philip Jackson followed by relating many of the experiences that were given to different brothers and sisters of the Kinsman Mission through the years. Brother Philip told us that we should never take for granted the experiences that God gives to His people because it builds our faith in Him. Through the relating of these many experiences, God's love, goodness, and mercy were evident and each

(Continued on Page 10)



Kinsman, Ohio Mission



The Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in India

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

PART III AND CONCLUSION

Trip:

1. Conference approval, October 17, 1981.
2. Departure on November 17, 1981. Arrival on November 19, 1981.

Thiruninravur, S. India:

1. Devanandam, he was baptized in the United States of America, in April 1981. He was questioned and instructed by the General Church Mission Board, The Quorum of Twelve, and by Brothers Russell Cadman, Joseph Calabrese, and Anthony Lovalvo. We found the indoctrination proved to be very valuable. We discussed with him at length the position of the Church. We evaluated the Thiruninravur area facilities, transportation, and the people. We further questioned Brother Dev in the ministerial responsibility. Based on the overall evaluation, we recommended him to be ordained an Elder.

2. Brother A. Devanandam was ordained on November 22, 1981.

a) There were two experiences in this meeting, and there were approximately two hundred people present. In the first experience a light was seen over all the three brothers (Brother Joseph, Brother Alvin, and Brother Dev) as his feet were being washed and while he was being

ordained. In the second experience Brother Dev personally felt a pain in his heart (numbness) as his feet were being washed. As he was being ordained, and the oil was put his head, and hands were laid upon him, he said it felt like a lightening bolt went through his body.

b) Baptisms: On November 29, 1981, there were forty baptisms (14 men and 26 women). There are more to follow. The main thing was to establish the Church and instruct those that were baptized.

c) Officers Ordained: One Teacher, two Deacons, and two Deaconesses.

Tadepalligudem:

1. Dr. B. D. Livingston first contacted the Church in 1974. At that time he did not get baptized. It was through him that the Church made an effort to go to India. However, the government refused to give Brothers Alvin Swanson and Reno Bologna visas.

Dr. Livingston realized his mistake in not getting baptized and seriously began asking to bring him to the States or go to Tadepalligudem to evaluate and study his area for the Church to be established. Upon our arrival we met him in a hotel in Madras. We questioned him at length, to be sure his aims were not material or selfish in nature. We personally visited his compound.

There are a hospital, orphanage, and a home of a nice setting. He runs his own hospital and orphanage, but the leprosy work he does in other villages. He receives money from two benefactors in Sweden, and he is self sustaining for family needs. Further questioning (this is all recorded on tape) revealed to us that his attitude, spirit, experiences, and God's witness to us directed us to ordain him an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

2. Baptisms and Ordination: On December 6, 1981, there were five men and one woman baptized in the Godavari River, just outside Tadepalligudem. Arrangements were made to have a "waters of Mormon" scene, not to be troubled by the authorities. We returned to a room in Brother Livingston's hospital to complete the work—the confirmations. In this meeting there were two visions:

First Vision: Brother Mark, a man 49 years old, said that while Brother Livingston's feet were being washed to set him aside for the ordination, he saw Christ come into the room with His disciples. Christ said to him, "Let us kneel and pray." Jesus Christ had a glowing white robe on.

Second Vision: Brother Daniel Livingston, age 22, the second son of Brother David Livingston, said he saw an angel come in the room as he was having hands laid upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost. In his hands he had golden plates that were very blinding to look upon. We did not ordain any other officers because we did not see the necessity at this time.

3. Villages: Brother Livingston goes to some of the villages to care for the leprosy patients. We were taken to visit one of these villages. There is a preacher in the colony, and Brother Livingston has been talking to him about the Restored Gospel. The people gather inside a hut for discussions. Then, they are led out one group at a time to receive medical treatment from Brother Livingston. After the treatment each one goes back into the hut. A closing hymn is sung and a freewill offering is taken. The freewill offering is to help those who are less fortunate, so they can eat. Many are completely helpless.

Brother Livingston said he introduced the Restored Gospel to them for over one year. He asked them (for our benefit) how many are ready to be baptized and about 35 hands went up. Even though he has talked to them over one year, he is not satisfied that they are ready yet. He has indeed been very cautious and this is why we only had six baptisms at this time. He has informed us that there are seven other villages that he had been talking to about The Church of Jesus Christ. He has had continuous talks and prayers with the leaders of these villages. In due time this work could grow over night. With his knowledge of the Church that he received when he was in the States and his education, combined with the Spirit to guide him, we feel confident that God will direct him right. Again, his finances to treat the lepers are financed by a couple in Sweden as is the orphanage.

d) Orphanage: The orphanage that is on his private compound is a very well constructed building with a cooking area and several rooms for teaching and also for sleeping the children. At this time he has 34 children of both faiths, the Hindu and the Christian. His wife and daughter are principally involved in the work, as he personally is. The children are well disciplined and know much about the Lord and about the scriptures; and while we were there, they recited a Bible verse for us. The orphanage is being financed by another benefactor from Sweden. Therefore, the overall picture shows us that the hospital and the home are self-sustained. The leprosy care is being financed by benefactors. The hospital is named "Baer Memorial" and the orphanage is named "Orphanage Saved by Grace" (a real credit to Brother Livingston and his family.)

Recommendations and Suggestions:

In our opinion the Church's decision to evaluate and establish The Church of Jesus Christ in India was found desirable. We have felt that the conditions were well founded. We believe God had revealed unto us and that He has sanctioned it by His Holy Spirit. Brother Russell Cadman had

an experience that there were three fields on his father's farm to plant. Two, in fact, have been fulfilled in Thiruninravur and Tadepalligudem and were organized. The third, we believe, will eventually follow and could be Bapatla, where the Leprosy Colony is. We had thought it to be another, in a place called Rajahmundry, but a private investigation proved this place to be only interested in what they would be able to receive in a monetary sense and not spiritual help. There are many in India doing this. Therefore, they should always be privately investigated first.

Total Baptisms so far as follows:

Thiruninravur—There were 48 baptized. One Elder, one Teacher, two Deacons, and two Deaconesses were ordained.

Tadepalligudem—There were six baptized and one Elder ordained. This is only the beginning; we do not believe the Church could have made a better choice in the two Elders chosen. Both of them are fully dedicated and very warm to the goals of The Church of Jesus Christ. Their intentions, from what we have seen by on-the-spot evaluation, are clearly spiritual; and they have been convinced by the revelation of God that The Church of Jesus Christ is the true and only Church. We have recorded some five hours of events and services, and we would encourage the Church to hear them and keep the tape for history. It is the first time the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been in India since the Apostle Thomas.

The following should be considered:

1. The Church registration through our attorney. There are two states, so both places would need to be registered.
2. Church seal? How is it to be handled?
3. A base building for Thiruninravur. Its cost and location could run between \$5,000 and \$6,000 complete.
4. No building has been recommended in Tadepalligudem at this time.
5. It is our opinion that India, not being friendly to missionaries, would jeopardize any thought of

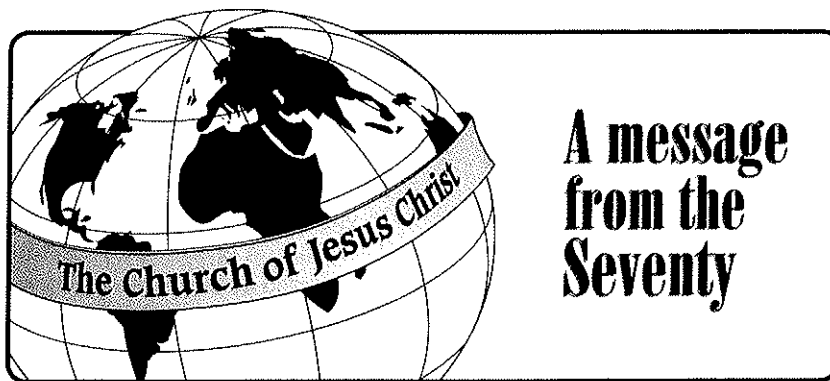
permanent missionaries. The country is Communist, and we had to be very careful. There were many that asked why we were there, so we had to use the "HOINA" and the "Baer Hospital" and the orphanage as our reasons. In view of this we must be careful. Therefore, it is our strong feeling that the Church consider when sending brothers to India in the future to send them only as tourists and to keep an evaluation of the work they perform. Presently, three to four weeks are enough, not only because restrictions by the government but because of the language barrier. In lieu of permanent missionaries, we strongly suggest that the Elders from India be brought here to the United States during a General Church Conference. While here they would be trained to the work first hand, and we cannot express this strongly enough in the case of both Elders. We felt that what they had seen and learned while in the United States could not have been accomplished in India. Brother Livingston is the most learned one; especially in the Restoration, and he preaches it. Also, it would be less costly to the Church to bring them to the United States than to pay for permanent missionaries to go there.

We want to thank the Church for allowing us to be the first to go to India. It has been quite an experience that we shall never forget.

On December 13, 1981, we had our final meeting in Thiruninravur. There were eight more baptisms, two brothers and six sisters. It was a beautiful day, and it is wonderful how God is giving them experiences.

From today's group was a young Hindu who did not get baptized with her husband on November 29, 1981. This past week she had a dream that she joined her husband in baptism. She felt she wanted to do what God wanted her to do. When she received this dream, she was satisfied. We got her testimony on tape.

We left for home several hours later, and we kept thanking God for His divine protection. We know for a fact that His Messengers were with us all the way as we were told when we left to do this work.



Almost Three Years of Anticipation, Preparation Coming to End

By Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Almost three years of anticipation and preparation for the Second World Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ are coming to an end, as the much-awaited occasion, which brings our people together from different parts of the world, will be held at the Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois from June 26 to July 2.

When an event of this magnitude is undertaken, it seems as though it will never come; but, then, when it becomes a reality, it brings all the projections and execution of plans into the present sphere of exciting activities. There are so many of God's blessings to share and there is so much to be learned that the joyous time together will be memorable and spiritually enhancing.

Individuals who attended the first such missionary conference in Virginia in 1983 attest to the unforgettable periods of quality time which were spent with brothers and sisters from different parts of the globe with whom they would otherwise have never been able to fellowship. They have stated that their appreciation for the missionary work of the Church was raised to a higher level and that their desires to have the Gospel spread throughout the world were elevated accordingly. The increase in places since that time has been about threefold.

APPROVED BY THE 1996 CONFERENCE

The October 1996 General Church Conference approved this

second worldwide conference for 1999. It had been proposed by the Missionary Operating Committee of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. The Presidency of the General Church, of course, conducts the conference. The schedule is planned to allow everyone to obtain more knowledge about all the fields.

It is enlightening to hear the testimonies and how God has worked with our people in other places. The Lord's direction, healings, and other manifestations of the Spirit are edifying when it is reported that the same kinds of blessings are being received wherever His saints serve Him. Interpreters may be needed to disclose the words being spoken, but everyone will acknowledge that the love of God felt has no language barriers.

The education and insight gained from this kind of more intense interaction are invaluable. Normally, no written or verbal account can substitute in substance for the first-hand contact which we make with each other. Also, being able to smile and embrace in the love of God cannot be matched!

Many nationalities will be represented. Missionaries and other members from the various locations bring their history, culture, and customs. They depict their national and local pictures, along with their dress and customs, through presentations and displays. Much thought has gone into how to present their people, their

status, and their desires in very heart-warming ways; and their expressions of God's works will be heard, as expedient, directly from them. The resourcefulness that has been used will give everyone the genuine feeling of each particular field. In addition, a profile of the countries and their progress has been prepared under the auspices of the Church's Missionary Foundation Committee.

MANY WORKERS INVOLVED

Many people have been involved in the preparation for the conference. Registrations, accommodations, transportation, presentations, exhibits, and other considerations have all been part of this undertaking. Much planning and coordinating have been involved.

Committees were formed, and they have worked diligently. Because of their assignments, some of the groups had to begin planning and discharging their responsibilities early, while others, because of time frames involved, were required to perform their duties closer to the beginning of the conference. All efforts, however, come together, thankfully, for our benefit.

Church services and spiritual time, of course, bring all things into focus. The preaching, the praying, the singing, and the testifying point out the universality in serving the Lord and the results of the message of salvation.

In a letter dated April 21, The Quorum of Twelve Apostles and the Presidency stated, in reference to the time together:

"... We want the Lord to be with us throughout the week. As we draw closer to the date of the Conference, we want to encourage every member of The Church of Jesus Christ, throughout the world, to set aside some time during the week of June 21 in fasting and prayer for the Conference so that God would bless our gathering."

At this conference, as almost three years of anticipation come to an end, we can reaffirm our desire to reach out and spread the Gospel further. How

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**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 . . .

When you hear the preaching of the word of God, how do you feel? Are you stirred? Are you encouraged? Ask yourself, how do you feel when the Lord's name is mentioned and emphasized? Hymn #113 states, "And my heart it doth dance at the sound of His name."

The Lord states in I Samuel 3:11, "... Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of everyone that heareth it shall tingle."

When we first experienced the Lord working in our lives, it was a marvelous feeling. Yes, one could say it was a tingling sensation. Our soul was coming alive; it came alive at hearing and obeying the word of God. It came alive through faith, repentance and baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost.

Our ears distinguish all manner of sounds. Think how beautiful it is to hear birds sing, the rustling of the wind in the trees, and the singing of the brothers, sisters and friends in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Now consider the beauty of hearing the Lord's name, of hearing His voice. Imagine the feeling of Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul, when he heard the Lord speak to him. We read the Apostle Paul trembled and was astonished! We also read in Acts 9:6 that he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" His ears were tingling!

Ananias heeded the Lord's voice and command to go to Saul, place his hands on him and pray that he would receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Ananias' ears tingled when the Lord spoke to him. You will note that when Ananias anointed Saul, he addressed him as Brother Saul! Imagine the ears of Saul as he heard himself addressed as Brother Saul! He received his sight and was baptized. His ears tingled; they were now tuned in to the Lord.

Nephi, in anguish over the wickedness of the people, must have been ecstatic when the Lord spoke to him from the womb of Mary and said, "... this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world ..." The ears of Nephi must have tingled beyond human comprehension. What a spiritual sensation Nephi felt that night. His fears, his concerns now vanished for the Lord was coming the next day to offer salvation to his people, to all people.

On one occasion the Lord spoke to a man for three hours. The man's name was the Brother of Jared. Although the Lord chastened the Brother of Jared during those three hours for failing to call upon the name of the Lord, the Brother of Jared's ears were tingling! How do we know his ears were tingling? The scripture informs us the Brother of Jared repented of the evil he had committed. His sins were forgiven. What a glorious sensation! Sins forgiven!

It was not long after his repentance during this episode, the Brother of Jared had a face to face conversation with the Lord. The Brother of Jared acknowledged the Lord by saying, "Yea, Lord, I know thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie." When the Lord responded, "... ye are redeemed from the fall ...", the ears of the Brother of Jared must have tingled beyond our imagination. Oh, the soothing voice of the Lord to a repentant soul. The Brother of Jared was redeemed!

When the Lord speaks, even the ears of the dead hear; some may also experience the tingling ears. Such a person was Lazarus.

There was Lazarus, dead, in the tomb, hands and feet bound in grave clothes and his face was bound with a napkin. The Lord called, "Lazarus, come forth." The ears of Lazarus came alive, they were tingling! He heard the Lord's voice and walked out of the tomb! The call of the Lord. The dead come alive in Christ!

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Perfect Love Casteth Out All Fears

Dear Friends,

There are many times in your life when you will feel fear. Sometimes you'll fear because you have done something wrong and you need to face it and repent. What does repent mean? It means to be truly sorry and to plan never to do that again.

Sometimes we sin (do something really wrong against God's teachings) and then we fear that we cannot quit. Over and over we have to come before God and ask Him in our hearts or out loud to forgive us. That is repenting.

The Bible tells us to resist the devil and he will flee (run away) from us. So that means if you refuse to sin the next time, and the next time, if you resist, then that old devil and his bad spirits will run away from you.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, His beautiful Church, our Ministry also has the power from Jesus to help us. The Elders can lay their hands on your head and pray marvelous prayers of love and understanding, asking God to help you.

In the same way, praying can take away your fears. Are you scared at night? Jesus can protect you. Are you afraid someone is angry at you or hates you? Jesus can soften their hearts so they will forgive you. Pray first. Jesus can tell you the right words to say.

Pray while you are talking or walking. Jesus can protect you. Jesus can make mean people go away or lose interest in hurting you. Also, pray that Jesus will change YOUR heart so that you can understand someone else's pain or anger.



Most people are pretty lonely inside. In our wonderful Church, we learn we must love others and ourselves too. We must help others and the Lord will help us. We must forgive others and the Lord will forgive us. We must put away fear and replace it with love.

Jesus can and will give us love even for people who hate us. The next time you have a problem with someone, start praying for them. In your heart, ask God to bless them. He will. Ask God to forgive you for YOUR hate or fear too. Be willing to change. The Bible says, "Perfect love casteth out all fear." He can take away your fear. Just try it. He cares for you.

Love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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DIRECTORY UPDATE

Calabro, Jim and Mitzi
62 W. Pond Rd.
Hopelawn, NJ 08861
732-442-1366

Campitelle, Rosalie
17613 Kingsbrooke Cir. Apt. 104
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
810-263-5686

Chepanoske, William
5911 Homeplace Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037-3217
412-384-8033

Cotellesse, Daniel and Inez
P. O. Box 326
Akeley, MN 56433-0326
218-652-4238

Kovacic, Mark and Kelly
4920 Amberton Dr.
Powder Springs, GA 30127-6917
770-218-6167

Miller, Ina and Bert
3901 Bahia Vista St. #126
Sarasota, FL 34232-2434
941-379-7834

Palacios, Flip and Alma
3636 Del Sol Blvd. #A
San Diego, CA 92154
619-662-2168

Rao, Jerry, Beverly and Rachel
452 Burns Rd.
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-579-4339

Scolaro, Peter and Marilyn
1970 Dunham Drive
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone: 248-650-2013
Fax: 248-650-2813

Smith, Micah
5125 W. Blue Jay
Tucson, AZ 85742
520-744-8661

Vetor, Diana L.
60 Locust St.
Kitchener, Ontario, CN N2H 1W7
519-570-3155



Atlantic Coast Area MBA Visits Brunswick, ME Mission

On August 8, 1998, the Atlantic Coast Area MBA chartered a bus and visited the Brunswick, Maine Mission. As we traveled, we enjoyed the fellowship, the discussions about The Church of Jesus Christ and the singing of different songs in praise to God.

When we arrived, we went on a boat ride and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. What was even more beautiful was watching Sister Christina Pizaaia, our newest convert, sharing her testimony with a couple that was there on vacation. She told them where the Church was and invited them to attend.

It was a beautiful sight as we looked upon The Church of Jesus Christ and the brothers and sisters as we arrived at the Mission on Saturday evening. We were greeted warmly and with an abundance of love. We were welcomed by Brother Richard Onorato and he turned the meeting over to Brother Philip Arcuri. Brother Phil expressed himself. He conveyed his happiness, his joy in seeing all the brothers and sisters. Brother Phil went on to say how wonderful it was to see

how the Lord is blessing the brothers and sisters in Maine. He spoke about the beautiful sea and God's creation we saw during our boat excursion. God has created man to have joy, in Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection that we may have an opportunity for salvation.

Brother Dominick Rose shared with us his experience how the Lord spared his life. He related how a small ruptured blood vessel in his nose caused him to be placed in the hospital's intensive care unit. But, God was with him and returned him to good health. He was followed by Brother Mario Morales who thanked God for his coming to the United States of America and the many blessings God has given him and his family.

Before closing, Brother Richard shared with us a beautiful experience his mother had not too long ago. He thanked us for coming and uplifting them and they in turn would uplift us because it is all the same Spirit. He also said that the gifts of God outnumber the stars in heaven and you don't know what gifts you have before you come into the Church.

We gathered for our Sunday meeting, anticipating God's blessings as Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., opened the meeting. He turned the meeting over to Brother Jim Sgro.

Brother Jim Sgro told us the Lord revealed to him that he would open the service and gave him a scripture to open the meeting. He used Psalm 40:1.

Brother Jim related how most of the Psalms were written by David, a man after God's own heart. David had a repentant spirit and that is what God loved about him. King David did fail, like we do at times. But, when we repent, with a sincere heart, God will forgive us as He forgave David. We must have patience and wait humbly upon the Lord. The Lord listens to our cries and leans out to us in our trials. When we find ourselves falling short, when we need Him, He is there. Never underestimate the power in the name of Jesus Christ. He is the One that helps us to overcome trouble and trials in our lives.

Brother Jim Crudup followed and spoke on Christ being the solid rock and without Him, we are on sinking ground. It is impossible to please God without obeying Jesus Christ. Let us today stay on that solid rock. We must keep our eyes straight ahead and focus on Christ. Let us do the right things, and keep up with our responsibilities to pray for the sick, uplift one another and love one another. We must remember our treasures are in heaven, not on earth.

Brother Richard Onorato spoke about how love comes from Christ. Love is the greatest gift and it must be nourished. He reminded us how God listens and hears our every cry.

We truly enjoyed our visit. We felt sorry we had to leave, but we returned home with their love and goodness.



We Rejoice! Another is Called!

By Sister Peggy Stroko

Another one of God's children has surrendered obedience unto Him. It was an early Sunday morning at the Youghiogheny River at Dawson, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1998. We

had gathered here just two weeks earlier for this same blessed event. Brother Thomas Stroko took Melissa Glover by the hand and said, "Have you repented of your sins?" Brother Tom was overcome with joy and much emotion for this was the first baptism that he had assisted with since being ordained an Elder and Sister Melissa is very close to him. Melissa was led into the water and baptized by Brother Richard Lowther. Everyone sang, *I Surrender All*, at the river side.

At the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch, Sister Melissa took her seat in front of the congregation. Brother

Robert Nicklow, Sr., prayed thanking God for what was witnessed and said the angels are rejoicing. He asked God that one would be called to bestow upon her the Holy Ghost. Brother Lawrence King prayed as he placed his hand upon her head, "God, touch her with Your Spirit and bestow upon her the Holy Ghost, that she may serve You in spirit and faith."

Brother Thomas Stroko spoke saying, "The Holy Ghost can appear in many ways. It can appear as fire!" He read II Nephi, chapter verses 10-14.

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We Rejoice! Another Is Called!

Continued from Page 7

He directed his voice to Sister Melissa saying, "I hope that we put the fire in you, I pray that we did. The angels will minister to you, you just have to call on Jesus Christ." He continued by reading Acts, chapter 2, verse 1.

Brother Robert Nicklow spoke saying, "We have received this precious gift of the Holy Ghost. We must take care of it, we must not abuse it. There is only one thing that is not forgivable, that is the denial of the Holy Ghost." Brother Robert then related what happened to him at the water's edge this morning, saying, "As I was closing in prayer at the water's edge, a brightness appeared before my eyes. I thought the sun had come out, as I turned and said to Brother Richard, I was disappointed when I opened my eyes. I saw the cloudiness, the clouds were still there. But I tell you today that the sun is out in our lives. Today, this is an experience for our sister, the brightness of the morning sun, the Lord Jesus Christ in her life. This is what it takes."

We at the Vanderbilt Branch are truly blessed. We thank God for His goodness.

Joined Together in Perfect Harmony

God's plan is sometimes hard for us to see.

He has ways to bring forth His marvelous power through our time of need.

When the door is locked, love is the key. Love is what unlocks the beauty of you and me.

Love, Oh what love.

Joined us together in perfect harmony.

The power of God's love was manifested upon us through a miracle of healing. A life, Tabitha Onorato, was spared and healed because of the perfect harmony of love that was shown during her time of need. While Tabitha was away at college, she was involved in a serious automobile collision. It nearly took her life. She

was in critical condition and was flown to Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital in Dartmouth, New Hampshire.

"Coincidence or God's plan?" A few miles away from the hospital, live Brother Dave and Sister Irene Williams. Their hearts, home and love were immediately open for the families' needs.

As news spread, the miracles of healing began to unfold through the power of prayer. The doctors did not have much hope for Tabitha's recovery. She had to undergo several surgeries for multiple injuries. Tabitha's family did not give up hope. They put their daughter's life in God's hands. Many powerful experiences were given to bring them comfort and to glorify God.

As soon as Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., Tabitha's uncle was informed of the accident, the Spirit spoke to him immediately saying, "She will live, she will recover." The accounts given by those who were at the accident site, said Tabitha should have been dead. The very next day, as he was fasting and praying for Tabitha, he opened the scripture to Acts 9:36-40 which states Tabitha had died. It goes on to state that Peter kneeled and prayed and turning to Tabitha said, "Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter, she sat up."

Tabitha's grandfather, Brother John Onorato, had an experience where he was awakened at night by his beloved wife, Sister Elizabeth, who passed away sometime ago. She spoke to Brother John and said, "Wake up, wake up, one of your grand-daughters has been seriously hurt. You must pray. In two weeks, she will recover!"

Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., was given an experience that every time a prayer was offered, Tabitha was healed a little more.

Beautiful experiences were had by many, even by those who don't know Tabitha. The Spirit of God joined us together in harmony.

We are thankful to report after many successful operations, Tabitha was released two weeks after the accident. She made a miraculous recovery. The power and the love of

God was witnessed by many and felt by many.

Another young man, who was paralyzed and in a coma from an accident who was in the same ward with Tabitha, also was healed. Brother Bob, Tabitha's father, was able to give his testimony to the young man's father about God's love and the power of prayer. Prayer was also offered on his behalf and the Lord showered His mercy on those round about. His son awoke from his coma, got out of his bed and walked! The father ran to Tabitha's family, praising the Lord with all his might. He witnessed the love and power of God.

No words can sum up the emotions that were felt. As Brother Bob was praising God, looking out the hospital window, gazing at the majestic pine trees outlining the mountains, he saw the pine trees clap their hands and mountains sing in joy, praising the Lord (Isaiah 55:11-12).

We wish to sincerely thank all of you for your outpouring of love, concern, prayers, cards, phone calls, and aid in Tabitha's and her family's time of need. It was not void and it accomplished a perfect harmony of love through the mercy of Jesus Christ and caused many to believe in the Lord. We praise His name.

God bless each and everyone of you. Please continue to pray for Tabitha and her family.

Brother Bob, Cindy, Tabitha, Isaiah Onorato and the Maine Mission

Blessed Day in Erie, PA

The Church of Jesus Christ is steeped in a heritage that spans many ages of time. Down through the years, countless brothers and sisters have dedicated their lives and faithful service unto their Lord and Savior, a treasure beyond compare in the heart of God. As we look back and examine their lives, it is only fitting that time be taken to reflect on the extraordinary footprints they have left upon the hearts and minds of the world around them.

November 15, 1998, was a blessed day for the saints in Erie, Pennsylvania as we remembered two wonderful members of our branch: Sister Elaine Bahanna Sechez, for her fifty-one years in the Gospel, and Brother Harold Burge, for his thirty-one years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Christ. Pews were overflowing with family, friends, and saints, who humbly gathered to worship God.

Brother Joel Gehly began the service by sharing fond memories had of Sister Elaine and of Brother Harold. Their favorite hymns, *Near to the Heart of God*, and *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*, were selected and sung by the congregation. Our sister and brother then shared beautiful words of testimony, bearing much fruit to the honor and glory of God.

Brother Joe Calabrese exhorted us to run the race of life diligently and wisely. Not knowing what will transpire in our lives, it is our commitment and love of Christ that brings peace to our journey.

Brother Russ Martorana reminded us that all earthly races have winners and losers. Everyone can be a winner if they follow Christ and run the race that leads to eternal life.

Brother Andy Locci challenged the congregation to consider that God is seeking laborers in this race of life, laborers steadfast and true in their service to God.

Sister Dolly Kovacic shared that while meditating during the week prior to this wonderful day, the words "running the race in life for the prize to come" were given. What a beautiful experience confirming the unified message brought forth by such caring and loving brothers of the Ministry. And, of course, the day would not have been complete without the marvelous time of fellowship enjoyed by all as refreshments were served at the close of the service.

Fame and glory have not publicized the lives of our brother and sister, nor have they striven for recognition in the eyes of the world. Instead, they have sought the joy of Christ in every circumstance of their daily lives and have simply shined His love in

every word and deed.

May God continue to bless our brother and sister as they strive to reach their eternal reward.

A Miracle

In November of last year, I was preparing to take my children to school one morning when the following experience occurred.

My husband, who usually leaves after us, was giving someone a ride on this morning and was leaving at the same time as the children and I. As I began to unlock the door of my car, I noticed that my husband was already in the van. I did not know that my five-year-old son, Joshua, had dropped his book bag on the way to the car and had stopped to pick it up. I heard the van start up and saw my husband begin to back up. I looked over my shoulder just in time to see Joshua on the ground and the tire of the van run over Joshua's arm. Even worse, the van was still moving and, given the way Joshua was laying on the ground, was headed in the direction of Joshua's head.

At that instant, all I could think to do is fall to my knees and cry, "Oh My God, Help!" My husband said he heard me scream, something he has never heard me do, and something I cannot normally even force myself to do. He immediately stopped the van and pulled it forward, off of Joshua's arm. I picked up my crying child and ran into the house where I removed his coat. Joshua had already stopped crying. When we looked at his arm, **"it was not broken, it was not bruised and it was not even cut!"** The only evidence of the miracle we had just witnessed was the single red tire tread mark from the tip of his hand to just above his elbow. All we could do was to thank God!

We know, now more than ever, that God still sits on His throne. All glory is His! Our words and our deeds can never express our thanks to our Lord and Master for this miracle.

At the time of this accident, we had been thinking that God had forgotten us, but not so! We now

know, without any doubt, we are never alone. God is so good, and we surely saw His power on that day! Thank you God!

Sister Betty and Brother Dan Nowels
Mid-Georgia Mission

Baptisms in Simi Valley, CA

By Sister Linda Reynolds

On Sunday, March 21, 1999, we had many visitors from other branches in California as the day before we had hosted the Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference and an Elders and Teachers meeting. Presiding Elder, Brother Sal Azzinaro, opened in prayer. A musical selection, *The Unseen Hands*, was sung for us by Brother Tony and Sister Lucy DeCaro, and Sister Sue Wasko. They also sang, *Blessed Assurance*.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo, Brother Tony DeCaro, Brother Leonard Lovalvo and Brother Tony Piccuito spoke to us, and it was amazing how their messages blended together so beautifully.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo spoke about the unseen arm of God and took Philippians as one of his references. Brother Leonard began with telling us to be confident that Christ is always with us as we walk the path of life. It is a "blessed assurance" that allows us to serve Him and rely on Him each and every day. We are passing through this life on our way to a glorious eternal life with Christ. Another text he referred to was John 14, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments" and "He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." Christ prayed to God that we would have the Comforter when He would leave us, and that would be the Holy Ghost.

Brother Tony Piccuito spoke briefly carrying the theme of confidence forward. He said we needed to take an inventory of our lives. With Christ, we go from mortality to immortality. If we love the Lord, we

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Baptisms in Simi Valley, CA

Continued from Page 9

will keep His commandments, and one is baptism.

Brother Tony DeCaro asked us, "Where do you want to live?" We have natural choices and spiritual choices and we develop a philosophy of life through our choices. We all know where we want to live on this earth, but we need to take it to the next step. It is our decision about where we want to live after we pass from this earth. We must choose to serve the Lord.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo related some of his personal experiences which is always a blessing for us to hear. He said that in 89 years, the Lord has never failed him and we will never be alone as long as we have the Lord.

These messages were so beautiful and many of us thought that if we were not baptized, today would be the day! Eddie Nester from the Simi Valley Branch had hands laid on him and then asked for his baptism. Eddie has been attending the Church for 57 years, his entire life! On Wednesday of the following week, Jim Smith, who has only been attending the Simi Valley Branch for six months, asked for his baptism.

The baptisms were performed on Sunday morning, March 28 at the Ventura Harbor. Brother Ken Jones from the Yucaipa, California Branch baptized Eddie Nester and Brother Tony Piccuito baptized Jim Smith. There were many in attendance, some coming from Arizona and Yucaipa. Brother Ken Jones sang, *I Asked the Lord*, and JoAnn and Jennifer Azzinaro sang, *Lord, I Believe in You*.

Brother Sal Azzinaro read several verses from Acts. Acts 1:5, "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." He spoke to us regarding the power that we receive from the Holy Ghost. Brother Sal then showed us other scriptures confirming our beliefs. Acts 8:17, "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." Brother Sal told us that Christ promised us the gift of the Holy Ghost if we follow the scriptures in being obedient to the commandment that after baptism we must lay hands

on the candidate for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Baptism is not complete without this ordinance.

Brother Chuck Curry from Phoenix, Arizona laid hands on Brother Eddie Nester and Brother Ed Bakelite laid hands on Brother Jim Smith.

Brother Emmett Hood from Phoenix, Arizona opened up the service by talking about the lost sheep and how the Shepard went looking for the one lost sheep. Now that these two brothers are baptized, their spiritual life is just beginning. They must have faith that Jesus Christ will save their souls. Brother Emmett demonstrated how the Bible is the foundation that can save our souls. He said from that foundation we can build. He put a block on top of the Bible which he said represented relationships that we needed to build with one another and another block that represented our relationship with the Lord. He put another block on top of that one and said it represented daily prayer. To show us what would happen if we didn't have the foundation (the Bible), he pulled out the Bible and all the blocks went tumbling to the floor.

Brother Chuck Curry read from Romans, chapter 6, and said that our baptism is the start of our walk with God and we are made free from sin. Jesus sits on the right hand of God asking God to help us. He ended by saying, "Grace is giving us what we do not deserve."

Our new brothers came forward and gave their testimonies. Brother Jim Smith said the only way he can describe his feeling is that he is overwhelmed. Brother Eddie Nester said it has been a long road for him. He thinks that all these years he has been too cerebral and calculating. Sister Amy Bakelite, who will be in Europe studying for a few months sang, *Amazing Grace*. Thanks to all of you for the many prayers for our Branch.

Building Dedicated in Kinsman

Continued from Page 1

one could see that the Lord was always with our people. The great responsibility of each individual was felt as Brother Philip related a dream that was given to Brother Howard Jackson. In this dream, Brother Howard was shown a highway and God told him, "Each individual in their lifetime builds a portion of this highway. When one dies, another must carry on. This gives much responsibility to each person."

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo, from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, sang *Bless This House*. Apostle Paul Palmieri followed by reading from the sixty-sixth chapter of Isaiah. "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

Brother Paul followed by saying that God has recognized the house that was built unto His honor and unto His glory. The congregation rose in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ as Brother Paul offered the dedication prayer.

The President of The Church of Jesus Christ, Brother Dominic Thomas, then spoke. Brother Dominic was filled with the Spirit of God and spoke with inspiration that each one felt came directly from the throne of God. He told us that now that the church building had been dedicated, we needed to look inside ourselves because each of us contained the temple of God. Brother Dominic reminded us that if our temples are not clean and pure in the sight of God and if we neglect to dedicate ourselves, we have ruined the dedication of God's House. He cautioned us that we need to work diligently to keep The Church of Jesus Christ holy and pure. We should be very careful how we occupy the House of God. When we come to Church, we have to be conscious of the fact that God is looking at us and listening to us. We have to be careful how we approach the rostrum and what we do when the Lord's Supper is being administered. Jesus is there and it was His life that He gave—He dedicated our building with His blood. Every-

A Thought

Much Prayer=Much Power
Little Prayer=Little Power
No Prayer=No Power

thing that we do in the House of God from this time on should be done with a sense of awe and a sense of reverence. Brother Dominic reminded us that there is room for growth in this mission of the Church and that it will happen by virtue of God's Holy Spirit because His Spirit cleanses and purifies each one of us. As God's Spirit cleanses and purifies us, the light of God shines forth in our lives and those that meet us and talk to us will feel something extraordinary and they will come and see. We won't have to sit with them and tell them the points of doctrine that we believe in because they won't be interested in that, they'll want to know how did we capture God's Spirit. Where did we find this love of Christ? Brother Dominic told us that if we wanted to dedicate our building and ourselves that we should also remember to have prayer for the missionaries who have gone out and for their families. He reminded us that there are seven different regions throughout the United States and that we represented a jewel in the crown of the Church and that our jewel should shine. Brother Dominic asked that we have charity reaching beyond our immediate mission and families. He also asked us to help him and the other brothers to unite the Church and bring it together in the spirit of unity where there is no more contention, murmuring, complaining, gossiping, and fault-finding, but only one mind, one heart, and one spirit joined by God's holy love. As soon as Brother Dominic was done speaking, Brother Mike Nuzzi, from Niles, Ohio, heard the voice of the Lord say, "My blessing upon this Church and upon this Ministry forever and forever."

Brother Panfilo followed by giving his testimony and singing, *Thou Mighty to Save*. Brother Richard Lawson and Brother Joseph Ross presented the Kinsman Mission with a gift from the Board of Trustees in appreciation and each addressed the congregation. We closed the service by singing, *How Great Thou Art*. After the meeting, we all met together at a community hall for lunch and fellowship. The weekend was truly blessed and filled with the Spirit of God.

A Message from the Seventy

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glorious to recall the words of our Saviour, as recorded in St. Matthew 28:18-20:

"... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Amen.

Editorial Viewpoint

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Lazarus was not the only one who was dead yet heard the Lord's voice. Remember the widow's son in the city of Nain? This widow lost her only son. The Lord saw her. He had compassion on her and told her not to weep. The Lord touched the bier and said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." The young man's ears tingled. The young man that was dead sat up and began to speak!

Christ rose Jairus' daughter from the dead. When the Lord said she was sleeping, the people that were in the house laughed. They laughed Him to scorn. The Lord entered the room where the young woman was lying dead. He simply took her by the hand and she arose. When she heard the Lord's voice after coming back to life, her ears tingled!

We read that at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, the people were astonished! They were astonished at His doctrine! Their ears were tingling!

It was not very long after this magnificent Sermon on the Mount, the Lord was approached by a leper. The leper approached Him and worshiped Him. The leper said, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus responded by placing His hand on the leper and said, "I will; be thou clean." The ears of the leper probably could not contain the tingling sensation of the

Lord's voice. When he heard the Lord say, "I will, be thou clean," the leper's heart must have leaped for joy. He believed his ears. Their tingling told him the Lord had answered his request and plea. He was whole. It states he was immediately cleansed of his leprosy.

Are you tuned into the Lord? Are your ears tingling?

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Phillip Arcuri and Sister Dolores Dauber were united in holy matrimony in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on October 30, 1998.

Brother Jeff Paxon and Sister Jamy Lesperance were united in holy matrimony at Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan on April 2, 1999.

Baptisms

Joseph Fallavolliti was baptized on February 21, 1999 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Gehly and confirmed by Brother Joseph Draskovich.

Kimberley Illes was baptized on September 20, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Phillip Arcuri and confirmed by Brother Robert Pizzai.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

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

Brother Matthew Laktash, of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on March 29, 1999.

Children Blessed

Arik Alexander Lowther, son of Carol and Steve Lowther, was blessed on March 7, 1999 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Heather Dauber, daughter of Sister Dolores and Brother Phillip Arcuri, was blessed on September 27, 1998 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Kyle Dauber, son of Sister Dolores and Brother Phillip Arcuri, was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on September 27, 1998.

Paul Alma Crupi, son of Sister Marge and Brother Sal Crupi, was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on December 27, 1998.

George James Kendall, son of Robert and Lori Kendall, was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on April 4, 1999.

Sydnee Brooke Kendall, daughter of Robert and Lori Kendall, was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on April 4, 1999.

Jessica Marie Devore, daughter of Elmer and Tina Devore, was blessed on April 4, 1999 in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

PAUL DAVEY

Paul Davey, an attendee of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch passed away to his eternal reward on March 9, 1999. Paul is survived by his wife, Sister Carol Davey; three sons, Paul, Chris, and Ben Davey; and one daughter, Sister Alyssa.

Address Change

Name _____

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PAUL CALABRO

Brother Paul Calabro passed on to his heavenly reward on March 30, 1999. Brother Paul was a member of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch and an ordained Teacher of The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Dorothy; three sons, Brothers Gary, Rick and Jim Calabro; three sisters, Sisters Grace Kepics, Marie Huttenberger and Marge Calabro; and one brother, Brother Frank Calabro.

JAMES (BERT) HERBERT SHEFFLER

Brother James (Bert) Herbert Sheffler passed away to his heavenly reward on December 20, 1998. He was a member of the Cape Coral, Florida Mission. Brother Bert was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Leda Swanson-Sheffler; one sister and one brother.

EILEEN SHIRLEY JOHNSON

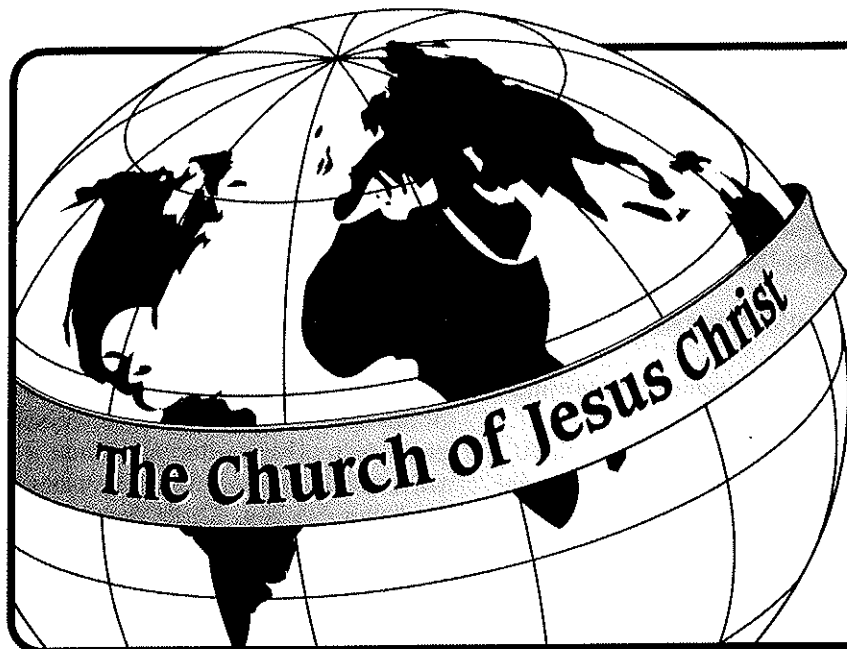
Sister Eileen Johnson was called to her heavenly reward on February 24, 1999. She was a member of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. Sister Eileen was preceded in death by her late husband, Guglielmo "Willie" Johnson. She is survived by two sons, Bill Johnson and Joe Gianzante; four daughters, Nancy Vitale, Linda Clark-Bailey, Sandy Lockner and Diane Natale-Gianzante; one brother, Carl Ruge; eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

PETER MOLINATTO

Brother Peter Molinatto was called home to his heavenly reward on October 9, 1998. He was a member of the Liberty, Ohio Branch. Brother Peter was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his late wife, Sister Elizabeth DiNino-Molinatto. Brother Peter is survived by a son, Brother Jonathan Molinatto and a daughter, Sister Rita Koeth; twenty-eight grandchildren; forty-five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

ARMAND GENARO

Brother Armand Genaro passed on to his heavenly reward on January 10, 1999. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Armand was preceded in death by his late son, Brother Dan Genaro. He is survived by his wife, Sister Jean Genaro; two sons, Brother John and James Genaro; one daughter, Sister Barbara Nuzzi; his brothers, Brothers Joe and Frank Genaro; his sisters, Sisters Mary Krasnasky, Jean Ciarolla, and Lydia Cavallaro and six grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 1999

Volume 55, No. 7

Old-Fashioned Growth in Mid-Georgia

By Sister Crystal Morris

My Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a hard road to travel for us, here in the Mid-Georgia Mission. Up until now, we have had very little progress—not much in the way of visitors, but a lot of family.

For twenty odd years, my family has been associated with the Mid-Georgia Mission, often holding meetings here with Brother Frank Rogolino, but mainly going to Quincy or Atlanta.

Sometimes it's hard when your family is all you see at meetings. Not that we don't love each other, or want to be around each other, but you know how it feels when you go to another branch with familiar and unfamiliar faces. We love the saints so much, and we would do anything in our power for them.

This year, 1999, has proven to be a wonderful year so far for us here in the Mid-Georgia Mission. We have experienced more than our share of joy! January 24, 1999 was a wonderful day because we have sown the first signs of progress. The Spirit was so much in command of the meeting this Sunday as Brother Eugene Perri, the Regional Missionary Operating Committee Chairman, along with

Brother Frank Rogolino, Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley, and Sister Bea Parker visited us for a wonderful occasion: Brother Art Campbell was to be ordained a Deacon.

Brother Frank Rogolino opened the meeting with the Gospel of John, chapter 14, "Love ye one another," then speaking about serving God in "truth and spirit." Brother Ken Staley followed Brother Frank by preaching on, "We make it through by God's grace." During this dissertation, Brother Kenneth Hatch spoke in the Spirit saying, "This is My way!" Brother Ken Staley then spoke on "Extending to each other the way God extends to us."

Brother Eugene Perri then read from Ephesians 4:11 and expressed the order of the Church. Hymn #256, *Ye Who are Called to Labor*, was then sung as Brother Kenneth Hatch washed Brother Art's feet. Brother Eugene Perri confirmed Brother Art Campbell as a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

As if that was not enough to carry our spirits higher than we could imagine, two small, short weeks later, a quiet visitor, Olive Polly, asked for her baptism! She had expressed the fact that she knew she had a family she could

count on with the saints of the Church.

On February 7, 1999, we went to the water. We bypassed Sunday School to attend to the more inviting task of taking another needful soul to the waters of Mormon. Brother Malcolm Paxon had the honor of leading our new sister to her spiritual rebirth. Brother Ron Carradi confirmed Sister Olive. Oh, what a beautiful day it was too—the sun shining, the birds chirping, and God on His throne! (We were all worried about the weather report, when it stated rain on Sunday.)

The Mid-Georgia Mission was joined in praise by the entire Atlanta, Georgia Branch for this special occasion. We all felt like we were having a mini-conference. Five members of the Priesthood, which included two Evangelists, and forty-two members all rejoiced to God for the calling of a new sister. The Lord has certainly blessed us with accommodations to serve Him, as there is a lake about five hundred yards from Brother Corey and Sister Crystal's home.

When the confirmation was over, Sister Ruth Morris related an experience she had. "As the brothers were laying hands on Sister Olive Polly," she said "a white dove came and rested upon her head." Sister Crystal Morris

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The Way of Salvation

FAITH

We learn from the Scripture, Hebrews, 11th chapter, that they who come to the Lord must believe that "He is," and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. The Apostle further states that without faith it is impossible to please God. Paul's definition of faith applies both to those who have not yielded to Christ and also to those who have. He says, "It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Persons whose hearts are open sufficiently to hear the words of the Lord will receive a heavenly substance, hope will spring up within them and they are filled with a desire to proceed farther. They now believe that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and are willing to learn of Him. This is the kind of faith that possessed the three thousand persons who were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, when the Apostle Peter, by the inspiration of God, preached the first Gospel sermon. Faith that Jesus Christ was the Redeemer of mankind was planted within their hearts. Although it was a heavenly substance and brought to them a hope of better things than this world can give, they still felt unworthy of the Redeemer's approval, and they cried out to the Apostles, "What shall we do?"

"Faith, the evidence of things not seen." From the foregoing we must conclude that faith comes by hearing the Gospel declared and that repentance is produced by faith, and the necessity of being buried with Christ in baptism follows. The evidence of things not seen begins now to be experienced. Christ within us enables us to testify that we know our Redeemer lives. We have an evidence that when we approach God in humble prayer He hears us; being a new-born creature, we experience hundreds of things which our natural senses were dead to previous. Richest of all is the evidence we have of our future, providing we are faithful to the Lord, that when we pass from time and timely

things, we have a building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. These evidences come only through possessing the faith of Jesus Christ.

REPENTANCE

Of all the changing or reforming persons may undergo, whether by schooling or self-cultivation, it could only be compared as a thing of naught to that change that takes place through the Spirit of repentance. When those persons ask what they must do, the first word that fell from the Apostle's lips was repent. Repentance may be termed a Godly sorrow. It is as though God is telling us He is not pleased with our present condition. Therefore, we seek to be set free, that we may experience His smile and approbation.

BAPTISM

The Apostle Peter did not end his answer to the people by only telling them to repent but included the doctrine of baptism for the remission of sins, telling them by so doing they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Until this is accomplished we cannot experience that divine liberation from past sin. Neither can we know the reality of a second birth as the Saviour told Nicodemus. This same Apostle tells us in his epistle that baptism is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.

Faith

Romans 10: 14-17

John 9:35-38

James 2: 19 to conclusion

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22

Luke 22:61-62

Baptism

Mark 16:16

Romans 6:3-6

Acts 10:47-48

Reception of the Promise

Dear Reader:

Has it ever occurred to you that

God has always moved in ways least expected by mankind? Isaiah, 55th chapter, 9th verse, says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways and thoughts higher than ours." This fact should cause mortal beings to realize their inferiority when measured by the unbounded wisdom of our God. And still more, it should cause us to give heed to His divine ways and means which He has established in His Son, Christ Jesus, for our salvation, bearing in mind that the Son came not to do His own will but the will of His Father who sent Him (St. John, 6th chapter, 38th verse). Hence we find in different ages of the world a few have understood in a large measure the ways of God, because they adhered to His will or His ways, and forsook their own.

Notice the Prophet Daniel for instance; he submitted himself to the ways of his God, consequently he was able to read the handwriting on the wall, foretell the rise and fall of nations, and ultimately shows that the Kingdom of Christ shall overcome the kingdoms of this world, which kingdom shall be given to the saints of the Most High (Daniel, 7th chapter, 27th verse).

Take Isaiah for another who walked in the ways of his Lord to such an extent that his vision could penetrate the veil and record an account of the many wonderful events that were literally fulfilled in the birth and life of the despised Nazerene. Could any man who may have lived in the days of the Saviour have written a more graphical account of His life than Isaiah did, who lived centuries before the babe was born? It was simply because the prophet was walking in the ways of his God.

Let the reader notice the second chapter of Nahum and see the wonderful things that have been brought forward in our day by men of inventive minds. Notice the chariots with their torches jostling one against another and running like the lightning. Can anyone doubt but what he saw our day and time of locomotives and railway system, automobiles and the electric cars with flaming headlights? He says that the gates of the rivers

shall be opened. Just notice the locking system of our streams, and the large steel bridges that swing open that ships might pass by. Surely this man had forsaken his own ways and sought the path of his God whose wisdom knew no bounds.

We might refer the reader to many more events just as important as the ones already referred to but the fact that the life and mission of our Saviour was the greatest event spoken of by the prophets. We wish to draw the attention of the reader to the ways of Christ—in part—while He was on earth, and also of His disciples who carried out His instructions.

Second Peter, chapter 1, verse 21, informs us that prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Hence, we find this to be the secret of the whole matter. The gift of the Holy Ghost is promised unto all those who will repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Acts, 2nd chapter, 39th verse, "For the promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

First chapter of First Peter, 23rd verse, informs us that the word of God abideth forever. Isaiah, 55th chapter, 11th verse, tells us that "His word shall not return unto Him void." Matthew, 28th chapter, 18th verse; "Jesus declares that all power is given Him both in heaven and earth," and instructing His disciples relative as to their mission to the nations in verses 19 and 20, He says, "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." Now, as the reader no doubt believes that Jesus was the Son of God, and the scriptures to be the word of God, it is only fair that we should give heed to His—the Master's—instructions relative to us attaining an inheritance in His eternal Kingdom and not put our trust in man, "whose breath is only in his nostrils," Isaiah, 2nd chapter, 22nd verse.

In the 14th chapter of St. John, Christ tells those who love Him and keep His commandments that He

would pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth and so forth.

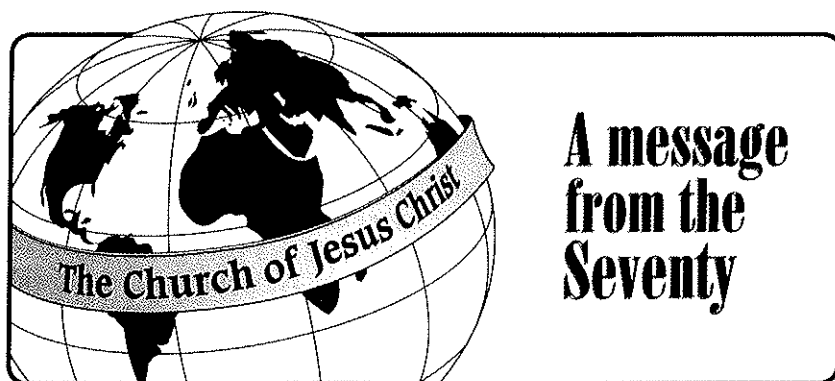
In the 16th chapter of St. John, He speaks of this same Comforter that is to come, and of the spirit of truth, which was to lead and guide them into all truth and show them things to come. In St. Luke, 24th chapter, 49th verse, the Saviour refers again to this Comforter and tells His disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until they be endowed with power from on high. Numerous writers of the New Testament, as well as the Old, refer the reader to this same promise. This promise of the Holy Ghost was poured out on the Day of Pentecost in cloven tongues of fire, and the disciples spake in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And the multitude was amazed because they heard Galileans speaking the wonderful works of God in the tongue in which they were born. The many different nationalities represented in the multitude heard these things in their own language, Acts 2nd chapter. Most readers are willing to admit this wonderful pentecostal event, but want to maintain that it was only to establish the Church in that day, and that there would be no succession of these events among the children of men, but as we have already drawn your attention to the words of the Apostle Peter in this same chapter, "For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The reader will notice that there is no limitation to these promises as far as time is concerned. According to the Scripture these blessings followed those whom obeyed the commands of the Saviour. The way of God is life, while the end of the way that seem right unto man is death. The mission of our Lord was to establish an order by which man might have eternal life. By obedience to His ways, repentance and baptism, we are promised the gift of the Holy Ghost. We find many instances in the Holy Writ, that when the penitent obeyed the Gospel that the disciples laid their hands on them,

praying the Father that the promise might be bestowed upon them, "Baptizing them with fire and the Holy Ghost," Matthew, 3rd chapter, 11th verse. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire," surely if we are believing men and women in the word of God, we will be willing to abide by His word rather than the words of men who seem to be learned, yet who are in conflict with the Word of God. Second Timothy, chapter 3, shows that there are men that will be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. So, reader, let's leave the Word of God decide as to how we are to receive the promise. Notice Acts, 8th chapter, 14th and 17th verses inclusive. Peter and John, two close associates of the Saviour, laying their hands on those baptized by Philip and they received the Holy Ghost. Could anything be plainer? See Acts, 19th chapter, from the first to the sixth verses, inclusive, "When Paul laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied," confirming the words of Christ in Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "they shall speak with new tongues." We find recorded many accounts of blessings being bestowed upon mankind by the imposition of the hands of men who had previously repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins. St. Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." James, 5th chapter, 4th verse, "Is any sick among you let him call for the Elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;" 15th verse, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

Second Timothy, 1st chapter, 6th verse, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." See Matthew, 19th chapter, 13th and 15th verses, inclu-

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1999 Conference of the Americas

*By Brother Timothy Mott
Mexico Missionary Operating Committee Secretary*

Violins, guitars, guitarrons, mandolins, keyboards and voices all reach for perfection as the choir gathers at the Rodriguez home to practice. At the Church, the Deaconesses are found in the kitchen planning what meals they will be making for the brothers and sisters to enjoy. In the sanctuary, some of the Deacons are shining the floor, while others are testing the microphones. Elsewhere, other brothers and sisters are purchasing bus tickets to travel from the deepest parts of the interior. As the Conference of the Americas comes to Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, once again, excitement and anticipation fill the air.

On March 26-28, brothers and sisters from across North America reunited in the Tijuana, B.C. Branch with purpose in mind to praise God and take care of business. The conference theme was taken from Alma 26:5, "Behold the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your might, yea, all the day long did ye labor, and behold the number of your sheaves . . ." The countless brothers and sisters in attendance were truly a confirmation of the sheaves in God's work in Mexico.

At one point during the conference, Brother Matthew Piccuito spoke in tongues and the interpretation was given to Brother Enrique Costa that those who work for Him must come to Him and serve Him only. Since the humble beginnings of The Church of

Jesus Christ in Mexico decades ago, the Church has grown to include over five hundred members, spanning nine missions and three geographical regions. There are many brothers and sisters from across Mexico holding ordained offices ranging from Deacons and Deaconesses to Evangelists.

HISTORIC MOMENT

The 1999 Conference of the Americas also was an historic moment in the growth and development of the Church in Mexico. During the Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions, the Ministry met and was able to pass by-law changes to mainstream the Mexican Church with the rules governing the body of the General Church. Also, important elections were held for the regional officers of Mexico.

Brother Hector Gastelum Carlon, a young brother from the State of Sinaloa, took the office of President, following the path of the outgoing President, Evangelist Vicente Arce. On the American governing board, the Mexico Missionary Operating Committee, Evangelist Paul Liberto passed the torch of the Chairman to Brother Matthew Piccuito. They and other young brothers have taken on offices and are dedicated to serve God in the capacity of leadership.

PREACHING, SINGING, TESTIFYING

Excitement was seen throughout

the Conference in preaching, singing and testifying. Brother Don Ross spoke on Christ's healing of Bartimaeus, the blind man. Brother Luis Marroquin inspired the congregation with thoughts revolving around, "In the name of Jesus Christ, all is possible." Brother John Vela spoke, "Joseph, Joseph, Joseph . . . On this day, you have pleased the God of Israel. Your songs have gone up like a sweet fragrance. Jesus Christ is happy with His people today." Many beautiful hymns were sung, notably, *The Sea So Great Lord, My Boat So Small*, from the *Songs of Zion*, and presented to the Mexican Church for the first time.

At the close of the Conference of the Americas, Brother Matthew Piccuito urged the brothers and sisters to guard the gifts they have received in the storehouse. Few had a desire to leave the fellowship of the saints. However, a renewed vigor was stirred up in all present to continue preaching the Gospel throughout the land of Mexico. With sickles in hand, the laborers of Jesus Christ have ventured into the Mexican countryside for another year.

Announcement

For July, 1999, 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	5.75%

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

**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 . . .

Romans 1:16-17 states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

This was the subject of a recent sermon in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. Keep in mind, the word ashamed is really a feeling or expression of guilt, embarrassment or disgrace. Belief in Jesus Christ and being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ should not cause guilt, embarrassment or disgrace. It should cause joy!

It is very possible that many of us have been confronted by someone who challenged our beliefs. There are times people have become confrontational, whether inquiring about our beliefs or stating they do not believe in the Book of Mormon. Their challenge can be very vocal.

By their own admission, they may go on record with you that they have never read the Book of Mormon. Yet, they have an opinion, often negative. How strange to form an opinion on a subject that one has no knowledge of or about. It is fascinating! If you were to ask the person who has challenged you what their beliefs are, what their Faith and Doctrine is, the response is often, "I don't know."

When someone asks you if you believe in the Restoration and the Book of Mormon, how do you respond? Quietly, barely audible? Do you stammer or stutter your answer? If you do offer a response, they may not even believe you.

Have you ever thought of returning the challenge with a humble challenge of your own? Remember what Moroni said, "... I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." If someone really wants to know, please encourage them to ask God. He has the answers to all questions and things.

To paraphrase, Jesus said that whoever is ashamed of Him, and of His words, then He shall be ashamed of that person. This is saying, He will disown a person who is ashamed of Him.

On the other hand, Alma instructs us to "use boldness, but not overbearance." There are many examples of individuals in the Scriptures who were not ashamed of the Lord or the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These individuals were bold but they were not overbearing. They were humble servants of the Lord. Let us consider a few examples.

Noah was instructed to build an ark. He obeyed the commandment of the Lord. Imagine him building an ark on dry land where there was no large body of water. That is analogous to building such a large boat in states like New Mexico, Nebraska or Kansas. Absolutely landlocked! His neighbors probably ridiculed him, made fun of him and taunted him. This may have gone on for years. He would not be deterred. He was not ashamed. Noah was proven correct. His neighbors perished!

The Apostle Paul was not shy! On a number of occasions, he defended and expounded his beliefs in Jesus Christ. His defense of his beliefs was strong. When he was brought before King Agrippa, the Apostle Paul declared he was not mad! He was so strong, and so convincing, King Agrippa publicly stated to the Apostle Paul and those around him that he almost persuaded him, King Agrippa, to be a Christian! That is standing your ground.

We read the Apostles were put in prison because of their beliefs and preaching. They were

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

One of the best things you could ever be is a peacemaker. In Jesus' sermon made on the mountain, He told the crowds, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

What is a peacemaker you ask? Well, it is the opposite of a troublemaker. A peacemaker uses words and actions to calm people and situations. A troublemaker likes bad excitement. When a peacemaker hears bad things about others, they pray for those people instead of gossiping or telling others. A troublemaker likes the excitement of stirring people up, even in a bad way; they often like to shock people with bad news. A peacemaker likes to soften bad news in a way so that people can solve a problem. Which one are you?

In the Bible, we are taught that each one of us is like part of a body. One person may be like a toe which helps balance the entire body. Another person is like an ear which listens and hears the needs and troubles of others. Another person who is very helpful is like a hand, always reaching out. Still, another person is like the eye which sees what is beautiful and what is special. A peacemaker understands that every person is different.

Every person is needed just like every part of the body is needed. Many times other people want everyone to think and act the way they do. They also want people to act exactly as they do. This is not possible. Many times, in many ways, there are two or more right ways to do things. A peacemaker reminds us that this is so. A peacemaker helps others to see that the other person's way of doing things



is also important.

How do I become a peacemaker, one of the "children of God," you ask? The first thing to do is to find a quiet place where you can think and talk to the Lord. Tell Him the desire of your heart. Tell Him that you would like to become a peacemaker and ask Him how best to do this. Then pray to have more love in your heart. Because once you start loving someone, you can forgive them. You can easily pray for them that their burdens will be lifted. You can get to know them so that you begin to understand what makes them think a special way.

You can stop yourself from talking mean or critically about them. You can think about your own self and your own bad habits instead of theirs. You can help them even if they are crabby or upset because the Scriptures tell us, "Perfect love casteth [gets rid of] out fear." So you will love them, not fear them, and you will be able to get close to them and help them find peace. God is good. He needs you to help others. He is waiting for your prayer, asking Him to change you into a peacemaker. He cares for you.

Your friend,
Sister Jan

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DIRECTORY UPDATE

Benyola, George and Stella
13646 SE 91st Ct.
Summerfield, FL 34491
352-245-5356

Coppa, Adam and Mary
6803 Ridge Dr.
Johannesburg, MI 49751

DiCenzo, Panfilo and Christina
1360 Broadway
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-778-4147

Ivey, Mike and Karen
5927 E. Inglewood Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
602-854-2020

Naro, Elvira
4401 S. Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
216-233-6110

Mukherjee, Julie and Ritwik
13222 N. 1st Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Pepe, Mike and Donna
42 Youlden Drive
Camberley, Surrey
England GU15 1AL

Staley, Elizabeth
8224 Mentor Rd.
Elizabeth, PA 15037



Be Ye Joyful

By Sister Karen Progar

Whenever the saints meet, they always enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship. Saturday, April 24, 1999 was no exception. The General Ladies' Uplift Circle met in a conference at Detroit, Branch #1. The day's theme was appropriately, "Joy," and our Great Lakes Area sisters made sure that their visitors felt the joy of being together for a day.

Sister Arline Whitton, President, welcomed the sisters and spoke regarding the upcoming World Missionary Conference which we are all looking forward to at the end of June. Our Vice-President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio then read from Mosiah, reminding us that the reaction to King Benjamin's address was rejoicing with exceeding great joy! In addition, Sister Lorraine shared her experiences from the Pacific Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend. She and Sister Arline both felt privileged to attend and truly were grateful for the fellowship.

We were advised that a request has been made regarding a booklet which could be created to introduce the Circle to women not currently members, intended to be used in missions and mission fields. Sister Arline and Sister Lorraine are going to establish a committee for the purpose of creating such a booklet and will report on it to us at our October meeting.

We enjoyed our officers' reports as we heard about the truly blessed effort the sisters put forth in their collections and fund raising this six months. We were delighted to hear that nearly \$14,000.00 has been donated, by the Circle, to the World Missionary Conference. In addition to that sum, \$2,954.53 was donated to the Indian Mission work, as well as \$518.00 to each of the following: India, Italy, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and the Church's Missionary Foundation. Sister Nina Osaka will

receive a special donation of \$150.00 to be used for her travel expenses in Kenya, as she visits the various Circles.

This six-month special project will be raising money for sewing machines and supplies as requested by the Americas Missionary Operating Committee. The machines will be used for the White River Native American Sewing Project. Sister Alissa Champagne and Sister Karen Progar sang, *In the Garden*, after which our Circle pillars sang, *Sweeter as the Years Go By*, and *Brighten the Corner*.

After a wonderful luncheon hosted by the sisters of Branch #1, and receipt of a lovely joy basket presented to each sister by the Plumbrook Branch sisters, we met for an afternoon of fellowship and enjoyment, hearing a program on the subject of "Joy." Sister Jennifer Lovalvo sang, *Joy Is Like the Rain*, and we were instructed on ways to increase our joy.

We were told to:

1. Become as little children
2. Read the scripture
3. Be thankful
4. Love one another
5. Desire a more joyful heart

The program's conclusion reminded us to daily express our gratitude. Truly we all left with joyful hearts and looking forward to our October 9, 1999 meeting in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Atlantic Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle Seminar

By Sister Linda Scolaro

Here's a multiple choice question. What does JOY stand for?

- A. Jesus first,
- B. Others second,
- C. Yourself last.
- D. All of the above

Sister Kathy Furitano gave us the answer in an informative seminar that she presented to the sisters of the Atlantic Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle. Sister Kathy's seminar focused on women's health issues. In a detailed and humorous manner, she painted

some effective word pictures illustrating how important it is for women to take care of themselves so that they can take care of others, and likened women unto a lioness, who must take care of her cubs. However, the lioness feeds herself first so that she may nourish her cubs. Sister Kathy urged us to keep Jesus first. However, she emphasized that like the lioness, we must take care of ourselves first so that we will be physically able to take care of our loved ones.

Sister Kathy also likened our bodies to a violin, indicating that one string is the mind, another the body, and another the spirit, and that Jesus Christ is the bridge. Furthermore, she stressed that without Jesus Christ, we cannot tune the strings. She discussed each stage of a woman's life, including details about each age group. Everyone walked away with pertinent information.

Sister Kathy also emphasized that the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ plays a vital role in providing a support group for each other in coping with stress. She indicated how the Ladies' Circle can serve as an effective means of support to each other.

As she presented the seminar, Sister Kathy's love for her job showed throughout her presentation. But most of all, her love for the Lord and the brothers and sisters was evident as she conveyed the information to us.

We thank God for allowing her to visit our Area Ladies' Circle and present such useful information. The knowledge gained from this seminar will help us maintain our health so we can first and foremost serve Him and become more physically able to take care of our loved ones.

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, numerous cards, telephone calls and visits earlier this year when I fell on the ice and broke my leg. Your prayers and kind thoughts helped me as I recuperated. God bless you all.

Brother Daniel Tamburrino



Atlantic Coast Area Campout

Our Area Campout was held on September 18-20, 1998 in Blairstown, New Jersey. Our campout director was Brother Marc Zaino and his assistant was Brother Tom Goode. The theme was "Praise Him, Praise Him."

Upon our arrival on Friday night, we knew that the Lord was already there waiting to bless us. He greeted us with His wonderful spirit.

Saturday morning we began our day with a prayer service. This was followed by our chapel service which was opened by Brother Ken Lombardo. Our seminars were taught by Brothers Jim Sgro, Jerry Valenti and Sister Lori Schmitt who taught the children. Each group reported the seminars were wonderful and a blessed learning experience.

At the conclusion of Brother Jerry Valenti's seminar, Alyse Suska asked for her baptism. We thank and praise God for her calling.

We gathered at the water to witness the baptism of our new convert, Alyse Suska. It was a wonderful sight to see her father, Brother Jim Suska take his daughter into the water. As Brother Jim Suska took Alyse into the water, the scene was so gentle and appeared to go in slow motion. It seemed like everything around us stopped for that moment.

As we began our evening service, Brother Jonathan Olexa, our Area President, asked the Lord to take total charge, whether it be in preaching, singing, or testimony, whatever He chose to do.

Prior to the confirmation of Sister Alyse Suska, Apostle Paul Benyola prayed that God would bless our sister and her confirmation of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God fell upon Brother Jim Link to confirm Sister Alyse Suska.

We then heard two songs from the children's class. What a beautiful sight to look upon. Brother Paul Benyola was inspired at that time to ask the Ministry to encircle the children and offer a word of prayer for protection and guidance in their life. Brother Matthew Rogolino offered the prayer.

Brother Matthew Rogolino then expressed himself, telling us how God has all things in the palm of His hands from the time of conception. He knows us and has a purpose for us. We must all love one another and love all mankind.

The meeting was turned over to testimony and many of our brothers and sisters expressed themselves of how God is so wonderful. Brother Paul Benyola shared with us some of the wonderful blessings that were taking place in Tijuana, Mexico and the maturity of the saints. Sister Alyse Suska praised God and shared with us that when she was in her seminar, she asked the Lord if it was her time, and if it was, that baptism would be discussed. Just before the seminar closed, baptism was brought up. She knew it was time. Praise God! Sister Stephanie Suska then testified of how she was praying for someone that their heart would be touched. The face she saw that she was praying for changed to her sister's face, Alyse. Praise God! As our meeting came to a close, we then gathered together for a bonfire, singing and fellowship under the stars.

Our Sunday began with a prayer meeting and asking God to bless our service that day. He truly answered our prayers. Brother Paul Benyola opened in prayer and Brother David Catalano opened the meeting by speaking from Alma, fifth chapter. Have you felt to sing the song of redeeming love? Can you feel it today? He also spoke on how our prayers are answered according to our faith and to never stop praying for our families. Always praise God in good and in bad times for He is our rock today. He encouraged us to make our roots deep so when the storms of life come, the Lord will calm the storms. Trust in God, hold on, and love one another.

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Blessed Day in Erie, PA

The Church of Jesus Christ is steeped in a heritage that spans many ages of time. Down through the years, countless brothers and sisters have dedicated their lives and faithful service unto their Lord and Savior, a treasure beyond compare in the heart of God. As we look back and examine their lives, it is only fitting that time be taken to reflect on the extraordinary footprints they have left upon the hearts and minds of the world around them.

November 15, 1998, was a blessed day for the saints in Erie, Pennsylvania as we remembered two wonderful members of our branch: Sister Elaine Bahanna Sechez, for her fifty-one years in the Gospel, and Brother Harold Burge, for his thirty-one years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Christ. Pews were overflowing with family, friends, and saints, who humbly gathered to worship God.

Brother Joel Gehly began the service by sharing fond memories had of Sister Elaine and of Brother Harold. Their favorite hymns, *Near to the Heart of God*, and *Since Jesus Came into My Heart*, were selected and sung by the congregation. Our sister and brother then shared beautiful words of testimony, bearing much fruit to the honor and glory of God.

Brother Joe Calabrese exhorted us to run the race of life diligently and wisely. Not knowing what will transpire in our lives, it is our commitment and love of Christ that brings peace to our journey.

Brother Russ Martorana reminded us that all earthly races have winners and losers. Everyone can be a winner if they follow Christ and run the race that leads to eternal life.

Brother Andy Locci challenged the congregation to consider that God is seeking laborers in this race of life, laborers steadfast and true in their

service to God.

Sister Dolly Kovacic shared that while meditating during the week prior to this wonderful day, the words "running the race in life for the prize to come" were given. What a beautiful experience confirming the unified message brought forth by such caring and loving brothers of the Ministry. And, of course, the day would not have been complete without the marvelous time of fellowship enjoyed by all as refreshments were served at the close of the service.

Fame and glory have not publicized the lives of our brother and sister, nor have they striven for recognition in the eyes of the world. Instead, they have sought the joy of Christ in every circumstance of their daily lives and have simply shined His love in every word and deed.

May God continue to bless our brother and sister as they strive to reach their eternal reward.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

By Sister Cathy Genaro

"Do we really break our hearts before God?" This question was posed to the saints in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch as we were addressed by Brother Phil Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio on January 24, 1999. Using Luke 18, the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, Brother Phil reminded us to pray with the same unwavering persistence that the widow had when she repeatedly approached the judge until he heard her cries. We often go through the motions of prayer, but are we committed to striving with God until we can come before him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit? As saints of the Most High God, our prayer time should be a priority each and every day. We must choose to take the time to pray.

Prayer can change an individual if we pray and faint not. Although we sometimes wish that all of our prayers were answered right away, we can develop patience and receive even greater blessings when we see the fruit

of our diligence. Brother Phil encouraged us to try to commit ourselves to one hour of prayer each day. If we can strive to fast and pray often, our lives and the lives of those we pray for will be changed for the honor and glory of God.

Brother Ron Genaro followed the theme by stating that Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, emphasizing that we must pray at every opportunity that comes our way. If we seek to serve the Lord, then we can cry out to God and He will be there for us. The beautiful spirit that we felt was inspiration for a beautiful testimony service. As Brother Ken Murray was testifying about a need that he desired prayer for, Brother David Haley spoke in tongues. The interpretation was, "Come forward to the mercy seat and be persistent in prayer. I love you, my children. Pray for one another. I love you my children."

May we, as the body of Christ, make a renewed commitment to take some time to pray each day. Let us not make excuses, for our spiritual welfare depends on it. As our prayer life grows, our blessings will grow as well. God bless you as you take up the challenge to grow in prayer, and grow in God.

Because He Lives

By Sister Karen Progar

Because He Lives is the song the congregation sang to begin the Easter Sunday service in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. What a joy to know that we live, because Jesus lives. The children reiterated that message in their program reminding us that, "His Name is Wonderful." In song and scripture, they rehearsed the numerous names given our Savior. They also sang, *Alive Evermore*, *He Arose*, and *He Rose Triumphantly*, which caused us to consider the glory of the Resurrection.

Holidays always bring us a special joy with family visitors in the branch. Brother Mark Naro (Lorain, Ohio) opened our meeting. Brother Mark spoke to us from III Nephi in which Jesus declares Himself and requests that we come unto Him. He

concluded by admonishing us to have the love of Christ alive within us and to let our actions reflect our love.

Brother Doug Obradovich from the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission followed with an example of the love that Jesus shows. He rehearsed the story of Mary's encounter with Jesus, after His resurrection. Once Jesus whispered her name, she knew who He was, because she knew her Master's voice. We all know the story, but not until we truly know Jesus do we understand fully. When Jesus whispers our name, we know His voice. He concluded by asking who here today is being whispered to by the Savior?

Sister Donna Bogle was asked to relate a dream which Brother Ken Staley had about her recently deceased mother, Sister Sarah Palmieri. In the dream, Sister Sarah told Brother Ken, "Tell my family, tell my children, it is real; God is wonderful and Jesus is more wonderful than words can say!"

Brother Joe Ross then testified to the Lord's goodness in sustaining him during his recent surgery and recuperation. It was truly a day for rejoicing, as Brother Paul Palmieri concluded our service by reaffirming that even though the resurrection happened many years ago, it is alive as well today.

During our communion service, we sang appropriately, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*, *Christ Arose*, and *I Find No Fault in Him*. Even the hymns reflected the miraculous death and resurrection of our Lord. Many were given food for thought regarding their own service to the Lord. What a glorious day, what a miraculous, selfless event we celebrate each Easter morning.

An Experience

By Brother James Abbot

On February 7, 1999, our Sunday School lesson was from the 1st chapter of James, the subject being a doer of the word and not hearers or talkers only. The many comments inspired me

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An Experience

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to speak on verse 26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." We used our tongues this morning to sing the beautiful hymns giving honor and glory to God. This wasn't always so. When we were in the world, our tongue used His name in profanity. When we came to know our Heavenly Father, and repented of our sins, He truly forgave us.

Apostle Paul reminds us we can speak with tongues of angels, glorifying God. We should use our tongue also for praising and honoring our God. James reminds us our tongue can get us into trouble. Our tongue should be used to edify one another in the things of God. When someone comes with gossip, they are not edifying you. If you listen and carry it, you become a tale bearer, which God hates. This can destroy all that are involved.

We know of those that carry visible scars upon their body which resulted from physical injuries suffered many years earlier. Even though the pain is gone, the scars remain. Being a gossip can also cause scars that take a long time to heal and some never do. By letting the gossip continue, we allow Satan to step in and make mountains out of small problems and build high walls between us and our God. Satan causes us to see each other's faults and magnifies them to the point that they seem like big problems. This causes confusion that Satan loves. He will come to you and want you to gossip. When someone comes to you with faults of a brother or sister, be careful and turn your listening abilities off.

I had the following experience one day while I was at work as an auto mechanic. I had a visitor whom I could not see who started to tell me all the faults of our members one by one. I recognized this visitor to be Satan. As I tried to defend the members, he would not let up and as I was working on a car, he followed me. No matter where I went, he was there, taunting me to agree about the members, which I would not do. This went on for a

long time. I could not fight him with my own strength. I cried out to my Heavenly Father to help me. That same instant, he fled. Being very weak, my Heavenly Father did not leave me alone. He strengthened me by giving me a hymn.

This experience taught me that we should see the good in the brothers and sisters of our Church because they were called of God and they are His children. This is why we should be careful not to use our tongue to gossip, but use it to edify the brothers and sisters in the things of Christ.

We closed our meeting by singing that hymn, *An Evening Prayer*, which a sister said was given to her as I finished speaking.

"Yes, There Is a Mission in Columbus, Ohio."

By Sister Bonnie Metzler

We of the Columbus, Ohio Mission speak these words often to brothers and sisters near and far. We thank God that He has heard our prayers and has strengthened and multiplied our numbers.

Sister Loretta Nelson had lived in the Columbus area for quite a number of years. Sister Alberta Rucker then moved to Columbus with her family. Within a short period of time, Alberta's sisters, Cheryl Nnadi, Sandy Brown-DeRamus, Patti Brown, as well as her brother, Charles Brown moved to the Columbus area. Brother Paul and Sister Arlene Holan and their family attended also. In those early years (1986), Brother Vince and Sister Sevilla Gibson visited often. Brother Vince would hold Wednesday night meetings in the home of Cheryl Nnadi. Brother Phil and Sister Francine Jackson and their family visited often. Through the efforts of many brothers and sisters, visiting and teaching the word of God, our numbers as well as blessings increased. Sister Cheryl Nnadi was baptized, the blessings of God abounded.

In 1988, Brother Fred and Sister

Charlotte Olexa moved within a two hour drive of Columbus and began attending the Mission. Brother Fred became the Elder in charge of the Columbus Mission. We met twice a month for quite a few years in members' homes, the YMCA and conference rooms at local hotels to praise and worship God. Brother Paul, Sister Karen, and Natalie Pezzenti, from the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission would visit on a monthly basis. Eventually, Sister Cheryl was called to be a Deaconess.

As the years moved on, we were very pleased to have new families move to the Columbus area. The Lord directed Brother Alan and Sister Bonnie Metzler and their family to make the Columbus area their home. Upon retiring, Brother Fred and Sister Charlotte relocated to Pennsylvania. They were missed by all in the Mission. In the past few years, we have been blessed to have two more families move to the Mission; Brother Leonard and Sister Tammy Nardoizzi and their family, and Brother Joe and Sister Denise Pennell and their family. In addition to our growing Mission, Sister Charolene Metzler relocated from Tse Bonito, New Mexico. We now have eighteen members, as well as about the same number of children attending on a regular basis.

God has truly blessed our Mission. We have had five new converts in the past couple of years; Brother Steve DeRamus, Sister Sandy DeRamus, Sister Karen Brown, Sister Anna Metzler and Sister Marilu Metzler. Joshua DeRamus was born to Steve and Sandy DeRamus. Brother Leonard Nardoizzi was called to be a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ in 1997.

We now meet every Sunday at a Conference Center in Columbus and once a month for a mid-week meeting in the homes of the saints. We are blessed to have many brothers and sisters and their families visit. Praise God for His mercies and blessings! We invite you all to visit, worship, and praise God with us in the Columbus, Ohio Mission.

Growth in Mid-Georgia

Continued from Page 1

conveyed a similar experience. "This morning as I was standing in the kitchen, twice I saw a white bird fly by the window."

The work of God has never been dull. We wish you all a blessed year as we have already have been experiencing in the Mid-Georgia Mission. Please continue to pray for the missionary fields around the world because they need all the support they can get. God bless you all. Come and visit us! You are all welcome!

The Way of Salvation

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sive, where the Saviour laid His hands on little children. We find in Acts, 6th chapter, 6th verse, that the seven deacons were set aside by the Apostles laying their hands on them. Acts, 9th chapter, 17th and 18th verses, Saul—who was later called Paul—received his sight and the Holy Ghost under the hands of Ananias, the Lord's servant. We find also when we examine the Word of God that the laying on of hands is no new ordinance, but it seems to have been the plan of God in ancient times. Notice Genesis, 48th chapter, Jacob laying his hands on the heads of Joseph's two sons and confers blessings on them which the world seems to have very little understanding of. I might ask the reader where is Ephraim and his multitude of nations? The Holy Ghost is to lead and guide us into all truth and show us things to come. Notice Deuteronomy, 34th chapter, 9th verse, "And Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him. And the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses." We find also that those who were called of God to officiate in the priestly order under the law that they even laid their hands on the heads of animals that were to be offered as sacrifices. For references Numbers, 8th chapter and 12th verse, Leviticus, 16th chapter and 21st verse,

Exodus, 29th chapter and 10th verse. Many more references to Scripture could be made on this subject of laying on of hands but I believe that I have quoted sufficient. The Scripture says that God changes not, but is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And the Saviour warned us that false teachers and false prophets would arise. Paul is very emphatic in his words in Romans, 3rd chapter, 3rd and 4th verses, "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true but every man a liar."

This is pretty severe language for those who persist that baptism by immersion is not essential, and that the laying on of hands by the servants of God for the Gifts of the Holy Ghost is not necessary, and that the signs spoken of in the 16th chapter of St. Mark are not for us. It behooves us to accept the Word of God, and not be among those who will "wrest the scriptures to their own destructions" (2nd Peter, 3rd chapter, 16th verse). The Scripture seems to abound with evidence that the blessings necessary for the soul of mankind—wisdom, knowledge, peace and brotherly love—have been transmitted to mankind by the servants of God laying their hands upon their heads—Christ, Himself, setting the example. May we seek after these blessings in the way God has planned, by faith, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, and not be like Simon the sorcerer, who, when he saw that through laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands he may receive the Holy Ghost." But Peter soon gave him to understand that his money would perish with him, and that he would not have neither part nor lot in this matter, for his heart was not right in the sight of God (Acts, 8th chapter).

Proverbs, 14th chapter, 12th verse, says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The Church of Jesus Christ is endeavoring to walk in the ways of Christ, and our prayer is that these few lines along

with the Spirit of our Master may enlighten the souls of those who are seeking the truth as it is in Jesus Christ.

(This is a reprint of the pamphlet, The Way of Salvation, published by The Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's Note.)

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

freed by an angel of the Lord. The angel instructed them to go, stand and preach to the people in the temple. What did they do? Did they hide? Did they leave for another city? The answer is no. They obeyed, stood their ground and preached the Gospel of Christ. The Apostles were then brought before the Sanhedrin and in no uncertain terms, reminded they were commanded by the council not to preach the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Peter and the other Apostles answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men." They were not ashamed, embarrassed, disgraced or had any feelings of guilt.

When Stephen was challenged and falsely accused, did he feel guilty? Was he disgraced or embarrassed? Again, the answer is no. He stood his ground. Stephen's defense before the Sanhedrin is another powerful answer to those who charged him with blasphemy and challenged the Gospel of Christ. Stephen's response cut them to their heart and they gnashed on him with their teeth! The heavens opened, he saw Jesus Christ standing on the right hand of God.

Have you ever declared, "I am proud to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ?" This is not meant to sound boastful or arrogant. It is simply meant to encourage one to feel comfortable and at ease in declaring a belief in Jesus Christ and His Restored Gospel. Expressing a belief in Jesus Christ should be made boldly, yet not in an overbearing manner. It can be

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Children Blessed

Daniel Confer, son of Mary Jane Confer, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on April 25, 1999.

Sarah Confer, daughter of Mary Jane Confer, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on April 25, 1999.

Brandon Caleb Rabold, son of Trevor and Vickie Rabold, was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on November 1, 1998.

Anthony Jacob Calabrese (AJ), son of Anthony Calabrese and Kelly Pigman, was blessed on January 17, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Jessica Nicole Barnett, daughter of Doris and Maurice Barnett, was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 4, 1999.

Andrea Conte, daughter of Brother Sal and Sister Rocio Conte, was blessed on December 27, 1998 at Detroit, Branch 2.

Baptisms

Mary Jane Confer was baptized on April 25, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino and confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti.

Celine Pistelli was baptized on April 18, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

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.

Matthew Kurowsky was baptized on May 23, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Charles Kogler and confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

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

Sister Jennie Herstek, of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on December 6, 1998.

OBITUARY

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

MARION BATALUCCO

Sister Marion Batalucco passed on to her heavenly reward on February 21, 1999. She was a member of the Saline, Michigan Branch. Sister Batalucco was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Joseph Batalucco and son Baldwin Batalucco. She is survived by one son, Brother Harold Batalucco; three daughters, Sister Virginia Carlini, Sister Roseann Wood, and Sister Sandra Cotellesse; sixteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; two sisters and one brother.

Editorial Viewpoint

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made in a humble manner. Jesus was bold, yet the greatest example of humility. Be like the Lord. Be bold, declare your belief in Jesus Christ and His Gospel. Stand your ground. Take up the challenge and cause of Jesus Christ. He will bless you for it.

Atlantic Coast Area Campout

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A number of brothers followed Brother David Catalano's message. They exhorted the congregation to look to the Lord, to love one another and to be thankful for God's blessings.

Brother Jonathan Olexa expressed how we enjoyed the words brought forth by our brothers and that we should always praise the Lord. He reminded us that when we go through trials and tribulations, its even more important to praise Him.

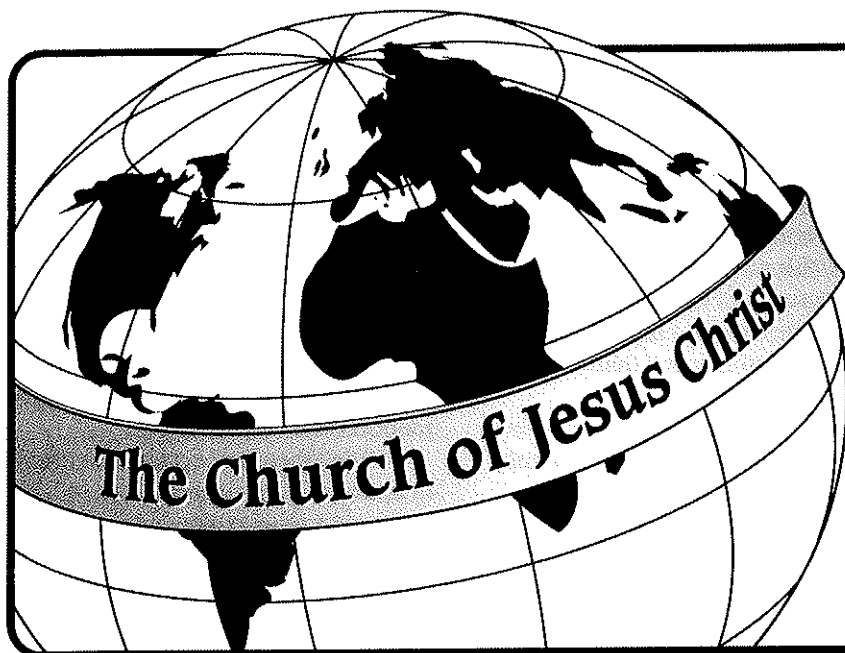
Communion was passed and Brother Jonathan Olexa made some closing remarks. He thanked God for His presence and thanked everyone who was involved in making the camp a success.

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The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

August, 1999

Volume 55, No. 8

The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference June 26 - July 2, 1999

The Church of Jesus Christ held its second World Missionary Conference from June 26 to July 2, 1999. It was a glorious event!

The theme of the World Missionary Conference was "Listen to the Trumpeters." This was given by inspiration to Evangelist Phil Jackson, the Director for this blessed event. The theme was confirmed by several other attendees.

Comments from attendees and non-attendees indicate a better awareness of the growth The Church of Jesus Christ has experienced the last few years. When the first conference was held in 1983, there were seven countries represented. Now, in 1999, sixteen years later, there were approximately thirty countries and nations represented at the conference. Imagine. There were approximately thirteen hundred attendees! They were from many parts of the world.

There were missionaries and representatives from the United States, Ghana, Kenya, India, Nepal, Italy, United Kingdom, Canada, Guatemala, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela and the Seed of Joseph from Arizona, Canada, Mexico and our

Urban cities. What a marvelous sight to see the many flags representing the many countries and missionary works throughout the world!

Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, welcomed everyone. He encouraged everyone to look around and see for themselves the representation of the Church worldwide. Brother Dominic emphasized the growth and dynamics taking place in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Dominic recognized the many missionaries, domestic and foreign. He thanked the brothers, sisters, friends, the GMBA, Ladies' Uplift Circle and all supporters whose financial generosity to The Church of Jesus Christ made this spiritual event possible. During his sermon and address to the conference, he stressed the need to represent the Church throughout the world, in all missionary endeavors. He thanked the many missionaries, the Ministry and their wives, for their unwavering support for the mission fields. He recognized the efforts of so many throughout several years who devoted a significant portion of their lives to the

numerous missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ. It is appropriate to say, "The harvest is great!"

Apostle Joseph Lovalvo offered a beautiful opening prayer to begin the Sunday Services and the week in general. He asked God to bless the conference, to bless the missionaries and mission fields, and bless the brothers, sisters and all attendees. Brother Joe invited God and Jesus Christ to attend the conference. He asked that the Spirit of God would be felt throughout the week and that God would bless the efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joe asked God to open the doors to missionary fields around the world and to open the windows of heaven to bless us with His wonderful gifts.

Throughout the week, there were many speakers who in the morning and evening, encouraged everyone to be missionaries for the cause of Jesus Christ. Sermons were given in English, Spanish, Italian, Hindi (India), and hymns were learned in Twi, the language of Ghana, Swahili, the language of Kenya and Spanish, the language of Mexico and the Americas. Many of the speakers stressed how the "trumpeters" sounded in the scriptures the coming events and blessings of the Lord.

There were a few baptisms at the

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Deviations Predicted

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

The Apostle Paul was positive in speaking about Christ's not coming unless their first was a "Falling Away." The prediction on the Apostasy was certain. In I Timothy 4:1-2, we read:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

When the laws of God are transgressed, regardless how trivial they may appear to men, it is a very serious offense. God does not make the least degree of allowance for sin. If men deviate from the commandments of God and seek to substitute their own opinion, then they are departing "from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits . . ."

In verse 3, the Apostle gives the answer about how and in what manner they would depart from the faith: "Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Marriage is honorable, having been instituted by God. Yet, men would forbid others from marrying. Meats are to be received with thanksgiving. Yet, there would be commandments to abstain from such. History, both past and present, will corroborate my assertions that this has literally been fulfilled and is being fulfilled daily. Every truth-loving and intelligent person will agree with me that God cannot be mocked. We either serve Him, or we do not. We are either for Him or against Him.

A warning of impending conditions was further given in II Timothy 3:1-5:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

"Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

How Paul, prophesying by the Spirit, alerted the Church of the future danger of departing from the faith, when men would become lovers of themselves more than lovers of God! Listen to what he says to the Elders of the Church at Ephesus,

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

"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."

Here is proof that Paul was not lax in forewarning the Church of the Apostasy which was to take place. He was speaking of the time when truth was to be trampled under feet, when the Divine Gospel of the Lord was to be supplanted by the earthly intelligence of man, and when the divine principles for which the disciples gave their lives were to be esteemed as myths. We often hear men say today, "Those things were for the unlearned Jews and Gentiles, but today we are more intelligent. We do not need this, and the Scriptures are unnecessary." Oh! foolish men, who think we can improve on the Gospel teachings and commandments of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Was the Apostle wrong in his predictions? No! It was not very long afterwards that the things he foretold were fulfilled. When men begin to substitute their own wisdom instead of the pure teachings of Jesus Christ, they become self-lovers, unholy men, and blasphemers.

There were men who, by an

outward display of humility, succeeded in some degree to thwart the progress of the Church and whose evil successors caused many to apostatize or fall away from the truth. These were the wolves who would enter in not sparing the flock!

Listen to what Jude says in conjunction with this thought:

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

"But these speak evil of those things which they know not: . . .

"These are spots in your feasts of charity, . . . clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; . . .

"Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."

Jude prayerfully pleads with the saints before telling them of these ungodly men to " . . . earnestly contend for the faith . . ." because he, too, knew that men would but shortly apostatize, or fall away from the faith.

Here Jude conforms to the prediction of Paul that men would come in unawares, who would turn the grace of God into lasciviousness—wolves who would enter in, not sparing the flock.

Jesus once said, "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

"The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."

Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy?

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Whom did Jesus label a hireling? Was he the man who would faithfully

care for the flock—the Church? No! He meant the man who would occupy the ministry for filthy lucre's sake; the man who, when persecution and trouble arose, would leave the flock to its own destiny and depart. This man would leave one flock for another if the latter would reimburse him a little more handsomely.

The time would come, according to prophecy, when they would not stand sound doctrine. Congregation after congregation hired men who would preach such a gospel that would flatter them. They had itching ears. They wanted to be fed, yes; but not with the true Gospel.

Little by little, the truth was esteemed as being composed of fables. The truth was considered foolishness. The very men who were supposed to be shepherds—teachers of righteousness—were nothing but ungodly creatures who turned the truth of God into lasciviousness and who, by changing the ordinances, made mockery of the laws of Jesus Christ. Because of the evil spirit, they deceived even the most humble. Instead of feasting on the Bread of Life, they became spiritual skeletons. Spiritual malnutrition took place until many fell away or apostatized from the Church. Even the Prophet Isaiah foresaw this spiritual famine. "He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul . . ." There was no deliverance. There can be no deliverance for anyone who turns aside or deviates from the plan of salvation.

How often Jesus warned His disciples to "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation . . ." He once invited the multitude to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood; but they turned away from Him. Likewise, the Church, after the death of the wonderful Apostles, refused to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. They would rather feed on ashes. They would rather feast on the intelligence of puny man, who deliberately changed many of the laws and principles of the Lord.

Return with me to the days of Christ and His disciples. Listen to the words of the Master as He gave His

followers the true plan of redemption, showing them the way to be true disciples.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Again He said, ". . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Another time, He asserted:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

One of His greatest commandments was ". . . whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: . . ." He also taught them how to discern a true or false Christian. He said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Here is another prophetic utterance that false prophets and ravening wolves would come among the Church.

Though the followers of Christ were warned by both Jesus and His Apostles, yet, slowly but surely, they forgot the true admonitions and began to follow after their own lusts. They became ungodly, lovers of their own selves, blasphemers, and eventually, followers and victims of men whom Christ termed wolves in sheep's clothing.

The Church continued on a downward trend until a complete Apostasy or Falling Away took place. The Church of Jesus Christ believes definitely that a Falling Away or Apostasy took place according to prophecy and scripture, but that God, in the latter days, restored the Church with her former gifts and blessings.

The organization of the Church is comprised of Twelve Apostles, Seventy Evangelists, Elders, Teachers, Deacons, and Deaconesses.

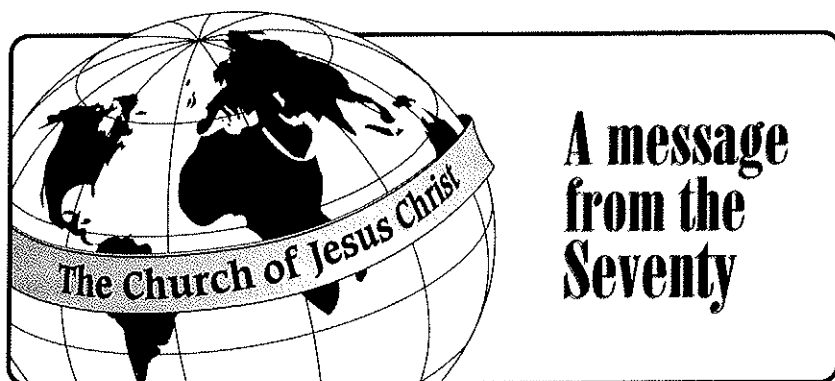
The Church of Jesus Christ is not affiliated with any other church in the world but is a distinct and independent organization. We believe in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

(The above article is taken from the Book of Sermons published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

Announcement

During the World Missionary Conference held June 26 to July 2, 1999, VCR tapes including sound, were made of the twelve (12) presentations representing the various missionary fields and new works fields around the world of The Church of Jesus Christ, the exhibit hall which included the GMBA, Ladies' Uplift Circle and many articles, pictures and artifacts of the many missionary works, the Sunday Services, and the Wednesday evening services.

The tapes capture the beauty of the week and the love and spirit of the many brothers, sisters and friends who attended, approximately thirteen hundred. They will be made available for sale through the Print House of The Church of Jesus Christ. Look for the announcement in the September issue of the *Gospel News* for the prices and how to order the tapes. They will make wonderful gifts for family and friends. You will want them for your library as they are truly historical and a real treasure.



1999 Ghana Trip

By Evangelist Richard Lawson

Planning for a missionary trip to Ghana, West Africa, begins a few months prior to the trip. Shots to prevent various diseases are required, visa applications must be made, dates and timing must be coordinated—both with the missionaries going and with the saints in Ghana. In addition, you make certain responsibilities at home are taken care of while you are away.

This trip took a little more planning as we were going to be gone for four weeks. Since we could not go to Nigeria, West Africa, we asked Evangelist George Arthur, the National Director of the Nigerian Church, to meet us in Ghana to spend time with Evangelist Joseph Perri and myself. We reviewed with him his anticipated trip to the World Missionary Conference and the needs and status of the Church in Nigeria.

After arriving in Accra on the evening of March 17, we were met by Evangelist Ford Boadu, the National Director of the Church in Ghana. It is always good to see him and to know that he is well and is equally happy to see us. We waited for Brother Arthur and Samuel Adekanola to arrive from Nigeria on the 19th and then left for Kumasi and the mission house that would be our home away from home for the next few weeks. This is a four and one-half hour drive.

The highway from Accra to Kumasi is two lanes and very dangerous. Speed limit signs are meaningless as everyone, or so it seems, drives as fast as possible. We always pray

before we start this trip and thank God when we arrive safely. In addition, we pray that the electricity will remain on, which is not always the case. Last year we were often without power or water. We knew we would not have to worry about water this year, since a well was dug and a pump supplied for the mission house. You quickly learn not to take for granted the many conveniences in the United States.

MISSION HOUSE

The mission house is a multi-use building and is a benefit to the Church in Ghana because it serves as the Church headquarters, as well as a meeting place for the saints in that area, living quarters for Brother Boadu and his family, and a home for the missionaries from the parent Church.

Shortly after arriving, we met with the Elders to prepare an itinerary for our stay in Ghana. Three crusades were planned besides our visits to the five locations currently established. In addition, the Church would be holding their Annual Easter Convention beginning Good Friday and ending Easter evening. They rented part of a small college campus not very far from the mission house for the convention that is similar to the GMBA Campouts. Two minor exceptions are, the sisters do the cooking and the dormitories are quite different from ours.

We advised Brother Arthur, Ford, and Emmanuel and their wives about their anticipated trip to the United States for the Missionary Conference and what they may expect on their visit. In addition, Brother Perri told them the tentative plans for their being

in the Penn-Mid Atlantic and Atlantic Coast Regions prior to and after the Missionary Conference. Of course, the plans were predicated on all of them obtaining the required visas. As of this writing, Brother Emmanuel and Sister Florence were denied visas. (It is unfortunate that no representatives from the Church in Nigeria were able to attend the World Missionary Conference.)

FIRST SUNDAY

We spent our first Sunday in Odumasi, and Brother George Arthur opened the service. This village has a newer Church building and school that was built a few years ago. Two rooms were added to the school this year. There are about 220 children enrolled in the school that includes preschool through class five or equivalent to the 5th grade in the United States. The school was built by the Church and funded by many generous brothers and sisters in response to a plea from the village. A neighboring village has requested a school for their children. These schools could possibly be combined into one since they're very close. There are so many needs and so few dollars to do all that we'd like to do as a Church or to handle all the requirements of the people in Ghana. We always visit the school during our stay, and the children are extremely happy to see us. Our visit disrupts the classes, and the children enjoy the treats we bring. This year Brother Perri brought lollipops and many of the children did not know what they were or how to get the paper off. To give you an indication of how important education is in Ghana, this note was written on the board at the school. **"Parent Legacy to Children. Parents if you fail to give your children the education God makes it your duty to give them, both the precept and example, you must answer to your God for the results."**

Our second Sunday was spent in Anyinamso and we felt God's love and presence in our service. His Spirit is ever present in our meetings here as the

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**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 . . .

What is a missionary? Do you know? A missionary is defined by the dictionary as one who is sent on a mission; one sent to do religious work in a territory or foreign country. Are you one or do you leave this type of work to someone else?

It is important to note that the definition includes a territory and foreign countries. This means our cities, towns, family and friends. It includes working on Native American Reservations, with the Urban American in our cities and towns, as well as people referred to as Gentiles in foreign countries.

Is it possible when we think of missionary work that we do not think globally only locally? Might our thoughts and focus be narrow in scope? Might we think The Church of Jesus Christ is primarily our branches and missions? There is nothing wrong with a local missionary approach but we must think much larger. We must broaden our thinking and scope. The Church is for everyone. It is for all people, regardless of where they live. It is for every nation, kindred, tongue and people. The Church of Jesus Christ is not a local Church. It is international and its charter and responsibility are global.

When the angel Moroni flew in the midst of heaven in 1820 A.D., he flew for all those that dwell on the earth. The Book of Revelation states he flew “. . . to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, . . .”

This was evident at the World Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ held from June 26 to July 2, 1999. There were Native Americans from reservations and towns; the Seed of Joseph from Mexico; people from Nepal, Ghana, Kenya, India, Peru, Venezuela, Canada, Argentina, Italy, Guatemala and the United Kingdom. Others from Spain, Nigeria, Japan, Poland, Germany, and elsewhere could not attend.

We read in Alma 19:36, “. . . and we see that his arm is extended to all people who will repent and believe on his name.” Kindly notice that no one is excluded except those who will not repent and render obedience to Jesus Christ. The love, mercy and salvation of the Lord extend to all people. As you know, this means the entire world.

It is written in I Nephi 17:40, “And he loveth those who will have him to be their God . . .” The four sons of Mosiah must have read this scripture because they willfully relinquished a kingdom to do missionary work. Their work was not among family, friends or people they knew. It was among their enemies! They had no doubts about their calling or mission. They had no fear for their lives. These young men wanted to be instruments of God to bring salvation and eternal life to those who stood at the door of destruction and eternal death. Their commitment to do missionary work prompted the Lord to advise their father, King Mosiah, to let them go and He would grant them eternal life and salvation. This promise was made while they were alive not dead!

Alma the Younger also read this scripture. He devoted several years of his life among his enemies. He brought them the message of Jesus Christ. He brought them the message of salvation and eternal life. He was successful. The Lord was his companion and strength.

The Lord also provided for Alma when he was hungry. The Savior dispatched an angel to stir a man named Amulek to receive Alma in his home to provide him food and shelter. Amulek, a man of reputation and wealth, was obedient to the instruction and words of the angel. He received Alma into his home. He fed him. The result was Alma blessed Amulek and his home. More important, Amulek was converted and accompanied Alma on his return to preach the word of God.

Because of their missionary zeal, Alma and Amulek could not be confined to dungeons. The people put them in jail but Alma and Amulek broke the cords and the walls fell. They could

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Noah's Zoo

Dear Girls and Boys,

Way at the beginning of Bible time, God made Adam and Eve. They had many children, and soon thousands of people lived on earth.

When these people began to do wicked, hurtful things to each other, God was so angry and disappointed that He sent a long lasting flood and everybody drowned but one good man, Noah, and his family.

They didn't drown because God spoke to Noah and told him how to build a boat. Noah's boat was three hundred cubits long. That is about one and a half times as long as a football field. The boat had three stories, one door and a window. It had to be huge because it was a regular zoo!

Noah spent years building that ark and collecting animals. Any animal not on the ark would have also drowned and become extinct. Can you imagine how crazy the people must have thought Noah was? First he was building a giant boat in the middle of dry land, and then he began to fill it with his own personal zoo.

God told Noah to take into the ark two of every living thing and seven of different fowls and clean beasts.

Finally, the day came that old man Noah and his family had dreaded and believed in. The Lord told them all to enter their ark. The rain began, and the Lord shut the door.

How many times Noah had begged other people to stop their sin and love God and each other. Now it was too late for everyone except the ark full of innocent animals and the family of Noah.

The fountains of earth and heaven



opened; the rain poured day and night for forty days. I wonder how the animals liked the rocking of the ark as the water rose and finally, with a lurch they began to float.

After seven months, the waters began to go back down. On the tenth month, Noah opened the little window and could see the tops of the mountains. He let a raven fly out. If there were any trees not covered by water, his little bird would not come back. He sent a dove out also. But the dove found not rest for her foot on the earth and she flew back. One week later, Noah tried the dove again. She returned with leaves from the olive tree in her mouth. The next time she flew out, she never returned. It was time to leave the ark.

And Noah built an altar unto the Lord. He took one of every clean beast and one of every bird and he offered a burnt offering prayer with each one of the hundreds of animals.

God was pleased and blessed Noah. He made a promise never to bring a flood on earth again to destroy everything. As a sign of this promise, he put a rainbow in the sky.

Everytime you see a rainbow, remember it means God keeps His promises. He can teach a Noah to build a boat, He can put rainbows in the sky. If we are patient and believe, God will also work through us to do marvelous things.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH (Find the animals on Noah's Ark.)

GORILLA	GAZELLE
OX	GOAT
HORSE	DOG
PORCUPINE	PIGS
EMU	LLAMA
OSTRICH	ELK
CAMELS	SPIDERS
ZEBRA	BIRDS
ELEPHANT	BUG

O	E	G	A	Z	E	L	L	E
T	N	C	A	M	E	L	S	A
N	I	T	A	O	G	R	G	R
A	P	U	M	A	O	S	I	B
H	U	S	M	H	R	R	P	E
P	C	D	I	E	I	D	Y	Z
E	R	R	D	E	L	K	O	X
L	O	I	P	L	L	A	M	A
E	P	B	U	G	A	D	O	G
S	K	H	C	I	R	T	S	O



Our Women Today

Detroit Inner City Ladies' Uplift Circle Organized

By Sister Kathy Champine

February 10, 1999, will always be remembered as a very special day for our sisters, as we had the privilege of organizing the very first Ladies' Uplift Circle in the Detroit Inner City Branch. Our total attendance was sixteen. The Great Lakes Regional Circle Officers, which included Sister Joann Cotellesse, President, Sister Marge D'Amico, Vice President, and Sister Judy Coppa, Secretary, were present to organize our group.

We sang hymn #37, *Weighed in the Balance*, and Sister Joann opened in prayer. Sister Joann then read the Aims of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and asked us to stand to recite the Pledge in unison. The offices of the Circle and their related duties were read and explained in detail. Our visiting sisters also discussed how we should structure

our Circle meetings. After our questions were answered, we had the election of officers, which were:
 President—Sister Donna Amormino
 Vice President—Sister Dellarie Harrison
 Teacher—Sister Lisa Champine
 Secretary—Sister Karen Jo Pandone
 Ass't. Sec.—Sister Kathy Champine
 Financial Sec.—Sister Angie Champine
 Treasurer—Sister Dona Baez
 Word Giver—Sister Sara Zaccagnini
 Librarian—Sister Dellarie Harrison
 Auditor—Sister Sara Zaccagnini
 Editor—Sister Kathy Champine
 Members—Sister Verne Dutton
 Sister Helen Siegel

A collection was taken totaling \$40.00. At the conclusion of our meeting, Sister Joann requested that we form a circle and join hands. She asked our new President, Sister Donna Amormino to close in prayer. As our sister prayed, I was reminded once more that all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us. After prayer, Sister Joann reminded us that we are now representatives of the Ladies' Uplift Circle, to be kind and loving to each other, and be patient and tolerant of each others' shortcomings. A wonderful spirit was felt by all in attendance, and our group is looking forward to working in this capacity for The Church of Jesus Christ.



Missionary
Benevolent
Association

GMBA Student Support Program

For those of you who had the wonderful privilege of attending the World Missionary Conference from June 26 to July 2, 1999, you may have noticed the GMBA's exhibit and the various programs that are directed under the GMBA. One of those programs is the Student Support Program (SSP) which specifically endeavors to encourage and uplift the Church's young people who are currently enrolled in college. Although most participants enrolled in the SSP are between the ages of seventeen and thirty, we seek to include anyone in college who has an interest in becoming involved in this wonderful program.

The Student Support Program began several years ago with the goal of being a blessing to those who, during the college years, are seeking direction and guidance while trying to establish an occupation or career. The stresses and challenges of college and all its demands can certainly prove difficult at times. Thus, the SSP has been an avenue each student can take advantage of to remain focused on their studies as well as seek God's direction throughout this important time in life. The following are some examples of what the SSP provides to student participants.

1. Weekly messages by way of E-mail for those students who can access the Internet.
2. The "SSP Prayer Chain" (also by way of the Internet). This is a means by which prayer requests and concerns can be shared among the entire SSP Internet listing of students. It encourages each person to be an active participant of the program not only by requesting help for their individual needs, but also to pray for and



Members of Detroit's Inner City Ladies' Uplift Circle

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Branch and Mission News

Blessings and Reinstatement in Lake Worth, FL

By Sister Josie Jasmin

On January 17, 1999, we gathered together to have our cups filled. The excitement of serving the Lord and being with the brothers and sisters was a blessing in itself, but the Lord had a greater blessing in store for us. Today, there would be a soul returning to the Lord.

Visiting with us today was Brother Chuck Maddox and family from Cincinnati, Ohio and after several musical selections, Brother Chuck led our service. It was truly a glorious day in the House of the Lord.

Brother Chuck reminisced about visiting and talking to the brothers and sisters the night before, at the wedding reception of Susan and Angelo Scime. Brother Chuck read Luke 2:21, and stated that this day would be a rebirth for Sister Susan Scime as she would be reinstated into the Church. The joy of this day is hard to express in writing for Sister Susan, her family and all in attendance. As the writer of this article, our hearts were so filled with thanksgiving to witness the reinstatement of our daughter. Yes, another of my many prayers has been answered, God is so good!

Brother Chuck reiterated some wonderful experiences to us that filled our hearts with joy. He emphasized that all we need to do is, "Do our best and the Lord will do the rest." As the Elders circled Sister Susan and offered prayer for the inspiration from God as to whom would pray the prayer of reinstatement upon our sister, the rays of sunshine illuminated the building with warmth and filled our cups to overflowing.

There were several experiences confirming the reinstatement of Sister Susan. A beautiful spirit was present and an experience to this was also related. God is still on His throne!

Ordinations and Baptisms in Windsor, Ontario, CN

The past several months have been memorable for the Windsor Branch. We have all been so caught up in the wonderful happenings. We failed to share them with you. In the March 1999 issue of the *Gospel News*, we mentioned five beautiful souls that gave their hearts to Jesus. Prior to that, the year started out with Brother Perry Vitto's ordination as a Teacher. What an unforgettable meeting. It was a special occasion, which was shared by all of Perry's relatives and friends. Brother Perry's feet were washed by Elder John Collison. Evangelist Frank Vitto ordained his son as a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He asked the Lord to put a mantle on Perry, a hedge around him, and encouraged Brother Perry to be "fixed in his purpose." The Lord sprinkled His blessings on all of us.

We had a very special day when Brother Sam Onorato and Brother James Matthew requested their baptisms. When the Lord said, "I will increase your number," He truly meant that phrase. A few months later, Sister Patricia Payne surrendered her life to the Lord.

We were honored to have Brother Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ and Brother Paul Palmieri, First Counselor of The Church of Jesus Christ in our Sunday meeting when Sister Rachael Jordan was baptized. What a beautiful spirit prevailed in our meeting as Brother Thomas prayed for the Holy Ghost to lead and guide our new convert. Brother Palmieri expressed his delight in visiting Windsor for the first time. We were all overjoyed when Karen Kahleel stood on her feet and requested her desire to be a soldier of the cross.

The following week, Sister Sue Gerard and Sister Michelle Peltier asked to be reinstated. We cannot believe the wonderful happenings. In the past year, we have had ten baptisms and two reinstatements. God works in mysterious ways. His wonders have surely been performed in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Our thanks and praise to Him are so inadequate. We humbly pray that all the branches will grow in membership and in love for each other. God bless you all.

Plumbrook Branch Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Diana Stigleman

On February 21, 1999, Detroit's Inner City Branch was suddenly without the use of the school building they were renting. We were absolutely thrilled to have them join us for Sunday's service.

Everyone knew we were headed for a revival meeting when we heard Brother Eugene Amormino on piano accompanied by his wife, Sister Donna, on the organ. While dressed in the armor of God and ready for action, Brother Steve Champine stepped up to continue the revival spirit.

Our brother's opening remarks made us acutely aware of how God is ever near and able to deliver us in every aspect of our lives. Then he sealed his statement with proof of its truth. Brother Steve had been having doubts in his own ability and qualifications to deliver a speech at an upcoming seminar. Then a brother in Christ called and gave him "the standard answer, pray about it." Brother Steve did just that. After prayer, in a dream God showed our brother the following scripture: "Nevertheless, the Lord God sheweth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace, and His great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things (Jacob 4:7). Brother Steve felt secure that God was in charge of the matter. His speech went well.

As Brother Steve read from the second chapter of Mark, he asked us to stretch our imaginations. He wanted us to picture Jesus sitting in a Capernaum home. The crowd is so large that a man suffering with palsy cannot get near him. There are four men carrying him on a bed and wondering how they would ever reach Jesus.

When Brother Steve had set the scene, he asked us to become one of the characters, then posed an interesting question. He asked us if we had chosen to be the man on the stretcher or one of the men who was carrying him? He said, "All of us at one time have been the man who needed help, but who did we choose to be today?"

He stated, "I hope today you have the strength to be a carrier." Our brother reflected, "Do you feel like you're not connected, spiritually stagnate, or discouraged? Don't give up!"

It was then Brother Steve injected this insightful thought. Just as those four men became innovative by stripping off the roof of the house, we must likewise be innovative in our service to God. "Do we have a monologue or a dialogue with God when we pray? When was the last time we stripped off the roof of our hearts?"

Brother Steve reminded us of our mission as soldiers for Christ. We must go out and give others the words of life. He said, "Even the guy who doesn't want to hear about Christ will respond to love." He inquired, "How much are we willing to invest?" Our brother challenged us "to take our faith in a new direction."

His final words, "Have courage to live your life like you never have lived before."

Brother Paul Whitton followed in speaking. His thoughts went into the past, a trip he had taken to the Harrison Mission. Brother Paul had studied and prepared a sermon he would be delivering for the Sunday service. Still, he didn't feel really confident regarding the scripture he had chosen. About halfway up to Harrison, God told Brother Paul, "Nephi the 13th chapter!" Although Brother Paul had no idea what the scripture stated, he decided to go with the message.

Brother Paul told us we must have faith and courage to allow God's power to work in our lives. He inquired if we have the same faith as the man who was healed of palsy? "Do we counsel with the Lord in everything we do?"

Are we willing to be offended for the cause of Christ? Brother Paul

reminded us, we will not convert someone who has offended us by turning away from them. He concluded, "Each of us must put God first."

Brother Gary Coppa was truly inspired when he invited the members of the Inner City Branch to sing for us. Without a doubt, their joyful voices and the melodious blended sounds of harmonica, clarinet, guitar, and piano, reached the throne and surely the heart of God.

After a bountiful period of testimony, which Brother Gary Coppa was forced to end, sacrament was passed. Brother Gary Champine closed in prayer and we headed to the prepared luncheon, to feast and fellowship once again.

Shall We Gather at the River?

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On Sunday, April 18, 1999, the brothers, sisters and friends of the Aliquippa Branch were delighted to have visitors from McKees Rocks, as well as the Butler Mission. We began our service in anticipation of the baptism to follow the morning meeting with, *Shall We Gather at the River?*

Brother Carl Frammolino, who along with Brother Charles Jumper regularly services the Butler Mission, opened the service. He shared his memories of Brother John Romano, who would tell him prior to a baptism, "There is work to be done." Brother Carl continued by reading in the second chapter of Luke in which Jesus advises His mother that He must be about His Father's business, likening it to being about the Father's business this very day.

Brother Chuck Jumper followed, reading from the 91st Psalm where the Lord assures us that if we abide in the shadow of the Almighty, we will have the Lord as a refuge and fortress and that His angels will have charge over us and keep us in all our ways. The Lord will know our name and when we call upon Him, He will be with us.

The morning meeting was concluded with, *I'm a Child of the King*.

We met at the branch baptismal site where Sister Cheryl Kocuba was baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino. While at the water's edge, Sister Charlene Gatson also requested her baptism. She was baptized by her uncle, Brother Charles Jumper. Our new sisters were confirmed in our afternoon service by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and Brother James Gibson respectively. We thank God for our new sisters and pray that the Lord will continue to touch the hearts of those that meet with us often. At the conclusion of the service, our new sisters were afforded the opportunity to express themselves, as well as many members of the families who gathered with us for this wonderful occasion.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Abbott, James and Betty
110 Cowen Street
P.O. Box 364
Roscoe, PA 15477
724-938-9158

DiFalco, Anthony and Pierina
4353 Pierce Dr.
Shelby Twp., MI 48316
248-652-9260

Gamache, Bill and Rita
5585 Camino Dorado
Yorba Linda, CA 92887
714-694-1315

Graff, Kathryn
3060 #3 Williamsburg Dr.
Latrobe, PA 15650-9348
724-600-0138

Moore, Ann
234 Bryson Walk, Apt. A
Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-4595

Scime, Angelo and Susan (Davis)
1916 Pleasant Drive
Juno Beach, FL 33408
561-691-0962

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of you for the prayers, cards, and calls we received in the last several months. They have certainly sustained us and overwhelmed us by the many expressions of love and concern.

Thank God, we are doing well, and appreciate your continued prayers. God bless you.

Love in Christ,
Brother Tony and Sister Angela Scolaro

* * * * *

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the brothers and sisters that have sent cards, for all the telephone calls, and for the prayers for my family and I in the recent passing of my late husband Brother Paul Calabro. May God bless you all.

Sister Dorothy Calabro

A Thought

What you have outside
counts less than what you
have inside.

World Missionary Conference

Continued from Page 1

conference. Some requested baptism and were baptized in their branches upon their return home.

Young and old alike were moved by the Spirit of God throughout the week. It was felt in the meetings, it was manifested in the country presentations and even in the exhibit hall which showed the many countries, their works and culture.

Several experiences occurred during the week. Tongues were spoken. The Word of the Lord was

given. The Apostle John appeared and asked that a message be conveyed to the conference, specifically to Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. The message to Brother Joe was, "Tell Brother Joe Lovalvo that I am with you."

During the conference, it was revealed to Evangelist John DiBattista that a significant event would take place. That event would revolve around the Feast of the Trumpets. Please remember the theme, "Listen to the Trumpeters." Some background on the Feast of the Trumpets will help understand the importance of this experience.

In Numbers 10:2, the Lord commanded Moses to make two trumpets of silver, "**of a whole piece shall they make them:** that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly . . ." Moses had the two trumpets made and when they sounded, Israel gathered around the tabernacle. Later God called for a feast to occur on the seventh month, first day (Leviticus 23:23-25). This feast was a holy convocation or gathering unto the Lord. Throughout Israel's history, this feast was observed. Specific mention is made on the day Solomon dedicated the temple. It is written in I Kings 8:1-11 and II Chronicles 5:2-12, that all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanin; which is the seventh month, beginning the feast of the trumpets and as **trumpeters and singers were as one**, then the House of God was filled with a cloud. The Lord's glory filled the house and Israel enjoyed a time like no other in their history. The Queen of Sheba said a half was not told when she looked upon the people serving in Solomon's court (I Kings 10:8).

Some 530 years later, Ezra, Nehemiah, and others returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians. It was the Feast of the Trumpets, the seventh month and the first day that Ezra read the book of the law before the people. Their senses returned, they understood the readings and celebrated the restoration of the method of

worship.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. At the time of the Restoration, this important date is emphasized once more. On September 22, 1827, the angel Moroni flew in the midst of heaven and presented Joseph Smith with the plates and according to the Hebrew calendar, it was the first day of the seventh month, the "feast of the trumpets" beginning a new era of time for the entire world.

With this background, when Brother John DiBattista received the information on the World Missionary Conference, he saw the theme and knew that God was doing His great work with the Church. Each day the speakers during chapel built on the theme of the trumpeters and on Wednesday morning, Brother David Jordan spoke directly on the Feast of the Trumpets. The next day, July 1, was the seventh month and first day on the Gentile calendar. Then it happened; that evening the young people carried the flags representing the many countries where the Gospel has been established. At least three people spoke in the Spirit and Brother Dominic Thomas turned to Apostle Joseph Lovalvo. He asked Brother Joe to offer a dedicatory prayer on The Church of Jesus Christ and on the missionaries. As Brother Joe prayed, he said as did Solomon and Ezra, "I lift my hands to the God of Israel," and the glory of God came on the Church, marking the Lord's satisfaction with our efforts over the past years and beginning a new era of time that marks the beginning of the gathering of Israel. It was a spirit filled evening! It was magnificent and powerful!

It was apparent to everyone who attended the conference that our work is not over. It has only just begun! The work will blossom as we work hard to take the Gospel message to the four corners of the earth to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Apostle Paul Palmieri, First Counselor of The Church of Jesus

Christ, encouraged the congregation to get involved. He requested that everyone get excited about the cause of Jesus Christ and to make Him their theme. Brother Paul emphasized the importance of preaching the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. He stated we have a work to do and there is no time to waste. People need the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many expressed that they would like to see more of these conferences held for the honor and glory of God. This conference was a beautiful experience for all. It is appropriate to say that everyone was uplifted. Everyone was spiritually encouraged. Everyone was motivated to do more for the Gospel and cause of Jesus Christ. Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

saints and visitors have a deep love for God. One of the brothers translates for us as we speak, since the people are more comfortable with their native tongue, with is Twi in this area of Ghana. Six people requested baptism at the end of the service for which we praise God.

One of our crusades was in Scrabuso, a village near Anyinamso. Our brothers have been visiting this village, and we have held previous crusades here and pray that the Church may be established soon. This is an extremely poor village. Every night the people came to the one water pump that takes care of the village. Regardless of their condition, the people seem receptive to the Gospel. It is interesting to see how hard they work here in this extreme heat and yet do not miss many meetings during the week. Often, they begin work in the fields at day-break and then attend services in the evening.

EASTER CONVENTION

The Easter Convention began on Friday, April 2 and was well attended. A very hard rainstorm on Thursday

evening prevented some from arriving until Friday morning. Nothing had been planned for the children, so Brothers Perri and Danso, our newest Elder, took them to another building to teach them some scriptures and hymns. We talked to the young people during the Convention about organizing the MBA in their locations. Many were interested, and the MBA was organized in Edwanase, Odumasi, Apromasi and Anyinamso the following week.

Brother John Addo made an excellent presentation on the Book of Mormon and its background on Saturday and then asked for questions. A crusade was held Saturday evening in Nwamsie, a nearby village, and actually where the Boadu family lived when the Gospel was first presented to them.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day as it began with seven baptisms. We again experienced God's blessings and great liberty in preaching. Four individuals requested baptism at the close of the meeting that began at 10:30 AM and closed at 1:30 PM. Brother George Danso was ordained an Elder before the close of the meeting.

The afternoon service was used for ordinations. One Teacher, seven Deacons, and six Deaconesses were ordained, representing all five locations. In addition, eleven brothers and sisters were confirmed as members of the Church. This meeting ended about 6:00 PM and God's blessings were in our midst.

Our last part of the week was spent organizing the MBA locals mentioned previously. While starting the MBA in Apromasi, it rained very hard. When we were ready to leave, the van got stuck on the red clay. Of course, bald tires don't help. The brothers did their best to push it free, but without success. Finally we had to leave the van, and all of us rode in Brother Emmanuel's four-wheel drive truck. A few of the young brothers rode in the back in the driving rain so we could remain dry. Their brotherly love was apparent and appreciated.

Our last Sunday was spent in Medina, which is about 30 minutes from Accra, the capital city. This is a small group that meets in Brother

Prempah's home and has been meeting there for some time. They have had five baptisms since last year and God is blessing them.

Brother Ford left for home Sunday afternoon after our sad goodbye and prayer for his safety. We look forward to seeing him and Sister Grace at the World Missionary Conference as well as all the saints from near and far. God bless you one and all!

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

not be slain. The people tried to take their lives but the Lord intervened and spared the lives of Alma and Amulek. They continued their missionary work by preaching and prophesying to the people. They were directed by the power and Spirit of the Lord.

Alma, Amulek, and the four sons of Mosiah, Aaron, Ammon, Omner and Himni, had great missionary success. Thousands were converted to the Lord! Why? A key to their success was they had given themselves to much fasting and prayer. Because of this, they had the spirit of prophecy, the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even with the power and authority of God. They would not be distracted or deterred from their mission. God would not and could not deny them!

God will not deny us. We must possess the same zeal, faith and reliance on Jesus Christ that was so evident in Alma, Amulek and the four sons of Mosiah. We must be relentless in our pursuits to tell others of Jesus Christ. We must be uncomfortable not comfortable in the cause of Christ. This discomfort must manifest itself by us being fixed in our purpose to go and tell others of Jesus Christ. We must build our mansions in heaven not on earth. We can help build our mansions by obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ. We can also build our mansions by being missionaries for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Go and tell others of Jesus. You will be blessed. God will bless you and your efforts.

Children Blessed

Jolene Haley Stransky, daughter of Donald and Lynn Stransky, was blessed in the Atlanta, Georgia Mission on March 14, 1999.

Myesha Parker, daughter of Rayeseane Parker, was blessed on March 21, 1999 in the Atlanta, Georgia Mission.

Jacob Tyrell Spruill, son of Sister Sheneisha Spruill, was blessed on April 25, 1999 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Chanderricka LeMarion Means, daughter of Roderick and Chandra Means, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on June 6, 1999.

Baptisms

Mary Langford was baptized on May 7, 1999 in the Kinsman, Ohio Mission. She was baptized by Brother Philip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Adam Costarella.

Jonathan Krumpe was baptized on June 13, 1999 in the Kinsman, Ohio Mission. He was baptized by Brother Philip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Howard Jackson.

Leah Michele Nath was baptized on July 4, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Malcolm Paxon and confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

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

CATHERINE LUPO

Sister Catherine Lupo passed on to her heavenly reward on December 21, 1998. She was a member of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. Sister Catherine is survived by her husband, Brother Tony Lupo; one daughter, Sister Edith Bateman; two brothers, Steffano and James Parolise and two grandchildren.

ANTHONY SGRO

Brother Anthony Sgro passed on to his heavenly reward on November 11, 1998. He was a member of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. Brother Tony is survived by his wife, Margie Sgro; two sisters, Sister Grace Buffa and Mary Stewart; two brothers, Brother Sam Sgro and Joseph Sgro; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

GMBA Student Support Program

Continued from Page 7

support other students who are in need.

3. Correspondence also by way of telephone, greeting cards, and "college survival packs."

4. The SSP "Stepping Stone" monthly newsletter. Each newsletter contains an inspiring article written by various members of the Church.

Today, the GMBA Student Support Program has progressed to a present enrollment of approximately sixty students who are on our mailing list. We ask for your prayers that our efforts will continue to be blessed and led by the Lord on behalf of the students. We would also like to invite other students who are interested and have a desire to be a participant of the program. You may contact the following SSP committee members from your general area with inquiries:

Chairman—Bro. Patrick Monaghan

Area Representatives:

Pacific—Bro. Joe Nicosia

Ohio/Midwest—Bro. Andre and Sis. Lisa Francione

Great Lakes—Sis. Jennifer Loyalvo

Penn Mid-Atlantic and Atlantic Coasts—Bro. Jason Monaghan

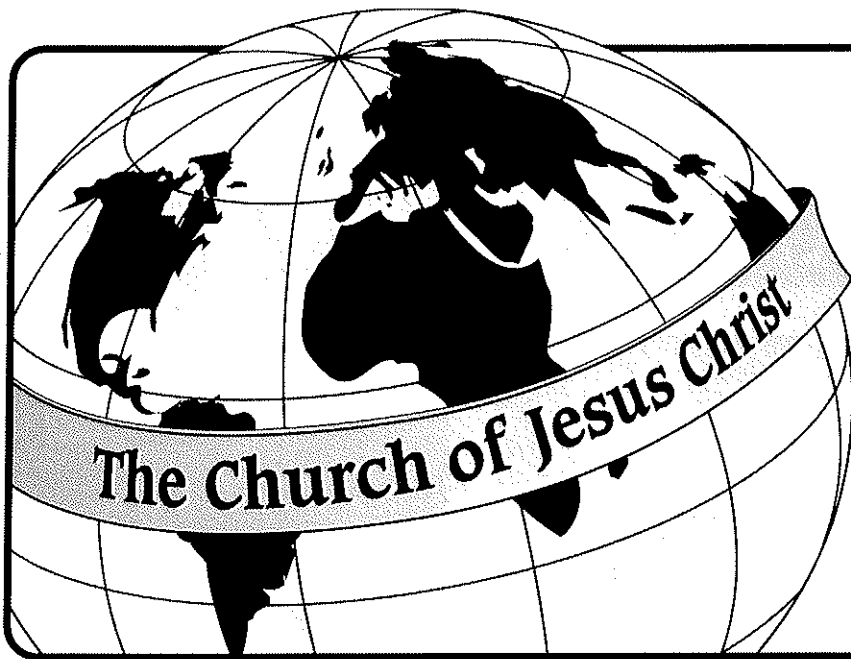
Southeast—Bro. James Draskovich

Southwest—Sis. Darlene Ignagni

May God bless you all.

Brother Patrick Monaghan

724-693-0258 or patrickm@dtwatson.org



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

September, 1999

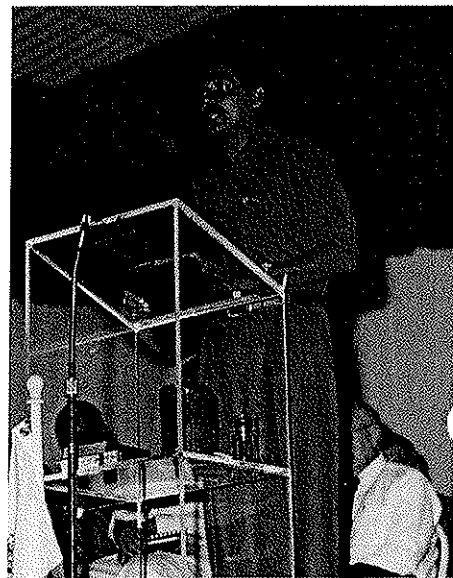
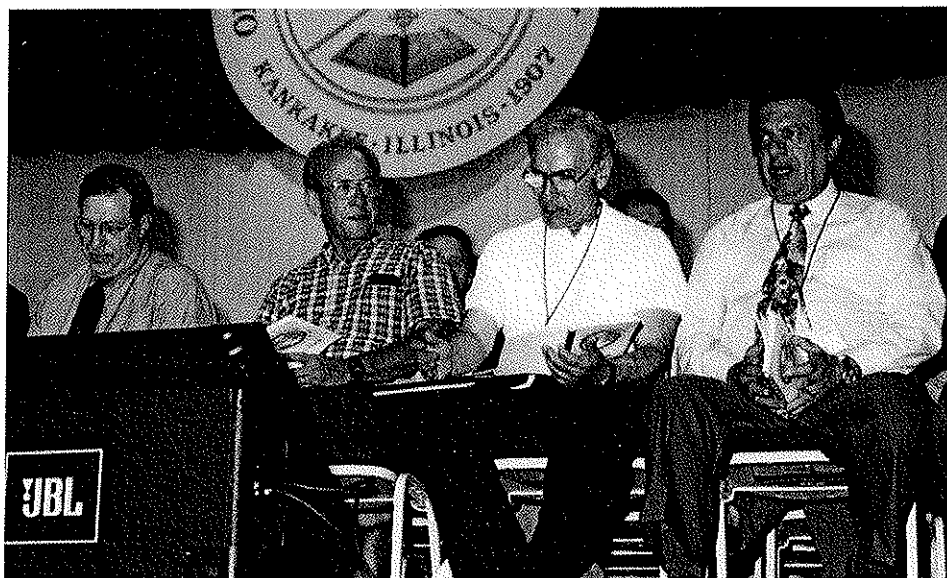
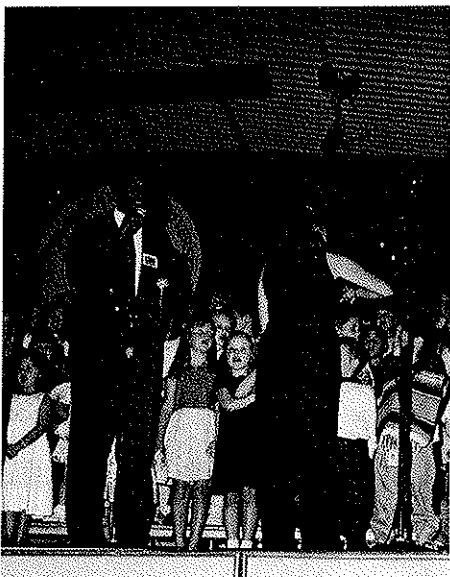
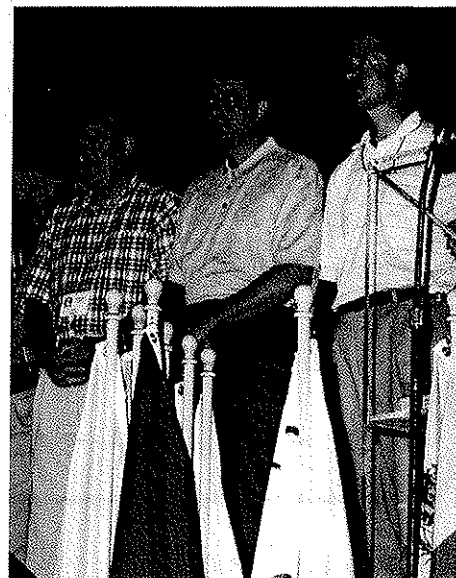
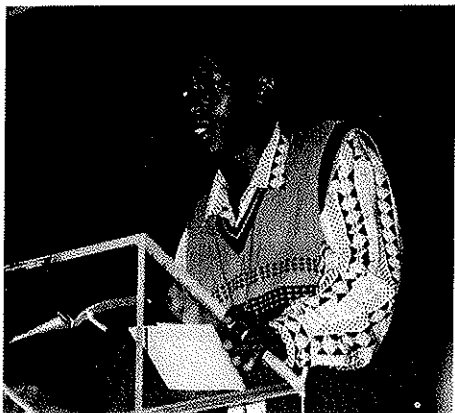
Volume 55, No. 9

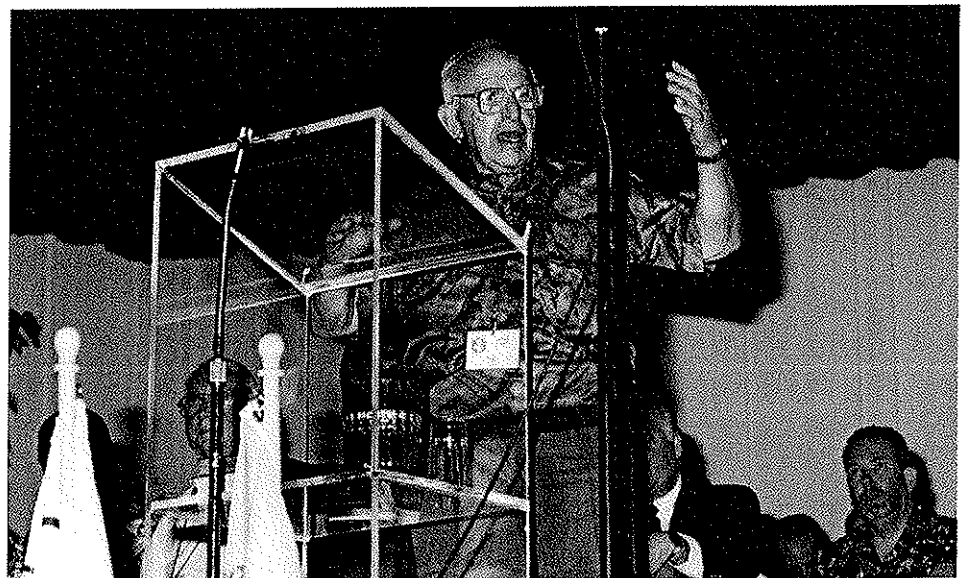
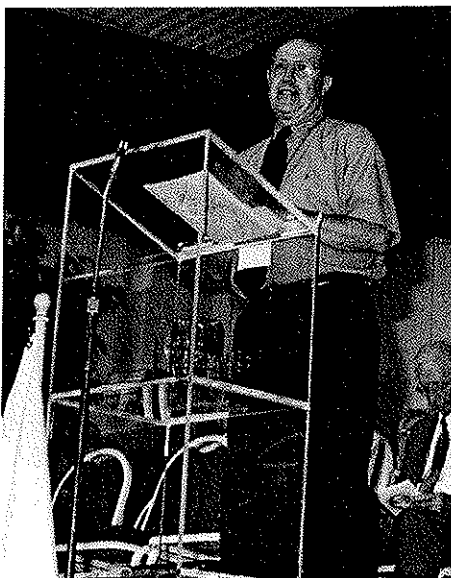
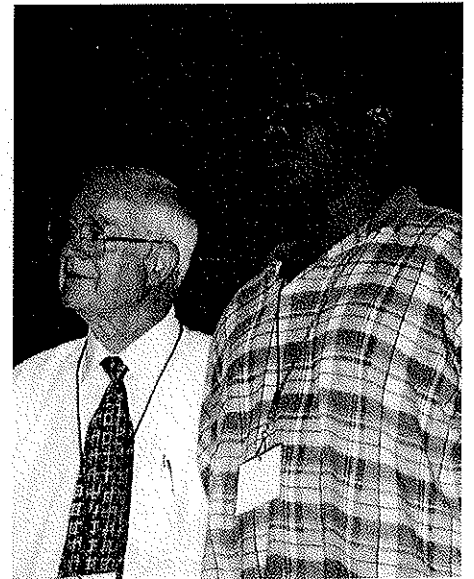
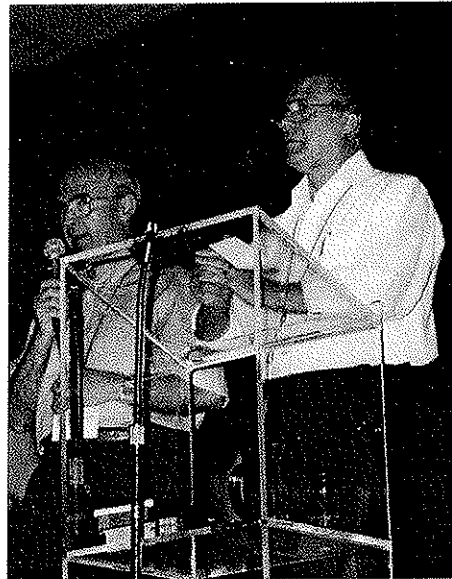
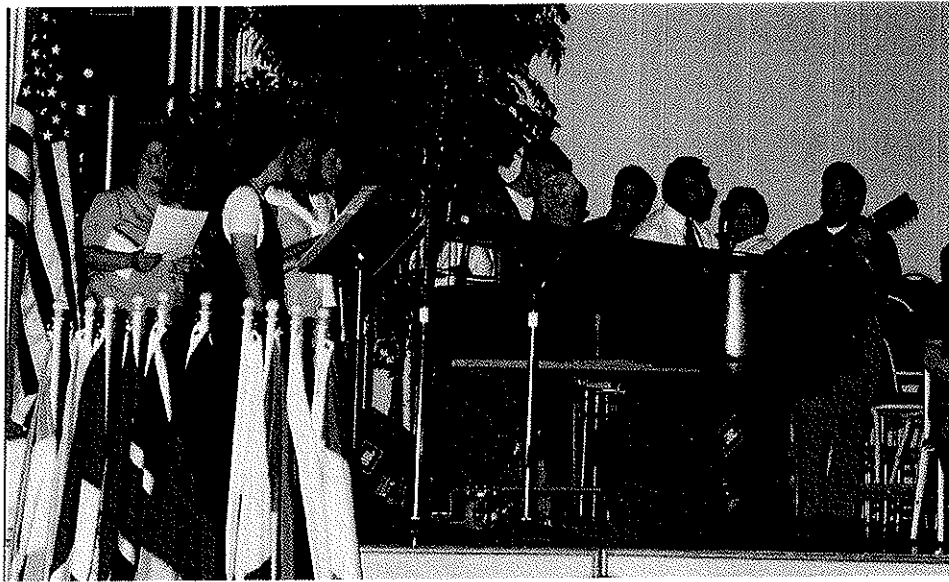
World Missionary Conference

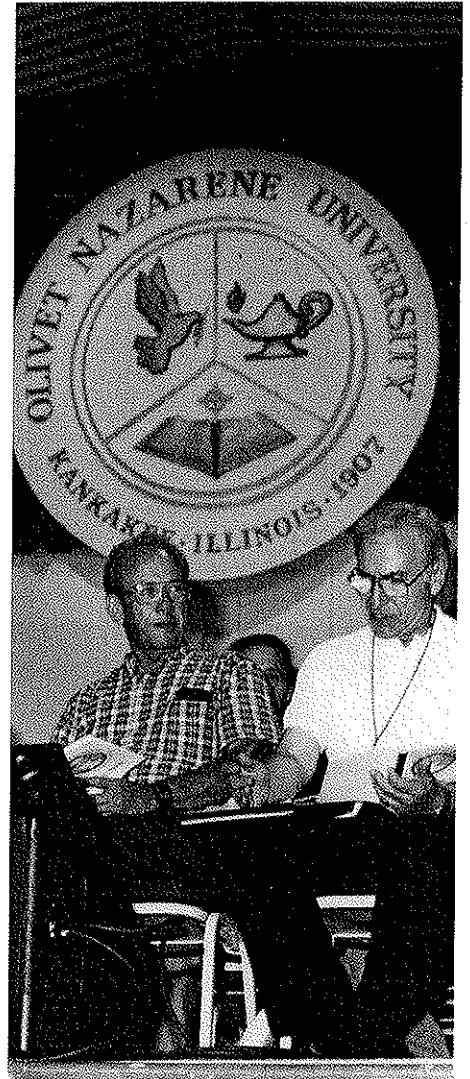
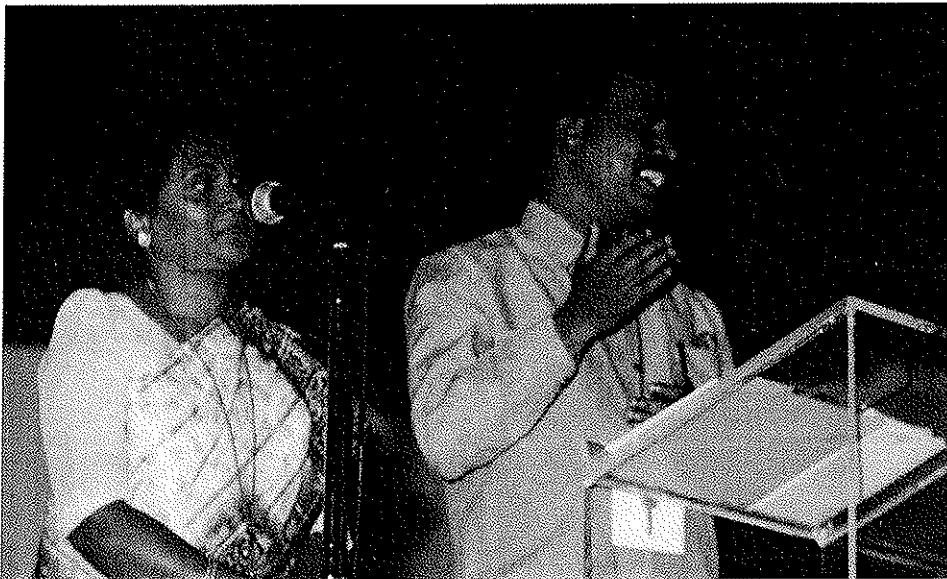
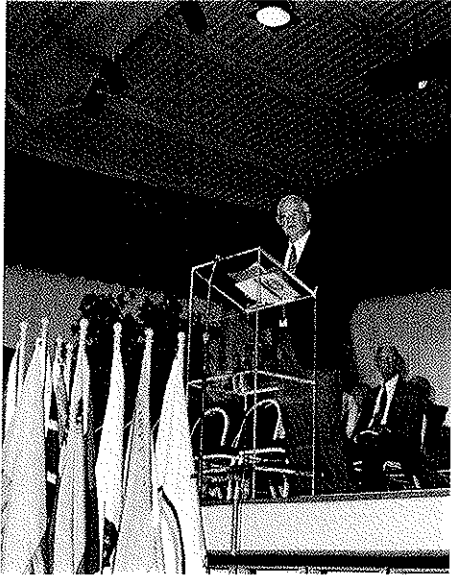
JUNE 26 – JULY 2, 1999



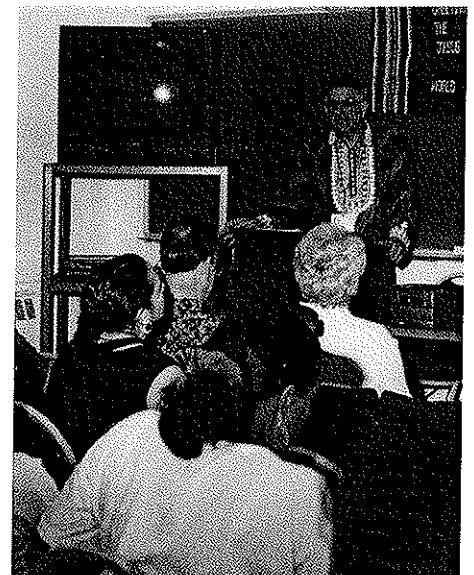
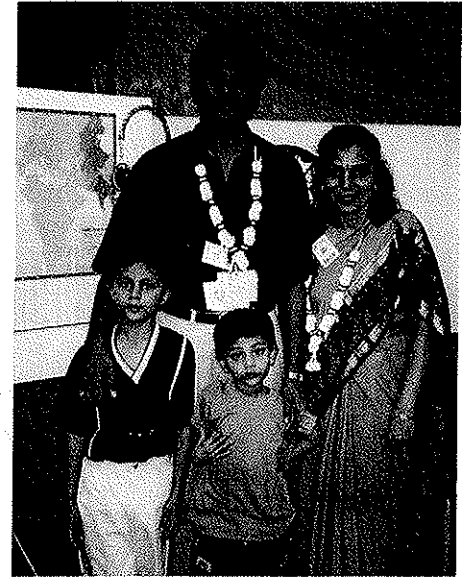
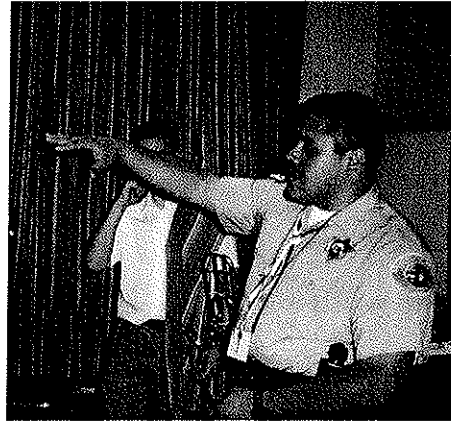
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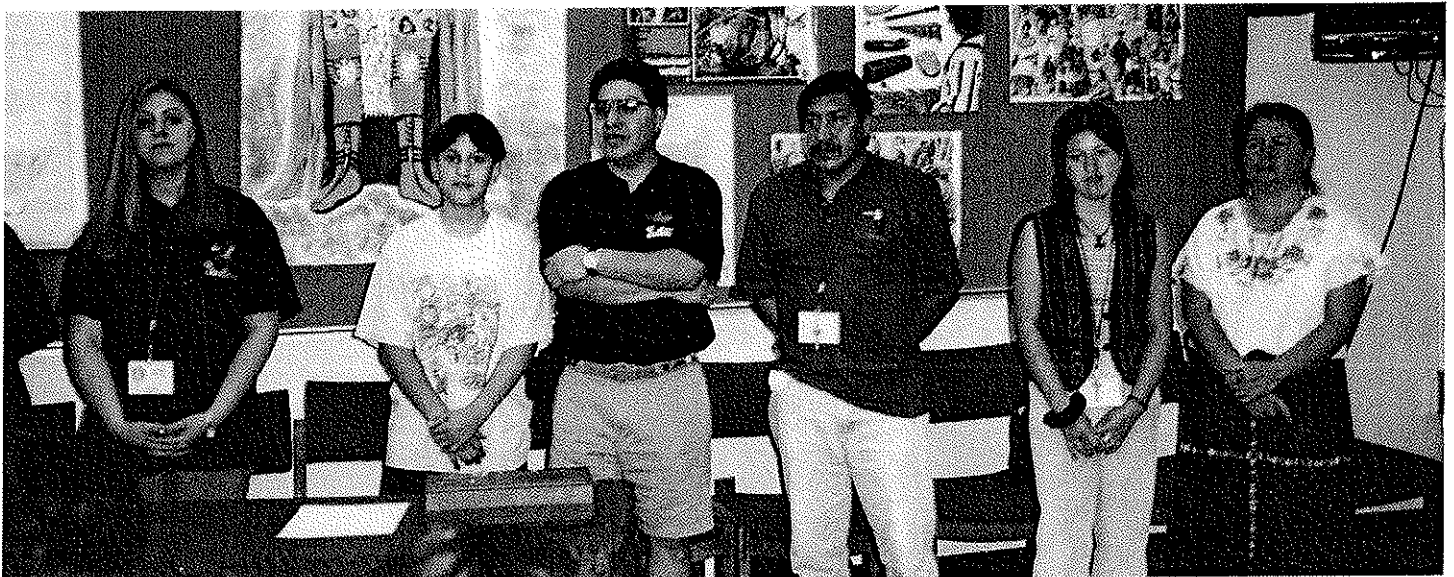
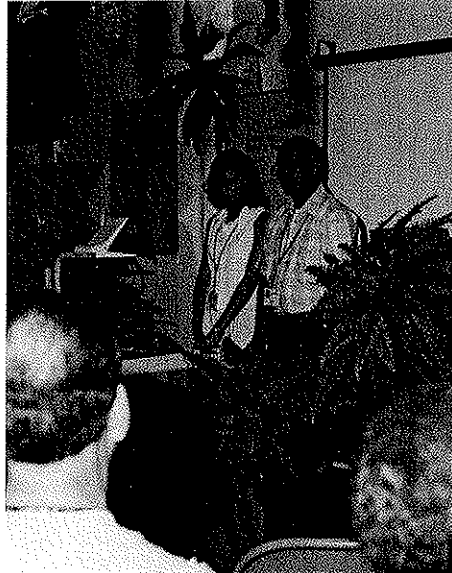
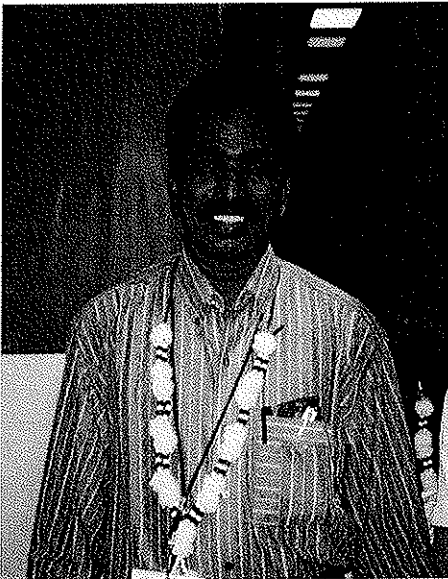


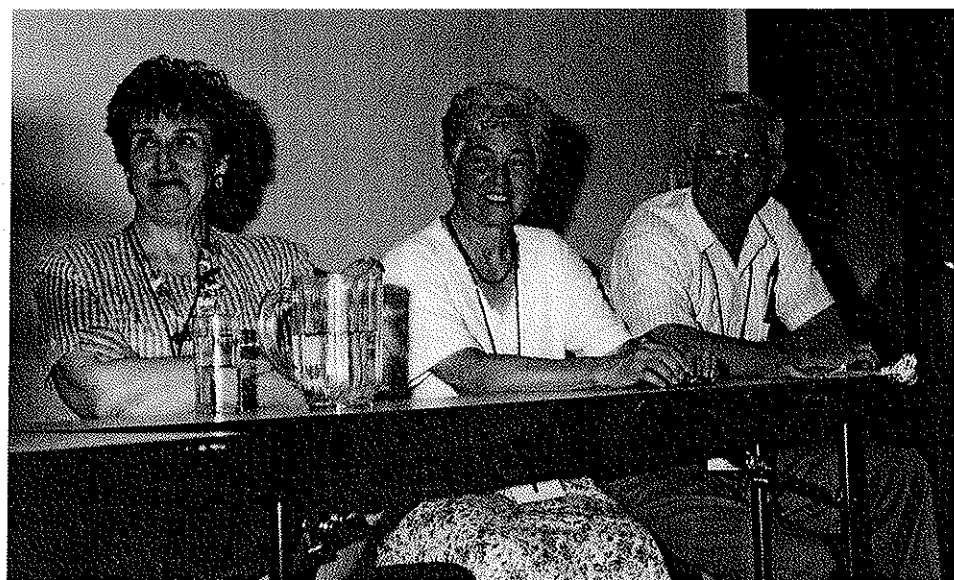
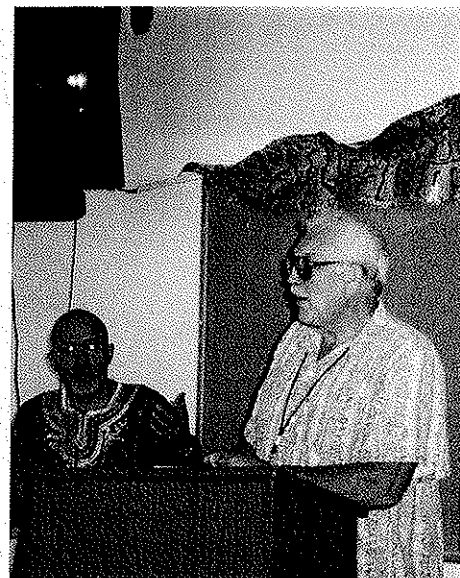




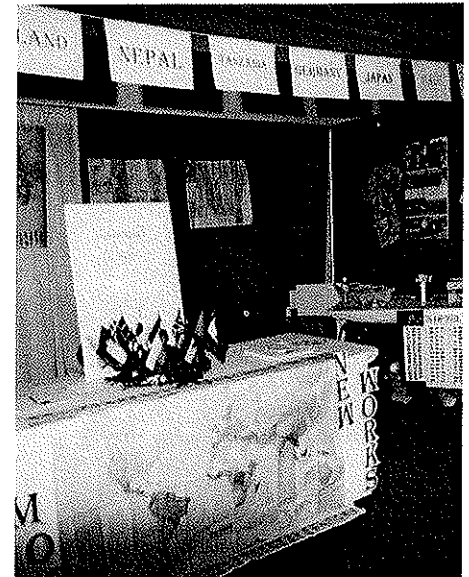
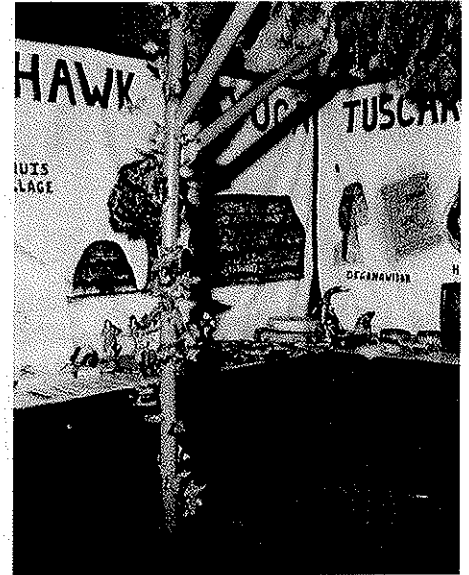
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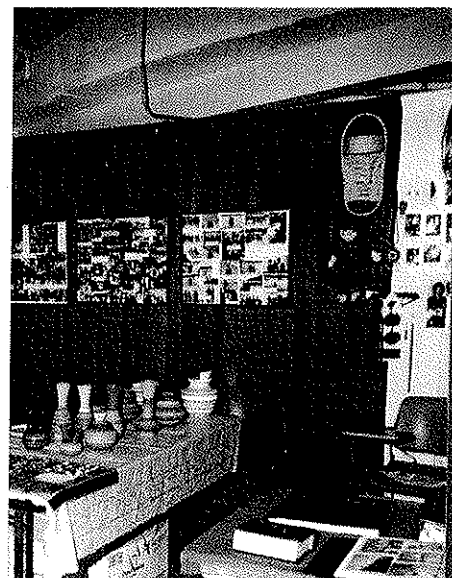




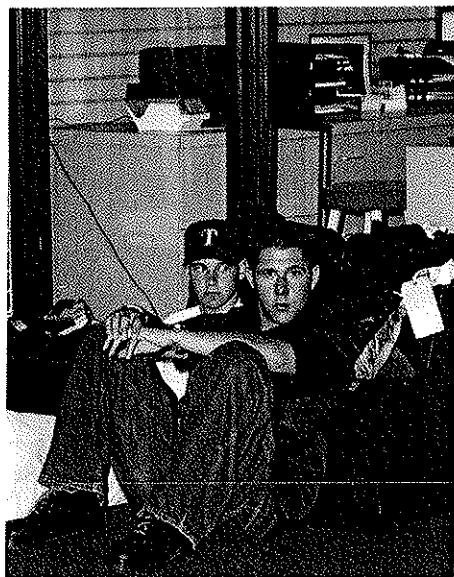
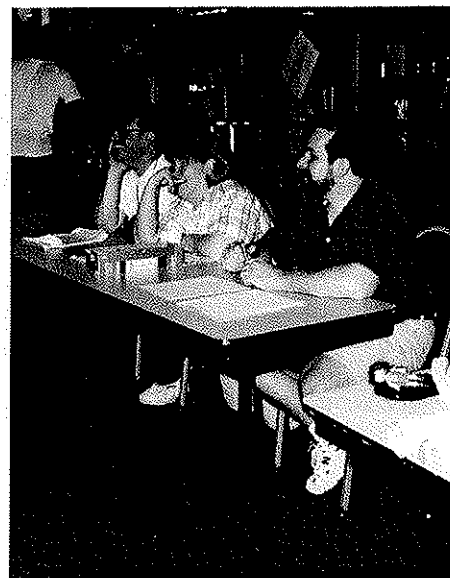


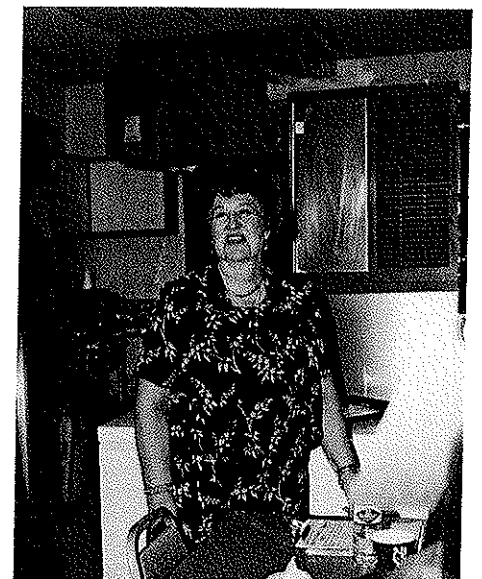
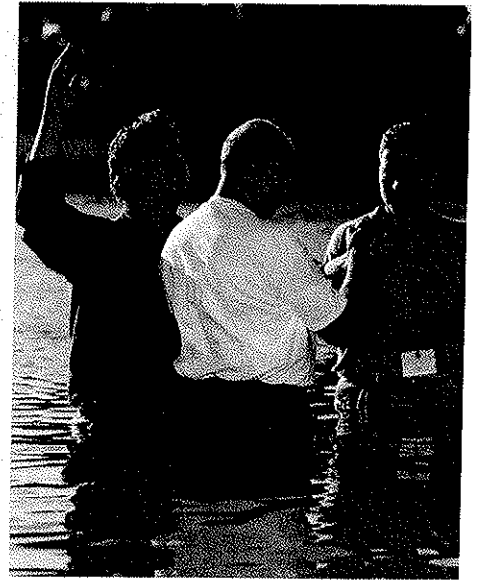
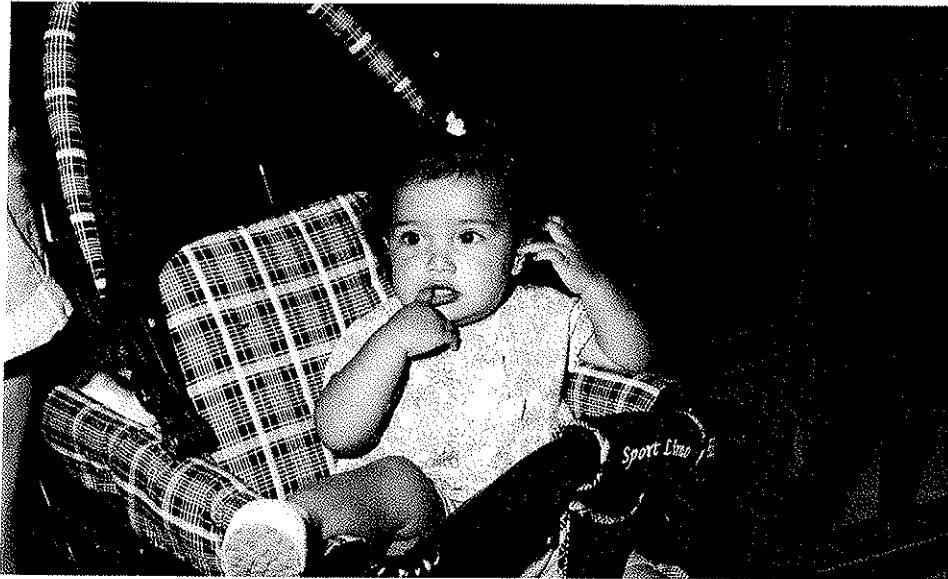
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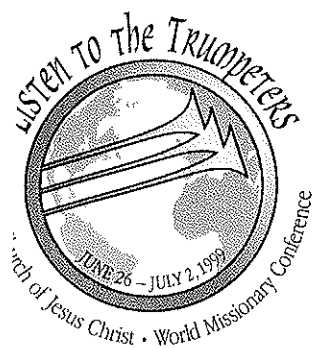
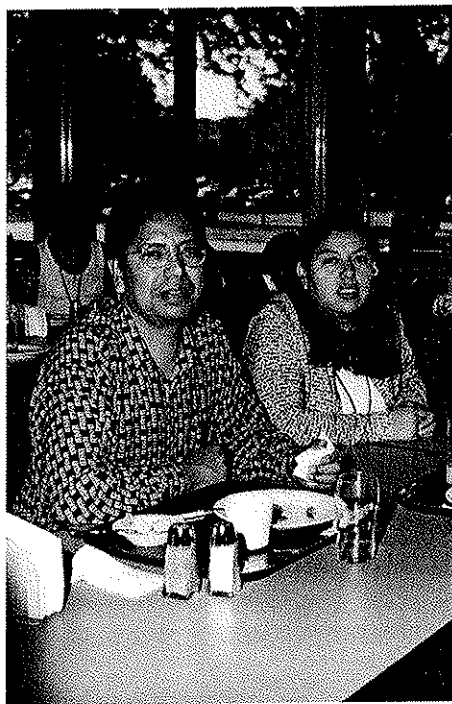
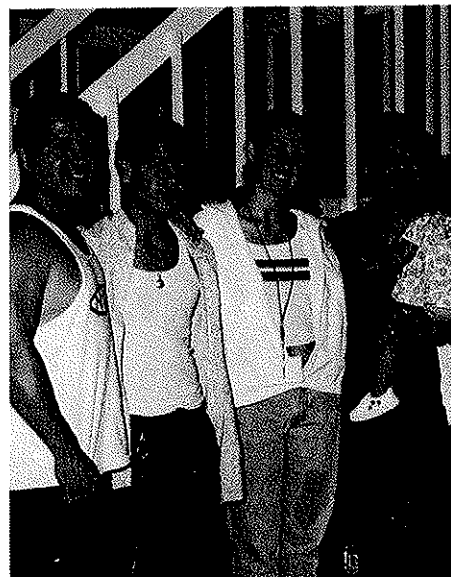
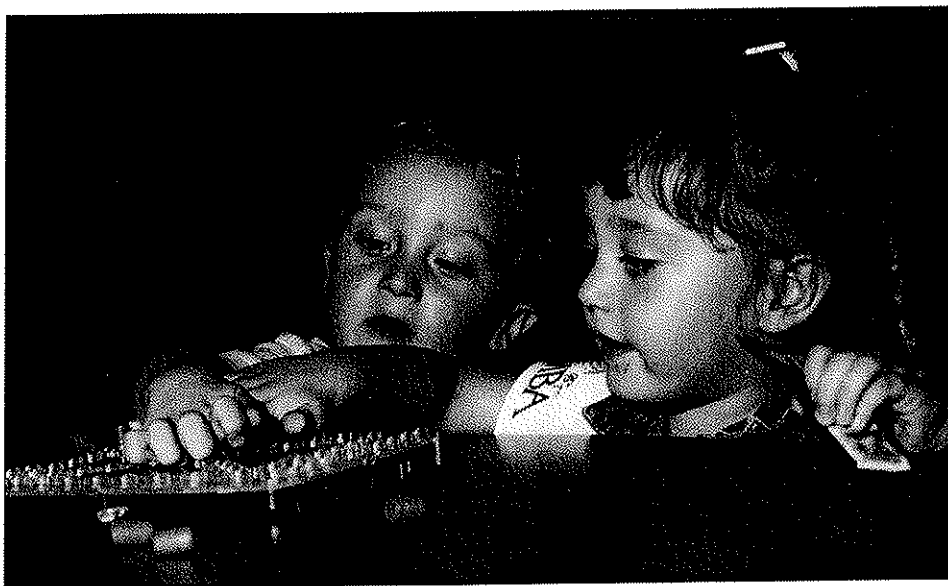


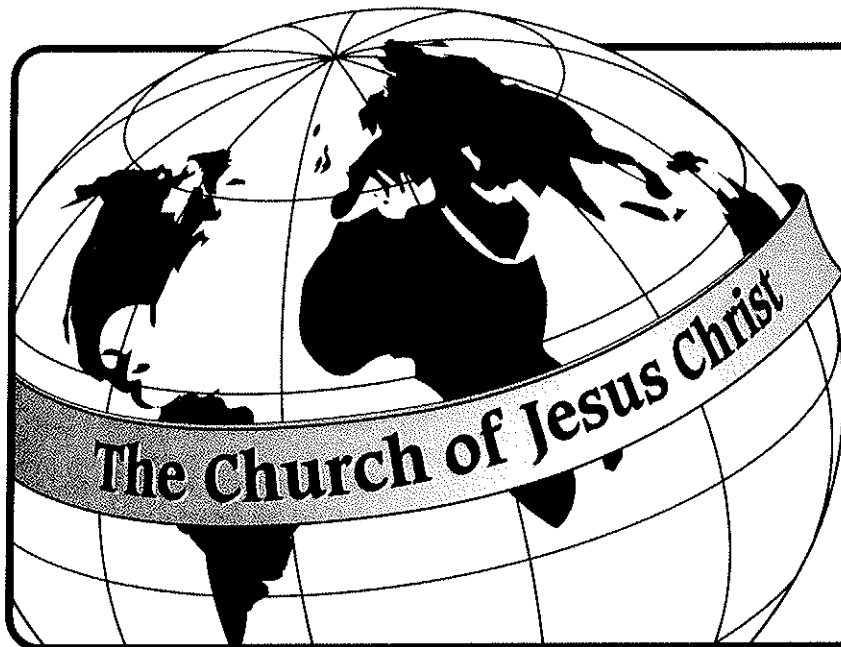


Candid









The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

October, 1999

Volume 55, No. 10

Greetings

By Kenneth Jensen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in
The Church of Jesus Christ,

Greetings! One day, a few short months ago, I had what I have come to call my introduction to the Christian way of living. If someone hasn't known God during their lifetime, I can assure you that this can be quite an experience. Some of the battles that I faced were truly awesome. Based on my current state, I continue to face many battles.

What I would like to share with you is a message that I hope will help to bring down the walls of fear and prejudice, and open the doors to dialogue and communication.

Walls are built by all of us. We erect them to block out that which we either fear, or desire to keep hidden. It's my hope and desire that with this small note, we can find ways to let our walls fall down and in so doing, build roads to communication. When we learn to open the doors to our inner selves, it does not take long for us to begin to realize that all of us are given the opportunity by God, to share a vital part of ourselves with one another. Those who have come to call themselves the children of God, brothers and sisters in His

family, fail not only God, but themselves when we close the door to communication.

For many months I searched in vain for a church that could meet not only my spiritual needs, but my human needs as well. I will not go into the many denominations of churches I have contacted. I will only say the responses that I received were fairly negative. Eventually, God brought me to The Church of Jesus Christ and through my letters, I got to know Brothers Dick Lawson, and the Editor of the *Gospel News*, Donald Ross. I have come to cherish them both very much.

It is my unfortunate experience to be presently incarcerated. In my sinful state, I committed a property crime, by taking something belonging to another. Through the mercy of God and Christ's death on the cross, I believe and I hope and pray that I have been forgiven. I confess openly my sinful shame, and I confess publicly my desire to turn away from my iniquity, by giving my life to Christ.

I write to my brothers and sisters today, in the hope that together we can tear down the walls and replace them with love. The kind of love that reaches out to one another, that breaks the chains of loneliness, the spirit of discouragement, the bonds that tear us apart, rather than bring us together. All of us go through personal strug-

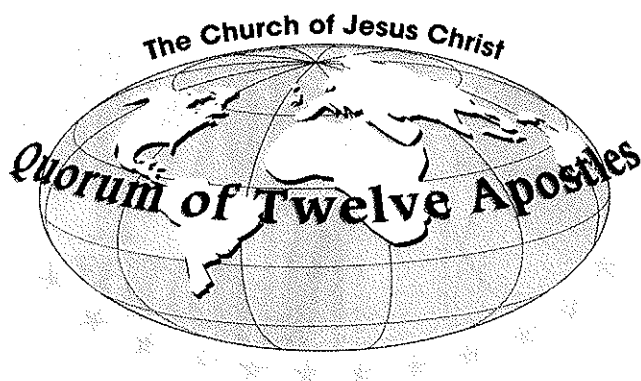
gles of every nature, from addiction to the painful loss of a loved one. Our burdens are each others burden and how we choose to help one another, is how we choose to honor God. We can choose to ignore, to turn our backs, or to be good Samaritans. God always gives us a choice.

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to write and offer me some encouragement, or would like to share a personal experience. Together, through prayer, we can lift our spirits and help each other carry our burdens. Thank God for His compassion. As Christ said in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." May God bless each and every one of you. My address is:

In Christian love,

Kenneth Jensen #N-63296
Danville Correctional Center
P.O. Box 4002
Danville, IL 61834-4002

*(Mr. Kenneth Jensen is currently reading various Church literature and the Book of Mormon. Please take a few minutes and write to him—
Editor's note.)*

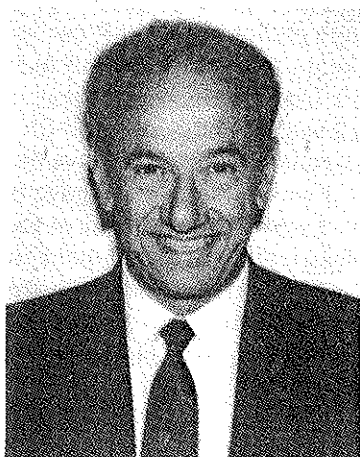


In the Service of . . .

By Apostle Thomas Liberto

There are several schools of thought regarding service, servanthood. One of them is "to be served" and another is "to serve." Depending on the perspective taken, they can all be viewed as valid.

King Benjamin speaks clearly to this matter in the Book of Mormon, Mosiah, Chapter 2. I would like to focus on verses 16 through 18. "Behold, I say unto you that because I said unto you that I had spent my days in your service, I do not desire to



Apostle Thomas Liberto

boast for *I have only been in the service of God*. And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that *when you are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God*. Behold, ye have called me your King; and if I, whom ye call your King, do labor to serve you, *then*

ought not ye to labor to serve one another?" King Benjamin continues to instruct us to live in peace with one another and to keep God's commandments in serving Him with our whole souls.

Some find it difficult to put serving and being served in proper perspective because of their stature, social position, professional standing or sphere of influence. King Benjamin used himself as an example. He was a King yet served the people. He made it clear that in serving the people, he was serving God. He further instructs and encourages us to serve one another that we may be in the service of God.

Jesus told His disciples, as is recorded in Mark 10:42-45, that they who were accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercised lordship over them and their great ones exercised authority upon them. But, He said, *so shall it not be among you*: but whosoever will be great among you shall be your minister and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. He concluded by telling them that the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

In the Book of John, Jesus displayed love and humility in washing the disciples' feet. In the 13th chapter, He tells us to follow His example, that the servant is not greater than his lord, neither he that is sent greater than he who sent him. He then tells us if we know these things, *"happy are ye if ye do them."*

The Apostle Paul instructs us in Galatians 5:13 by love *serve one another* for all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; "Thou shalt love

thy neighbor as thyself."

When King Benjamin had made an end of speaking to the multitude, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, he encouraged them to teach their children to walk in the ways of truth and soberness. Mosiah 4:15 says in part, "ye will teach them to love one another, and *to serve one another*."

Hymn number 44 in the Saints Hymnal, *In the Service of the King* illustrates how happy we can be in serving God. Let's prove unto those we come in contact with that we are servants of God by displaying a willingness to serve one another.

I pray that the following words of King Benjamin will be indelibly inscribed in our minds and hearts:

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

A Poem from Anaheim, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I found the following poem among some of my treasures that the late Sister Helen Stroud wrote. I've always loved it, never thinking some day it would apply to me, that I would be one of the aged. Knowing now, not when I was younger, how the aged feel.

I am sure there are many who remember Sister Helen Stroud. The Anaheim, California Branch published many of her letters. I do hope you may wish to print this poem in the *Gospel News*. The members, especially the young, may know how the aged feel and need their support.

God bless you,
Sister Margaret Henderson

For Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand my
faltering step and palsied hand.

(Continued on Page 11)

A Man Of God

By Brother Carmen Sgro

In 1936, I received the opportunity to bring my testimony to a young man by the name of Nicholas Faragasso, Jr.

One Sunday afternoon, Brother Nick Faragasso, Sr., came to me and invited me to visit his son. I accepted the invitation. We arrived at his son's home at Eighth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, and to my surprise, here was a man that I had worked with in my early teens.

After we discussed many things, I introduced the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to him and his wife. Before leaving his home, he invited me to return. I spent time with him every night for a week because he was interested and wanted to know more of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He accepted the Church and desired to be baptized. Therefore, on the fifth of April 1936, I, Carmen Sgro baptized Nicholas Faragasso, Jr.

He was ordained an Elder on January 16, 1938 by Brother Gabriel Mazzeo and ordained an Evangelist on February 13, 1944 by Brother Frank Sirangelo. He labored with honor and integrity in the Church. Even though he was not in the best of health, he gave his all to the Church. He was instrumental in organizing the Missionary Benevolent Association and the choir in this section of the country.

Brother Nick and I started to hold meetings in Parlin, New Jersey. Parlin was approximately thirteen miles from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Because of the depression, we had no money for bus fare, therefore we "walked" thirteen miles every Tuesday to hold meetings in Sister Ivy Fisher's home.

In 1945, Brother Nick was very sick, his body was covered with cancer and much pain. He never complained nor did he question the good Lord because of his affliction. "HERE WAS A MAN OF GOD" who praised his Maker while waiting for death to take his life.

I remember visiting Brother Nick the day before he died. He looked at me and asked me to read the Bible to him. With his dying breath, his soul hungered for the Word of God. The next day, March 3, 1947, Brother Nick Faragasso, Jr. passed away from this life to meet his Maker and to enter into that life which has no end.

Thirteen years after Brother Nick had passed away, I went to Saint Peter's Hospital to visit someone. On my way home, I stopped at a place called Mary's Luncheonette for a cup of coffee. To my amazement, this is the conversation I heard. Mary, the owner of the luncheonette, was telling another woman about a young man that worked with her in a butcher shop. She was saying what a wonderful man he was, a man who loved his God, his Church, and all mankind. She said, "Never did I see him get angry, or curse, nor did he take the name of his God in vain, always willing to help everyone at all times, a man who suffered much sickness and endured much pain up to his dying day." She also expressed, "What a privilege that I was permitted to know such a man and that I will remember him all the days of my life."

Throughout the discussion, she had not mentioned his name, but while she was talking about this wonderful man, my heart burned within me, and I had to ask, "Pardon me, are you talking about Nick Faragasso?" She answered, "Yes, did you know him?" I replied that I did. She then asked, "Do you belong to the same church?" I answered, "Yes, I do." She then said, "You have nothing to be ashamed of." I replied, "You are so right." She was right, because my heart swelled within me with joy unspeakable, **HERE WAS A MAN OF GOD**. Though he had been called home by his Maker many years ago, he was being remembered because of his devotion and service unto God and his love of the human race.

Jesus said, "Ye say you love me, Keep my commandments." He also said, "Love one another and the world shall know that you are my disciples." Brother Nick Faragasso, Jr. qualified!

Remarks by Brother Carmen Sgro: "In my lifetime in the Church, I have been healed several times, three times spared from death, in times of need He provided, in tragedies He was there, many times I saw His great power upon myself and others. But, I count this experience the greatest because the life of Brother Nick was so devoted unto God in this life, that not even death could hold back his praises unto his God. Because his testimony did not end with his death, but it continued to bear witness of his Maker many years afterward. My prayer is that my life would also shine and reflect for my Redeemer throughout all eternity."

(This article was written by the late Brother Carmen Sgro, many years ago, just prior to his passing away—Editor's Note.)

Notice

There were a large number of personal items left behind at the World Missionary Conference. Anyone who may have lost or misplaced any personal article(s), please contact Sister Tanya Ramirez, 684 Lambkins Road, Saline, MI 48176.

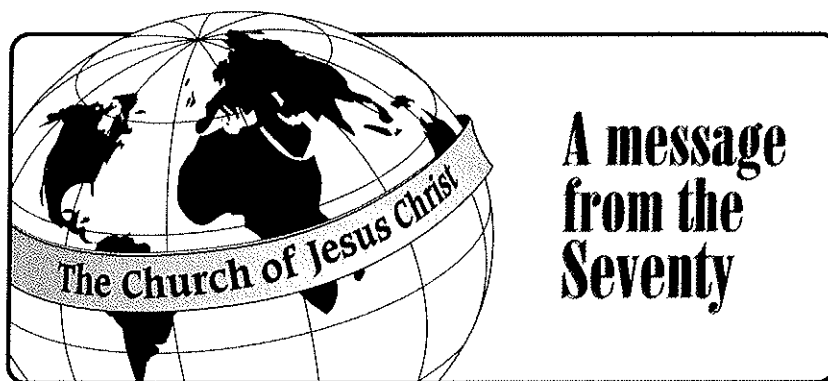
Announcement

For October, 1999, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.50%
2 years	5.70%
3 years	5.80%
4 years	5.90%
5 years	6.00%

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

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 202 Waterworks Rd., Clarion, PA 16214, 814-227-2421.



Missionary Conference Presentations and Exhibits Outstanding, Informative

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The presentations and exhibits of mission fields at the Second World Missionary Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ held at Olivet Nazarene College in Bourbonnais, Illinois, June 26 to July 2, 1999, were outstanding and informative, as the history, culture, and characteristics were depicted to give insights into each nation. The presence of Resident Missionaries and, in some instances, members from the fields in their country's dress furnished additional authenticity to the surroundings.

The planning and ingenuity which went into each presentation, for example, actually made the attendees feel somewhat like they were in the countries being displayed. Many hours of prayer and labor in preparation were evident as the reports were given about how the Gospel went there and the progress that has been made.

ONE ENTIRE BUILDING

One entire building at the college was reserved exclusively for the presentations, and each utilized classroom was devoted to a specific country and/or work in the Church. The changing from one room to another as "travelers" would move to the next location gave the feeling of being on a "world tour." Anticipation of what would be seen at the next stop surfaced when each period came to an end. There was an air of excitement,

as groups passed each other in the halls moving to the next site where they would discover more about the Lord's work in a different part of the globe.

The activity in each converted classroom disclosed a different approach. In the process of presenting their testimonies, displays, videos, and narratives, the individuals from the fields and those who are involved in the efforts portrayed their deep conviction and dedication to the work. Overall, there were tremendous blessings in learning about the places for which many prayers have been uttered and support has been given. As a bonus, what a glorious feeling there was, and is, in viewing the baptisms of our new brothers and sisters around the world!

IMPACT MADE

Readers can imagine the impact that was made as a person walked into a classroom and found the local features distinctive to that nation. These ranged, for example, from sitting in a replica of one of our Church buildings in Kenya, East Africa which was constructed in one of the large rooms to having to bend low to avoid the rain forest vegetation found in the Caribbean Islands in entering the room devoted to that general area of the world. The crossing of the border into Mexico, with the lanes of traffic at the various gates where inquiries are made and passage is granted or denied by

border guards, was enacted, creating a dynamic effect as entrants filed into the Mexican presentation. Whoever was stopped by a red light at this simulated border was sentenced to embrace the guard in the love of God in order to proceed while those receiving the green light were allowed to enter unimpeded. (The author was stopped.)

All the other nations also had appropriate depictions of their locale. Space will not allow for the reporting of each; suffice it to say, they all carried the same Spirit of God, and some experiences occurred during these segments. The time allotments also allowed for some questions from the viewers.

EXHIBITS

Exhibits were housed in the main auditorium building and were opened from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, following the daily presentations. The exhibits were also generally filled to capacity.

There were sixteen exhibit areas where more could be learned about our missionary work and items from the various nations where the Church is active could be procured. The proceeds from these mementos were earmarked directly for the field itself. The genuine interest and enthusiasm of the attendees were overwhelming. It was evident that many hours had also been invested in the planning and the setting up of the areas.

Upon arriving at the conference, each person had received a schedule for their suggested times of attendance at the events during each day. Besides the twelve presentations and exhibit time slots, leisure time was also provided, so the brothers and sisters could fellowship with each other, principally at a Canteen Area which was set up by the Church. Recreational times were also allocated to afford a well-rounded group of activities which could be enjoyed by all.

A Chapel Hour in the morning and an evening service each day were held in addition to the Sunday morning and evening meetings.

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**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

REGION 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 . . .

There is a tremendous difference between those who love and serve God and those who do not love and serve Him. There is also a huge, a great gulf between the followers of the Lord and those who do not follow and obey Him.

A young woman who attends The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, Pennsylvania has just started college. She is living on campus not far from home. It is her first experience of living away from home. In Sunday School she was asked, "What is it like living at college, away from home?" Her response was, "phew!, wow!" The answer reflected the difference in being taught to live one's life patterned after the Lord in lieu of living a life without God. It was also said there were little if any morals or ethics. This is a very different atmosphere and environment when compared with life as taught by Jesus Christ and a heritage founded in The Church of Jesus Christ. The young woman was then asked, "Are you glad for the teachings of your grandparents and your mother and father?" Her answer was an emphatic, "Yes!"

Another young woman, a sister, testified that she wants to be an example for the Lord at college. She said her roommate is a third semester freshman, having failed the first two semesters because of partying and drinking. This sister wants to show, with the help of the Lord, there is a better life, a better way to live. That way is to live one's life by serving Jesus Christ.

These are but two small examples in this vast world of how much the world needs a friend like Jesus. The world needs Him and it needs Him very much.

Many people's lives are aimless, with little if any hope, no goals and void of the love of God. They have nowhere to turn and look for solace in so-called friends, in drinking, partying and in worldly gain.

Nothing associated with the world is permanent except eternal death if one does not serve God. Careers, homes, wealth and all manner of material goods are only temporary. When life ends, every material gain is left behind for someone else to claim and use. Nothing material is taken on the journey before the Lord.

On the other hand, someone who loves and serves God and endures to the end, gains eternal life with the Father and Jesus Christ. Material gain is not a priority. It is a necessary part of life to provide for oneself, to be active in Church, but it is not the primary focus of someone who is baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. The priority for a member of The Church of Jesus Christ is salvation. In the end, it is all about salvation and eternal life.

We must bear in mind what the Lord said about the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man dressed in fine linen every day and lived sumptuously every day. Lazarus was a beggar, at the gate, full of sores that were licked by dogs. His desire was to eat the crumbs from the rich man's table.

They both died. The beggar was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man's remains were simply buried. Even in death, this is a noticeable and immediate contrast. From hell the rich man calls out to Abraham, to have mercy on him, to send Lazarus to him that he would dip the tip of his finger in water to cool the rich man's tongue. The rich man, who lived sumptuously, was now in constant torment. Abraham reminded the rich man that in life, he lived extremely well and Lazarus did not live a life of luxury. The rich man was told that Lazarus is now comforted and he was tormented. They both received their final and lasting reward. The rich man was reminded that between him and Abraham and Lazarus was a great gulf. It was fixed and so great that neither party could pass between the gulf. Lazarus could not go to the rich man; the rich man could not go to Lazarus. The rich man then requested that Lazarus be sent to his father's house and testify to his five brothers so they would not be claimed by or subject to the place of torment. Abraham told the rich man that his brothers have Moses and

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

This summer was the unusual and exciting gathering of Church members, families, friends, missionaries, and future missionaries at the World Missionary Conference. People were there from all over the world, each speaking their own language, dressed in their own types of clothes, and shining with the love of God.

In the months before the conference, many of us talked about how we thought our visitors from far away countries might be. We knew that by their standards, we all are very rich. We have cars, electricity, bicycles that we let rust, toys we throw out when we are bored with them. We have nice bathrooms with clean bathtubs; we have clothes that we throw away because they have a tiny spot or aren't the latest styles. Most of us are picky eaters who throw food away every day because the bread is a bit hard or we don't like that kind of cookie or chip.

It's not like that in countries where the rain does not fall and enough food cannot be grown. It's not like that in some countries of Africa where a man can have so many wives that when he gets tired of her, he just throws her and her children out. And these families come begging at the homes of our ministers for any food. So our ministers never have any extra food. Even food they bought for the next day or week has to be given to the starving people. Can you imagine how hard that must be, never to be able to plan or to "get ahead?"

We are so blessed in this Promised Land of ours. We wondered how we would look in the eyes of the missionaries visiting here.

What happened was so beautiful.



The missionaries were people of love and power. They were humble, loving, hard workers for God. They looked us each straight in the face and loved us. The fifty-one brothers and sisters from Mexico smiled shyly and embraced us with love. Some of us could speak their language. Most of us could not. They loved us anyway.

Each missionary group gave a presentation about how God was working with them and their countries. We heard stories of miracles and healings. We heard how the government in Kenya made a terrible mistake and arrested everyone at Church and locked them up in a dark, stinking jail with a dirt floor. The saints sang songs of praises to God and prayed He would find a way to release them.

Guards got mad at the people singing hymns of joy and praise. They yelled at a sister leading the singing, "Stop or we will take you out and beat you!"

She replied, "You can beat me up one side from my head to my ankles. You can beat me up the other side of my body from my head to my ankles, but I will never stop praising my God!"

So they did. They took her out and beat her. When the next day came and the brother came with papers to prove the Church was approved to meet, all the saints were set free. The sister's body healed. But everyone who heard the story was amazed! What kind of people are these that love God so much that they will be beaten for Him? Many people came to see this Church and were convinced of the truth and baptized.

We cried so many happy and beautiful tears at the Conference. The

Spirit of God covered us with goose bumps many times each day convincing us something was the truth.

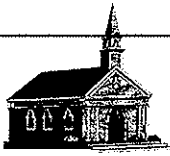
And love was everywhere. Every adult was kind and caring. The children were happy and free. Kindness, concern and generosity were shared all day long. We were as Jesus said in John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

With love,
Your friend, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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Branch and Mission News

Ordinations in Kinsman, OH

By Sister Megan Jackson

The Kinsman, Ohio Mission was filled with much excitement and anticipation on November 29, 1998 as many brothers and sisters gathered together to witness the ordinations of Brother Joel Ford as a Teacher and Brother Nickolas Rutledge as a Deacon. We began the morning with singing and Brother Howard Jackson welcomed the congregation.

Brother John Genaro opened the meeting with the question, "Who do you know and do you trust him?" Brother John informed us that who we know, and are connected with, can help us in our lives because people can open up doors for us. Who better to know than God? Hearing us before we speak and knowing the question before we ask, God is there. Brother John noted that the people who serve God have the power of the universe at their fingertips and he challenged each of us to start believing in God. If He goes before us, who can be against us? Brother John read Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." We should not worry or fear anything, but we should live with optimism and have faith that God will answer our prayers. This world does not offer happiness because there is no peace in anything. The people that are happy are the people of God because God has given them peace in their lives. Brother John continued by relating his experience of how God spared the life of his father, Brother Armand Genaro, while Brother John was on a missionary trip in India. Brother John guaranteed us that we will never find a friend so true. Even

though we often leave God, He never leaves us.

Brother Don Pandone followed and talked about the names in the Bible and what they mean. He told Brother Joel that his name meant, "Jehovah is God" and that Brother Nick's name meant, "Victory over People." Brother Don continued by reading Ephesians 4:11-16, and told us that when all of the parts work together and do what they are supposed to do, there will be an increase in the body of love. The congregation then sang, *Give of Your Best to the Master*.

Brother Paul Palmieri followed and said that of all the offices of the Church, the offices of a Teacher and a Deacon are the hardest. Work cannot be done of our own ability; it takes the wisdom and discernment of God. God looks at the heart and if a person is willing to work, God uses that person. Brother Paul informed Brother Nick that a Deacon takes care of the people and the House of the Lord. He also told Brother Joel that a Teacher solves problems and is the frontline for the Elders. Brother Paul continued by stating that the Lord set up a particular way to do everything. Brother Nick and Brother Joel represent officers of The Church of Jesus Christ, but all of us should represent Christ in everything we do. Brother Phil Jackson followed by relating the dream of Brother William Bacon in 1862 which showed how ordinations were to be done.

Brother Patrick Monaghan then sang while Brother Timothy Mott prepared for the washing of Brother Joel and Brother Nick's feet. During this time, I had the following experience:

"I was sitting on the edge of the pew closest to the middle aisle with my head down, listening to the beautiful words Brother Patrick was singing. I then felt Christ's Spirit enter my body and I knew that Jesus was in our midst and was slowly walking down the aisle. I began to cry as His Spirit enveloped me and He seemed to stop next to me for a minute. He then continued walking down the aisle to the front of the building where Brother Timothy was preparing for the feet

washing. As Christ walked away, His Spirit left my body."

Brother John Ford washed Brother Joel's feet and Brother Timothy Mott washed Brother Nick's feet. The congregation sang that beautiful hymn, *Ready* as the brothers of the Ministry prepared to ordain our brothers. Brother Philip Jackson offered the prayer that God would choose which brothers to ordain Brother Joel and Brother Nick to their new offices. Brother Paul Palmieri ordained Brother Nickolas and Brother Howard Jackson ordained Brother Joel. We continued by partaking of the Lord's Supper and then Brother Joel and Brother Nick were given the opportunity to express themselves.

After we were closed in prayer, everyone was invited to stay for a lunch that the Kinsman Mission had prepared. It was truly a blessed day and we want to thank God for calling our brothers to their new offices that they might continue to do His work.

Joint Meetings Atlanta, GA, Mid-Georgia and Cape Coral, FL

In recent months, the Atlanta, Georgia Branch, and the Mid-Georgia Branch Mission have held two joint meetings which were blessed gatherings. On March 7, 1999, we met in Atlanta to witness two baptisms from Mid-Georgia and two renewals from Atlanta. Our Sunday started at the water's edge as we witnessed the baptism of Brother Herbert "Rusty" Nowels and Sister Kenah Nowels by Brother Ken Staley.

Upon returning to our meeting place, the service began with the confirmation of our brother and sister and the reinstatement of two others. Brother Rusty Nowels was confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxon, and Sister Kenah Nowels was confirmed by Brother Ken Staley. Renewed into fellowship were Brother Sam Kunkel by Brother Tom Jones and Sister Theresa Kunkel by Brother Joel

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Joint Meetings

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Calabrese who was visiting our area. As the saints sang praises to God, everyone in the congregation came forward and greeted the four candidates. What a beautiful spirit prevailed! Several experiences were related concerning the spirit of peace and love that was evident that day.

Brother Joel Calabrese preached an inspiring sermon from Philippians 3:12-14, exhorting all to put the past behind and "press forward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." He reminded us that we must be dressed in the wedding garments and be ready to work for the Lord.

Following Brother Joel's sermon, the Ministry laid hands on him, that the Lord would provide employment for him and help him and his family.

The newly baptized and reinstated brothers and sisters all expressed themselves, telling of their great joy to be numbered among the fold and partake of the ordinances.

The weekend of May 29-31, the saints from Cape Coral, Florida and the Mid-Georgia Mission traveled to Atlanta to enjoy a joint Sunday School picnic and Sunday service. We spent a day of fellowship at a local park all day Saturday. Many were introduced to one another, while others renewed past acquaintances.

Our Sunday service began with a wonderful season of congregational singing. Newly ordained Elder, Brother Alvin "Skip" Swanson of Cape Coral, Florida was the opening speaker. He read various passages from Revelation, relative to the term "overcome." He emphasized the words of Christ in Revelation 2:7, "... To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Brother Swanson encouraged all to overcome, with God's help, anything that would hinder us spiritually, that we may grow in His grace and love.

Many testimonies followed from the brothers and sisters, along with more songs of praise. Following the service, we shared lunch together

before the Mid-Georgia group departed. The visitors from Cape Coral remained for an extra day, spending time in the homes of the Atlanta members, thus getting to know everyone better.

We thank God for these opportunities to worship together and enjoy the blessings and fellowship that we have come to treasure in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Baptisms and Blessings in McKees Rocks, PA

By Sister Brenda Humphreys

Sunday, April 18, 1999, was a beautiful, spirit-filled day with another soul surrendering to God. Celine Pistelli was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. Celine's son, Patrick, was there also to witness his mother's baptism and to enjoy the blessings. She had asked him to come, but had told him to "bring Kleenex, it gets really emotional." He had replied, "I'm not going to cry." Celine prayed that God would touch Patrick's heart and God answered. During the baptism, many brothers and sisters saw him and said he smiled the whole time Celine was being baptized. After the baptism, he went down to the water's edge and hugged his mother and cried his heart out. What a wonderful blessing!

After Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. confirmed Sister Celine, Brother Randy Mitchell and Sister Angela Ciotti stood up to testify. Brother Randy testified that God revealed to him that Brother Paul would lay hands on Sister Celine. Sister Angela testified that two weeks before, she had seen a "shining bright tiara and crown over Celine's head" when she entered the adult Sunday School class. "It was a real blessing; we knew it wasn't going to be long before she became a child of God." One week before the baptism, Sister Angela had a dream that Sister Celine and Brother Paul were holding hands and going around in a circle. God has given us a great blessing with these confirmations of the calling of Sister

Celine Pistelli.

The next week, April 25, 1999, was another blessed day with a baptism, two blessings, and a visit by Brother Nephi DeMercurio. Brother Nephi enjoyed, along with the members of the McKees Rocks Branch, the baptism of Mary Jane Confer in the morning. Brother Carl Frammolino baptized her. In the water, they both were slipping and falling the entire time Brother Carl was performing the baptism. Brother Nephi commented to a sister, "The devil was in the water. He wanted to destroy what was so beautiful, but God did not let him."

Sister Mary Jane had a desire for her two children, Sarah, age eleven, and Daniel, age eight, to be blessed that same day. Before the blessing of the children, Brother Tony Ricci related an experience he had on Tuesday, a few days before the blessings and baptism. While he was out mowing his lawn, he began to pray and he saw this man in black approach him. They talked and he asked Brother Tony if he was a Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Tony answered, "Yes sir, I am." The man in black told Brother Tony that the devil was not after individuals, he is after entire families. It is good that the children are getting blessed, so God will protect them all their lives.

After the blessings, Brother Dennis Ricci stood and said he heard the following words while Daniel was being blessed. "Know ye Daniel as ye grow, there is power in the blood. Blessed be thy name. There is power in the blood."

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, from Ann Arbor, Michigan, opened our meeting. He spoke on Moroni, 6th chapter concerning baptism. Brother Nephi began his sermon by telling about his own baptism and confirmation. He said he prayed silently to God when he was having hands laid on him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. His prayer was, "Lord, let me feel it so that there would be no misunderstanding that I have received it (the Holy Spirit)." Brother Nephi asked the Lord the same thing for Sister Mary Jane Confer and he felt it just as he felt it as his own confirmation. Brother Nephi

said he "could feel the presence of something that was beyond you."

Brother Nephi stated that the day of your baptism, you receive this enormous cleansing and enormous purification. When you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, you are at ultimate purity. Then two months down the road, something has changed. The old self tries to come back. We need to continually ask God for forgiveness to purify our hearts again.

Brother Nephi continued by saying God chooses who comes into His Church. We don't. "This Church is built on love, receiving sinners, receiving the lost and the dying, those who have no future." Those are the ones God picks. We, the Church members, may not think someone meets all the criteria to enter into The Church of Jesus Christ, but thank God we don't do the choosing. However, we do not accept anyone into the Church except if they have a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The spirit reveals it. The spirit is our guide. We rejoice for the soul that comes to Christ, no matter who it is.

Prayers are also very important. Sometimes we do "carry out prayers," that is we do it quickly. We should talk to God about everything. We go to our friends and talk about our problems. Why can't we talk to God that way? You say things from your heart and you cover everything. Even the prayers we miss; God answers them.

He closed by saying this sermon was for Sisters Celine and Mary Jane, the newly baptized, and for all of us. His closing words of encouragement were, "There will be days of discouragement, but also there will be days of hope and those are the days we look forward to."

Ordination and Baptisms in Monongahela, PA

"Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I ordain you a Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ." These words rang out as Brother Don Ross laid hands on Brother Chuck Kogler on

Sunday, April 18, 1999. Brother Alex Cherry had just washed Brother Chuck's feet. This beautiful ordination service occurred during our afternoon meeting.

Our meeting was opened by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., who spoke on God's grace and authority given to His people to do the Lord's work. Brother Paul exhorted us to be dedicated, feed the flock, and persuade men and women to heed The Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must stand for the truth of the Gospel in the challenges that face us.

Prior to Brother Chuck Kogler's ordination, our Presiding Elder, Brother William Chepanoske, read the duties of an Elder. He also explained the seriousness of the calling. A number of dreams and experiences were read as witnesses to Brother Chuck's calling.

Brother Chuck Kogler expressed himself. He spoke briefly on the need to be a servant, as Ammon was to King Lamoni. "We must draw people to the Lord." Our prayer is that God will bless Brother Chuck and provide him with the strength to fulfill his calling.

The blessings of God have been felt to a great degree in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. We can truly testify that God has blessed our branch. During the past several weeks, we have witnessed three more baptisms as individuals have become members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, May 23, 1999, Matthew Kurowsky was immersed in the Monongahela River by his uncle, Brother Chuck Kogler. This was the first baptism performed by Brother Chuck who was ordained a few weeks earlier. Brother Matthew was confirmed by Brother Don Ross.

God's Spirit was felt during our preaching service. Brother Alex Cherry opened the service by using verses from the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Proverbs. Brother Alex spoke about using knowledge and wisdom in our service to God and our fellow man. We may gain knowledge by studying the Word of God, but it is of no value unless we apply it with wisdom and common sense. Brother Don Ross followed, stating that the greatest

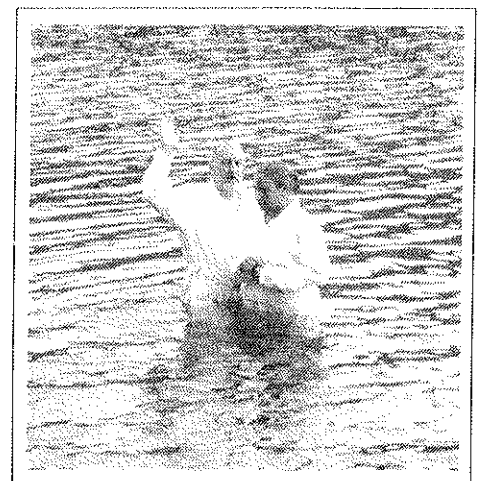
wisdom we can possess comes only and directly from God. Then and only then, do we receive a greater understanding of life, both naturally and more important spiritually. At the conclusion of our service, many from the congregation greeted Brother Matthew and wished him success and strength during his new journey in life. Brother Matthew is the son of David and Sister Joy Kurowsky.

Our second baptism occurred on Sunday, July 4, 1999. Leah Nath, daughter of Leon and Sister Terry Ackman Nath, asked for her baptism at the World Missionary Conference. She was baptized by Brother Malcolm Paxon and confirmed by Brother Don Ross.

Brother Malcolm opened the preaching service by telling of the blessings of going to a foreign land on missionary work. He related experiences while in Ghana, which showed the Lord's power. Brother Malcolm spoke on the 45th chapter of Isaiah, exhorting us to exercise our faith so we will receive the blessings of God. God will supply our needs. Christ will take our burdens and free us when we put Him first in our lives.

Brother John DiBattista, visiting from California, followed and stated that the Gospel has made us the happiest people in the world. He related the faith of Nephi and Nephi's understanding of the way God works.

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Brother Malcolm Paxon baptizing Sister Leah Nath.

Ordination and Baptisms

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Through faith, we can accomplish great things for the Lord. Prior to closing our service, Sister Leah Nath was greeted by the congregation which conveyed our love and prayers for her.

Dawn Renee Thorpe, the daughter of Sister Carolee Sutch, was baptized in the Monongahela River on August 1, 1999. She was baptized by her uncle, Brother Fred Olexa and confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. Sister Dawn has a wonderful gift of dreams. The night before her baptism, she had a dream and shared this experience with Brothers Fred Olexa and Don Ross. In her dream, the devil was trying to choke her and destroy her. She struggled and fought back. She then responded by saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I rebuke you." The devil immediately was gone. The dream continued and Sister Dawn heard the Lord speak to her. He said, "Doesn't it feel good to be free?" Sister Dawn Thorpe had struggled for many months, trying to ask for her baptism. Her desire and request were fulfilled. She is free!

The members and all attendees of the Monongahela Branch wish to thank God for His goodness, blessings and mercy. May He continue to bless us and all of you as we strive to serve Him in spirit and in truth. We extend an invitation, "Come and visit us."

The History of Niles, OH

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

I was blessed in the Niles, Ohio Branch in 1970 and I have been there all twenty-nine years of my life; it was like saying goodbye to a loved one. It was a great moment in my life to hear of the beautiful experiences and the many blessings of God that have fallen within the humble walls of the Niles building.

"This is My Church!" This was the interpretation of tongues, which were spoken in our meeting by Brother Joe Genaro. On March 14, 1999, the Niles, Ohio Branch had its final

meeting in the building on Warren Avenue. We had decided to merge our Niles Branch with the Warren, Ohio Branch and build a new building. Of course, all of that depended on selling the previous buildings, which we did sell the Niles building.

Many visitors from the surrounding branches came to bid farewell to a meeting place—a building where many missionaries were brought up, many children of the saints obeyed the Gospel and many great pillars of The Church of Jesus Christ served faithfully.

During the opening hymn of the meeting, Brother Mike Nuzzi stood up and stated that the Spirit of the Lord spoke to him and told him to look around the building. When he did, there were angels all throughout the room, there were also angels by each child in attendance. The angels were smiling and there were tears in their eyes. Praise God!

On this most special day, Sister Libby Pandone set the communion table for the last time in this building. She had not set the table for many years due to health and age problems. It was such an honor to view this humbling moment.

Brother Russell Martorana addressed the congregation with a blessed history report of the forty-two year old Niles building. He reviewed all those who were members at the time of the building's purchase: Sister Congeta Toto, Sister Anna Nastasi, Brother Dominic Toto, Sister Sara and Brother Sylvester Mollica, Brother Dan and Sister Loretta Corrado and Brother Pete and Sister Josephine Genaro. These were great spiritual leaders of the Church. Brother Russell also mentioned that there were one hundred baptisms, thirty-three marriages, one hundred and three blessings of children, thirty-six funerals and forty-eight ordinations in the Niles Branch.

Prior to 1947, the Warren and Niles branches met together. They later formed their own separate branches and in 1998, they came together again. Around the time of their separation, Brother Pompeli Mancini had a dream that they would be together again.

In 1942, the Niles Branch was organized and in 1956 they found a

building and property. At the onset of the Niles Branch, the original Elders were Brothers Tony Picciuto, Frank Genaro, and Sam Costerella. Brother Tony was in college at that time and he donated his time and did much of the brick work and other construction on the building. August 25, 1957, the dedication of the Niles building was held and the sermon was "Victory in Jesus." Sister Joann Costerella was baptized at the dedication. She was the first baptism in the Niles Branch.

We sang hymn #404, *The Church's Jubilee*. At this time, Brother Joe Genaro spoke in the gift of tongues mentioned in the opening of this article, "This is My Church!" At this time we heard from various Elders and their memories of the early years of the branch. We opened for testimonies, which were beautiful to hear, especially the ones that reminisced of the old times. We sang hymn #13, *The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning*. At this time we ended our service. We enjoyed the blessings of God.

For me, it was a true joy to hear of the brothers and sisters of old and the way God tremendously blessed their lives. I realized that yes, we are leaving the Niles building, but a building is all that it is. The Spirit of God will follow us wherever we meet, wherever we serve, for we are the temples of God and He abides within us.

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DIRECTORY UPDATE

Bickerton, Mabel
Cambridge Village
Room 221
1600 Darlington Road
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Calabrese, Joseph and Victoria
1232 Maple Dr.
Lorain, OH 44052
440-288-1768 (phone/fax)

Nelson, Loretta
230 Pinoak Ct.
Delaware, OH 43015
740-362-4304

Nowels, Daniel and Betty
109 Morningdale Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31088
912-953-8427

Oestreicher, Pete and Janet
141 Rosewood Dr.
Aliquippa, PA 15001
724-728-4535

Parravano, Cindy
1212 Westmoreland
Colorado Springs, Co 80907

Robinson, Diane
601 Ridge Ave.
Clairton, PA 15025
412-233-3631

The Church of Jesus Christ
Forest Hills Branch
5517 Berry Hill Road
Holiday, FL 34690-4550
727-942-6722 (phone/fax)

The Church of Jesus Christ
Lake Worth, Florida Branch
561-968-4335

A Poem from Anaheim, CA

Continued from Page 2

Blessed are they who know that my
ears today must strain to catch the
things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know that
my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away
when coffee spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say
"You've told that story twice today."

Blessed are they who know the ways to
bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
that I'm loved, respected, and not
alone.

Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
to find the strength to carry the cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days on
my journey home in loving ways.

Sister Helen Stroud

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

CHILDREN SCHEDULED

While the adults were in the presentation segments, the children were being taught about the things of the Lord and were practicing for the children's choir which sang many songs at the concluding Thursday evening service of the conference. The adult choir also sang at the gathering.

The unforgettable Second World Missionary Conference will be remembered for many wonderful things, as is the First World Missionary Conference which was held in 1983 in Virginia.

The many hours of work by our Church people which went into making this conference possible were indeed rewarded. The many miles traveled, principally by those who came from foreign lands, were indeed worthwhile. The many requests in hours of fast and prayer for the Lord's direction and presence were indeed answered.

It is inconceivable how anyone can actually realize the enormity of the task there is in bringing souls to salvation without witnessing an event of this magnitude. Everyone's efforts are to be most highly commended.

Reactions by individuals who visited the Missionary Foundation Committee's booth at the exhibit area

and were recorded on a video expressed their gratitude for the conference and revealed they were more appreciative of the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ after learning much more about them during the week. With the Lord's help, there will be much more to report at the next such event.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

the prophets and should listen to them. The rich man's response was in essence that this was not good enough. If one from the dead visited his father's house, his brothers would listen! Abraham's answer was if they do not care to listen to Moses and the prophets, the Royal Priesthood, they would not listen or be persuaded by someone who rose from the dead.

This vast gulf that exists between the righteous and unrighteous was emphasized by Nephi to his brothers. Nephi preached to them about the tree of life, the river of water and the rod of iron. His intent was to persuade his brothers to love and serve God. We read that Nephi told them it is an awful gulf. It separates the wicked from the tree of life and from the saints of God. It is sad that Nephi's brothers did not heed his words of admonition and instruction. Their minds were on the riches and material things they left behind in Jerusalem; not on the things of God.

It is essential that we heed the teachings of the Lord, and The Church of Jesus Christ. Many were born and raised in the Church and come from a heritage founded on Jesus Christ. We must stand on that ground. It must be our foundation for our pursuit of eternal life with the Lord. We must use that foundation to tell others there is hope in this life. We must tell others that their goals and aspirations must be founded on the spiritual aspects of life, not the material things of life. We must do our part to help guide them to the right side of that great gulf; the side with the Lord.

* WEDDINGS *

Sister Kimberly A. Perkins and Thomas G. Komjathy were united in holy matrimony in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan on May 8, 1999.

Sister Patricia Payne and Brother James Matthew were united in holy matrimony in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on May 15, 1999.

Bonnie Annita Finlayson and George Steven Appleton were united in holy matrimony in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on May 8, 1999.

Children Blessed

Julia Emily-Claire Thomas, daughter of Jared and Brooke Thomas, was blessed in the Dallas/Fort Worth Branch on July 25, 1999.

Taylor Mackenzie Dyer, son of Michelle Dyer, was blessed on April 24, 1999 in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch.

Broderick Ross Collison, son of Brother Don and Carina Collison was blessed in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on November 15, 1998.

Kaelyb Peltier, son of Cara Peltier, was blessed on February 21, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch.

Jack David and Sydney Marie Lovalvo, twins born to Brother David and Sister Darlene Lovalvo, were blessed on July 25, 1999 at Detroit, Branch 2.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

Sister Ruth Santilli of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on May 7, 1999.

Baptisms and Reinstatement

Thomas Michael Lepovich was baptized on May 23, 1999 in the Perry, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Hufnagle and he was confirmed by Brother Mario Milano.

Dawn Renee Thorpe was baptized on August 1, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Fred Olexa and she was confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Claudette Nancy Malboueuf (Conti) was baptized on May 16, 1999 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and she was confirmed by Brother Thomas Everett.

Michael Peter Malboueuf was baptized on May 16, 1999 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and he was confirmed by Brother Michael LaSala.

Patricia Lynn Payne was baptized on February 14, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Collison and she was confirmed by Brother Dick Lobzun.

Rachel Onorato Jordan was baptized on February 28, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Collison and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Karen Khaleel was baptized on March 7, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Collison and she was confirmed by Brother Michael LaSala.

Sue Girard was reinstated as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on March 14, 1999.

Ordinations

Sister Debby Metcalf was ordained a Deaconess on June 13, 1999 in the Perry, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Betty Santilli and Sister Debby was ordained by Brother Mario Milano.

Brother Charles Kogler was ordained an Elder on April 18, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Alex Cherry and Brother Chuck was ordained by Brother Don Ross.

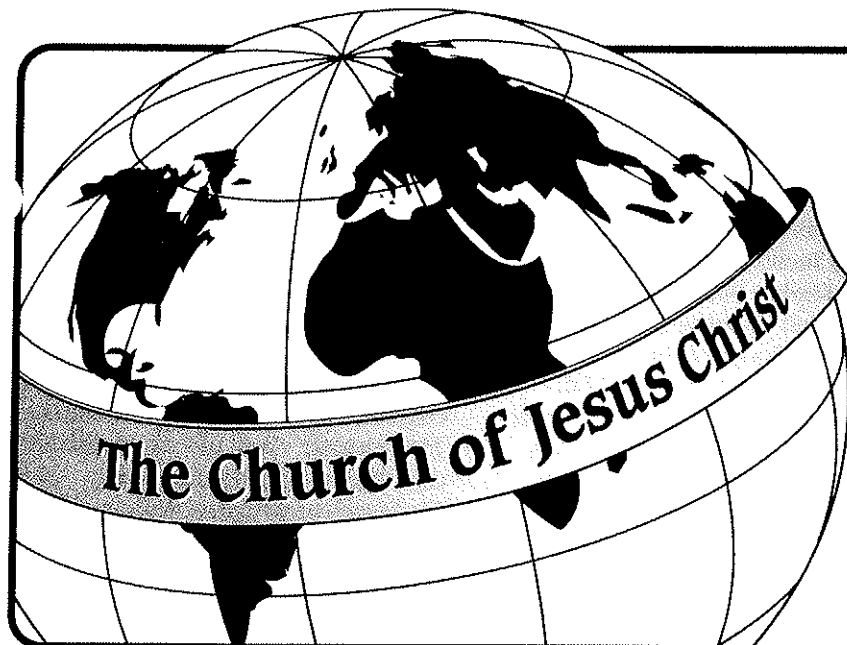
Sister Eileen Katsaras was ordained a Deaconess on July 18, 1999 in the Miami, Florida Mission. Her feet were washed by Sister Pauline Ritz and Sister Eileen was ordained by Brother Frank Rogolino.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 1999

Volume 55, No. 11

Four Servants Ordained Deacons in Branch #1, Chesterfield, MI

By Sister Lynne Nieves

This day, May 23, 1999, was awaited in much joyful anticipation as four young brothers were called into the office of Deacon. There were many visitors, family, and friends gathering with us from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, and all the branches in Michigan. The Lord and His sweet spirit of humility were constantly present. God's direction was made manifest through dreams, visions, and experiences for which we are so thankful. Without His spirit to direct us, where would we be?

The morning meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Mike Lasala of Branch #1. Brother Malcolm Paxson of Atlanta, Georgia preached a very motivating and inspiring sermon on the four sons of Mosiah and their comparison to our four candidates. He said that despite the wild, bold, and destructive behavior of the sons of Mosiah, the Lord saw fit to cause a mighty conversion on these young men. Each of us today, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, has had a conversion. Regardless of how outwardly dramatic it was, the conversion is the same. The conversion

of the four sons of Mosiah was so strong that through their sincerely broken hearts and contrite spirits and their deeply planted desires to be servants of God, the Lord converted thousands. They were separated and sent into the land of their enemies, the Lamanites, for fourteen years. Each endured different circumstances and levels of success in bringing the Gospel to the Lamanites. All of them suffered hardships. They fought off hostile enemies, were thrown into prison, hungered for natural food, and subjected themselves to natural servitude to the enemy king. They were only four human men, and though their obstacles may have seemed impossible at the time, God used them to convert thousands unto repentance. These young men to be ordained Deacons have willingly said that they also accept the responsibilities to be servants and be used in whatever way God so chooses. They will also have to endure trials and tribulations. Comparing the tasks at hand, such as spreading the Gospel to the four corners of the earth versus converting thousands from an enemy nation, the level of "impossibility"

remains the same. But, since God remains the same, the level of "ability" to be used in such a mighty fashion is also the same. Brother Malcolm posed the question, "If there are seven billion people in the world, and only eight or nine thousand individuals to convert thousands of souls each, we'd be pretty close to those "four corners of the earth." Brother Malcolm's desire and prayer were that we all support and respect our ordained officers in the Church, that God might use them in a mighty way as well. He ended by encouraging us and telling us, "Don't rest until you see every knee bowed, and every tongue confessing that Jesus is Lord."

Apostle Peter Scolaro followed and said we must all recognize the magnitude of forgiveness that occurs at the time of our conversion and let it motivate us to find out what God would have us to do with our lives. He told us to look at the examples we have before us. Christ was only one Man, but He gave us a way of salvation. The sons of Mosiah were only four men, and they converted thousands. We should be able to spread the Gospel to the four corners of the earth easily if we were all as committed as those of old. Brother Peter revealed that as the Ministry met in prayer for direction regarding the calling of the four young brothers, that they were

(Continued on Page 10)

Introduction

What is the Book of Mormon? Whence its origin? What is its purpose? are questions often asked and variously answered, without much regard to truth, by the many who make the answers. In answer to these questions, we remark that the Book of Mormon purports to be a part of the great things of God's law to Ephraim, as stated in the 8th chapter, 11th and 12th verses of Hosea. "Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin. I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."

Who is Ephraim? Where is his land? Let the Bible answer. By reading the 48th chapter of Genesis, you will find that Jacob, a prophet of the Living God, just before his death, blessed his son Joseph in the land of Egypt, and that he also pronounced a peculiar blessing upon his two grandsons, Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph, born unto him in the land of Egypt. In this blessing, God through His prophet Jacob, enters into a very peculiar covenant with these lads, as you will find by reading the 19th verse. And his father refused and said, "I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his young brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations." Here, then, is a positive, unconditional covenant, that Manasseh shall become a people, and that Ephraim shall become a multitude of nations; i.e., a great many nations, and yet at the same time an unknown number of nations. Now the question arises, where? Certainly not in the land of Palestine, the land covenanted to Abraham, and confirmed to Isaac by an oath, and unto Jacob for a law; for in that land there was not room for a multitude of nations; and besides this, every reader of the Bible well knows that the whole House of Israel never became but two nations in that land, viz., the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. Then, where is the place for the peculiar covenant

to be fulfilled? Again let the Bible answer. In the 49th chapter and 1st verse of Genesis, we find the following: "And Jacob called unto his sons and said, Gather yourselves together that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

Not that which should befall them in person, but that which should befall their posterity in the last days, as is evident from his blessing upon Judah, in the 10th verse, where he says: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (i.e. Christ) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." A thing that Christ has not yet done.

In this chapter, commencing at the 22nd verse, by reading to the 26th verse, you will get Jacob's dying blessing upon Joseph and his posterity. And inasmuch as Ephraim and Manasseh are all the children that the Bible informs us of Joseph's having, this blessing, of course, pertains to their posterity. In verse 26th, Jacob says to Joseph: "The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors, unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

Thus we find Jacob declaring that he has prevailed with God, and obtained a greater blessing than his progenitors, Abraham and Isaac, had obtained. They had obtained, as we learn from Genesis, 15th and 17th chapters, the everlasting covenant of all the land of Palestine. But Jacob here claims a greater possession, and describes it geographically as extending to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, which, on examination, we find to be on this continent, it being opposite on the globe from the land of Palestine. And these everlasting hills, at the utmost bound of his blessings, he declares shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. We have already seen, in the 48th chapter, that he made Ephraim the crown of Joseph's head, by putting the right hand blessing upon him. Thus we find that the

Bible provides a land for Manasseh to become a people, and a place where Ephraim can become a multitude of nations. And it now becomes as much the work of God to get them to this land, as it was His work to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt with great substance, in fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham, in Genesis, 15th chapter. And also as emphatically the work of Ephraim and Manasseh to write the dealings of God with them, and the history of their travels and of their settlement of this their covenant possessions, as it was the business of the Israelites to write the dealings of God with them, and the history of their settlement in their covenant possession in the land of Palestine.

Having learned who Ephraim, or the house of Joseph is, and the land on which they reside, we are now prepared to understand to whom God wrote the great things of His law, and they were counted as a strange thing. But from Hosea, 9th chapter, commencing at the 11th verse, we find that Ephraim has apostatized from God, and that God has cast them away because they would not harken unto Him, and that He has cursed them with the barren womb and dry breasts, and made them wanderers among the nations. Or, in short, they having joined themselves unto idols, God has left them, and they have dwindled down to these wild, roving Indian tribes, grieved, shot at, and hated, as Jacob and Hosea have both predicted. Now the question arises, What has become of the great things of God's law that was written to Ephraim? Is it lost, forever lost? Let the Prophet Ezekiel, in the 37th chapter, commencing at the 15th verse, answer.

"The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying: moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah and for the Children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thy hand. And when the children of the people shall speak

unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in my hand."

Now, anyone at all acquainted with the ancient custom of keeping records on parchment, well knows that they fastened a stick on each end of the parchment, for the purpose of rolling and unrolling as they read, and that hence records came thus to be called sticks. And all the Bible readers as well know that our Bible all came to us through the Kingdom of Judah, and that hence it is the stick of Judah. Hence, we perceive that the great things of God's law to Ephraim here on this continent, his covenant possession would be the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim; and that God has positively declared that He would put it with the stick of Judah, the Bible, and make them one in His hand. But when? Ezekiel here answers that question by showing us what shall follow God's putting the sticks together: "And say unto them, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen (or Gentiles), whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land;" the very thing that God has been turning and overturning the nations to accomplish ever since this Book of Mormon was published in 1830.

For further proof, please read Isaiah, 29th chapter, where the Lord, in addressing the nations that had fought against Mount Zion, or His covenant people, declares that these nations are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, because the Lord has poured out upon them a deep sleep, and has closed their eyes by covering their prophets, seers, and rulers. And the vision of all is become unto them "as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, 'Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I cannot

for it is sealed. And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, 'Read this, I pray thee; and he saith, I am not learned.'" Then the Lord proceeds to speak, and among the important declarations that He makes, He says: "Is it not yea a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?" Now here the prophet shows us first the coming forth of a Book from the ground, and then in a little while Lebanon becoming a fruitful field, which, according to Mr. Barclay's history of Jerusalem, published in 1858, is most emphatically fulfilled. Certainly the year 1858 has taken rapid strides towards causing the fruitful field of the northwest and west to be esteemed as a forest. But again David, in the 85th Psalm, declares that, "Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven; yea, the Lord shall give that which is good: and our land shall yield her increase."

Thus testimony accumulates on testimony in the Bible in regard to a Book coming forth from the ground, and that Palestine should become fruitful soon after its coming forth, and also that Israel should be gathered back to their own land on every side. Now it is easy for men to claim that this Book of Mormon is the Solomon Spaulding romance, or that it was got up by the ingenuity of Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and others. But it is not so easy disposing of the fact that God has turned and overturned the seasons until He visits the land of Palestine with the earlier and the later rain, until her soil is again fruitful and her people again returning to their long cherished home.

To claim any of these sources to be the true origin of the Book, is virtually to claim that Smith, Rigdon, and others have power over the elements, and can cause one land to become fruitful and another unfruitful at their will and pleasure. Which absurd claim is more preposterous than any claim ever set up for them by their most sanguine followers.

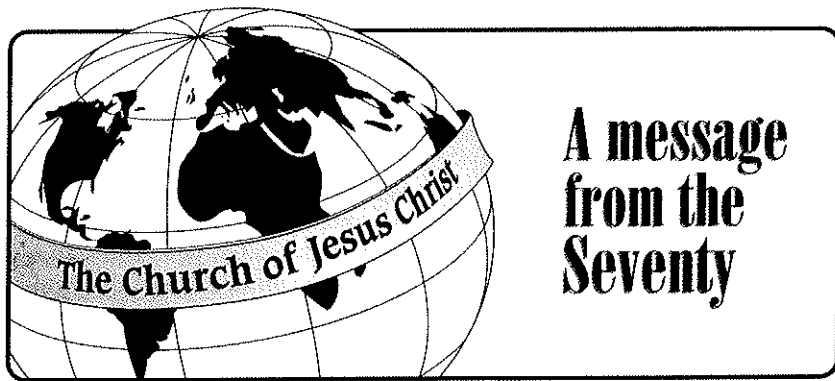
But when we acknowledge the Book to be just what it claims to be—

a part of the great things of God's law to Ephraim having come forth in fulfillment of prophecy—it is at once all plain and reasonable.

Another class of evidence, that proves the origin of this Book to be divine, is this: It came forth and was published in the year 1830, at a time when the antiquities of this country were but little known. Yet the Book boldly committed itself, that a people once lived and built cities of curious workmanship in stone in Central America, and that at a certain time a portion of that people emigrated northward, along the west sea, and became exceeding expert in the use of cement, building many buildings of that material. Time, since this Book came forth, has brought forth Josiah Priest's *Antiquities*, Catherwood and Stevens' *Travels in Central America*. The *Antiquities of Peru*, Emerson and Sage's *Travels in Mexico, California, &c.*, together with Lieutenant Beal's *Reports*, and a host of other works, which, when taken in connection with the facts and location put forth in the Book of Mormon, before any of these explorations were made surrounds the Book with an amount of evidence to prove the divinity of its origin, that does not exist in favor of any other book in existence. To this add the testimony of eleven witnesses, that with words of soberness testify to its truth and divinity, the most of whom, when the leaders of the church went into transgression, withdrew from it, and have led sober, upright and consistent lives; and, when tested by mobs, have declared that they would forfeit their lives before they would recant or deny the testimony they had given.

Thus we have given you, kind reader, a mere synopsis of the evidences of the divinity of this Book, and in so doing have answered the first two questions at the head of this article, and will now proceed to answer the third question, to wit: What is the purpose of this Book? One important purpose of this Book is to increase the testimony of God to the human family in regard to the plan

(Continued on Page 11)



Dominica Trip, September 2-7, 1999

By Elder Isaac J. Smith, AMOC New Works Assistant Coordinator

Thursday morning, September 2, 1999, Elder Paul A. Palmieri, Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Sr., and I met my father, Apostle Isaac D. Smith, at the Tampa, Florida Airport from where we departed for the Island of Dominica in the Caribbean Islands. After arriving there safely and checking into our room, Brothers Isaac D. Smith and Ciotti, both who were making their first trip to the island, offered prayers of thanks for our arrival and asked the Lord to be with us. There was a beautiful spirit in prayer.

Shortly thereafter, we visited some of the families of the Carib Indians, sharing our desires to bring The Church of Jesus Christ to them. Through some past acquaintances from previous trips who are now members of the Tribal Council, a meeting with the new chief was arranged.

Friday morning, Raphael Auguiste, our main contact, greeted us and told us the chief would meet with us that evening. We drove around the island and went to the capital, Roseau, and were able to obtain documents to register the Church in Dominica, an answered prayer, as our hope is to accomplish the registration within a year. We then went to see Chief Garnett Joseph who was very busy preparing for an open community meeting to which we were invited for the next evening. After visiting with others and having dinner, Raphael joined us and once again we had a very lengthy discussion about our beliefs and ordinances. He and his wife,

Helena, are searching for the truth. Please pray for them that the Lord may reveal the truth of The Church of Jesus Christ to them, as they are very interested in our Church. He also scheduled a time for us to meet with the last church he attended to discuss our beliefs with them.

Saturday, we showed Apostle Smith and Evangelist Ciotti more of the Carib territory and had lunch with the Auguiste family where we continued our conversation about the Church. That evening, we were introduced to six of the seven council members and briefly explained our desire to establish the Church among their people. They invited us to stay for their meeting, and we invited them to our Sunday service.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, we picked up several people to come to our service held at the hotel. Brother Palmieri, Americas Missions Operating Committee (AMOC) Coordinator for New Works, greeted everyone, after which Brother Isaac D. Smith read from I Nephi, 8th chapter about Lehi's dream of the tree of life. He explained it and talked about the hope held for the House of Israel, our commission to come to the Seed of Joseph, and our belief we were led to Dominica.

Evangelist Ciotti reinforced our beliefs and our direction to going to Israel and our belief the Caribs are part of the Seed of Joseph. While he was saying this, Apostle Smith spoke under

the Spirit, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, You are My people and I will gather you."

Brother Ciotti continued, using I Nephi 22:3-4, speaking about the scattering of Israel "even to the isles of the sea where we are today." He also spoke from Jeremiah 16:16 about the hunters and fishers, stating, "We are the hunters and fishers here today." He then exhorted the young people to search for God and Christ and to pray and ask God to confirm and verify the things we were speaking. He concluded by referring to the blessing Abraham received and also alluded to St. John 10:16; and he cited a dream he had received in which Christ appeared to him and said, "Remind the people that I have resurrected and I live. I came to earth to live, die, and resurrect for mankind in your day and time."

Next, I was privileged to speak from the ninth and tenth chapters of St. John, commenting we have been sent here to do the works of God. Our desire is to allow those to whom Christ would call to hear His voice when He calls and follow Him.

PRAYER AND ANOINTING

Brother Palmieri talked about prayer and anointing for both spiritual and physical needs. He then invited those who felt a need to come forth for prayer and several people did so.

Apostle Smith related a dream he had the first night of our visit of a woman who needed to be anointed for her blindness, and he felt the congregation should hear this experience. While Brother Palmieri was praying for a gentleman, Brother Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was, "Return Israel, return unto Me, oh, Israel."

Most of the adults gave their testimonies, after which the young people and children were invited to come forward and Brother Ciotti offered a prayer for them. A circle was formed and the meeting was closed in prayer.

A little later, our visiting group met with Chief Joseph to share more fully our beliefs and our desires to

(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. 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

REGION 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 . . .

The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to stir up the gift of God that was in him, that was given to him by the laying on of hands. That gift was the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit.

What is the Holy Ghost? How is it defined? In the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ it states, "We believe the Holy Ghost to be: The mind of the Father and of the Son; The unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can, at His will, manifest itself in various forms; The witness of God; The gift of God; Pure and holy, just and good, omnipresent, full of light and knowledge, and a discernor of thoughts and intents of mankind."

As it states, it is a gift of God. It is free. There is no charge. It is given to those who exercise faith, repent and are baptized.

The Holy Ghost is the Great Comforter, promised by none other than Jesus Christ. The Lord also referred to it as the Spirit of Truth. It leads, guides and directs us for good. It brings all things to our remembrance.

The Lord said the Comforter would dwell with us and would be in us. Jesus said He would not leave us comfortless, that He would come to us. How does He come to us? By the Holy Ghost, the Great Comforter. Our Lord said He would not leave us alone. He promised the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Nephi informs us the Holy Ghost was upon his father Lehi. We are told Lehi spoke by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God. Nephi further states the Holy Ghost is the gift of God to all those who diligently seek him, in times of old, prior to Jesus Christ, and in the time the Lord would manifest Himself to the children of men. Nephi declared the mysteries of God shall be unfolded to those who sincerely and diligently seek Him. The unfolding of these mysteries occurred before Christ, during the life of Christ and in the present time. The unfolding of these mysteries was through the Holy Ghost. Is it possible that mysteries of God can be unfolded in our time? Yes! Remember, the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is unchangeable. He is unalterable.

The Apostle Peter states that "prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The prophets of old spoke by the power and gift of the Holy Ghost. In both Bible and Book of Mormon, many prophets before Christ spoke by the power of the Holy Ghost. Their faith was in Jesus Christ and they were recipients of this wonderful and great gift.

Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost. They speak the words of Christ. We are to feast upon the words of Jesus Christ because the words of Christ will tell us everything we should do.

Nephi states in II Nephi 32:2, "Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?"

What is your speech? Do you speak with the tongue of angels? Do you exercise the gift of the Holy Ghost that is in you? What is your walk? What is your talk? Have you felt the change that comes to those who exercise faith in Christ, those who then repent and are then baptized? Have you experienced this great change in your life? If not, why not? If you have, what are you doing for the Lord?

We need to exercise this gift of God, the Holy Ghost, each and every day of our lives. We must set the example to those around us. We must exercise this gift that God will shower us with

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"Be Still and Know That I Am God"

Dear friends,

One of the most beautiful teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ is about how to feed your spirit. Our bodies are called temples (special houses) for God. That means He can and will and does want to send His good Spirit down to lead, guide, and direct us. His Spirit wants to live (dwell) in your temple.

Now, would YOU want to live in a filthy, dirty, noisy, shaking house? No. Neither does God's Spirit. That means it is up to each of us to keep the physical, mental and spiritual parts of ourselves clean. We must be full of good thoughts, not bad; ready to forgive and let go of bitter, angry feelings, not hiding them away to be upset over later.

In our Church, every baptized member has a chance and choice each time we receive sacrament, to feel washed clean and peaceful. We can, and do, start over and over. We are taught not to take sacrament if we have any bad feelings toward another brother or sister. We must let go of those feelings and forgive before we do take sacrament. People not yet baptized also need to clean their temple by calming their minds, asking forgiveness and forgiving others.

This is really hard to do sometimes. In Matthew, sixth chapter, Jesus taught us that God will forgive US if we forgive others. If we pray, Jesus will give us enough love to give up hard, angry, fearful, and hateful feelings. Jesus can take the hurt away



so our temples are ready for the good spirits.

"How do I do this?" you ask. The scriptures tell us that God knows what we need before we ask Him. But He still wants us to ask. Jesus said, go to a quiet place alone, and pray to God in secret. He said, "God, who seeth in secret, will reward you openly." When our minds and hearts have peace, so do we.

Just a few years ago, people did not have all the noise and distractions that we do have today. Radios, cars, computers, telephones, televisions, video games and electric lights have speeded up and crowded our world. It takes practice to find a quiet place to listen to our hearts and talk it over with God. Even in Church, we have to teach ourselves to put away the speedy thoughts and concentrate on receiving a message. Our spirits crave this quiet time. Every time we can go away in our hearts and minds to a quiet place of prayer, we will be stronger, braver, happier, and less worried. We will have guidance of which way to go and how to help others. We will learn how to give and receive love so we won't be so lonely.

Try it. Clean up your temple, and every day watch what goes in. Throw out the bad feelings and fears by praying and asking God to take them away. Turn off all the electronic gadgets, and stop your frantic pace of rushing from one meeting, or place, or class, to another. Be still and know that He is God. And He is a God that truly loves and cares for you.

With love, your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

FORGIVE	STILL
PRAY	AND
ALONE	KNOW
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F	D	F	W	K	P	C

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would rather embrace all of you, as just saying "thank you" for the numerous cards and phone calls, seems so inadequate. Your thoughtfulness was overwhelming.

Most importantly, were the many prayers offered in my behalf. I felt every one of them while convalescing from extensive back surgery. I know the Lord has been with me each and every day.

God bless you all for your kindness.

Sister Kay Vitto

* * * * *

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers that were offered for me during my cancer surgery and recovery. Thank you also for the many phone calls and cards;

(Continued on Page 10)



1999 GMBA Singles Fellowship Weekend

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

Find Him! Zeezrom who was so full of sin that he was with a high fever sought Christ, found Him and was made whole. Our brother gave countless examples of those who sought and found that eternal love, that peace that passes all human understanding!

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri followed by emphasizing that when you seek Christ, He finds you and He will never go away nor will He ever leave you alone.

At this time our Chaplain, Brother Isaac J. Smith, asked that we form a circle, so that we might be able to look around and see those that sought Christ and were found. As we formed the circle, Brother Isaac spoke to us on the importance of praying for one another and the effect that those prayers have on the heart of Christ. He then requested that we go around the circle and share one of our personal prayer requests with the group. We have had similar moments as this, but there was a blessed difference this time. Brother Isaac asked everyone in the circle to share, including the Ministry. It was such a blessing to have the brothers share with us their needs. As each person expressed their needs, a burden was soon felt, a burden that the children of God were in need, every age, baptized or not. It truly was a blessing to share the love of God in this capacity. After the meeting, we joined together for fun and fellowship.

We began our Sunday service with the Lord's Supper. The spirit of singing was evident as we began raising our voices in praise.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri opened with the scriptures of Palm Sunday, which that day it actually was Palm Sunday. He mentioned the many people that were there and how they

exalted Jesus Christ as He rode through Jerusalem. "Hosanna!" Some of these people removed their garments and threw them down at the feet of Jesus that He would not have to touch the unclean ground. Others broke branches of the palm trees and laid them at His feet, all so the King of Kings would be honored. Brother Paul asked, "Who is Jesus Christ to each of us? What would you throw at His feet today?" He urged us to ponder these questions and then he challenged us to throw the white flag of surrender at the feet of Jesus, to give up and let Him be the Savior of our lives.

Brother Ken Staley was in our service and he touched on the many things that he had seen in his lifetime and the many garments he has seen thrown at the feet of Jesus, the many brothers and sisters that had surrendered their lives to God.

We enjoyed many beautiful testimonies of the young people and the many visitors from the Atlanta area that met with us that morning. We had a glorious weekend and felt the glory of Jesus Christ in everything that we set out to do together.

As the brothers throughout the weekend urged us to seek God and be obedient when He finds you, I leave you with the following short scripture and encourage each of you to read about the great man of God, Moses. "... and Moses took the rod in his hand" (Exodus 4:20).

Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA Meets in Conference

By Sister Karen Progar

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., Area Chaplain, chose 2 Peter 1:4 for his scripture, as he opened the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA Conference, on Saturday, February 20, 1999 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He reminded us that we must be consistent in our service to the Lord. Brother Larry Ali, Area President

welcomed those in attendance. He and Brother Patrick Monaghan, Vice President handled the day's business.

You would have never known it was winter in Pennsylvania as reports were given. The Area's membership has been very busy. Less than a month prior to this meeting, the Area sponsored Kidz Korner Winter Activity was held at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. After a day of exploring the center and viewing the Omnimax presentation on roller coasters, the nearly one hundred in attendance gathered in the Center's cafeteria area for pizza and fellowship. (As a side note, the author was particularly delighted to see the children so excited to see one another after a few months of separation.)

The business progressed rapidly, and it was a great joy to hear the Local MBA reports, as they were primarily presented by the many teenagers in attendance. Upcoming activities were planned, including a summer picnic at Kennywood Park. Our October 1, 1999 Conference will be held at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

After a covered dish dinner, we reconvened for an evening meeting. Brother Tony Ricci opened the meeting with prayer and the Imperial Branch presented a special selection. A seminar was planned by Brothers David DeLuca, Jason Monaghan and Bruce Piccuito. We were privileged to have Brother Ron Genaro from the Youngstown, Ohio Branch conduct the adult seminar. Our seminar theme was, "Being Spiritually Healthy for the 21st Century." Brothers and sisters from all over the Area taught the four young peoples' groups.

Once the seminar portion was closed, the young people sang, *Let It Shine*. Brother Lou Ross expressed his gratitude to the membership for their prayers during his recent illness. Brothers Bruce Piccuito and Jason Monaghan sang, *Then You Can Enter In* and Brother Ron Genaro fittingly brought our conference to a close with prayer.

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MBA

Continued from Page 7

Southwest Region Holds Area Campout

By Brother Steven Cihomsky

The Southwest Region held its area campout from August 6-8, 1999, at Kamp Kiwanis in Vanderwagen, New Mexico. For three days the saints focused on the camp's theme of *Go to the Rock*. The Lord's blessings were evident and were felt by all those in attendance.

The camp opened on Friday evening as Brother George Benyola, the camp director, welcomed the brothers and sisters. We were reminded of the theme of the camp and were encouraged to use this time to draw closer to the Lord.

On Saturday, the camp began in earnest. A variety of meetings and seminars were held throughout the morning and the afternoon. During this time, the saints fellowshiped with each other, forming new friendships and reestablishing old ones. This feeling of togetherness carried over into our evening service. Brother Joe Ignagni was greatly blessed as he delivered the evening sermon admonishing the saints to "Go to the Rock" with all their cares, concerns, and needs. Reading from the 7th chapter of Matthew, Brother Joe urged us to build our house on the Rock. He encouraged us to make Jesus our Rock. Through several wonderful personal experiences, Brother Joe told us how the Lord blessed him and his family whenever they would "Go to the Rock." His message was, "Trust in the Lord and He'll see you through." The Lord "truly knows what we need and He will provide if we only trust Him."

Brother Joe's sermon most definitely encouraged the saints to "Go to the Rock."

On Sunday, Brother Emmett Hood opened the service with the 4th and 5th chapters of Jacob. His message was that "God has a plan and God is in control." We have to fit into God's plan. Brother Emmett reminded us that our journey is just as important as our destination, that we must live the lifestyle worthy of our calling as brothers and sisters in Christ. Brother David Jordan then followed and spoke of the hardships of Jacob, Moroni, David Whitmer, and Joseph Smith, Jr., in their struggles to carry out the plan of God. Brother David urged the members to determine where they fit into God's plan.

All in attendance came away spiritually strengthened from our three days of fellowship. "Go to the Rock" is a theme we all should live by, because there is a daily need for the Lord in all of our lives.



Branch and Mission News

Ordination in Miami-Homestead, FL

By Sister Betty Gennaro

On Sunday, July 18, 1999, the saints of the Miami-Homestead area in Florida, gathered to witness the ordination of Sister Eileen Katsaras as a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Her mother, Sister Pauline Ritz washed her feet and Brother Frank Rogolino offered the prayer of ordination through the laying on of hands. Sister Eileen was baptized on June 15, 1969.

Visiting Evangelist, Brother Richard Santilli of Youngstown, Ohio, opened the service. He spoke on the Gospel being a learning experience, one which converts our hearts and souls to Christ. Brother Santilli stated the time has come for the Gospel to be preached and spread to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. There is

no greater honor that God can give to you and me but to participate in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Rogolino of Fort Pierce, Florida, related how Christ brought love and life to the world. He mentioned that the ordination and spreading the Gospel is God's work. Brother Frank stated that God is using His people to tell others of His Church. We do this under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Lord gives us the words to say. It makes no difference to the Lord whether you are rich or poor; God calls them all, He loves them all and He came for all. We must overcome the flesh and things of the world and focus on serving God.

Brother Miguel Bicelis spoke of meeting Sister Eileen Katsaras at the mall. Sister Eileen, a total stranger at the time, was used by God to bring Brother Miguel to The Church of Jesus Christ. After buying shoes for her son, Sister Eileen and Brother Miguel started a conversation. Sister Eileen gently touched his arm, and as she touched him, Brother Miguel states, "he felt the Spirit of God." What is the result of this meeting? Sister Eileen actually touched a nation, Venezuela,

from which we now have quite a few members in the Homestead Mission. When Brother Miguel heard the *Songs of Zion*, the beautiful spirit of these songs took away all his interest in jazz and rock'n roll music. He thanked God for the Katsaras family.

Experiences relating to the ordination of Sister Eileen Katsaras were related by Brother Eugene Perri, Sister Annabel Santilli, and Sister Tina Severson. Instructions from the *Deaconess Manual* were read by Brother Joe Catone. Brother Miguel and his wife, Sister Melissa sang, *He Planted Me Deep*.

This day of blessing ended with continued fellowship over lunch. We thank God for a wonderful and blessed day.

Blessings in Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

We were so excited to have Brother Ford and Sister Grace Boadu from Ghana, East Africa in our branch on July 4, 1999. Apostle Paul Benyola was in attendance as were many

visitors from the Atlantic Coast Region.

Brother Ford used I Corinthians 3:14 for his sermon. "If any man's work abide which he hath built there-upon, he shall receive a reward." He spoke of our foundation, Jesus, and how necessary it is to build upon His sure foundation. Brother Ford and Sister Grace also shared many miraculous healings and experiences that have occurred in the country of Ghana.

Brother Paul Benyola followed with the theme of "Unity." Regardless of where God has placed His people on this earth, we all share the same joy, and are working toward the same goal.

Since this was the first Sunday after the World Missionary Conference, many experiences were told. One brother had a dream prior to the Conference in which he saw twelve men in white robes standing in a circle. He saw a tremendous light come out from heaven unto these men. The light then spread from them onto a large congregation of people waiting just outside the circle.

One of our young people asked for his baptism at the Conference, but wanted to be baptized in our branch. So, on August 8, 1999, Miguel Reyes was baptized into the Church by Brother Joseph Perri. He was confirmed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr. On the morning of the baptism, it was raining. Once we got to the lake, the rain stopped. As soon as we got into our cars to return to the branch, it started to rain again.

We had a beautiful day. There were visitors from nearly every branch in the Atlantic Coast, as well as visitors from Ohio, Michigan, and Vermont. Brother Ken Lombardo who was visiting from Metuchen, New Jersey, opened our service by taking us through the story of the woman at the well, (John, Chapter 4.) This Samaritan woman had her own personal experience with Jesus. We all have had our own personal experience with Him. Today was Miguel's day to connect with the Lord. His experience is his own, and will carry him through the main obstacles he will face in his life.

We praise God for continuing to bless our branch. The number of

young people is growing even more, and the enthusiasm and participation they bring have been a great blessing to us. We feel this is so important as the time of God's great work and judgments are approaching with great speed. "... It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country. It's time for young women, who love the Lord to stand ..."

Ordination in Cape Coral, FL

By Sister Theresa Palermo

March 7, 1999 was a very special day in Cape Coral. We experienced the ordination of Brother Alvin "Skip" Swanson into the office of Elder. We had many visitors from Ohio, Michigan, Arizona and Florida.

Brother Eugene Perri read several experiences concerning the calling of Brother Swanson into the Ministry.

We sang that wonderful hymn, *Give of Your Best to the Master*. Brother Frank Rogolino washed Brother Swanson's feet.

Apostle Isaac Smith instructed the congregation that this is not a calling of man. It is the calling of God. He went on to say the work of the Lord is not done. We are to carry the Gospel to the House of Israel and to all parts of the world.

We all knelt in prayer before the ordination and laying on of hands as Apostle Joseph Calabrese offered prayer that God will bless the ordination and Brother Swanson. Apostle Isaac Smith from Arizona then ordained Brother Alvin Swanson into the Ministry of Jesus Christ. While he was praying, Brother John Griffith spoke in the gift of tongues. Brother Smith had the interpretation which was, "Thus saith the Lord, today is the day of salvation, carry it on."

Brother Louis Pietrangelo spoke on how The Church of Jesus Christ is built on the revelation of God, and that Brother Swanson was called through the revelation of God. He reminded us that God works in His own mysterious way. He stated that God showed

Brother Swanson through experiences he was to be called an Elder in the Church. Oh, how God loves us.

A number of brothers followed and affirmed what Brother Pietrangelo stated. Brother Swanson then spoke on his calling and how God revealed to him that he would be an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He asked all of us to pray for him that the Lord would be with him and use him for His glory. We enjoyed a wonderful day. We thank God for His goodness and mercy.

Serve God in the Days of Your Youth

By Sister Regina Alverson

Anticipation filled the air on the morning of July 11, 1999, as the saints of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission gathered at the water's edge to witness two souls surrender their lives to God. Sister Leslie Rossi and Sister Nina Marcantonio, both age fourteen, were baptized by Brother Darrell Rossi. Our new sisters were confirmed by Brother Harold Littlejohn and Brother Darrell Rossi. Both of our sisters felt the call of God upon their lives at the World Missionary Conference.

One night while Sister Nina was in her room, she heard a knocking. No

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Left to Right: Bro. Harold Littlejohn, Sis. Nina Marcantonio, Sis. Leslie Rossi, Bro. Darrell Rossi

Serve God in the Days

Continued from Page 9

one was in the room with her, so she opened the door, but no one was there. She looked up and down the hall, still no one was there. It was interpreted that Jesus was knocking at her heart. On May 19, 1999, Sister Leslie had a dream that her father, Brother Darrell Rossi baptized her. During the World Missionary Conference baptisms, Sister Leslie felt the Spirit of God calling her. She prayed and asked God for a confirmation. Then a sister had an experience that there was a tree with fruit on it, and there were more than two to be partaking of it. Both of our new sisters thank God for calling them into the Church. We thank God also for calling them in the days of their youth, and we thank God that they answered the call.

Later in the service, during our MBA meeting, we were blessed once again to witness a newborn blessed unto the Lord. Selena Marissa Alverson, daughter of Brother Joe and myself, Sister Regina Alverson, was blessed by Brother Darrell Rossi.

We thank God for the blessing that we felt as Brother Darrell offered up his prayer to God, and we thank Him for His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray for our mission in Spartanburg, South Carolina and may God bless each and every one of you.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Bickerton, Mabel
Lawson Nursing Home
540 Coal Valley Road—Room 14
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025

Cotellesse, Joe, Joann, Mark, Alison
4442 Mayfair
Dearborn Hts., MI 48125
313-562-8102

Goode, Terri, Tom
61 Sturgis Road
Edison, NJ 08817

Reynolds, Linda
22112 Sun Ranch Ct.
Chatsworth, CA 91311-1270

Happy Thanksgiving to all our readers.

Note of Thanks

Continued from Page 6

they were so loving and encouraging. I am so glad to be part of the family of God.

Sincerely,

Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Otto Henderson

* * * * *

We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters throughout the country for the beautiful cards sent during the illness and passing of our son, Daniel Nicholas Ritz. The messages of love and comfort came from many we have never met. How beautifully the Spirit of God fills the saints with love and compassion for one another. May God continue His blessings upon all of you.

Bro. Nicholas and Sis. Pauline Ritz
and Family

Four Servants Ordained

Continued from Page 1

unanimous in the decision. They felt such a strong level of energy emanating from each candidate that there was no doubt in their minds as to the calling. Praise God for His wisdom. Sacrament was passed and Brother Chuck Jumper closed our morning meeting in prayer. We met for lunch and reconvened in the afternoon for the ordination service.

The building was filled to capacity. Brother Steve Champine opened the service in prayer. The singing was so sweet, it felt like we were worshipping with the angels. The service was opened with the hymn, *The Standard of Liberty*. Brother Justin Paxon of

Atlanta, Georgia sang, *Checking on Me*. The words were so penetrating. They touched our hearts with the questions we should ask ourselves daily. Brother Tom Everett introduced the meeting by not only reciting the duties of a Deacon, but reminding us that the "calling" into an ordained office is only half of the responsibility, quoting I Timothy 3:8-13. The other half is what we choose to do with that calling. God doesn't make mistakes. When He calls us, He's made the right choice. Then it is "our" choice to maintain our calling and responsibilities. There were experiences about each candidate. Without the Lord to depend on, life would certainly be scary. The calling into an ordained office of the Church is not for our own glory, but moreover, when we go before the judgment bar, it is our hope that the Lord will say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." All the "young" men in the congregation were called up to sing, *It's My Desire*. Their voices were so strong and united that surely they reached the throne of God.

Brother Mark Palmieri had his feet washed by his father, Brother Sela Palmieri. Brother Brett Gibson's feet were washed by Brother Chris Scolaro. Brother Jeff Paxon's feet were washed by Brother Keith Lesperance, and Brother Brad Everett's feet were washed by Brother David Lovalvo. Words on paper cannot express the spirit of humility that filled the room. Brother Larry Champine sang, *Make Me an Instrument* as the Ministry prepared to ordain the four Deacons. They formed a circle around them and Brother Peter Scolaro offered the last prayer and plea for the Lord to choose His instruments to ordain each brother.

Brother Chuck Jumper ordained Brother Mark Palmieri. Brother Louis Pietrangelo ordained Brother Brett Gibson. Brother Malcolm Paxon ordained Brother Jeff Paxon. Brother Spencer Everett ordained Brother Brad Everett. Each of the newly ordained Deacons briefly expressed themselves. Brother Gerry Benyola related his experience about his first calling as a Deacon thirty-seven years ago, and reminded us that the need for this

ordained office has not changed. Sister Johnna Lesperance then stood and related that while the four candidates were being called forward, she saw to her right and her left who were going to wash the feet of Brothers Brad Everett and Jeff Paxon, and after her vision, the brothers who went forward were exactly whom she saw in her vision. Then, Brother Sam Impastato rose to his feet and revealed that while the Ministry was encircling the candidates, he asked the Lord who was going to ordain them. The Lord made it know to him three out of the four, and when Brother Sam asked, "what about the fourth," the Lord replied, "That is for someone else to see."

Presiding Elder, Tom Everett made some closing remarks and invited everyone back for a social in the evening. We sang, *To the Work*, and Brother Louis Vitto closed our blessed meeting in prayer. If there was a theme for the day, it would have been to maintain our desire to serve God and to be worthy and willing for Him to use us to spread the Gospel to all mankind.

Introduction

Continued from Page 3

of salvation, and the truths of the Christian religion, by giving to them the testimony of the prophets and apostles of God sent forth to Ephraim on this continent, as well as the testimony of the prophets and apostles of God to Judah on the other continent. This He does in view of the fact that two witnesses who agree in regard to the same truths are better than one. In the plan of salvation, and all things pertaining thereunto, this Book and the Bible agree. In condemnation of sin in all its forms they are perfectly united—only the fact that, on all points of doctrine, the Book of Mormon is plainer, easier to be understood than the Bible.

Another purpose is to make the people acquainted with who the aborigines of this country are, and what they are yet in future to be, as well as to develop to some extent the past history of the people that have lived on

this continent. Another design of God in bringing forth this work, evidently is to prepare the way for the fulfillment of the Saviour's oft-repeated declaration: "For there is nothing hid which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad," Mark, 4th chapter, 22nd verse; Luke, 8th chapter, 17th verse, by raising up a people that shall throw off the shackles of superstition, and open their hearts to the truth that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that hence He can as well be approached in this as well as in any past generation. So that those who fear Him can obtain wisdom at His hand by direct revelation, as well now as in the various ages in the past, when men have feared God and worked righteousness, and did obtain for their benefit, as well as for the benefit of the world, all the rich store of wisdom contained in the Bible. But space reminds me, kind reader, that I must bring this introduction to a close, which I will do by earnestly inviting you to divest yourself of prejudice, and carefully and critically read the Book.

(The above article is a reprint of the Introduction found in the Book of Mormon, that is published by The Church of Jesus Christ, headquartered in Monongahela, Pennsylvania—Editor's note.)

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

meet with the Carib people and eventually establish the Church there. He was very receptive and encouraged our people to work among his people. We then returned to the Auguiste's home to meet with the people of the other church and discuss our differences. We believe the love of God shined through us that evening for the Auguiste family.

Monday morning, Labor Day in the United States, we said our farewells and left for home. We are indeed encouraged by our visit among our Carib friends, who had been initially contacted by Evangelist Richard Santilli and his wife, Sister Annabel,

some years prior and who had cultivated their friendship and interest in the Church.

Please pray for this work in Dominica.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

His blessings, His power and His goodness.

By exercising and stirring up this gift within us, we will lead exemplary lives. We will testify of Him. We will be partakers of the Lord's Supper, the blessed bread and wine. We will be citizens of the Kingdom of God. We will draw others to Jesus Christ. We will draw others to The Church of Jesus Christ.

If we stir up this gift within us, we will have the spirit of prophecy. We will have dreams, visions and continue to enjoy the revelations of God. We will see the sick healed, the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, the sinners repent of their sins and give their lives to Christ, and yes, the dead can rise again, today as in days of old. Does this sound like a fantasy?

There is nothing that is pretentious about Jesus Christ. His words are true. They apply today as they did in His day. If they did not apply for us today, then it would be fair to say that Jesus Christ is partial. However, we know that He is not partial. With Jesus Christ, there is neither black nor white, Jew or Gentile, male or female, we are all one in Christ Jesus. The scriptures tell us that He loves all men that will have Him be their God.

It is important that we exercise this wonderful gift of God. We need the Comforter in our lives now more than ever. It is that magnificent gift that leads us in paths of righteousness. It is that wonderful gift that is without price, and will be manifest in our lives as we live the life that Christ wants us to live. It will be felt by our families, our brothers and sisters, and the many visitors that come to The Church of Jesus Christ, our branches and missions. Exercise this gift. Do not lose it. The Lord will bless you and reward you for your efforts.

Children Blessed

Nathaniel Zachery and Micaela Khaleel, children of Sister Karen and Nassar Khaleel, were blessed on March 21, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Elphius Kyle Cornelius, son of Julia and Elphius Cornelius, was blessed in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch on April 18, 1999.

David Allen Cooke, son of Karen and Martin Cooke, was blessed on May 2, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Emily Roy, daughter of Brother Ron and Kathy Roy, was blessed on July 11, 1999 in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Jacob Charles Billings, son of Rex and Lisa Billings, was blessed on June 13, 1999 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Baptisms

Dorcas Maletta Rumble was baptized on May 23, 1999 in the Clairton, Pennsylvania Mission. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Austin and confirmed by Brother English Webb.

Tori Verbanick was baptized on January 24, 1999 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti.

Edward Wirbicki was baptized on February 28, 1999 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Alma Nolfi.

Christina Elizabeth Nunez was baptized on August 15, 1999 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Arthur Searcy and confirmed by Brother Jonathan Olexa.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

MARTHA JANE WHITTAKER

Sister Martha Jane Whittaker, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on July 16, 1999. She is survived by three daughters; Marilyn Whittaker, Wendy Morris and Naomi Sambol; one son, Dennis Whittaker; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; six sisters and four brothers.

OLIVE BUSH

Sister Olive Bush, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on June 15, 1999. She is survived by one brother.

ETHEL P. THOMAS

Sister Ethel Thomas of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on June 22, 1999. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Ethel is survived by five sons; John, Curtis, David, Larry and Raymond; one daughter, Katheryn Jones; two sisters, Jane South and Mary Linderman; one brother, Donald Cottom; thirteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

DANIEL NICHOLAS RITZ

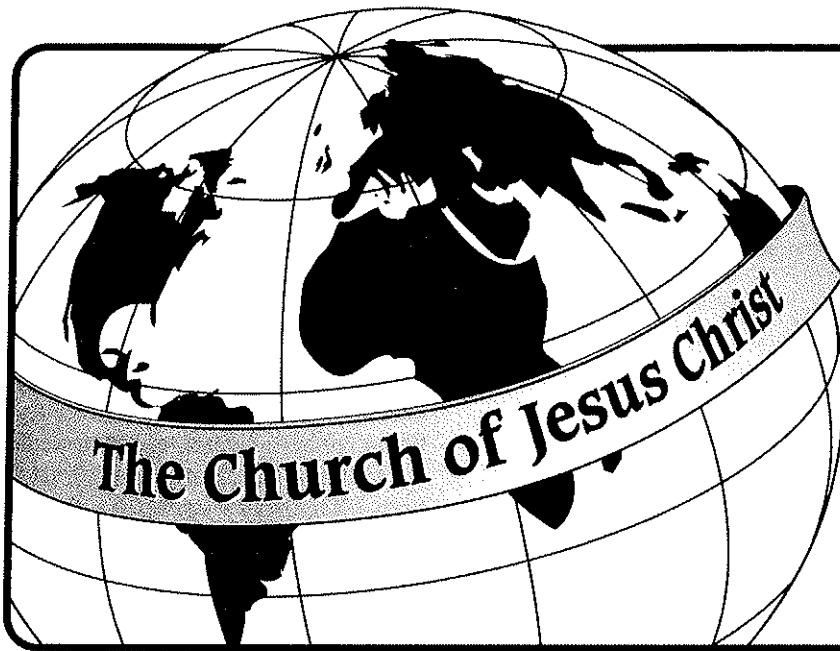
Daniel Ritz of Miami, Florida passed away to his eternal reward on July 8, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; one daughter, Sandy Ebert; three sons, Kenneth, David, and Steven Ritz; one brother, William Ritz; six sisters, Sisters Betty Gennaro and Eileen Katsaras, Garnet Giblin, Shirley Surowiec, Carol Ritz-Adams and Diana Matthews; his parents, Brother Nicholas Ritz and Sister Pauline Ritz, and two grandchildren.

PETER KRASNASKY

Peter Krasnasky passed away to his eternal reward on November 11, 1998. He attended the Simi Valley, California Branch and the former San Fernando Branch. He is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Krasnasky; one son, Joseph Krasnasky; one daughter, Sister Susan Wasko; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CHRISTINE M. COLANGELO

Sister Christine Colangelo of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on July 13, 1999. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Christine is survived by her husband, Brother William Colangelo; two daughters, Sister Arlene Ciotti and Sister Ann Ciotti; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

December, 1999

Volume 55, No. 12

The True Experience of Brother Nathan Peterkin, Jr.

The following note was sent to Brother Matthew Rogolino along with this written letter. *"Brother Matthew in case of my death I will expect you to keep this letter and read it from time to time in the Bowery. May God be with you and your family. Signed: Brother Nathan Peterkin."*

Dear Brother Matthew and Sister Joan:

Forgive my spelling. But I leave this letter in case something . . . happens to me and I pass on. I give a message to you to give to the guys at the Bowery.

This is Brother Nathan, and some of you might have met me. I came from the streets of Harlem (116th Street). I lived in abandoned buildings and also the shelters there on 165th Street. I hit bottom with the drugs and . . . alcohol and also got sick. St. James on 14th Street, a hospital there, had there guards push me out of the hospital because I had no insurance, and told me to leave. I was sick, and as I went back to this abandoned building with a high fever, I lay down in my bunk and began to cry. I could not understand why the world

was so cold. They would not help a sick man. That hurt me, and I felt how helpless I was, and no one to turn to.

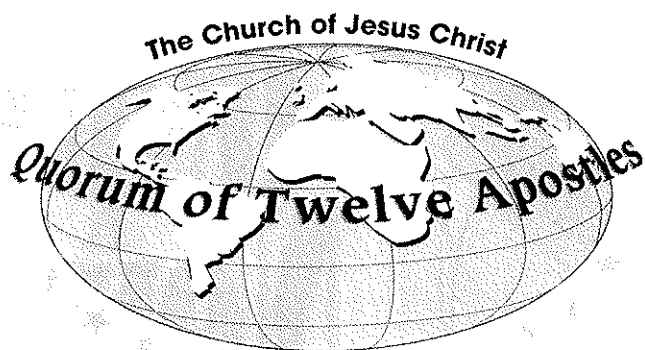
Then I thought about God, and I cried, brothers I cried like a little baby, and I talked to God and said, "Lord, I don't want to be a part of those people who nailed you to the cross," and a voice spoke to me and said, . . . "But you are," and I cried some more because I felt bad that I was part of the world that condemned Jesus. Still in all I asked Him to help me, and He did. I awoke the next morning; my fever was gone. I didn't know if He was going to help me or not, but I asked Him to let me find some help. Little did I know then that I would find that help in the Bowery.

I came to the Bowery that day to renew my meal ticket. Little did I know that God was in the plan. When I got there my case worker said I look like I needed to go detox, and asked me if I would, and I said yes, I would go . . . because my body was so run down and I needed a rest. So she told me to come back at 4:00 PM and she would get me in . . . I came at 4:00 PM and she sent me up. I almost was not admitted because of my drug use, but I said that drinking was my biggest problem so they admitted me.

This was all part of God's plan.

As I was lying in bed that Sunday, I reached behind me and picked up a book, the Gospel of John. I looked inside and right away I seen a card, The Church of Jesus Christ. As I was contemplating on whether or not this was the Church I grew up in as a child, Brother Frank Zaher, Brother Willie Brown and another brother walked in and said they were having a meeting, would I care to join them? I said I would, and as I walked into the room, I wanted to turn around and walk out because a sister, who I recognized as going to Church with me when we were kids, was there and as I sat down, I hoped she didn't recognize me, but she did and asked my name. I said, "Nathan Peterkin." She responded, "Your Brother Nathan's son," and I said "yes" and began to cry uncontrollably. This was the last place in the world that I thought I would meet someone who knew me. Small world (noted with a smile). Anyway, from that point on, God began His work with me. Brother Frank, after the meeting, said to me to give him a call when I got out, he would try to help me. When I got out, he asked me what my plans were and I told him they wanted me to go to a drug program but he said he had a better program and for me to come to his place of business and he would give

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Help Somebody Today

By Apostle Robert Watson, Jr.

St. Luke 10:25-29 reads as follows:

"And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

"He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou?"

"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with



Apostle Robert A. Watson

all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

"And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

"But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?"

The question asked by the lawyer

does not come as a surprise to me. It simply is a verification that education and religion do not necessarily go hand in hand. Earthly wisdom does not always merit spiritual understanding, as exemplified in this lesson. The Apostle Paul said:

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

This lawyer could possibly, without apology, boast of being crafty and learned in the wisdom of this world. Yet his life was void of spiritual understanding. He says, in a manner to tempt Christ, "... what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Perhaps, we would have expected Jesus to recite the Ten Commandments, or bring forth circumcision and purification. Instead He wanted to tap the tree of salvation at its very roots and present to all the foundation for eternity; this is love, first to God, then to man. We cannot hope to ever catch a glimpse of eternity without first swelling our hearts with this love.

The lawyer, perhaps, understood the requirement of loving God with all his heart, soul, and strength; and, perhaps, he understood that he must love his neighbor. But he still desired to justify himself. Yes, that spirit of self-justification, a very destructive

element in the character of men, leads him to ask the question, "... who is my neighbour?" Jesus answered him with the beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan. Let us, for a few moments, investigate the divine truth contained in this story.

The scene shifts to a highway. A certain man, falling victim to thieves, being robbed, beaten, and stripped of his clothing, still clings to life in his body. This was a wonderful opportunity for a Christian to prove his love and display the fruits of Christianity. While this man was dying by the roadside, a priest passed by. His garments denoted his priestly office.

I can picture the barely conscious man with just enough strength to look up. He recognizes the priestly garments. His heart swells within him for he sees help very near at hand. But look! The priest was too busy, or possibly too proud, to put religion into practical use. He turns his back on duty and crosses the road to continue his journey.

The afflicted becomes very discouraged at this sight, losing faith in religion because of this faithless example. The sword that pierced and wounded his heart was far more painful than the bleeding wounds he received from the hands of the thieves. Oh! Christians, beware of your daily lives! Remember, the wounds we inflict upon our fellow man's hearts are sometimes very grievous to be borne. The blood and sorrow that flow from these wounds cannot be stopped so easily as we think.

A Levite then came along. Surely, this man will help! He comes from the famous tribe of Levi, whose descendants were chosen by God for the ministerial capacity to teach the people. But he too, did not feel any sympathy for the wounded man. Also not thinking that this act of injustice would seriously injure his reputation, he crosses the road and continues his journey.

How easily we can be deceived with the outward garments! Rags have covered a pure heart many times, while kingly apparel has covered the heart of tyranny. We do not want a righteousness which is merely for

display, but, I stress, we want a righteousness for practical use. We want a religion we can use at home, at work, at church, and to also help wherever help is needed. What this man needed were not professors of religion but religious possessors. Jesus said, "... except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Christ was speaking of a righteousness which only reaches the mind, twisting it into fanatical obsession. As a result, righteousness never reaches the heart, and a Godly consecrated life cannot be molded. The priest and Levite were examples of this. They, perhaps, had a form of Godliness, but basically lacked the power of regenerated life.

How many Christians today, in walking along the highway of life, meet people who have been beaten by sin, distorted by iniquity, lying by the wayside, bleeding from the wounds inflicted by the devil, and looking with pitiful eyes for help? Yes, these so-called Christians witness these happenings, but they persist in their hypocritically selfish ways. They walk on the other side of the street with the priest and the Levite. The greatest enemies to Christianity are those often found within its own ranks.

Then, along came a lowly Samaritan, from whom little could be expected. A mixture of Jew and Gentile, he was despised by the Jew and was hated immensely. This man recognized the need, quickly responded by bathing the open wounds, placed him on his beast, and took him to the inn. He also left word with the keeper to take care of the sick man, and he said he would repay him the amount of money required for the care.

Can we derive from this incident what Christ means by loving our neighbor as ourselves? This Samaritan gave his oil, his time, his beast, and his money, while all the others gave nothing but an empty glance. James said:

"What doth it profit, my breth-

ren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

We have to give and give till it hurts, not grudgingly nor of necessity. God loves the cheerful giver. God is not interested in our houses and lands, but rather our hearts. The miser clutches his money, yet he dies leaving it behind. The king clutches to his throne, yet he dies leaving it behind. The sinner clings to his pleasures, yet he dies leaving them behind. The Christian, however, clings to God, and he dies to be received by Him in glory.

How fast this modern world is changing! In my parents' days, whenever new faces moved into their vicinity, all the neighbors would quickly hurry with food and drink until the newcomers were settled in their new home. What has happened to this spirit of fellowship and brotherhood? Is it lost in the voice of Cain as he speaks, "... Am I my brother's keeper?" I would like to answer that by saying, "Yes, emphatically, yes."

One day, as I was sitting in my car, an elderly lady came to the door and asked me for a ride. Upon driving her home, she told me that she lived with her sister who was blind. As I drove up to the house she said was hers, a very small home perhaps better explained as a shack, I gave her some money. She quickly replied, "I am not used to receiving anything for nothing."

Yes, this selfish world has gone so mad that orphans, widows, and needy are neglected; and, when they do receive help, they reply like this elderly lady did to me: "I am not used to receiving anything for nothing." James said, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Who, today, is the neighbor of the rich? Is it not the poor? Who is the neighbor of the healthy? Is it not

the sick? Who is the neighbor of the strong? Is it not the weak? And who is the neighbor of the Christian? Is it not the sinner? Let us not be afraid to bend down to the people in the gutters of sin and pour oil on their wounds. Let us not wait until the sinner is dead and then hold a postmortem. While he is living, let us seek to relieve his pain and save his soul for the Kingdom of Heaven.

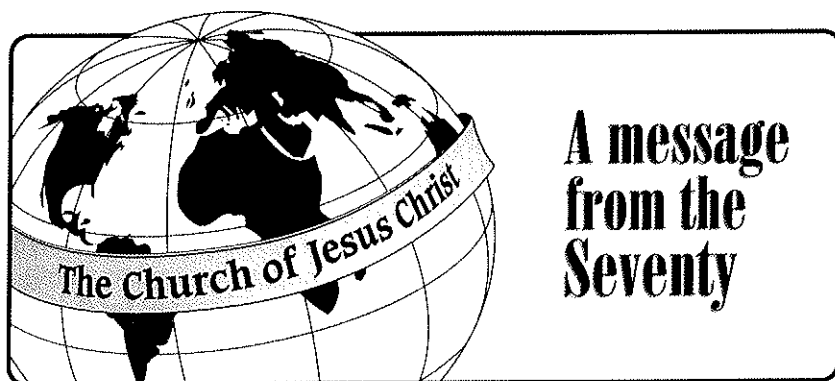
Jesus, the Good Samaritan, sought the beggars, the blind, the crippled, and even the woman at the well, whose life was one of unhappiness and disgrace. He saw many inflicted with wounds of fear and unbelief, left as the lepers outside the camp of Israel to die unwanted by the world. Lovingly, He spoke to their hearts and said, "... be of good cheer ..." He told them he came to preach deliverance to the captives, restore sight to the blind, to preach the Gospel to the poor. He came to make you citizens of that Heavenly Kingdom where thieves can no more break through to mar your peace and safety.

Remember, the only way to secure your home in heaven is to help those in need, for God shall speak on the Judgment Day to those who have fulfilled His will: "... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

(The above article is taken from the Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

Merry Christmas

To All Our Readers



Four Evangelists Called by Quorum of Seventy

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Four brothers were called into the office of an Evangelist at the Semi-Annual meeting of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists on Thursday, October 7, 1999 at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. They were approved for ordination by the General Church Conference two days later.

The Elders called are Hector Gastelum of Mexico, Harold Littlejohn of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region, and Walter Cihomsky and Joseph Ignagni of the Southwest Region.

All have been laboring diligently in their areas and had been presented as candidates to the Seventies from their respective regions. Brothers Gastelum, Cihomsky, and Ignagni were to be ordained in their home locations, while Brother Littlejohn was ordained an Evangelist at this General Church Conference Sunday service.

The passing of Evangelist Edom A. Ebong of Nigeria, West Africa was also sadly announced to the group. Brother Ebong, whose life was centered around the Church and who had been a tireless worker in the Gospel in his country, was remembered for discharging his important duties for some time. Plaques were authorized to be given in his memory to his family, as well to the family of our late Evangelist and President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, E.A.U. Arthur, who had been the chief and a paramount ruler in his part of that nation. Brother Arthur passed away in 1995. Evangelist Joseph Perri and Elder

Malcolm Paxon were scheduled to attend both Brother Ebong's funeral service and the Nigerian Church's National Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports occupied major portions of the day's agenda. They were given by the Missionary Operating Committee, the Foreign Missions Operating Committee, the Americas Missions Operating Committee, the Domestic Missions Operating Committee, the Research and Development Committee, and the Media Committee.

The success of the World Missionary Conference in Bourbonnais, Illinois this June 26 to July 7 was also reviewed. The wonderful participation of all who worked hard to bring that conference together was noted and the many beneficial results thereafter were also mentioned. This General Church Conference approved the next World Missionary Conference for the year 2005.

Missionary work around the world was reviewed by the operating committees. The FMOC reported on the activity taking place in foreign lands under its jurisdiction; the AMOC presented updates on work in North, Central, and South America; and the DMOC outlined the labors being expended in locations in the United States and Canada.

The latter committee has recently been formed and is in the process of solidifying its goals and responsibilities.

The DMOC has undertaken the assignment of conducting Evangelistic Services in regions. In late 1998, a weekend of activities was held in the Atlantic Coast Region and recently the Great Lakes Region was visited. It is planned to go to the Southwest Region in early 2000.

A committee to focus on the Seed of Joseph activities has been formed. It is called the Native American Outreach Committee, and it will function under the AMOC and will work in conjunction with both the DMOC and the Regional Native American Outreach Committees, which are under their Regional Missionary Operating Committee.

ADDRESS BY APOSTLE

Apostle V. James Lovalvo was asked to speak to the brothers during the busy meeting. He thanked everyone for their prayers during his recent illness, and he said his determination was to be at the General Church Conference, despite his physical condition.

His address was about a ministerial training program he is involved in starting in the Pacific Region and which will begin next year. He outlined the importance of training and development and identified the factors essential for candidates to have in performing their duties.

These elements are inspiration, knowledge, and learning about the position in the order of their overall importance. He said there was no greater teacher than Jesus Christ and recalled how He had chosen, instructed, and trained His disciples. The inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit were pointed out many times as being requisites for their success after He would ascend to His Father in heaven.

Through His perceptive teaching by various parables, examples, and admonishments, Christ presented the knowledge with which His followers should proceed. In His commandments to them, He schooled them in what they must do under the various conditions

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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 Griffith
4550 Bay Blvd. #1237
Port Richey, FL 34668

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

REGION 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 . . .

Have you ever asked yourself questions like, What is most important in your life? Who is first in your life? How might you answer these questions?

Jesus Christ said in Matthew 10:37, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

This sounds difficult, maybe even harsh, when you consider your parents, children, wife or husband. However, the Lord's voice was not and is not hard or harsh. Is it possible to try to hear the Lord utter these words? Can you hear His soft, gentle, and humble voice speaking in this manner to His Apostles as He made this statement? He was humbly stating this commandment that He should be and must be first in our lives.

The Lord was not telling us to ignore our loved ones. He did not say we are not to love our wife, husband, parents or children. Remember. The Lord throughout the Scriptures emphasizes the importance of love of family and loved ones. However, on many occasions, the Lord instructs us, actually commands us, that He must be paramount in our lives.

It is crucial to note the Lord instructs us in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Is it possible to fulfill this commandment without placing the Lord first in our lives?

We must also remember what the Lord replied when asked which is the greatest commandment in the law. The Lord's reply was to love Him with all thy heart, soul and mind. This is the first and great commandment. Secondly, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. All the law and prophets hang on these two commandments. You will notice the Lord is first. Our neighbors are second.

There are several, yes, many wonderful examples of individuals who, once converted, placed God and Jesus Christ first in their lives. A few examples are Ruth, Moses, Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Lehi, Nephi, King Benjamin, Alma and the four sons of Mosiah. When you read about these individuals and followers of the Lord, they placed the Lord first in their daily lives. Let us consider one of these examples. His name is Alma.

Alma put this in perspective as he bears his testimony to his son Shiblon. You remember that for three days and nights, Alma's soul was in bitter pain and anguish. He informs Shiblon that it was not until he cried out to Jesus Christ for a remission of his sins did his soul find peace. The key word is until. It was not until he put the Lord first did his soul find peace and rest.

Alma's initial testimony after his conversion is a study in change of character and priority. He said, I have repented of my sins and have been redeemed of the Lord. Alma states he was redeemed from the bonds of iniquity and the gall of bitterness. Alma said he was born of the Spirit. He declared that he was snatched! Snatched from what? Alma states he was in the darkest abyss but was snatched and his soul was free from sin. He was never the same. The old man was gone forever in Alma's life.

Following his conversion, he immediately began to teach the people and preach the word of God. Alma had placed the Lord first in his life. The Lord and salvation from the Lord were now Alma's top priority. He published peace, good tidings and declared the Lord reigneth! What a change!

A young man recently had a dream. This young man is a policeman. In his dream, he and his wife went out for the evening. They parked their car on a street with no outlet. He left his gun in the car. When they returned to their car, another car appeared with men in it with guns pointed

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

A Special Man

Dear Friends,

How would you feel and what would you do if someone you loved very much and planned to marry told you she was going to have someone else's baby? Then what would you do if they told you this was God's plan for you?

Well, when Joseph was engaged to Mary this happened to him. The Bible tells us that he was a fair man, a "just" man. In those days a girl who had a baby without being married could be put to death by people throwing stones at her. But Joseph must have cared a great deal for Mary; he decided to "put her away privily" or privately, not marry her.

Joseph must also have had high values about right and wrong. How his heart must have ached when Mary first told him her secret. But as Joseph was planning what to do, an angel of the Lord came to him.

The angel told Joseph, "Don't be afraid to take Mary for your wife. The baby she is carrying is from the Holy Ghost. She shall have a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will save His people from their sins." And the angel reminded Joseph that many, many years before holy men who told the future, prophets, said that Jesus would be born like this.

Joseph did as the Lord told him, and took Mary for his wife. Many months later while they were in Bethlehem to pay taxes, the beautiful Christ Child was born! Angels sang to shepherds, and wise men from far away came to bring gifts to the precious baby Jesus.

When the wicked king of the land, Herod, heard about the wise men



searching for a special newborn who would someday rule the world, he was furious! He sent soldiers to the city of Bethlehem to kill every single baby two years old and younger in that city.

A second time God sent an angel messenger to warn Joseph in a dream to hurry and leave Bethlehem. The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Arise, take the young child and his mother and go to another country. Stay there until I come again to you, because Herod will try to find the baby and kill him."

Joseph did not wake up and argue with himself. He didn't say, "Oh, that's just a dream! Even if it was true, God could protect the baby," and he didn't say, "No! I can't leave for another country! I don't know their language! What would happen to my business? After all, I'm my own boss. I have carpentry customers to think of! I'd better just hurry and go back to my own city."

Instead, Joseph had faith and trust in God. He got up, packed up Mary and baby Jesus and left in the night. There were no telephones or televisions or newspapers and magazines in those days. When Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem to murder the other babies, news traveled slowly. We can imagine how frightened and heartsick Mary and Joseph's families were while they awaited news and wondered what had happened to Mary's baby.

We don't know how long Mary and Joseph's families waited to see them again. We only know that they lived in a faraway land until God told them it was safe to return. For the third time, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Take the young child and his mother and go into

the land of Israel, for Herod, who tried to kill him, is now dead."

So Joseph again trusted his spiritual dream, and he took his family and came into Israel. But when Joseph heard then that Herod's son was ruling, God warned him in another dream, and he turned and went to Nazareth. This was another thing that the holy men of God had said years before. They said, "He [Christ] shall be called a Nazarene [from Nazareth]."

God must have carefully selected Joseph for his faith and his strength to follow God's messengers. Not everyone would have a dream and then follow it. It must have taken courage to go live in a strange country far from home, waiting patiently for another dream to tell you what to do.

The man who loved and raised the baby Jesus must have had energy—how quickly he moved to pack up and leave in the middle of the night. This was the man who would teach his young son how to be faithful to the God of Israel. He was a father who took his son on a long journey to save his life, and on another long journey to go to the temple in Jerusalem. He was the man that the young Jesus looked to as an example. The carpenter, Joseph, was indeed special.

Sister Jan

JOY	TO	FEARED
SPECIAL	EGYPT	BABY
FATHER	WICKED	JESUS
ANGEL	KING	GOD
WARNED	HEROD	SAVED
FLEE	HATED	HIM

S	D	E	R	A	E	F	Y	M
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B	A	B	Y	D	E	V	A	S



Our Women Today

A Self Revival in California

By Sister Debbie (Meo) Kyriakakos

First, I would like to say that this was the first time for me to be in charge of a Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend and I must admit, that except for my baptism, this was the single most spiritual and growing experience of my life. I was truly revived!

The Pacific Region Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend was held on April 9-11, 1999 in Lake Arrowhead, California. But, it actually began for me back in September of 1998 at the California Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference held in Anaheim. At the end of the meeting, Sister Lynette Huttenberger asked if anyone would volunteer to head up the 1999 Ladies' Fellowship Weekend. There was a long pause of silence and I finally volunteered because I don't work outside the home and had the time to do it. Immediately Sister Tami Camarda and Sister Valerie Dulisse of the Modesto Branch came to my mind to do the seminar. I asked Sister Valerie the next week if she and Sister Tami would consider doing this. She said that she would ask Sister Tami and get back to me. A week or so later, Sister Valerie called me and said that they had also asked Sister Jody Gregor to help them. She told me that they would be happy to do the seminar and that the Sunday before, Sister Tami had testified that ever since GMBA campout, she was praying that God would give her more work to do for the Church. What a blessing!

The sisters from Modesto then decided to fast and pray that God would direct them as to a theme for the weekend. Some of the sisters from Lindsay and from Anaheim joined them and they were inspired with "A Self Revival" because that is what was taking place in their branches.

The weekend started off on Friday

night with a welcome game and introductions. We all sat in a circle and went around the room telling our names, what branch we were from and why we had come to the fellowship weekend. We had almost forty women there on Friday night and nine teenage girls!

Saturday morning, the seminar started promptly at 9:30 AM. We were fortunate to have several sisters from out of state with us. We had the General Circle President and Vice President, Sisters Arline Whitton and Lorraine DeMercurio, both from Michigan and Sister Doreen Dino and Sister Carrie Jankowski both from the Denver, Colorado Mission. Sister Doreen Dino started the day on Saturday by giving her testimony and how she needed a "self revival," not being near the Church for such a long time. How grateful to God she is that there is now a minister and mission in Denver. She truly was an inspiration to us all.

The seminar started with twelve happy faces on the wall, all with different expressions on them. Our assignment was to figure out what gift of the Spirit went with what expression. Then leading into the "small" blessings we received daily, there were vases on each table and clear marbles and we put them into the vase every time we thought of a blessing. Then we broke into groups to discuss the blessings we receive daily and came together and did the exercise again and saw the difference in the level of marbles in the vase. What a difference when you actually stop and think about the blessings God gives us on a daily basis. We then broke for lunch before the afternoon session. When we reconvened, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio spoke to us on their experiences on missionary work in Africa; how she needed a self revival upon returning home after being away from the Church and how being away affected her family. During the afternoon session, Sister Jody and Sister Valerie did an exercise with a large jar and rocks and sand and water to demonstrate how we can fit everything into our busy schedules if we put things in the right order. Then we made a craft that was a "Blessing Journal." We were to write at least one blessing in it

per day after we went home. After some free time and a wonderful banquet dinner, we met for our evening service. Sister Virginia Suprenant and the sisters from the Bell Branch were in charge. We played a game of "Name That Tune" with hymns. A great time was enjoyed by all!

Sunday morning we all came together at 10:00 AM and were joined by Brother Walt Jankowski of the Denver Mission. He briefly spoke to us on the topic of Self Revival and then Sister Arline Whitton addressed us on the topic. We had many, many testimonies, anointings, a beautiful vision and of course, lots of singing! Everyone went away revived and the icing on the cake was it was "snowing" as we left the mountain!

The following is a young woman's point of view after attending her first fellowship weekend:

"I attended the Ladies' Fellowship Weekend at Lake Arrowhead in California, April of 1999. Being a teenager at my first such weekend, I was amazingly touched during the whole weekend. The lesson for the weekend was A Self Revival. As we talked about the big and small blessings which God has given us, my heart was truly touched when I heard of the many different blessings God has given others. We can communicate to God through not only our hearts, but when we receive these blessings and take them into our hearts. Throughout this wonderful and beautiful weekend, I was deeply inspired by others, the teachings and the Sunday service. I had a great time seeing the ladies I already know, again, but I also enjoyed meeting the ladies from other branches that I did not know before this awesome weekend. This weekend was an event that I will never forget because it was just the "uplift" my spiritual life needed. I can't really put how I felt into words, it was that powerful. I look forward to attending more Ladies' Fellowship Weekends in the future and to stay in contact with the new ladies I met. Thanks for the "Self Revival." Take care and God bless. Sister Andrea Meo, 15 years old, Tse Bonito Branch.

P.S. I taught this "Self Revival" lesson at my branch's Ladies' Circle.



Branch and Mission News

Two Baptisms in the Inner City Branch, Detroit, MI

July 11, 1999, was a beautiful day, naturally and spiritually, for the baptisms of two young souls. At the World Missionary Conference, Jordan Champine and Eric Bacz asked for their baptisms, and they both decided to wait until they got home so their families and friends could join in the celebration.

There were many saints from surrounding branches and as far away as Pennsylvania who came to the water's edge to witness the baptisms. Brother Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, opened in prayer. Brother Steve Champine baptized his son, Jordan and also Eric Bacz.

When we returned to the Inner City Branch, many of the saints came to continue in the celebration. Brother Daniel Mora opened in prayer. Brother Gary Champine opened and spoke on the gift of the Holy Spirit. He stated that the Holy Spirit will dwell within them, and that gift lets us know that God is with us to lead and guide us. The flesh does not know how to love, but the Holy Spirit teaches us how to love. The Holy Spirit will convict us of sin in Ephesians 4:30 it states, "... do not grieve the Holy Spirit," it is the gift given of God. When we do what the Father asks, He blesses us. Brother Gary stated that Brother Jordan and Brother Eric are taking a different role in the work of the Inner City. What a privilege it is to be a worker for the Lord!

The Elders formed a circle around the two candidates and prayed that God would inspire them as to who should bestow the gift of the Holy Spirit on them. Brother Gary Champine confirmed Brother Eric and Brother Larry Champine confirmed his nephew, Brother Jordan. The two new brothers were then asked to share their testimonies. Both Brother Jordan and

Brother Eric related their experiences while they were at the World Missionary Conference and how God had inspired them to ask for their baptisms.

Brother Larry Champine spoke and stated that these two young men were taught about the Lord by those who love them. Brother Sam DiFalco declared, "Thank God; be of good cheer! When we give our life to Jesus, we must set a good example."

After sacrament was served, everyone shared in light refreshments of cake and beverages. The Inner City Branch has truly been blessed, and please continue to pray for us.

Muncey, Ontario, Canada

By Sister Mona Ogden

On July 4, 1999, after returning home from an inspirational week at the World Missionary Conference, we at Muncey, continued to be blessed with the baptisms of three souls. This important event followed on the heels of our World Conference; therefore, we were visited by many brothers and sisters from many different areas of the vineyard. Our small church was full.

Young Karen Henderson, from the Detroit, Branch 2, was baptized by her father, Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Leonard Loyalvo. Young Priscilla George from our Muncey Mission was baptized by Brother Nephi DeMercurio and confirmed by Brother Jerry Benyola. Priscilla's father, Chris George, was baptized also by Brother Nephi DeMercurio and confirmed by Brother Patrick Beryl O'Callaghan who lives in Manchester, England.

A visiting brother, Brother Mike Nuzzi, witnessed a vision during the baptisms. He saw God walk into the water with two crowns in His hands. He placed one crown, containing a diamond stone, on the head of Karen Henderson. He handed Chris George a golden box. He placed the other crown on the head of Priscilla and then proceeded to put into the crown, a "green jewel."

We were delighted to have singing

for us, "The Youth in Action" singers. Other visiting brothers were, Brothers Alex Gentile from the Detroit area, Matthew Collison from the Saugeen Mission in Southhampton Ontario, and Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., and wife Cindy from the State of Maine. Brother Richard was a God send. He arrived in Muncey the day before the baptisms and was a huge help in the riverside cleanup. While our brothers were away, the weeds got high, and there was only one day to prepare the baptism site. Also, there was the extreme heat to contend with. Our many thanks go to our beloved Brothers Phil Buffa, and Jim Lambert, who both played an important role in our day's activities. God bless all who participated.

Ordinations Highlight Joint Meeting

The Atlanta, Georgia Branch and the Mid-Georgia Mission held a joint meeting in Atlanta on Sunday, September 5, 1999 and witnessed the ordination of four brothers, an Elder, and a Deacon called for the Atlanta Branch, and a Teacher and a Deacon called for the Mid-Georgia Mission. Sharing in the day's events were Apostle Dominic Thomas and his wife, Sister Dolores, and Apostle Paul Benyola, and his wife, Sister Dottie. Many other visitors were present from Michigan, California, South Carolina, and Florida. Brother Justin Paxon sang, *It's My Desire* for our opening hymn and Brother Paul Benyola offered prayer.

Brother Dominic Thomas addressed the congregation, reading various passages of scripture from I Corinthians and Acts, regarding the various offices referenced by the Apostle Paul. He urged the saints to pray for those ordained to carry out the work of the Lord and support them by showing love and respect. Various members of the ministry then read the duties of an Elder, Teacher, and Deacon and also related experiences about the callings of the four brothers.

Brother Ryan Lesperance's feet were washed by Brother Justin Paxon, and he was ordained into the office of a Deacon by Brother Malcolm Paxon. Brother Corey Morris' feet were washed by Brother John Straccia, and he was ordained a Deacon by Brother Harold Littlejohn. Brother Frank Rogolino washed the feet of Brother Art Campbell, and Brother Art was then ordained a Teacher by Brother Eugene Perri. Brother Ron Morle's feet were washed by Brother Ken Staley and he was ordained into the ministry by Brother Dominic Thomas.

A brief period of testimony followed the administering of the Lord's Supper. All the newly ordained brothers were then given the opportunity to express themselves. The day concluded with a luncheon, fellowship, and more singing. May God bless and guide our brothers as they strive to fulfill their new responsibilities to build up the work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Media Notice

All branches and missions of The Church of Jesus Christ are requested to please send any audio and/or visual materials or information, including lessons, seminars, workshops, and programs for teaching, particularly for our children and young people, about God, Christ, and the Faith and Doctrine of The Church. These may be actual copies or reference data which can be used in obtaining and utilizing the materials.

Please send the above items to Brother John S. Manes who is responsible for receiving them for the General Church Media Committee. His address and telephone number are:

2007 Cutter Drive
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-771-4513

Visitors in Gastonia, NC

By Sister Vera Jackman

We have had many visitors in the past few months. We rejoiced in their love. Sister Karen Progar wrote about her experience with us. The following is a visitor's perspective.

"If you attend a large branch, you may enjoy having visitors in your building, but I am sure we could never appreciate them as much as a mission or a small branch does.

"On Sunday, August 15, 1999, I had the privilege of being a visitor in one of those missions. I also had the privilege of being a recipient of a wonderful blessing. The Gastonia, North Carolina Mission was nearly full to capacity, beginning with Sunday School. *Good Morning God* seemed a most appropriate hymn to begin our marvelous service.

"Brother Art Gehly from Fredonia, Pennsylvania, visiting as well, opened the meeting with Proverbs 23:7, 'For as he thinketh in his heart, so he is,' and Matthew 10:18, 'But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile the man.' He stressed that we truly are that which we think, and thinking helps determine what we are. He encouraged us to use the talents which we have for the Church and edification of His people.

"Brother Joe Catone enjoyed the rare opportunity of blessing his and Donna's new born daughter, Abigail Rose. After Communion, the brothers and sisters bore their testimonies to the goodness of God in their lives.

"The day was concluded with a time of fellowship, as we enjoyed a lunch provided by the sisters of the Gastonia Mission. We had a wonderful day and created memories which will uplift us when we reflect upon them."

Sister Karen and all the visitors who attend our mission are greeted with the feeling of love and happiness. It is our desire to make our light shine so others may see the goodness and love of God. God bless you all. You are all welcome to visit Gastonia, North Carolina.

San Carlos, AZ, Vacation Bible School, 1999

By Sister Becky Tarbuck

"Gather her babies, all her young men, all her fair daughters, go gather them in."

It was indeed, a joy and a blessing to once again be a part of the San Carlos Vacation Bible School, July 19-23, 1999. The children were brought in by bus and by car, others walked, all with big smiles anticipating the fun and activities of the week. The Church is famous for its Vacation Bible School and applications are quickly snapped up early in the year by parents so that their children can be guaranteed a seat. They are greeted by Sister Dolores Piccuito who tags everyone for mode of transportation and grade level. Upon entering the sanctuary, they begin to see a vast team of volunteers who usher them in. Sister Tina Piccuito-Grosbeck is at the helm and is the organizer of events. One hundred and seventeen children! What a lovely group.

Our schedule each day is lesson/crafts/singing/lunch. Sister Lori Piccuito assists the volunteer lunch crew in dispersing the food. (I should say here that Sister Deby Abel has cooked every year for ten years, breakfast, lunch and supper. Almost all of the food has been donated by Sister Dottie Henderson.) It is a huge collaboration that could not be done without the help of volunteers such as cook, van drivers, teachers, aides, crafts people, a cleanup crew and those from various branches who sponsor the children.

Week nights, there were meetings held by the ministry, Brother Dan Piccuito and David Piccuito and Sal Azzinaro, for all who could attend. It was a joyous occasion.

One evening the James' family invited all Vacation Bible School workers to enjoy an authentic Indian meal. What a treat! Fry bread stuffed with all sorts of goodies. We ate and conversed under the trees.

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San Carlos, AZ, VBS

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There were also other opportunities to visit homes nearby. I personally enjoyed my first bowl of acorn soup and fresh tortillas on the fire with the Kayson family. Our singing was accompanied by Brother Jack on the guitar and others with various instruments of music. It was grand!

Friday came quickly. The children finished their crafts and readied themselves for the evening program to put on for the parents. The theme was "Shine for Jesus" and shine they did! We chuckled at their antics and the parents beamed with pride as their little ones sang and then were given a certificate of attendance. And this brought to close Vacation Bible School of 1999.

We have made friends and fell in love with the people of San Carlos Apache Reserve. Saturday morning came early and it was time to leave. I am sure we have all been a part of those teary departures. Vans were loaded and as we pulled away, our eyes were fixed upon the faces of our missionary family. They stood side by side, waving us into the distance.

"Bless them Lord, for the sacrifices they have made to live and work

among your covenant people."

I thank God that He provided a way for me to be a part of this wonderful work. Please consider the missions among the Seed of Joseph and put yourself in the way that the Lord might use you in some way, great or small.

Notice

The Americas Missionary Operating Committee will meet on February 4-5, 2000 in Aliquippa, PA. The purpose of the weekend meeting(s) is to ask the Lord's guidance and blessing in the efforts of this committee.

The Friday meeting, February 4, 2000, will convene at 7:30 PM and will be devoted to fasting and prayer for this work. The Saturday meeting, February 5, 2000, is scheduled to convene at 9:30 AM and conclude prior to 9:00 PM.

These meetings are open to all interested brothers, sisters and friends. For those who may need accommodations, please contact Sister Karen Progar, 277 Holt Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001, telephone number 724-495-7894.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Carradi, Ron and Marilyn
452 NE Camelot Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
561-340-0493

Langford, Mary
2831 South Denmark
Dorset, OH 44032
440-858-2313

Leopoldo, Connie
24320 Michigan Ave., Apt. 406
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-565-5171

Lobzun, Jennifer
26 Whelan Dr.
Amherstburg, Ontario, CN
519-736-3566

Risola, Daniel
5855 Sundown Circle, Apt. 724
Orlando, FL 32822-9499
407-658-0705

Romanski, Ric and Karyn (Vitto)
43621 Salt Creek Dr.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
810-263-6929



1999 Vacation Bible School in San Carlos, Arizona

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To say thank you for your outpouring of love, cards and phone calls during my recent surgery seems so inadequate. I have been enveloped in your prayers continually. We serve a good and gracious Lord and He truly has been that to me.

The recovery room nurse told my family that upon entering my room, she felt the presence of angels all around and that there was something "different" about me. Praise God for His tender mercies toward His children.

My surgeons told me that my surgery was in the top half of the top 1% of all the surgeries they have done. Indeed our Lord guided their hands. How faithful is He when we trust Him.

My family and I want to let each of you know how deeply we appreciate your loving concern. Our prayer is that God may richly bless and reward our wonderful Church family.

Sister Shirley Vitto

Announcement

For December, 1999, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.60%
2 years	5.80%
3 years	5.90%
4 years	6.00%
5 years	6.15%

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

The True Experience

Continued from Page 1

some money and we would talk. So I went to his place of business and he gave me some money and told me to come back at 7:00 PM, when he got off and we'd talked some more and I did.

When he got off, he asked where I was staying, and I told him I had no place, and he offered me into his home and gave me a place to stay. Never in my life before had I found someone to help me so freely. Shortly thereafter I became a member of the Church, and shortly after that Brother Frank Zaher passed away.

The devil began his work with me once again, and once again I fell away from the Church and started doing the same things. I got sick and was in the hospital for a week and when I got out I went to a brother's house, his name was McNeil, he gave me a place to stay and I started going back to Church. Thanksgiving of 1985, that Sunday, I was reinstated back into the Church and I can say from that time forward, I tried to serve God. I made some mistakes but, thanks to God I'm still making it and I find no better joy but than to sit with you in the Bowery and tell you my life in hoping that you too will come and be saved, and that you would step out in faith and God cure your condition, for if you will let Him, He can help you and you can be a big help to someone else. Life is leaving me it seems like, but blessed be the name of the Lord.

My brothers I say because I lived that life and I know what you are going through, but there is a way out, and that is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Don't let Satan keep you in his clutches for the wages of sin is death. Come out of there I tell you and you will find happiness in Jesus. His arms are open and He stands at the door and knocks, and if any opens, He will come and sup with you and you with Him. This is my last request, that you try to find God and save yourselves.

Love You Always,
Brother Nathan

(Brother Nathan Peterkin, Jr.
passed away to his eternal reward on
December 3, 1986—Editor's note.)

A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

they would encounter. Reliance upon the Holy Spirit was emphasized in His preparing the disciples for what was to come and what He expected of them.

The many facets in which a minister must be involved were enumerated by Brother Loyalvo and the obligations inherent in the hands on work involved were mentioned. The implications and personal sacrifices were also pointed out.

Brother Loyalvo concluded by saying God would bring things to memory as required but that knowledge and preparedness should ideally be ready to receive the instant inspiration given. The topics of great importance include knowing the scriptures, understanding completely the Apostasy and Restoration, the Priesthood Authority, the Faith and Doctrine, and ways to serve the flock.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

at this young man and his wife. The men in the car were threatening to shoot this young man and his wife. The young man stated in his dream, "If only I had not left my gun in the car. Why did I leave my gun in the car? I never leave my gun in the car." Then he heard the voice of the Lord. The Lord spoke to him and said, "When are you going to forget those guns and put Me first? This is the first step!"

While there are many examples of individuals in the Scriptures that have put the Lord first, there are also many in The Church of Jesus Christ today who have done the same. Names do not have to be mentioned. Suffice it to say that many have devoted their lives to the cause of Jesus Christ. Many have devoted their lives to The Church of Jesus Christ. They have devoted most of their lives to missionary work on behalf of the Lord and His Gospel. They have been on reservations, gone to foreign lands and have done exhaus-

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* WEDDING *

Brad Thomas Hunt and Catherine Wanda Fahey were united in marriage at Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania on August 21, 1999.

Charles Roberts and Michelle Girimonte were united in marriage in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on July 31, 1999.

Children Blessed

Moiria Cecelia Gibson, daughter of Kathy and Brian Gibson, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on September 12, 1999.

Vincent Alexander Pistelli, son of Sister Celine Pistelli, was blessed on July 25, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Jemma Renee Bucaro, granddaughter of Shirley Frederick, was blessed on July 25, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Jon-Claude Anthony Parry, son of Brother David and Sister Yvonne Parry, was blessed on August 8, 1999 in the Inner City Branch, Detroit, Michigan.

Victoria Rae Hunt, daughter of Sister Chenita Hunt, was blessed on May 30, 1999 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Steven Richard Deulus, son of Brother Richard and Sister Wendy Deulus, was blessed on May 16, 1999 in the Modesto, California Branch.

Ordinations

Brother Harold Littlejohn of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission was ordained an Evangelist at the October General Church Conference Sunday Service. His feet

were washed by Evangelist Joseph Gennaro. He was ordained an Evangelist by Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino.

Brother Jeffrey Paxon of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, was ordained a Deacon on May 23, 1999. His feet were washed by Brother Keith Lesperance and he was ordained by Brother Malcolm Paxon.

Brother Brett Gibson of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, was ordained a Deacon on May 23, 1999. His feet were washed by Brother Chris Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Brother Mark Palmieri of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, was ordained a Deacon on May 23, 1999. His feet were washed by Brother Sela Palmieri and he was ordained by Brother Chuck Jumper.

Brother Brad Everett of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, was ordained a Deacon on May 23, 1999. His feet were washed by Brother David Loyalvo and he was ordained by Brother Spencer Everett.

OBITUARY

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

JOSEPHINE AMORMINO

Sister Josephine Amormino passed on to her heavenly reward on February 5, 1999. She was a member of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan. Sister Josephine is survived by one son, Brother Eugene F. Amormino; one brother, Sam Milio; one sister, Francis Marinello and two grandchildren.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 11

tive missionary work in the Americas. Much of this work has been done with their own monies and on their own time, whether personal time or taking time off from work.

They have done this while leaving family behind. They have left their wives behind. They have left their children behind. These modern missionaries have placed God first and in the face of adversity, have carried His message to many countries. They have carried the message to the Seed of Joseph. The results are not always large numbers of baptisms. The results do show the true message of His Gospel is reaching all corners of the earth. Progress has been slow but it is accelerating. How will we reach all peoples? By putting God first in our lives. By seeking His Kingdom ahead of our own gain. Make God your priority. He will add all things to you.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

