

The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

January, 2000

Volume 56, No. 1

My Testimony

My Brother Alfred Burch

November 22, 1963

I was born on the Muncey Indian Reservation in 1906. I was brought up in the Anglican Church, but I had no interest in it.

I began to attend church meetings in The Church of Jesus Christ after my wife had attended a few meetings. My wife became acquainted with the Church through Sister Elizabeth Groesbeck. She often talked about the Church at home. She said there was more love shown in The Church of Jesus Christ than our own church. I started to go myself. I thought I would go just to please her. I found that it was true what she said. There was more love and kindness shown.

Soon, the brothers that belonged to the Church became acquainted with me, and told me about the Church. About a year after I started to go, I seemed to understand. They began to tell me to join the Church. They told me I had to be baptized. I said I couldn't very well do that, because I was already baptized in the Anglican Church. I thought I was all right. I quit going to church for a while. I was led away from the Church because of drinking. Then I

started to have troubles. I went to the hospital to be treated for lockjaw. I was there for three and a half months. I came out in March 1956.

While I was home, I met the Ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Reno Bologna came to pay me a visit while I was sick in bed. I became more acquainted with him through his visits during that summer. I went back to the hospital three times during the summer. In December, I came out of the hospital and Brother Reno came to see me again.

He asked my wife how are you fixed financially to see you through the Christmas holidays? My wife told him we had nothing. He donated \$10 to us. At that time, I started to realize what The Church of Jesus Christ meant.

I still continued to drink alcohol. I drank many types of alcohol. I became an alcoholic.

I returned to the hospital again for an operation. So after I had the operation, I came home. I started to go to Church again. I realized I must be disobeying God, and He was punishing me by sending me back to the hospital. I still continued to drink. I went back to the hospital and had six more operations.

Then I realized I had to serve God. So I know that I must be a hard man. So God had to break my heart

to give me the understanding that I had to look up to Him.

When I realized this, I had a vision. I saw myself in the church. I was on a stretcher as though I was going for an operation. There were three men around me, all dressed in white. They were preparing me for an operation. Then I saw myself by the river bank. I saw a man in the water up to his waist. The water was very clean where he was standing. Then I saw myself carried in the water on the stretcher, and they took me out of the water and I saw myself wheeled into my room at home. It was a beautiful room, the nicest room I ever saw. Then I woke up.

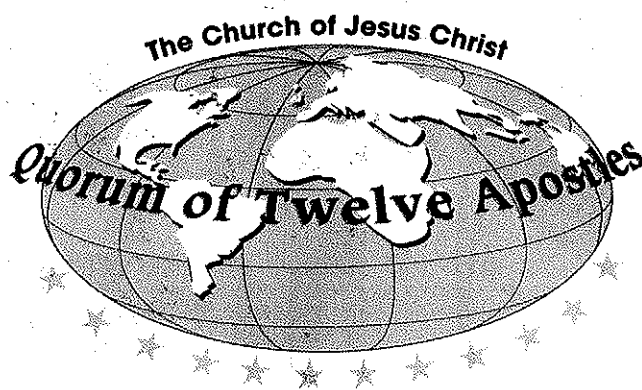
I asked my little boy where did we go, he said no place, I was here all the time. So I told him my dream. As time went by, I had another dream.

I met a woman all dressed in white. I asked her what must I do to know God. She said pray. I saw myself down on my knees and a bright light was around me. I woke up. But I went along the same as before, carrying on.

One day I left home. I went about a half mile down the road, and entered into an old empty house for no reason at all. Then I went back home.

The following week, I returned to the same house with the feeling that

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The Everlasting Covenant

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

In Isaiah 24:5, it is written, "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, broken the everlasting covenant." Here are words that definitely speak of a people who transgressed the laws, changed ordinances, and broke an everlasting covenant.

While it can be readily agreed that, from time to time, Israel transgressed the laws of God and did that which was evil in His sight, yet the Lord did not make an everlasting

It is also understood that no man was saved by the law but that all men, even before Christ, looked forward to the redeeming blood of the Saviour for eternal salvation. By faith in Him, then, they hoped for eternal justification. All the prophets from the beginning of the world spoke of the Christ, who was to come to the earth to redeem mankind.

To no man did the Lord make an everlasting covenant. Even to Abraham, the promise was not to him exclusively but in his seed, which seed was Christ.

The promise to Israel was that a Messiah would come and that they should hearken to Him. The words of Moses were, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

Isaiah also spoke of the coming Messiah very eloquently. It is my contention, therefore, that the everlasting covenant was made to, and broken by, a people under a different dispensation than that of the law. They could not break a law or covenant which was never made to them under the Mosaic Law. What is, then, the everlasting covenant which was broken and by whom was it broken?

A covenant is a pact, an agreement, a contract between two parties. Some contracts are verbal, while some are written and sealed by signatures of both parties. God did make some covenants with Israel.

None of these, however, was the everlasting covenant which Isaiah says was broken.

Paul said, "For the law made nothing perfect . . ." and,

"But now that he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should not place have been sought for the second."

He also stated:

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant . . .

"Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand, to bring them out of the land of Egypt . . .

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Here is an indication which positively tells us of a new covenant. This new covenant, or contract was to be made by God through the agency of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord God Himself says about His Son, ". . . This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

The Apostle Paul again said, "And for this cause he is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Christ then was to be the Testator of this new testament. Through Him, the everlasting covenant was to be made.

The everlasting contract, or covenant could not be made to anyone else except His Disciples, who were His Church. Listen, then, to the serious and majestic words of the Saviour, as He made the everlasting covenant to His Church in St. Matthew 28:18-20,

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

covenant, so far as the law was concerned, with Israel. The Apostle Paul says, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

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."

Please notice that Christ said, "... I am with you alway ..." Here indeed is a promise! It is the everlasting covenant that He would keep unfaithfully.

It takes two parties to make a covenant. Jesus made this promise to His disciples, or His Church. Note how He commands them, "Go ye therefore ..." The disciples, or the Church, were expected to keep their part of the agreement, which was simply to keep the teachings and commandments of Jesus undefiled, unadulterated, and pure. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The Lord admonished them. Again Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you ... He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit ..." Additionally, He stated, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

Christ also promised them that certain signs would follow the true believers in Him. The Apostle Paul clearly sets forth the gifts in I Corinthians, 12th chapter. These signs and spiritual gifts would continue so long as the Church would keep her part of the covenant, or agreement.

We know that, if one of two parties breaks the agreement clearly set forth in a contract, the loyal party is not obliged to continue in his part of the contract. The everlasting covenant, made between Christ and His Church, shows that they, the disciples, were to preach and teach all things whatsoever the Lord had commanded them. In return, the Lord Jesus would be with them always, even unto the end of the world. For their efforts in preaching His Gospel, a reward of eternal joy awaited them.

No greater blessing could have been bestowed on them than to be in the mansions of glory with Jesus

providing they, the Church, would continue to abide in Him. Unfortunately, however, the Church did not continue in His love, nor did they keep their covenant to love Him and keep His commandments.

Grievous wolves entered in, not sparing the flock. Ordinances and commandments were trampled under feet. Virtuous laws were supplanted by hypocritical substitutions. Men who were supposed to be teachers of righteousness turned out to be vicious and evil exponents of untruths, smoothly veneered with false humility and false love until the true and really sincere persons were purged from the Church.

It was not long after the death of our Saviour that men deviated from the Lord's commandments to teach "... all things whatsoever I have commanded you ..." They went into forbidden paths, forgetting the pure and simple teachings of the Lord and substituting their own personal opinion and commandments; and, as St. Matthew 15:9 says, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Jesus and His disciples taught baptism by immersion. Yet, it was not many years later when other modes of baptism were introduced and practiced, which, although very convenient to man, was and is at variance with Christ and His commandments.

Definitions of the word "baptism" by theologians and scholars, both of yesteryear and today, give a light to baptism which is certainly not according to scripture. Let me add at this juncture, however, that The Church of Jesus Christ, which I represent, definitely believes and practices baptism as commanded by Christ and His disciples; and this is by immersion.

There is no question that the mode of baptism which was practiced not many years after the death of the Saviour and is now practiced by most professing Christians was, and is, a far cry from the true mode of baptism as prescribed in the Holy Bible.

Truly, the Apostle Paul was correct in saying, that "... in the

latter times some shall depart from the faith ..." Christ reiterated Isaiah's words that "... for doctrines they shall teach the commandments of men." Isaiah again says, "... because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."

Every student of the Bible should agree with me that the true and only way to baptize is recorded plainly in the Bible. Nevertheless, suffice to say that Paul, the Apostle, prophesied definitely that there would be a departure from the faith. He warned Timothy to,

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:15-16).

How he must have groaned within at the frightful picture of the future when men would become lovers of themselves, trucebreakers, blasphemers, and the like. With tears, he told the brethren, "... that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

Jesus Christ saw the condition of the Church in the future when He said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The Lord warned them that "... many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

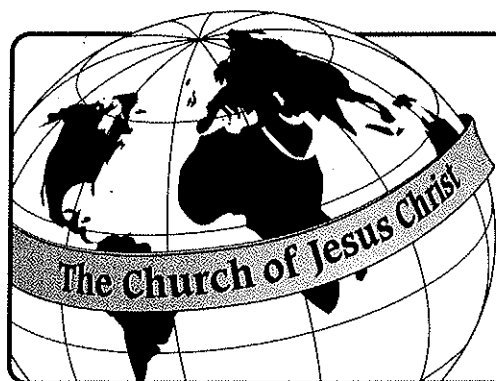
He knew that there would arise men who would seek their own interests, and to achieve such, they would do anything, even to using the name of God in the crooked and perverse dealings.

Christ said that:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name

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A message from the Seventy

Domestic Missionary Operating Committee

*By Evangelist Leonard A. Lovalvo
Chairman, Domestic Missionary Operating Committee*

The Domestic Missionary Operating Committee (DMOC) was established at the October 1998 General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists (GQ70) Conference with the intent that it assist the Regions in expanding the domestic base in the United States and Canada. The DMOC reports directly to the GQ70 and will coordinate its domestic outreach efforts with the Region Missionary Operating Committees (RMOC). (The RMOC will continue to report to the RQ70 and Region but will also report functionally to the DMOC).

The other officers of the DMOC are Evangelists Dennis Moraco, Vice Chairman, and Jerry Valenti, Secretary. The committee is also comprised of the seven RMOC Chairmen. They are the following Evangelists:

Atlantic Coast—Joseph Perri
Great Lakes—Nephi DeMercurio
Ohio Mid-West—Wayne Martorana
Pacific—James Huttenberger
Penn-Mid Atlantic—Richard Lawson
Southeast—Eugene Perri, Jr.
Southwest—Dwayne Jordan

An important assumption is that the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ is the concern of every Church member. Therefore, the DMOC will be listening for ideas and suggestions that would enhance the GREAT WORK OF THE LORD. Contact your RMOC Chairman to offer your assistance, as well.

INFORMATION-GATHERING QUESTIONNAIRE

An information-gathering questionnaire sent to RMOC Chairman in January 1999, resulted in the following responses.

1. *What are your Region's needs?*
Activities; fellowship; to grow in love, unity, the Spirit of God, and membership; visits; seminars; Church buildings; resident ministers in various locations; ordained officers; and financial assistance.
2. *How can the Ministry be of assistance to those needs?*
Weekend events or visits to the branches and missions for a longer period of time; visitation programs with support personnel using a team approach; resident minister for 2-3 months; weekend Evangelistic services with personnel to follow up on leads.
3. *What types of programs need to be implemented to evangelize the Gospel?*
Relocation of a Minister where there are needs; preaching to uplift and confirm our mission and beliefs; special programs tailored for the specific needs of each branch; Sunday evening meetings.
4. *What have you tried that worked?*
Weekend events to bring the youth together; singing meetings; picnics/outings; guest speakers.

WEEKEND MEETINGS

On the weekend of October 23-25, 1998, a committee of six Brothers, Leonard Lovalvo, Jim Huttenberger, Anthony Piccuito, Louis Vitto, Leonard A. Lovalvo, and Ron Genaro visited the Atlantic Coast Region to present an Evangelistic Program. On the Friday evening, we met at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch for a singspiration and preaching service. Saturday morning, we met with the Elders and Teachers and presented information regarding marriage enrichment seminars, counseling, and communication techniques. In the afternoon, everyone was invited to engage in a seminar with the topic, "Preserving the Family." Saturday evening and Sunday morning meetings included singing, preaching, and testimonies.

The liberty of God's Spirit was enjoyed throughout the weekend and the feeling was that the response from the region attendees showed great appreciation. It was a beautiful experience with wonderful results such as an increase in love, fellowship, cooperation, and hospitality. Oral and written comments suggested that we make return visits.

During the first weekend this last October, the same brothers listed above presented a similar program in the Great Lakes Region. On Friday evening, a singspiration and preaching meeting directed to the young was held. On Saturday morning, a seminar was conducted on the qualities and techniques necessary to promote the Gospel. In the afternoon, our topic was "Preserving the Family," and the evening service was devoted to singing, preaching, and testimonies. The Sunday meeting was combined with the Great Lakes Region Conference. These events required the involvement of many people, which proved to be very rewarding to those who made presentations as well as those who attended.

PROMOTION OF THE GOSPEL

The promotion of the Gospel requires that everyone becomes in-

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ. PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

We are starting a new century. We are also starting a new millennium. How many of us ever thought that we would see this event?

Here we are, witnessing two new measurements of time. A new one hundred years. A new one thousand years. Time truly marches on. It waits for no person or group of people.

The media at large has spent the last eighteen months or more informing the general public of the many so-called perils going into the new millennium. They would have you believe that the world is coming to an end. It is safe to say the water will run, the electricity that lights our homes will continue to work, and everyday life will no doubt continue as before. Have you noticed that credit cards that expire in the year 2000 and later are working just fine? The monthly statements are accurate and they have not stopped arriving in the mail because of date problems.

It is unfortunate that mankind does not spend as much time focusing on the Lord. It is sad that focus is lacking on the millennium with Jesus Christ which occurs after the First Resurrection. You would think the emphasis would be on serving the Lord through repentance, baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost. By serving the Lord in truth and in spirit, by enduring to the end, one will be part of the First Resurrection and millennium with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Can you imagine how glorious it will be to reign with the Lord?

The second coming of Jesus Christ will be a glorious event. He will appear in glory to wed His bride, The Church of Jesus Christ. He will gather all the righteous unto Himself to live with Him for a thousand years. How marvelous!

The Scriptures tell us the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God! The dead in Christ, those who were faithful and righteous to their end, will rise first! The righteous that are alive at His second coming will be changed in a twinkling of an eye from mortality to immortality and are then caught up in the clouds with those that resurrected. They will meet the Lord in the air. They will be with the Lord forever, never to depart from one another.

When will the second coming of Jesus Christ occur? The answer to this question is known only by God the Father. The angels in heaven do not know the answer to this question. We do not know when our own life will come to an end. How can we know when the end of the world will occur? We do know that His coming will be as a thief in the night. In other words, we do not know the exact date and time. Suffice it to say it will be sudden!

We are told on more than one occasion in Scripture that the times and seasons are known only by the Lord. Jesus Christ told His disciples in Acts 1:7, "It is not for you to know the times and the season, which the Father hath put in his own power." He knows all things! By Him all things were created. By Him, the end comes to usher in eternity in the Kingdom of God.

The Lord eloquently informed His disciples in the 24th chapter of Matthew what to expect at the end of time. The Lord's disciples asked Him, "... and what shall be the sign of thy coming; and of the end of the world?" Jesus Christ shared many signs with them in response to their question. A most important sign was His response in Matthew 24:14, "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."

People paid no attention at all to God in the days of Noah. Despite Noah's preaching of righteousness and to repent and serve God, the people ignored him. No doubt Noah preached and pleaded with the people. He warned them of God's pending wrath if they did not repent

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Have you realized yet how powerful your thoughts are? We talked in another lesson about how the greatest athletes in the world tell themselves good things about themselves. I told you about the famous Indian athlete who told reporters he would picture himself in his mind, running the right way and jumping the right way so that he would win. He made it to the Olympic Games, where the finest athletes in the world go to test themselves. He won gold medals.

Well, we are in a contest, too. Every day, when we wake up to a fresh new day, we have the chance to think good thoughts and do something good for Jesus.

Every day, or even every moment, we have a chance to start something good. We have a Savior. His name is Jesus. And Jesus knows all about the ugly things His children often think and do. And Jesus has the power to help us stop doing things that are harmful to ourselves and others.

We start by thinking about Jesus and His power and love. Then we must imagine Jesus. Imagine His gentle, quiet, loving smile. Turn off the TV, turn off the radio, go to a quiet spot in your mind and just talk to Jesus.

Tell Jesus how you were afraid and then got so angry. Tell Jesus how mean you wanted to be and ask Jesus to forgive you. He will. He already knows all of our ugly thoughts, and He's just waiting for us to ask Him to take them away and put love there instead.

Tell Him your shame. Sin grows when people are afraid to name it and ask Jesus to cut it out. Tell Jesus.

If you are really deep in sin and not sure even how to get out, tell that



"I'm just bad," stop right there!

You're the person Jesus came down to love. He died for you. He has all the true power of the universe, and He cares for you. Thank Him. Beg Him to help you again. Then remember, as you believe in yourself, that "I can do all things through Jesus Christ, which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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A Weekend of Restoration

By Sister Mandy Griffith

Another joyful weekend was had by all who attended the May 15-16, 1999 GMBA Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. It was a weekend of Restoration, and the Lord truly reminded His children that He has not forgotten Israel and the Latter Day plan. God has chosen each of us to be a vital part of His Church in bringing forth His work, and the saints of God were reminded of this calling and refreshed in the spirit of Restoration.

Saturday morning, Brother Jeffrey Giannetti related an experience where the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was, "Raise a song of joy and gladness to me, thus saith the Lord." Then, Brother Dominic Thomas shared his love for the Church and his enthusiasm for the GMBA. He said, "We must reflect the Lord's love and spirit; it's shown through fasting and prayer, devotion and dedication to the Church. The Church is not an inanimate object or an institution; it's an establishment of love and liveliness—the vibrancy of God! He then called the hymn, *Our Church* without previously knowing our brother's experience, which contained the words of this hymn. The words were sung to the honor and glory of God.

A portion of the day was given to the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ to answer questions and address the congregation. Brothers Joseph Lovalvo, Paul Benyola, Joseph Calabrese, Joseph Bittinger and Russell Cadman spoke on topics such as: the Hill Cumorah, the Peaceful Reign, Zion, the Choice Seer, and the Latter Day work. We were blessed and excited to hear of all the wondrous works the Lord will bring forth, and we should feel humbled in knowing we have a place in this Restored Gospel.

At the close of the afternoon, the young people came forward and sang; *We'll Be Singing on the Mountain*, *Amazing Grace*, and *It's My Desire*. Brother Paul Palmieri offered a prayer over all of the young people that God would keep them in His care. We pray that these young people would grab hold of the Restored Gospel and be vessels of honor for the Master's use.

The evening program was given by the Ohio-Midwest Area, and the theme was, *The Homecoming, Israel*. Songs and scriptures of God's promises for His chosen people were offered, and the Spirit of God was in our midst. Brother Mike Nuzzi spoke in the word of the Lord, saying, "Israel, I love you. Israel, I love you. Israel, I love you. The prophets are among you. The time is near, thus saith the Lord." Thank you Lord, for the beautiful manifestation of your Spirit.

Following the program, Brother Ike Smith, Sr. spoke on Israel and how God can use young men to do His work. In the Book of Mormon, Lehi commanded his children to go to Laban and obtain the records. He sent these young men to do a mighty work. The same Spirit God gave Nephi is in the Church today. God will provide a way for us to accomplish this task; we are commissioned to find the Seed of Joseph and bring them back. Brother Ike said, "We need the Spirit of Nephi—the determination, dedication, and full effort into the work of the Lord. The young people should put all efforts into restoring Israel. The Lord doesn't give us any commandments lest He provides a way that we can accomplish them, and He will fulfill His work using you and me. We must renew our hope and trust in God, and we will see Israel's glorious return.

Brother Tom Liberto followed this powerful message saying, "Don't lose the war. We can lose battles now and then, but don't lose the war. We need to be strong, willing soldiers to meet this task head on—restore Israel." In Alma, the two thousand young soldiers were raised in the ways of the Lord. Their mothers taught them of God and they were brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We must

train our children in their youth. They will take on the battles of the future. Brother Tom said, "Make the Church your life's vocation. The Lord needs you."

Brother Paul Palmieri then added, "Christ accepted no nation unless they repented. We must pray that Israel repents unto God." The only thing that brings change in our lives is repentance and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We are accountable for the lives of others. Are we sharing the message presented to us by the angel? Have we told everyone about the Restoration of the Gospel? Let's do our part to please the Lord. Let's be ready to meet the Master and hear those wonderful words, "Well done my good and faithful servant." When we received the Holy Ghost, we became workers unto the Lord. We need to rise to a higher level of righteousness and work for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri closed the evening meeting by inviting any unbaptized to come and join this Church. "We may not be perfect, but we serve a perfect Savior. This is His perfect Gospel." Amen.

Sunday morning we reconvened and the Ohio-Midwest choir opened with a few selections. Brother Joe Lovalvo opened the service by asking a question. "Are we waiting for Zion? There's nothing that says we can't have Zion now. Where two or three are gathered, the spirit of Zion is there. If we came with one mind and one heart, we can have Zion here." The brothers passed communion to the members of the Church. We felt a peaceful spirit as we partook of the holy ordinance.

Brother Joe Calabrese opened the preaching service, maintaining the theme of Restoration. "The Gospel is spreading all over the earth. We must focus on the responsibility that is coming our way. There will be greater things. We will see greater works. The Lord has given us the resource to do His work. Listen to the Spirit that speaks to you and put it into action." We can't get caught in the trap of being too busy or distracted. The devil

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Branch and Mission News

Ordinations in Hollywood, FL

By Sister Betty Gennaro

The Hollywood, Florida Branch and Miami Mission met together on February 14, 1999, to witness the ordination of Brother Justin Severson as a Teacher and Sister Helen Catone as a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Dennis Moraco, explained the duties of a Teacher. He explained a Teacher is an extension of the Ministry, encouraging and teaching the saints. Brother Justin displays a humble spirit and his heart is on the things of God. His feet were washed by Brother Miguel Bicelis. He was ordained by Brother Joe Catone, Sr.

God's beautiful spirit prevailed as Brother Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis sang that wonderful hymn, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother Dennis then explained the duties of a Deaconess, which is to assist during baptism, feet washing, set the communion table, visit the sick and to be full of good works. Sister Helen's feet were washed by Sister Kathy Kirschenpfad. She was ordained by Brother John Catone.

Brother Miguel Bicelis gave us an inspirational message regarding the continuation of our Church. God's work will continue to be in good hands. We are used as vessels of clay by the Potter. There comes a time when we are presented with the truth, something seen by faith, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is up to us to choose it or reject it. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we have chosen the better part of life. God has given us something very precious, Jesus Christ. Sister Helen's and Brother Justin's lives have been enriched abundantly by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless them and use them for His honor and glory.

Five Baptisms in Monongahela, PA

On Sunday evening, September 19, 1999, a large crowd of brothers, sisters and many friends and visitors gathered on the shore of the Monongahela River to witness the baptisms of five young people into The Church of Jesus Christ. It was a beautiful sight to behold the candidates and all that gathered to witness souls surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ. They all requested their baptisms on Saturday during the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area MBA Campout.

Brother Chuck Kogler baptized Brother Bradley Kurowsky. Brothers Joshua and Jeremy Nicklow were baptized by their father, Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr. Brother Rick Scaglione baptized his daughter, Sister Amanda Scaglione. Brother Alexander Cherry baptized his daughter, Sister Laurel Cherry.

We then convened at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch where a large gathering witnessed the confirmations and bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon the new converts.

Brother Don Ross shared with the congregation, which included many visitors, that the Ministry was going to confirm the new members with the Holy Ghost. He stated that the Holy Ghost, the Great Comforter promised by none other than Jesus Christ is given to those who surrender their lives to the Lord. Brother Don reminded the congregation the Holy Ghost leads us, guides us and brings all things to our remembrance. It is a gift from God to those who are baptized and promise to serve God all the days of their lives. It is what causes individuals to change and become new creatures with the mind of Jesus Christ. Brother Don continued by reading the words of Moroni concerning the bestowal of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. confirmed his grandson, Brother Jeremy Nicklow. Sister Laurel Cherry was confirmed by Brother Don Ross. Brother Karl Kirschner confirmed Brother Bradley Kurowsky. Sister Amanda Scaglione was confirmed by

her grandfather, Brother Richard Scaglione. Brother Alan Metzler confirmed Brother Joshua Nicklow. The new brothers and sisters in Christ were then given the opportunity to bear their testimonies. They all praised and thanked God for His goodness and mercy toward them. They all promised to love and serve Him for the remainder of their lives.

The meeting continued with Apostle Isaac Smith speaking about the gift of the Holy Ghost. He stated that it is something to treasure, but the gift of salvation is God's greatest gift. The Lord speaks to our hearts, and when He does, we must not harden our hearts. We must allow God's Spirit to enter our very souls, and become an integral part of our very being. Brother Isaac exhorted us all to be seekers of the Kingdom of God, to live Godly lives and be good examples for the cause of Christ. He encouraged all to love and serve God.

Several bore their testimonies, thanking God for His mercy and blessings in their lives. It was a wonderful and blessed meeting. We all praise God for calling our new brothers and sisters into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Ordination in San Diego, CA

By Brother John Cihomsky

Brother Thomas P. Liberto was ordained to do the Lord's work as a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 21, 1999, in the San Diego, California Branch. Saints from around the Pacific and Southwest Regions crowded into the branch to witness Brother Tom's ordination on a Sunday that was filled with God's Spirit in preaching, song and testimony.

Evangelist Leonard Loyalvo from Modesto opened the meeting and spoke on the importance of being called to the office of a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. He followed his sermon by singing *Jesus Use Me* and invited Brother Tom to sing with him on the last verse.

Evangelist John DiBattista spoke

afterwards and related some of the many experiences surrounding Brother Tom's calling. He was followed by Apostle Thomas M. Liberto, Brother Tom's father, who explained the ordination process as we went into that portion of the service.

As Brother Tom's feet were being washed by his uncle, Evangelist Paul Liberto, Sister Bennie Jones saw a Personage hand a tool belt to Brother Paul. The belt and its tools were made of pure gold. When he received the belt, Brother Paul fastened it about Brother Tom's waist, signifying he was ready to toil for the Lord. The Ministry then knelt in prayer, and Brother Tony Piccuito was inspired to lay hands on Brother Tom. Sister Bennie then saw that all the ministers were wearing the same golden tool belts. Sister Bennie noticed that each belt was seamless, as if constructed as one piece.

Brother Tom then gave his testimony and reviewed his journey with the Lord, first as a member, and then as a Teacher. He also thanked God for the brothers and sisters who served as examples to him throughout the Church. Brother Tom concluded by saying the work of a minister is rooted in telling others about Jesus, serving the Lord and the saints. We thank God that He blessed us with a wonderful service, and our prayers are with Brother Tom that he may fulfill the duties of his new office with the Lord's strength.

God Speaks in Herndon, VA

By Sister Connie Frankenbery

We began our day, September 26, 1999, reflecting upon the recent Pennsylvania Area Campout. Brother Chip Smith led our Sunday School lesson, sharing some of the testimonies of the youth, particularly Joshua Gehly's experience of seeing Jesus, the pearly gates, and the streets of gold. He also related the words given to Brother Tony Ricci that we should listen to the Lord with our hearts. Our newly baptized Sister Amanda Scaglione shared her calling and testimony. We also bore witness to the

testimony of Brother Jan Schut from the Netherlands who had been with us this day and had spent a few weeks visiting in the United States. The pressing theme of not wasting our youth and serving God to our fullest, especially when we are young, became prevalent throughout the testimonies and throughout the day. The Spirit of God was truly in our Sunday School that morning!

As our day continued, it was clear that we were unified and that God was truly with us. Brother Mike Hildenbrand, followed by Brother Chatman Young, implored us to "give God our best." Both brothers referenced Genesis 4:1-7, admonishing us to not be like Cain who did not give his best. Brother Chat stated that the Lord has not changed. "He blessed Abel for giving his best and he will bless us too. If we choose to give as Cain gave, the Lord will not accept it." We then sang hymn #182, *Give of Your Best to the Master*.

During our testimony service, Brother Joe Smith, who has not attended for some time asked to have hands laid upon him so that he could make the proper steps back to the Gospel. After the prayer for Brother Joe and the others in need, Brother Mike Hildenbrand told the congregation that he had seen three angels rejoicing while hands were laid upon our Brother Joe. Within minutes, Sister Iva Bordeaux stood and in the Spirit of God said, "Thus saith the Lord, I will open the windows of heaven and pour out my blessings upon you my people if you will humble yourselves and serve Me with your whole hearts."

Our blessings did not end there, however. During our Ladies' Circle meeting which followed lunch that same afternoon, many meaningful words came forth concerning repentance and baptism. Sister Pat Hildenbrand also shared an experience she had after praying to be more spiritual and more dedicated to God. She had fervently been seeking God's blessings that she had remembered from the earlier accounts of the Gospel. Sister Pat shared that God spoke to her saying, "We have to have

our lives in condition so we will receive these blessings. The time is far spent and there is little remaining." Our sister felt that we have to serve God now. There is just no time left to get ready!

The brothers and sisters of Herndon are rejoicing for the way God spoke to us. What unity and what blessings! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Miami-Dade, Florida Mission

By Sister Betty Gennaro

The Miami-Dade Florida Mission was organized on August 26, 1999. The brothers and sisters of Miami and Homestead joined together and now have twenty-four members. Our Presiding Elder is Brother Miguel Bicelis. A standing vote of thanks was given to Brother Joe and Sister Violet Catone for many years of dedicated service to the Homestead, Florida Mission. The mission has grown recently due to the new converts from Venezuela and Colombia.

Our first meeting together was Sunday, August 29, 1999. Brother George Kovacic spoke on Mosiah 23, on how the people fled in order to have freedom to worship God. They found a beautiful land, built homes, and were taught to keep the Sabbath Day holy. They had a love for Alma who was blessed with great wisdom. "Trust no man to be your teacher, except he be a man of God." Brother Justin Severson followed on the importance of dedicating our lives to The Church of Jesus Christ. Our joy increases as we do this. Righteousness is the true road to prosperity. Brother Miguel Bicelis closed this blessed meeting with the words, "Keep focused on the words of God."

**Happy New Year
To All Our Readers**

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Conti, Wayne
6401 Little Creek Rd.
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Genaro, Ron, Cathy
1479 Butterfield Circle
Niles, OH 44446

Griffith, Scott, Mandy
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Port Richey, FL 34668
727-842-2560

Neagle, Judy, Bill, Wesley
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Jessup, MD 20794
443-755-0783

Announcement

For January, 2000, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.60%
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

My Testimony

Continued from Page 1

someone was leading me there. I entered the house and went upstairs, looked around, and as I was returning to go downstairs, I had a feeling to turn around and when I did, I went over to the corner of the room where there was a pile of trash. I kicked the trash and turned it over, and under all this trash I saw a Bible. I picked it up and returned home. Then that night, I started to read. I opened the Bible to where John the Baptist was baptizing, and I read where John said, "Behold the Lamb of God cometh." That was when Jesus was coming to the river Jordan to be baptized by John. I studied that chapter several times during the week before I understood what it meant. So, I told my wife I had to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. I said to my wife, how will I find The Church of Jesus Christ? I turned the pages of the Bible and I was prompted to read the transfiguration of Christ. I read that over several times before I understood it.

I read the transfiguration where Peter said it is good to be here. He said let's make three tabernacles, one for thee and for Moses and one for Elijah. While he spoke, a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him." And Christ was left alone and the others were taken away.

Then I told my wife, it is The Church of Jesus Christ that I must join. So while I started to read the Bible from the time I first found it, all my habits started to leave me. I quit smoking and drinking and I had my mind on the Bible.

In the meantime, my mother who passed away many years ago, came to me in a dream. When she was on her sick bed in my youth, she called me in her room and she said, "Sonny, when I am gone, I'll be waiting for you." As soon as I started to leave my bad habits and started to look up to God, she stopped bothering me. So I know she is resting now.

I started to go to The Church of Jesus Christ regularly, every Sunday.

I asked the ministers, Brother Joe Milantoni and Brother Tony Gerace to pray for me. I wanted to be baptized but I didn't know when.

On Easter Sunday I went to Church. When I got to Church, it started to rain and thunder and lightning. I could not see out of the windows because of the rain. But at that moment, I felt the power of God. I got up and asked for my baptism. It stopped raining! The sun came out and they took me to the river and I was baptized by Brother Joe Milantoni. I went to the church and was confirmed for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Two weeks later, my wife was baptized. I felt good and now it is two years this Easter.

I feel my body is all healed and haven't had a sick day since. I pray now, night and day. I pray for my people so that they might see the goodness of God as I see it.

I'm going to try my best to serve God to the best of my ability. So, I hope this testimony will touch the hearts of my people, the American Indian.

(This is the testimony of the late Brother Alfred Burch from the Muncey, Ontario, Canada Mission—Editor's Note.)

The Everlasting Covenant

Continued from Page 4

have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

"And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (St. Matthew 7:21-23).

Here is a good example that men would become wolves in sheep's clothing: professing but not possessing.

The Everlasting Covenant was thus broken by men who loved darkness rather than light.

(This article was taken from the Book of Sermons, which is published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's Note.)

A Message from the Seventy

(continued from Page 4)

involved, particularly as we are entering the new millennium. This can be done through the formation of programs on the branch/mission or region level or simply through the testimony that one member relates to another individual. We have witnessed the outstanding results that a simple, yet persistent testimony has achieved. Finally, we need to remember that many people have come into the Church because of a direct revelation of God. Petitioning the Lord through fasting and prayer will also greatly assist us in this great labor.

Please notify your RMOC Chairman regarding your willingness to become actively involved. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, contact any of us on this committee.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

and serve God. How sad they continued in their ways of sinful merrymaking. The day finally came when Noah was commanded by God to take himself and his family and enter the ark. He obeyed. Noah and his family were saved by the hand of God. They were ready. The world at large perished by the hand of God. They were not ready!

We must be ready! It does not and should not matter to those that love and serve God and Jesus Christ when the Lord will make His appearance. That should not be of paramount importance. What is important and critical is that we love and serve God with all our might, with all of our strength. It is important and crucial for our salvation that we are faithful to the commandments of Jesus Christ. King Benjamin states we should be immovable and steadfast in our service to God. It has been stated and preached many times that we must place God and Jesus Christ first in our lives. There is no other way to receive eternal salvation than to place one's

trust in God. There is no other way to receive the blessings of God than to serve Him and place Him first in our lives.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached in all the world before the end of the world. Every nation, every kindred, every tongue shall hear the message of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Just imagine the amount of work there is to do for the Lord before His coming. Are you ready to help? Are you ready to do your part? The surface has barely been scratched! Let us not concern ourselves with time. Time is in God's hands. Let us love and serve God. Let us prove faithful to our calling as members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

A Weekend of Restoration

Continued from Page 7

puts a silken cord around us and we don't realize it. We must hold fast to Jesus Christ and keep our eyes on Him. Brother Joe reminded us that this was the 170th year anniversary of the authority of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being restored on the earth, May 15, 1829. We are living in the time period where greater things will take place.

After the preaching, the young people were called forward. Brother Ike J. Smith addressed them saying, "Praise God for the organization of the GMBA. Pray for each other that together we can make the Church great and do the greater things for the Lord together." They sang, *Wave the Flags of Zion*, and as they sang, Brother Bob Nicklow had an experience where he felt a burning desire to pray for those so close to baptism. Brother Paul Benyola offered the prayer, and as he prayed, Brother Mike Nuzzi heard chains falling. Some of the young people testified and encouraged each other to take that important step and choose the love of Jesus Christ. A sister had a vision of Jesus Christ standing in white in front of our young people. The Lord made His presence known, and we all felt the spirit of repentance in the room; especially one young man, Matthew Kurowsky, from

the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, who felt the Lord's calling and asked for his baptism. Thank God, another soldier for Jesus Christ.

We closed with the appropriate hymn, *Ring the Bells of Heaven*, and we concluded another glorious time in the presence of God. It was truly a taste of Zion, and we long for the gathering of the House of Israel when we will dwell in this sweet spirit forevermore.

Children Blessed

Mark Alexander, son of Eric and Angela Yoder was blessed on September 26, 1999, in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch.

Kelsie Lynn Hutsko, daughter of Tim and Stephanie Hutsko was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on October 17, 1999.

Kayla Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Brother Chip and Sister Karen Smith, was blessed on August 21, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Athena Justine Severson, daughter of Brother Justin and Sister Tina Severson was blessed on October 31, 1999 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Elijah MacLachlan David, son of Natalie Marie David, was blessed on August 8, 1999, in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Jarrett Robert Crayton, son of Rena and Robert Crayton, was blessed on August 8, 1999 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Destiny Marie Cumberland, daughter of Renee and Mark Cumberland, was blessed in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on August 8, 1999.

Joseph Dominic Calabrese, son of Brother Joel and Sister Edna Calabrese, was blessed on May 9, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Ashley Nicole Smith was blessed on August 21, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Kaley Sue Sutch, daughter of Justin and Kim Sutch, was blessed on September 26, 1999, in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

Brother Jesse Carr of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 6, 1999.

Baptisms

Kevin Coppa was baptized on July 25, 1999 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Gary Coppa and he was confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Emily Kaczmarek was baptized on August 15, 1999, in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Loffredo and she was confirmed by Brother Dan Parravano.

Eddy Aichinger was baptized on August 15, 1999 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Loffredo and he was confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Marie Kimmel was baptized on October 17, 1999 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Draskovich and she was confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brandon Lee Hunt was baptized on May 9, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother James Gibson and he was confirmed by Brother Mark Naro.

Dawn Marie Snell was baptized on July 11, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and she was confirmed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

Amanda Scaglione of the Herndon, Virginia Branch was baptized on September 19, 1999 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. She was baptized by Brother Rick Scaglione and she was confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Bradley Kurowsky was baptized on September 19,

1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Charles Kogler and he was confirmed by Brother Karl Kirschner.

Joshua Nicklow was baptized on September 19, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and he was confirmed by Brother Alan Metzler.

Jeremy Nicklow was baptized on September 19, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and he was confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Laurel Cherry was baptized on September 19, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Alexander Cherry and she was confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

OBITUARIES

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

EVELYN ANDERSON

Evelyn Anderson of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on August 29, 1999. She is survived by two sons; Walter Anderson and James Anderson; two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

WILLIAM "BILL" MEO

Brother Bill Meo of the Bell, California Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on October 9, 1999. He was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Marion Meo; his mother, Sister Connie Meo; one brother, Brother Rudy Meo; and one sister, Sister Rachel Flow; three daughters, Diane, Rita and Sharon; five grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

FRANK ALTOMARE, SR.

Brother Frank Altomare, Sr., of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on August 23, 1999. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Frank is survived by his wife, Sister Rose; two sons, Brother Sam Altomare and Frank Altomare, Jr.; and one daughter, Sister Fran Altomare.

LENA "SORINO" CALABRESE

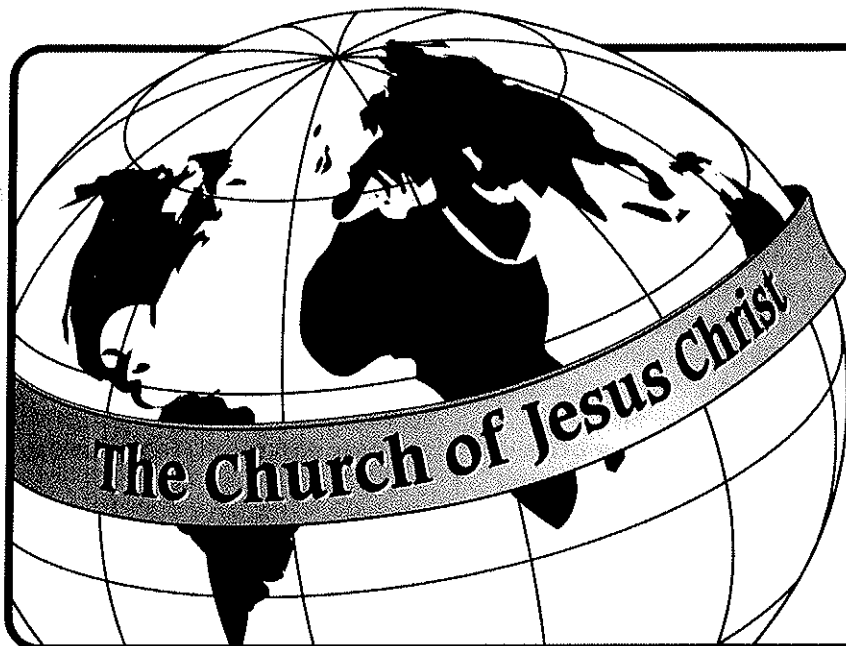
Sister Lena Sorino Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on July 2, 1999. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Joe "Yenner" Calabrese. Sister Lena is survived by three sons; Joseph, Ralph and Brother David Calabrese; two daughters, Sister Mary Nardozi and Sister Carrie Simmons.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 2000

Volume 56, No. 2

The Church of Jesus Christ Faith and Doctrine

1. We believe in God, the eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. These three are the great matchless power that rules all things visible and invisible, for it is of Him and through Him that we receive all things both for this life and that which is to come.

2. We believe God, the Father, to be a personage of glory (Eph. 1:17; I Nephi 1:8). The Son is the express image of the Father, and He was with the Father before the foundation of the world. In the fullness of time, He came from the bosom of the Father, was born of the Virgin Mary (according to the scriptures), became man, and suffered and died for the sins of the whole world. On the third day He rose again and brought about the resurrection (according to the scriptures) and ascended up on high to sit at the right hand of God. Principalities and powers are subject to Him "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell" (Colossians 1:15-19). We believe, also, that He will come again the second time to judge both the living and the dead according to the scriptures (Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30,36).

We believe the Holy Ghost to be:

A. The mind of the Father and of the Son: Bible: I Cor. 2:16.

B. The unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can, at His will, manifest itself in various forms: Bible: Matt. 3:16; Book of Mormon: I Nephi 11:11.

C. The witness of God: Bible: I John 5:6; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 11:35-36; III Nephi 28:11.

D. The gift of God: Bible: Acts 2:38; John 14:26; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 19:13.

E. Pure and holy, just and good,

omnipresent, full of light and knowledge, and a discerner of thoughts and intents of mankind.

3. We believe in the Church or kingdom as set up by the Saviour to be sufficient for life and salvation for all people.

Ref: Bible: I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:1-16; Matt. 28:18-20; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 27:7-11.

4. We believe that the New Testament scriptures contain a true description of that Church or Kingdom as established by our Saviour at Jerusalem, and that no principle or doctrine inconsistent therewith ought to be practiced or respected, or any principle or doctrine consistent therewith rejected.

5. We believe The Church of Jesus Christ in this age (in order to be worthy of the name) must be molded substantially and minutely after the pattern left us by Christ. The scriptures bear witness that its officers consist of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (all inspired) for the work of the ministry, for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come into the unity of the faith, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

(Continued on Page 2)

Faith and Doctrine

Continued from Page 1.

Ref: Bible: I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:13; Titus 1:5; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 27:1-11.

6. We believe that mankind will be punished only for their own actual transgressions and not for the sins of our first parents, as is clearly implied by the Saviour in representing little children to be heirs of the Kingdom. "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

Ref: Bible: Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:14; I Peter 2:24; Isa. 53:5; Book of Mormon: Alma 40:21; Mormon 9:12-13.

7. We believe that divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for preaching the Gospel. General information about the world is advantageous to man when properly used. Theological education is good only when spiritually correct; such instruction, however, is not absolutely requisite to teach the Word of God. Furthermore, formal schooling or practical training which fosters the belief that inspiration and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are unnecessary in the ministry of Christ's Gospel is erroneous and harmful (See II Tim. 3). Moreover, we believe in preaching the Gospel without purse or scrip according to the Saviour's instructions: "freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). The language is of supreme importance as containing the full force of both Christ's authority and example.

Ref: Bible: Luke 10:21; Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3; I Cor. 2.

8. We believe that all men must obey the Gospel before they can be saved.

Ref: Bible: Mark 16:16; St. John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 10; Book of Mormon: II Nephi 9:23-24.

9. We believe the first principle of action required in the Gospel is belief

in the Lord Jesus Christ, the once crucified and now risen Redeemer. The second is repentance, which signifies nothing more or less than feeling a Godly sorrow for our sins with a fixed determination to sin no more. The third is baptism by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, for the remission of sins. The fourth is the laying-on-of-hands in the name of Jesus Christ, for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Ref: Bible: Acts 2:38; Acts 19:2-7; Acts 8:17; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:21; Book of Mormon: Mosiah 18:8-17; III Nephi 18:36-38; Moroni 2.

10. We believe in being buried with Christ by baptism, and planted together in the likeness of His death, and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, and that we should walk in newness of life. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body; being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. Therefore, yield ye yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.

Ref: Bible: St. John 3:5; Rom. 6:13; Col. 2:12; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 11:23-27.

11. We believe in the promises of the Saviour as they are written in Mark 16:15-18. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Ref: Bible: I Cor. 12:1-12; Book of Mormon: Moroni 10:8-25.

12. We believe in partaking of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week, the bread as His body and the wine as His blood, in commemoration of His death and His suffering.

Ref: Bible: Matt. 26:26-28; Mark

14:22-24; I Cor. 1:16-17; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 18:1-9; Moroni 4th and 5th chapters.

13. We believe in the washing of feet as an ordinance instituted by our Lord and Saviour to be observed in the Church. We further believe it to be our duty to attend to that ordinance at least once within each three months.

Ref: Bible: St. John 13:1-17.

14. We believe in saluting the brethren with a holy kiss.

Ref: Bible: Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12; I Thes. 5:26; I Peter 5:14.

15. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded in the scriptures, which was a victory over the power of death and a reintroduction of the principle of continuous or eternal existence; that this principle of continuous existence was not only attained for Himself but for all Adam's race, the wicked as well as the righteous, by which the former will be accountable for their conduct during this life and receive due punishment. Also, that the latter may be duly rewarded for their righteousness or good conduct. We also believe that the righteous that lived previous to the days of Jesus Christ expected their resurrection through, and as a direct result of, Christ's resurrection; also, that there was a general resurrection of the righteous that lived before the days of Christ (in the flesh) immediately following Christ's resurrection. The scriptures inform us, "and many bodies of the saints which slept arose . . . and appeared unto many." A few moments of reflection by a person acquainted in a reasonable degree with the principles of God's divine justice will force him to conclude that God could not grant this great privilege of the resurrection to some (at that time) and deny it to others, who were equally worthy and expectant, and deprive them of the enjoyment of the benefits of Christ's resurrection until a period still beyond our day when Christ will come again. We believe, also, in a future resurrec-

tion of those that die after Christ, according to the scriptures.

Ref: Bible: Matt. 27:52-54; Book of Mormon: Alma 40; II Nephi 9:4-22; III Nephi 23:9-11.

16. We believe in observing all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us, and on these conditions he has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

Ref: Bible: Matt. 28:20; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 12:19-20; III Nephi 27:6-22.

17. We believe there has been a gross and widespread apostasy among men from the true order and doctrine of the early Church as set up by the Saviour. Few scriptural subjects are treated more extensively in the Sacred Word, and to make anything like a comprehensive statement of the matter would be an extensive task. We refer the reader to several very pointed passages on the subject.

Ref: Bible: Isa. 24:5-6; Acts 20:29-30; II Thes. 2; I Tim. 4; II Tim. 3 and 4; II Peter 2; Book of Mormon: IV Nephi 1:24-49.

18. We believe that his apostasy from the true Gospel was so widespread, complete and general, that man himself was utterly unable to provide a remedy, and we recognize all efforts of reformation as utter failures to reproduce even a faint resemblance of the duties and privileges of the ancient saints or the order and excellence of the ancient Church as established by the Saviour. We will further state that we know of no scripture that in the least degree intimates that a reformation of the Gospel and Church of Christ ever would take place from the aforesaid apostate condition. The scriptures, however, do foretell a restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the latter ages of time, in the hour of God's judgments. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and

kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." We should all remember that in the time of John, there is no doubt of the true Gospel then existing, and that he saw in visions occurrences of future times. It necessarily follows, then, that this scripture foretells the restoration of the Gospel by an angel, calling back mankind from erroneous religion to the worship of the true God and announcing the hour of God's judgments, reminding people that worship a God without body, parts or passions of the necessity of contrasting him with that God, who is the author of this vast creation. The next angel that John mentions declares that Babylon is fallen and thereby clearly locating the period of these occurrences.

Ref: Bible: Rev. 14:6-7.

19. We believe that the fullness of the Gospel will soon be taken from the Gentiles because of their iniquity; and they will be punished for their disobedience. Moreover, God will remember His covenants to the House of Israel and bring them to a knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel.

Ref: Book of Mormon: III Nephi 16:10-11.

A. We believe in the restoration of Israel as it is spoken of by the prophets; and that God will use man as His instrument for its accomplishment in this age, as He did in ages past. We believe, also, that in order to bring about these events, God must and will reveal His will to man as He did in days of old (Bible: Ezek. 34:11-16; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 20; III Nephi 21:14-21).

B. We believe that God will employ this Church for that purpose. "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock" (Jer. 31:10).

"Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (Jer. 16:16).

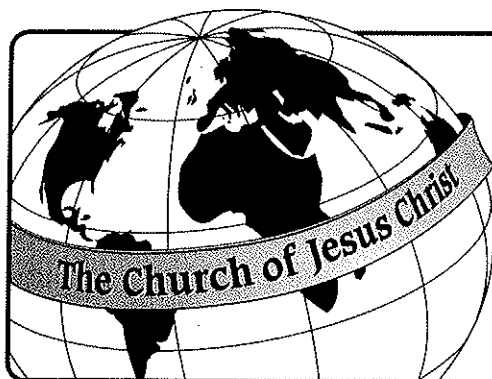
C. We believe, also, that blindness in part is happened unto Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in; and so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, "There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom. 11:25-26).

D. We believe that the aborigines, or Indians, upon this hemisphere are a part of Israel, descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, and that this land of America is theirs by an original God-given right. Also, that it is the land referred to by Jacob as a land given of God to Jacob and of Jacob to Joseph. Also, that it is the land referred to by Moses when blessing the children of Israel before his departure from them, as the land of Joseph. It is the land referred to by Ezekiel and Isaiah. In short, it is the land of restored Israel, where the "little stone of Daniel" will smite the image at the feet and bring about the wonderful results by him described (Bible: Gen. 49:22-26; Deu. 33:13-17; Ezek. 37:25; Isa. 33:17-21; Dan. 2:34-35).

20. We believe the Word of God, wherein He says, "I have written to him (Ephraim) the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing." We also believe that the Book of Mormon is that strange thing, or the great things of God's law to Ephraim; also, that it contains a true record of the Gospel of Christ as given to the tribe of Joseph by Christ, in person, after His resurrection, whom He recognized as the sheep of whom He spake that had to hear His voice and become one fold and have one shepherd.

Ref: Bible: Hosea 8:12; St. John

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A message from the Seventy

Trip to Guatemala

*By Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Sr.
Vice-Chairman, Guatemala Committee*

It has been six years since I first traveled to The Church of Jesus Christ's Mission in Guatemala. After many visits there, another was planned, and I departed last November 24, 1999. An added blessing for me was that Evangelists Phil Jackson, Chairman of the Missionary Operating Committee, and Paul Liberto, Chairman of the Americas Missionary Operating Committee, would arrive on November 26. We were housed by our missionary family, Elder Luis and Sister Darlene Marroquin and their children.

Recently, the Guatemala Committee approved the move of the meeting place to a facility in a better location in the city. It is a larger building, with two floors which will permit additional activities to be held. This will encourage the members and present opportunities to invite the neighborhood to Church functions. Many of the neighbors have already expressed a desire to attend services. Brothers Jackson and Liberto, after viewing the facility and locality, stated they were pleased with the action taken which they felt would benefit the work.

OWNER COOPERATIVE, RECEPTIVE

The owner of the building, Edgar Vega, has been very cooperative with Brother Luis by reducing the rent to the same level as of the previous facility. He also is permitting improvements to the building to benefit the

mission. Mr. Vega is a very educated person who has held a number of government positions, including Secretary of Education. As an Economist, he has traveled throughout Guatemala.

Edgar and his wife, Wilma, joined us for dinner at the Marroquin residence. He shared with us that he is currently suffering from cancer; but he believes God can heal him. He related several experiences he received which he believes are from God. In one of them (actually a series of four separate dreams in one night), he was visited by a very tall man who told him not to worry—that he was not going to die. The man said he would give him two shots for his problems and also placed him in a frame of protection.

Mr. Vega told us this affliction has turned his heart to God and feels God has a special purpose for his life. Before he left for the evening, we anointed him, calling on God to heal him and to open his eyes to give him understanding of the Gospel. He and his wife attended our Sunday service and enjoyed themselves immensely. They both testified they have never experienced a service as ours and hope someday to be a part of the congregation.

HOME VISITS

We made many visits to the homes of the members and friends of the Church. Upon entering the home of Martha Ramirez, who is not yet baptized, she said she recognized Brother Jackson from a dream she had received a good while ago. Our trust is she and her husband will be baptized soon. We anointed her mother,

Victoria, who had fallen and had surgery on her knee. She testified to us the next day she could now bend her knee and had much more strength in her leg.

It was a blessing for us to meet with Brother Carlos Marroquin, who was baptized one year ago, as we felt the calling of God upon him to be ordained a Deacon. The brothers of the Ministry all agreed to this calling, as the Holy Spirit bore witness, and it was decided to ordain him during the Sunday service.

SUNDAY SERVICE

There was an air of excitement at the Sunday meeting, November 28. With more than seventy people in attendance, songs were sung to the honor of God and the Gospel of Christ was preached by Brothers Jackson, Liberto, Ciotti, and Luis Marroquin. A teenage group sang several songs which they had prepared for the service. The songs were sung in both Spanish and English, and they sounded like angels singing.

The duties of a Deacon were explained to the group in preparing to ordain Brother Carlos. His feet were washed by Brother Lorenzo Subujuy, and he was ordained by Brother Ciotti. The gift of tongues was manifested and the interpretation was given to Sister Ana Subujuy, as follows: "I will lift my people, and, one by one, I will use them." This was stated twice. How marvelous is our God who confirms His divine will in the lives of His followers!

After the service, a meal was served and the Ministry had the privilege to pray for many people, including some who had attended at our Church for the first time. They were touched by the Spirit of God and are looking for direction in their lives.

My return home was on the 29th, with Brothers Jackson and Liberto returning on December 1. It was a great blessing to travel throughout the city of Guatemala with my brothers and to share the Restored Gospel with people. The joy in anointing the sick,

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When you studied geography, what did you think when you read about and saw pictures of areas like the Mojave Desert or Sahara Desert? Did you ask yourself any questions? Questions like: How can someone live there? What happened to the water? How can a place be so barren and void of life?

These deserts are large, vast places on the globe. They are barriers to life. They lack the essentials of life. There is little if any vegetation, flowers or fruit. There is an occasional oasis. Will such a place ever come alive? Can such a place ever come alive? What good can ever come out of such a lifeless and barren place?

The scriptures also depict a large area that was barren and void of life. In the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, we read of such a place. It was seen in a vision and although it describes the condition of Israel, in essence it also graphically describes a person or people, any people, who do not have the Lord in their life or lives. It is referred to as "the valley of dry bones." The bones are described as very dry.

The question is asked, "Can these bones live?" The answer was, "O Lord God, thou knowest." Yes, the Lord knows and the Lord can do all things? The Lord can heal the sinner. The Lord can raise the dead, whether from a natural death or spiritual wasteland. As you read this scripture and read the living words of the prophet as given by God, you can visualize life entering these very dry bones. The bones came together, sinew and flesh came upon them, skin covered them and then breath came into them. As breath came into them, they lived! They stood on their feet and became a great army!

The Word of God that reaches a receptive ear will cause a sinner to repent. The Word of God will cause dry bones to come alive, provided they reach a heart open to Jesus Christ. A sinner who repents will no longer be a valley of dry bones. A repentant person no longer is dry bones but a lush valley of green pastures, flowers, fruit and water! A repentant soul is one who decides to serve the Lord, brings forth life, treasures and values life and brings the message of the Restored Gospel to others so they may enjoy the same blessed and spiritual benefits.

Imagine what you were like, what your life was like before you met the Master. Can you recall your wayward ways, your sinful past and misdeeds of life? Do you imagine the past, prior to meeting the Saviour, as a barren wasteland? Without the Lord in our lives, we all would be living in a barren wasteland. We would be a barren wasteland.

Ezekiel 37:14 states, "And shall put my spirit in you and ye shall live . . ." Since our baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ, we are alive! We are no longer dry bones. As a result of being baptized and receiving the Holy Ghost, we are now a living soul in Christ Jesus. Our soul has come alive! It lives!

We now think differently. We now act differently. We now talk differently. Where once there may have been a roaring lion, there is now a lamb. Where there was hate, now there is love. The spirits of revenge, deceit, selfishness, pride, hypocrisy, jealousy and lying are gone. They are replaced by the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, which manifests itself in love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance, humility and mercy. Where once there was a proud heart, there is now a broken heart. Where once there was a proud and sinful spirit, there is now a contrite spirit. This is conversion of the soul. This brings salvation of the soul if one endures to the end.

Look at what happened to Enos. He went looking for the natural but found the spiritual. He remembered the teachings of his wonderful father, Jacob. When he was moved by the Spirit of God, the joy of the saints sunk deep into his heart. He prayed all day and all night until his

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Peace Through the Power of Prayer

Dear Boys and Girls,

How much peace is in your life? What do you do when things are going bad in your life? What if your family has a terrible problem, or you have a problem that you are afraid to tell people about? What if your parents are fighting or your grandma is sick or someone at school is hateful and mean to you? Where do you get your peace?

Do you know that the Bible and Book of Mormon are full of true stories about people going through terrible times who still found peace and safety? In the Bible, Hadassah's mother and father had died. She was being raised by her older cousin, Mordecai, who loved her dearly. But when the King over that part of the world was looking for a new wife, his officers spotted this beautiful Jewish girl. She was picked to leave her home and her friends and go live in a palace surrounded by jealous girls who all hoped they would be picked as the King's wife. Everything was different. Even her name was changed from Hadassah to Esther.

Once she was there in the King's harem, she was not allowed to speak or meet with any man, including her family. Mordecai would come and sit in the gate area of the palace. She could look out the palace windows and see him. But, there were no telephones so she could only send a written message back and forth. Seven servant girls were brought in to take care of all her needs. Can you imagine trying to get along with, or even be in control of seven strangers who knew better than



you how things were done in the new place? For one year she had to go through a process of eating certain foods and being passed on special purifying tests. She was surrounded by rich, powerful, ungodly people all waiting to see who the next queen would be.

Esther was not allowed to openly practice her religion. She had lost all of her friends and freedom but she had not lost her God or peace. By the time the year had passed in training, Esther was called in to meet the King. He chose her over all the young women. She was the next queen. Can you imagine how much she and Mordecai had prayed? Can you imagine the big, lonely job she had now, surrounded by people who would pretend to like her because she was important? Can you think how hard it would be to always be watched? How would it be to have a husband who sometimes didn't see you for a month at a time? And to never have any real privacy except in your own mind?

But Mordecai had raised Esther well. When trouble came and an evil man named Haman made up a plot to kill all the Jewish people in the land, she was faithful. She told Mordecai to ask all the believers to join her and fast and pray for three days. She would then break the palace laws and interrupt the king to ask him to talk with her. She prayed God would show her what to say to save her people. She also prayed that the king would not be angry at her and turn her away.

They fasted to save their lives. At the end of three days, she prepared a perfect feast for the king. Then she put on her beautiful, royal clothes and

went into his meeting. He was pleased to see her and gave her permission to enter. When he asked her what she wanted, she asked him to come and eat with her and to bring Haman. The king agreed.

At the feast he again asked her what she wanted and said, he would give her half of his kingdom if she wanted it. Esther replied that she wanted him to come again to a feast the next day and she would tell him what she wanted. The King and Haman came. And Esther told him about Haman's secret hatred of the Jewish people, and his plan to have them all killed. The King was furious. He changed the law to protect the Jewish people and he had Haman put to death instead. Then he also remembered the good Mordecai, and gave him power to help run the country.

Esther's months and months of loneliness and sorrow changed. Her peace was back; her family and friends were saved from being murdered. And now she would openly practice her religion. The days and days of hiding her beliefs in her heart were now over. From this story we are reminded that many times God has a bigger plan in

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

PRAYER	AS	PRAY
BRINGS	QUEEN	TO
PEACE	TO	GOD
ESTHER	SAVE	IF
WAS	HER	AFRAID
CHOSEN	PEOPLE	

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



Our Women Today

Ladies' Circle Prepares for 80th Anniversary

By Sister Karen Progar

It's always a blessing to meet with the sisters of the Circle. Such was the case on October 10, 1999, as we convened in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. All Area Circles had representation at our meeting.

It is also pleasantly surprising to see the amount of money our membership is able to raise in a six-month time period. Equally astounding is the number of members who perform this work. This conference reached its goal of providing sewing machines to the Pinetop and White River Reservations through the six-month special project collections. The General Circle's new special project is the work in Peru. Let's get behind this as we have outstandingly supported our past goals. The American Indian work received \$2,649.00. In addition, \$2,054.00 was divided equally among the works in India, Italy, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and the Missionary Foundation New Works.

The first order of new business was our election of officers. The majority of officers were retained with Sisters Arline Whitton, President, and Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President who will continue to lead our organization. Sister Judy Coppa was elected Assistant Secretary and Sister Susanna King replaces Sister Pierina DiFalco as our Card Sender. It is uplifting and a blessing to those individuals who are the recipients of the cards sent. The General Circle extends its gratitude to Sister Pierina for her years of diligent service.

As a means of introducing the work of the Circle to new members and visitors, three sisters have been chosen to create a Welcome Brochure; namely, Alicia Draskovich, Susan Moraco, and Rebecca Rogolino. The officers will review the document prior to submission to the General Church for approval and publication.

The year 2000 marks the 80th anniversary of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Our organization was founded in Monongahela, Pennsylvania and that site has been chosen to host our anniversary conference. Make plans now to attend the April 29th meeting. The sisters of the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area Circle will be providing accommodations for the event and would love to have a complete representation of our General Circle in attendance. This

will be a time to recognize the achievements of our home Circles. Make your decision now to be a part of the weekend. This is an exciting time for the sisters of the Church.

Eighty Years Ago

Eighty years ago they said they'd find
their way together,
true companions of the heart.
In fair and stormy weather
they said they'd help each other out
and cheer each other on,
they said they'd be each other's
strength to always lean upon,
And everything they said they'd do so
long ago they've done.

This is truly a wonderful milestone for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ—a day that brings admiration and warm congratulations to the ladies and sisters throughout The Church of Jesus Christ.

May you have all the joy that your hearts can possibly hold when we gather together in the "Flower Garden of the Lord" to receive His blessings.

Come join us for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle 80th Anniversary Conference, April 29, 2000, in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.



Missionary
Benevolent
Association

Eight Find "Victory in Jesus"

By Sister Karen L. Progar

We all celebrate the victories which we have in Jesus, including the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area MBA which held its Annual Campout at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania the weekend of September 17-19, 1999.

Friday evening's service was opened by our Area President, Brother Larry Ali, who welcomed us to the camp. Brother John Ali then spoke to us of the importance of being in one accord in order to be victorious, as the disciples were in the upper room. The balance of Friday evening was spent in fellowship, as we enjoyed a snack and visiting with one another.

Children's chapel was handled by Brother Chuck Kogler. Adult chapel services were begun by Brother Bruce Picciuto who sang, *We Have An Anchor*. In addition to many MBA members from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area, we were pleased to have a number of visitors from other areas

attend our campout. Brother Joel Gehly from the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch opened our chapel service choosing scriptures from the 5th and 6th chapters of Joshua as the basis of his sermon. He reminded us that all participated and had a role in the battle of Jericho. He then shared a victory for the Church which took place in Kenya last fall when there was a devastating outbreak of malaria. The loss was so devastating that three hundred people in one town died. A missionary from another religion approached one of the members of our ministry stating that he wanted to meet

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Branch and Mission News

Fasting and Prayer

By Jessica Nowells,
Age 14, Mid-Georgia Mission

To fast, means to abstain or not to eat at all. To pray means to basically address a problem or something to God. In the paragraph below, is an answered prayer.

Brother Daniel Nowells has a man that he works with named Henry Scott. Well, Henry was very sick. He was so sick, he could hardly get out of the bed. Brother Daniel asked him would he like an Elder to come and anoint him. He said sure. He would really appreci-

ate it. So an Elder anointed him.

Then that Wednesday, we had fasting and prayer. Our main concern was Henry. Well, just to show you how God works, that Sunday, Henry came to our Church to testify what God did for him. For making him well again. Now he's back to himself.

Another example of somebody fasting is in Acts 10th chapter thirtieth verse. It says: And Cornelius said "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing." Acts 10:31, And said Cornelius, "Thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God." So that leads me to one conclusion, if you fast and pray and actually mean every word you say, your prayers will be answered. You think He is not listening because He does not answer

you right away, but He does listen. Sometimes it takes a while but He will answer you in His own time.

Then sometimes when you fast and pray, you are blessed just like in Matthew 15:32. Then Jesus called his disciples unto him and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue now with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way."

God can do anything. He can move a mountain. Just like in this story, the disciples went into the wilderness with seven loaves of bread and a few fish. So they prayed and God doubled it. So if you ask and have faith in what you're asking, you will receive, but remember one thing; only ask if you really need it. Don't ask just because you want it. It does not work that way.

Victory in Jesus

Continued from Page 7

someone from the Church where the people didn't die during this terrible occurrence. Brother Joel used this story as an example of the victories which we see today.

Seminars took a different twist. Brother Tony Ricci, Adult Seminar Leader, advised us that during our seminar sessions, we would have the opportunity to learn about four things required to be victorious.

- Motivation (Brothers Paul Ciotti, Sr. and Brother Dennis Ricci)
- Equipment (Brother Paul J. Ciotti, Jr.)
- Game Plan (Brother Paul A. Palmieri and Brother David DeLuca)
- Attitude (Apostle Paul Palmieri)

In our MEGA seminars, adults were not separated (as we traditionally are) by age. Instead our groups were determined by the color of schedule left in our rooms by the camp staff. Another difference was that the groups did not move about among different seminar leaders. The seminar leaders moved from room to room as they

taught us to be victorious. Seminar time passed quickly and the format seemed to be enjoyable to all, except maybe those brothers who appeared perhaps a bit winded at the end of the morning.

Day Care was handled by Sister Connie Frankenberry. Children's seminars were taught by Sister Tonia Monaghan. The preteen's instructors were Brother Eric Yoder and Richard Nath. The teenage group was taught by Brothers Jason Monaghan and Bruce Picciuto. Young adults also had their own class lead by Brothers John M. D'Antonio and Richard Scaglione, Jr.

The afternoon was filled with the traditional crafts for both adults and children, as well as sports which were enjoyed particularly by those over thirty since they were the big winners of the football game.

That evening, Brother Larry Ali inquired as to the status of our Attitude and if we were Motivated with a good Game Plan, knowing that we had the Equipment necessary to be victorious. The preschool group began the meeting with a song, victory cheer and singing *Victory in Jesus* for the congregation.

Area Chaplain, Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., commented that while he has never seen the Lord, he has seen the Lord upon the faces of the congregation as, *Victory in Jesus* was sung. Brother Ralph Cartino, Jr. and Sister Deanna Nuzzi from the Ohio Midwest Area sang, *When I'm Humbled Down*.

Our speaker, Brother David DeLuca reminisced on the first time groups began using this facility for our Church functions. He mentioned various MBA, GMBA, Local and Ladies' Circle activities which have taken place here. He told us that the scriptures will lead us to victory. In I Corinthians 15:54-58, we are reminded that the corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality. Death is swallowed up in victory, a victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ. He told us that we must be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, so that our labor is not in vain. The Bible and the Book of Mormon lead us to that victory.

Brother John Mark D'Antonio shared that he is unable to sleep before he has a responsibility to perform for the Church. He stated that he feels

strongly about any task that he has to do and that we should always take our responsibilities seriously.

GMBA President, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri concluded the evening's preaching by telling us that we must claim the victory won by Jesus and that we should set our sites on the Son of God so that the Lord will know us as He knew Nephi in the Book of Helaman when He acknowledged him by name. The young people were then afforded the opportunity to testify, after which Apostle Ike Smith offered a special prayer for them.

At the close of the meeting, several asked for special prayer and the word of the Lord came forth. "I do not call to your ear, but I call to your heart, thus saith the Lord." Eight young people asked for their baptisms this evening; Christopher Gehly, Rebecca Hemmings, Kristine Henderson, Jeremy and Joshua Nicklow, Laurel Cherry, Amanda Scaglione and Bradley Kurowsky. Apostle Paul Palmieri offered a prayer of thanksgiving to close the service.

Sunday morning, after breakfast, we gathered at the lake to witness the baptisms of Rebecca Hemmings and Christopher Steele Gehly. Both were baptized by Brother Arthur Gehly. We appropriately began our Sunday meeting with, *It Is Well With My Soul*, after which the confirmations took place. Christopher was confirmed by Brother Joel Gehly and Rebecca by Brother Ike Smith.

All those who asked for their baptisms were afforded the opportunity to testify. Five would be baptized later that evening at the Monongahela Branch and one was returning to the Great Lakes Area to share the event with her family and the brothers and sisters of her branch.

Apostle Paul Palmieri concluded our weekend with a reminder to lift the name of Jesus in our lives and let the Lord shine through us. He looks forward to the day when we see the Lord personally and can thank Him.

Brother Patrick Monaghan, Area MBA Vice President, thanked everyone for their efforts and the Lord for being with us. Sister Linda Ali, Camp Director, thanked all her committees

who worked so hard to make the weekend a success. We closed by singing, *Victory In Jesus*, which we surely all experienced this weekend.

The Righteous Need Not Fear

By Sister Kay Vitto

While I stood in the grass, with the tall trees all around me,
I was enveloped with the sound of God's anger, this I could see.

I witnessed a bit of His power, and I sensed His omnipotent hand,
As the winds blew and the dark clouds rolled ever so close to the sand.

A storm was approaching, as the thick clouds descended closer to the ground,
The whirling, bustling and thundering, what an ominous sound.

I was enveloped with the knowledge, this was a taste of God's fury,
As I looked around, I sensed the fear of many people being in a hurry.

I knew within my heart, this was just a taste of what "could have been,"
The wrath of God towards mankind, that has turned to sin.

There were people scurrying around, wondering if destruction was near,
In my heart I heard that still small voice, "The righteous need not fear."

Note of Thanks

I want to thank you for your love, thoughtfulness, understanding and caring as a result of the recent passing of my wife Sharon. Your prayers, telephone calls, and cards have been a great source of strength and comfort to me during this most difficult time. Your kind expressions of sympathy and love will always be remembered. I

ask that you please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Love in Christ,
Brother Gary Vitto
Branch #1, Chesterfield, MI

* * * * *

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We extend our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to each of you for your expression of sympathy and kindness during Brother Alma Nolfi's recent illness and passing. Your prayers have interceded in our behalf. Jesus Christ has lightened our sorrow with sweet memories of years gone by and the knowledge that Brother Alma's soul now abides in paradise. Please continue to remember us in your prayers during our bereavement. May the Lord richly bless you.

Sister Mary Nolfi and family

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Directory Update

Continued from Page 9

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Faith and Doctrine

Continued from Page 3

10:16; Book of Mormon: III Nephi
15:16-24; III Nephi 16:1-3.

21. We believe that the Book of Mormon is the book spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, and also the book that Ezekiel refers to in his book as the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim.

Ref: Bible: Isa. 29; Ezek. 37:16-19; Book of Mormon: II Nephi 27:6-22; II Nephi 29:6-8.

22. We would just state, that the Book of Mormon has been shamefully misrepresented, and we desire every lover of truth to read it for themselves, as they cannot afford to rely on common report concerning any matter

connected with their soul's salvation. We hereby assure all men that it teaches nothing contrary to purity and sound doctrine and is a history of the dealings of God with the aborigines of this land. It also contains a vast amount of prophetic matter of unlimited importance bearing upon the future. It is impossible for lovers of truth and virtue, who are reasonably free from prejudice, to carefully peruse its contents without experiencing delight and satisfaction; or for persons who are soaked in greed, hypocrisy and sensuality to read this book without being maddened by its stinging reproaches of their character and conduct. It affords cold comfort for polygamists or bigamists. Jacob, the ancient prophet of the Lord of this land, writes as follows: "Wherefore, I the Lord God will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old (meaning David and Solomon with their many wives). Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me; thus saith the Lord of Hosts." This is not the only instance, by any means, where polygamy is condemned in the Book of Mormon. The Almighty commanded Lehi, when He brought him to this land, positively against the practice of polygamy. Old King Noah was condemned by Abinadi for the same offense. Riplakish is also condemned in the Book of Ether for the same abomination. Therefore, we believe that a man shall have only one wife and a woman but one husband, and base our faith especially upon the Book of Mormon in this particular.

Ref: Book of Mormon: Jacob 2:23-28; Mosiah 11; Ether 10:5.

23. We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as the Peaceful Reign, which shall precede the Millennium, or Thousand Years with Christ.

Ref: Bible: Isa. 2:1-5; Isa. 35; Isa. 51:3; Isa. 55; Isa. 65:18-25; Hosea 2:18-19; Job 5:22-25; Ezek. 34: 25-26; Book of Mormon: I Nephi 22:4-28; III Nephi 20:22; III Nephi 21:23-29; Ether 13:4-12.

24. We believe in the second coming of Christ; that He shall appear in glory at the end of the world, which takes place immediately following the conclusion of the Peaceful Reign. At this time, he will wed His Bride (the Church) to gather unto Himself all the righteous to dwell with Him for a thousand years (the Millennium), and then for all eternity.

Ref: Bible: Matt. 24:36-42; Luke 17: 23-27; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:17; Rev. 19:7-9; Acts 3:20-21; Book of Mormon: III Nephi 28:7-8.

25. We believe in continuous divine revelation. Such revelations are consistent with the holy scriptures. The Lord reveals Himself through the Holy Ghost in dreams, visions, signs, gifts, and His Word. God speaks when, where, and through whomever He chooses.

Ref: Bible: I Cor. 12:3-11; Joel 2:28; Book of Mormon: Alma 9:21; II Nephi 26:13; II Nephi 29; Moroni 10:8-24; Mormon 9:7-8.

26. We believe that marriage between man and woman is a holy institution. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). We believe that a man shall have one wife and a wife but one husband, except when death takes one of the parties, in which case the survivor is at liberty to remarry.

Finally, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report; and everything virtuous, praiseworthy and upright, we seek after, looking forward to the recompense of reward.

Ref: Bible: Phil. 4:8

(The above is the Faith and

Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, headquartered in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. We are an entirely distinct and separate church, without affiliations to any other church or groups of the restoration movement; nor are we affiliated with any other religious group of people or church, regardless of their denomination—Editor's note.)

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

praying for the needy, and giving counsel to the troubled is unspeakable for which we give praise to our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has called us into the great work of the Lord.

Brother Liberto reminded us of an experience given more than twelve years ago in which it was shown that, through the work of the Church in Guatemala, the Gospel will go to all Central America. We live with this hope and want to thank the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ for their prayers and financial support which have sustained the Church in Guatemala.

The brothers and sisters of the Guatemala Mission extend their love to the General Church and branches and missions throughout the world.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

prayer reached the heavens. The dry bones of Enos began to come alive in Jesus Christ. Enos struggled and wrestled before God and then it happened. Finally, after his struggle, Enos' sins were forgiven. No sooner than his sins were forgiven, now the spirit of love fell on him. He began to have a desire for the welfare of his brethren. What did he do? He poured out his soul in prayer to God for the welfare of his brethren, the Nephites and also the Lamanites. What a change! Dry bones became bones full of life!

There are many other examples in

the scriptures and in today's Church of those who were dry bones but now alive in Jesus Christ. Where are they you ask? Look around you. They are in your family. They are in your respective branches. Many wonderful and marvelous brothers and sisters who once were sinners, in the valley of dry bones, now they are alive in the Lord. Look at them. Notice the spirit they carry. Notice their walk and their talk. Notice the humility and broken heart and contrite spirit. Did these brothers and sisters do that on their own? No, they did not. They allowed themselves to be breathed on by the Lord and He changed them. He resurrected them from sin and death into the newness of life. The Lord changed their lives for the better. Many were rebuked by their own family and friends. Were they deterred? No, they were not deterred or discouraged. They persevered, pressed on, let the Lord have His way with them and became saints to the Most High God. They were called out of the "valley of dry bones" into a life with Christ. How about you?

Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

store for us. Sometimes we must suffer and pray for many, many weeks before we have peace. Sometimes when we are really scared, we need to tell others so that they will pray for us also. There is mighty power in praying and many times, we will find answers and peace when we fast and also pray.

As you each grow older you will find out that many times someone will be hurting and you are powerless to change things. But God is never powerless. And Jesus is named the Prince of Peace. You can pray and Jesus can work miracles in the other peoples' lives. There is much power and peace in prayer. Start practicing now. The next thing you are worried about, pray about it. The Book of Mormon tells us to pray over our flocks and fields (places of work), our families, servants (people who teach us and help us) and over everything we

need or care about. You can have peace. Trust in God, put your troubles in His care. Over and over, seek peace.

With care, your friend,
Sister Jan

Ordinations

Brother Troy Tate was ordained a Deacon on May 30, 1999, in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio and he was ordained by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Sister Carla Naro-King was ordained a Deaconess on May 30, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Vera Naro and she was ordained by Brother Mark Naro.

Brother Greg Davis was ordained a Deacon on May 30, 1999 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Patrick Monaghan and he was ordained by Brother John Genaro.

Brother Wally Cihomsky was ordained an Evangelist on December 12, 1999 in the San Carlos, AZ Mission. His feet were washed by Evangelist Richard Christman and he was ordained by Evangelist Larry Watson.

Brother Hector Gastelum was ordained an Evangelist on December 5, 1999 in the Tijuana, Mexico Branch. His feet were washed by Evangelist Richard Christman and he was ordained by Evangelist Paul Liberto.

Brother Joseph Ignagni was ordained an Evangelist on November 21, 1999 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Branch. His feet were washed by Evangelist Larry Watson and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Brother Matthew Kurowsky was ordained a Deacon on December 19, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Chuck Kogler and he was ordained by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr.

Brother Jonathan Nath was ordained a Deacon on December 19, 1999 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Richard Nath and he was ordained by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Jr., and Sister Jennifer Calabrese were united in holy matrimony on October 16, 1999 in Oberlin, Ohio.

Brother Scott Griffith and Sister Mandy Genaro were united in holy matrimony in the Warren, Ohio Branch on September 25, 1999.

Children Blessed

Sarah Carys Jordan, daughter of Sister Kimberly and Brother David Jordan was blessed in the Mesa-Phoenix, Arizona Branch on March 21, 1999.

David Cueras Lopez, grandson of Sister Victoria Lopez, was blessed in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission on November 21, 1999.

Baptisms

Deborah Lee Perhacs was baptized on August 15, 1999 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Ali and confirmed by Brother Edward Donkin.

Angela Gioia Ficarra was baptized on September 26, 1999 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Mike LaSala and confirmed by Brother Frank Natoli.

Larisa Landrey was baptized on May 2, 1999 in the Mesa-Phoenix, Arizona Branch. She was baptized by Brother Skip Smith and confirmed by Brother David Jordan.

Fiftieth Anniversary

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

Brother Howard and Sister Joyce Jackson of the Kinsman, Ohio Mission celebrated fifty years as members of The Church of Jesus Christ on November 21, 1999.

OBITUARIES

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

ALMA NOLFI

Brother Alma Nolfi of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on August 23, 1999. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Alma is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Nolfi; three sons, Timothy Nolfi, Brother David Nolfi and Jared Nolfi; two daughters, Alma Marie Nolfi and Jessica Nolfi; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

FRANCES J. CAPONE

Sister Frances J. Capone of the Mesa-Phoenix, Arizona Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on June 7, 1999. Sister Frances was preceded in death by her husband, Evangelist Peter Capone and her son, Brother David Capone. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Yvonne Saffron and three grandchildren.

MARY NATALINA CUOMO

Sister Mary Cuomo of the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on October 21, 1999. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Mary is survived by two sons, Sylvester and Samuel; six daughters, Mary Coppa, Rose Arena, Phil MacKinnon, Olanda Peltier, Argia Whyte, and Martha Zaccagnini; thirty-four grandchildren, sixty-two great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

ESTHER JANE CAMPITELLE

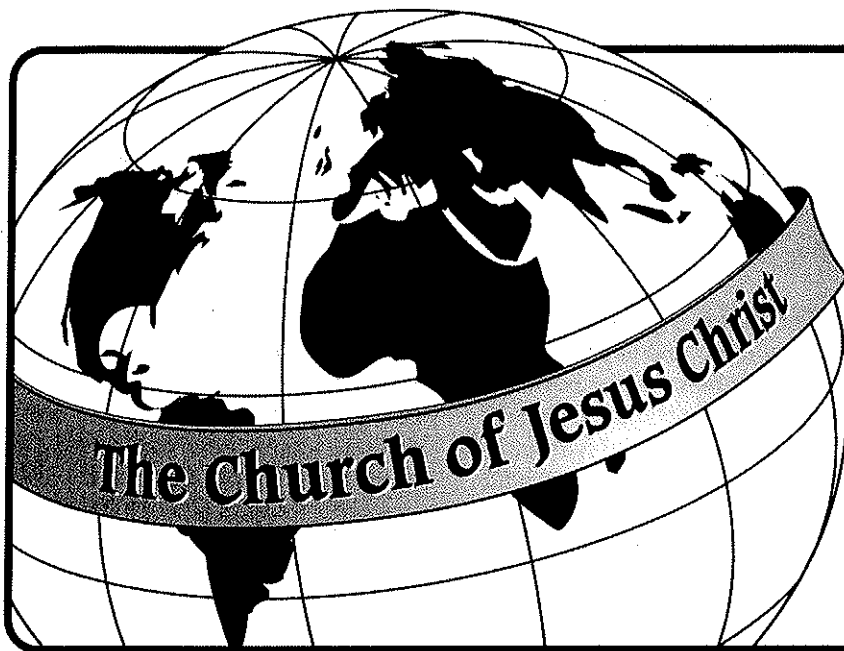
Esther Jane Campitelle passed on to her eternal reward on October 26, 1999. She is survived by three sisters; Sisters Mary DiChiera, Lucy Hemp and Mildred Domurat; and several nieces and nephews.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 2000

Volume 56, No. 3

God's Mercy To A Wayward Soul

By Brother Jerry Valenti

This is the testimony of the late Sister Debbie Cogar. Obviously, she cannot relate it at this time so I have taken it upon myself to tell her story. As you will see, my life was also touched by her experience such that her testimony has become part of my own.

It began with a phone call on September 2, 1999. My wife Pat told me that Debbie Cogar had called and wanted to discuss a dream she had the night before. I hadn't spoken with Debbie in about two years but she had been on my mind for the past couple of weeks, ever since she had moved in with her sister, Sister Theresa Camden. Before returning her call, I prayed that God would direct my conversation with her, even that this dream would somehow draw her closer to Him.

As brief background information, I first met Debbie in 1989 when I was asked to go to Children's Hospital in Philadelphia to anoint a baby girl with a hole in her heart. This was Debbie's daughter Corinne who today, thank God, is a healthy 10-year-old girl. Since that time, I have seen Debbie on a few occasions, generally when she needed a minister to either counsel with or pray for her

or her children. Sister Theresa kept me updated on her activities, including when Debbie divorced her husband and moved in with another man. We prayed for her on many occasions and brought her name before the branch membership as well.

In August of this year, Debbie's live-in arrangement came to an end and she found herself in need of a place to stay. Sister Theresa and

Brother Garry graciously invited her to stay in their home until she found a place of her own. When I heard of this arrangement, the thought immediately came to me that it was time for me and Debbie to sit down and talk about the condition of her soul and the need to get her life straightened out and in tune with God. I was prepared to even be a little hard with her if necessary, in order to get her to see the point. I told Sister Theresa that I wanted to set this up but it was just a few days later that Debbie had her dream and so she

(Continued on Page 10)



Sister Debbie Cogar and Brother Jerry Valenti

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

By Timothy D. Bucci

The text I shall read is found in Acts 2:37-41:

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"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.

"And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

The Apostle Peter, who apparently was the most aggressive of the eleven apostles, preached to the multitude of people that gathered about them.

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

"... and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

"And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?"

"And how hear we every man in our own tongue..."

The things which they heard were the wonderful things of God and Jesus Christ, who was crucified. Suddenly, they were touched in their hearts and said unto Peter and the rest of the Apostles, "... Men and brethren, what shall we do?" In other words, they were asking individually, "What must I do to be saved?" We shall let the Holy Bible answer this question.

The Apostle Paul writes in II Timothy 3:16,17:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Let us observe that St. Paul said, "... instruction in righteousness..." and "... profitable for doctrine..." What doctrine? The doctrine of Christ. Of what does the doctrine of Christ consist? The doctrine of Christ consists of these fundamental principles: faith, repentance, baptism, and the imposition of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, precisely as Peter had declared in the text I read. These principles must be observed, put into effect, and administered by one duly authorized with power and authority. I shall speak briefly on each of these principles. First will be faith.

According to the Apostle Paul, "... faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This is found in Hebrews 11:1. In this same chapter, verse 6 reads: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Evidently, faith is believing without seeing.

The Apostle Paul said: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Where shall we place our faith? Jesus said: "... Have faith in God" (St. Mark 11:22). Evidently, we place our faith where it will produce in us the greatest assurance about the things which concern us most. To have faith in God is to have faith in the final victory of everything which is good. Have faith in God and Christ Jesus, the Holy One of Israel. It is constructive, it is a sure foundation, and it is the way of salvation. To have faith is not merely advice. It is a command.

The second step which must be observed and put into effect is repentance. Peter commanded the multi-

tude to repent when they asked, "... what shall we do?" Repentance literally means rethinking, or a change of mind. In the New Testament, it means a change of heart and mind, so that we no longer justify ourselves in seeking our own way, but instead, gladly give God the "right of way" in our lives. True repentance is more than the abandonment of specific sins; it goes to the root of the matter, which is rebellion against God. Rebellion against God is what produces sin. Paul said, "... but (God) now commandeth all men every where to repent." Jesus said, "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (St. Luke 13:3). Repentance is a key word in the message of Jesus, Peter, James, John, and Paul. It is one of the key words of our message in these last days.

Let us observe the condition of the world today. We read of many earthquakes, destructions, pestilences, famines, wars, and the rumors of wars of which Jesus says in St. Matthew 24:8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." Verses 10-12 read,

"And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

In II Timothy, 3:1-5, Paul said: "... 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."

Are these things apparent today? We can surely say, yes. An examination of the developments which brought chaos to the rest of the earth reveals that a spiritual collapse preceded civil collapse; moral disintegration came before economic and

social breakdown. In other words, materialism is the best term to use; and it is composed of the selfishness and irresponsibility which have undermined modern civilization. The process of disaster is clearly evident in America today. Many people are worried about our economic and political futures; but, they are blind to the fact that it depends upon our spiritual situation. Must our democratic way of life be threatened before we learn that democracy, prosperity, and civilization depend upon the spiritual life of mankind? Let us awaken to these facts.

The third step which must be observed and put into effect is baptism. The New Testament was written in Greek, and we note "cheo" means to pour; "rantizo" means to sprinkle. "Baptize" means to dip, or to immerse. The word "baptizo" is derived from a word root, "bapto," the simple and primitive meaning of which is to dip, or immerse. It is in this sense that the word is carried forward into the English language.

Baptism by immersion was the recognized mode of initiation into membership of the early Christian Church. Baptism was preached by the Ministers of Christ in the primitive Church. John, the forerunner of Christ, was called John the Baptist. He preached repentance and baptism along the banks of Jordan. In the text I read, Peter commanded the multitude to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Jesus, in St. Mark 16:16, said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Baptism is the only genuine when it is accompanied by faith and repentance and performed by one duly authorized.

The fourth step is the reception of the Holy Ghost. Baptism in water involves a cleansing, is an enlistment, and is of great importance; but, if it is to be effective, it must be followed by a baptism of the Spirit. John the Baptist declared: "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 with fire."

Jesus told Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Evidently, receiving the Holy Spirit is vitally important for salvation. By what method was it received in the primitive Church? The first incident we read about is on the Day of Pentecost, when the followers of Jesus gathered together in one place.

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,"

After this, the Church became organized through the Apostles. Officers were installed, and The Church of Jesus Christ, or the Kingdom of God, was established upon the face of the earth. We learn then that the Apostles laid their hands upon the new converts, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Let me give you one of the many illustrations recorded in the Holy Bible. When Philip, a servant and Minister of Christ, went to Samaria to preach Christ, they gladly received him and were baptized. When the Church learned of this, they sent Peter and John to assist him. We read that, when they came, they laid their hands upon them and they received the Holy Ghost. Obviously, the method used was by the "laying on," or the imposition of hands. Time will not permit me to point out other scripture to support this.

The fifth and last thing I wish to impress upon you is that the certain ordinances instituted in the primitive Church were administered by men who were called by God. Through faith and the Holy Spirit to function for Christ and His Church, one must be called by revelation or a "divine-calling." The term minister means servant. The minister, therefore, is a servant of God, receiving authority from Him and exercising this author-

ity in His Name.

Men have no right to organize The Church of Jesus Christ or to commission others to function for Christ. The authority of the Ministry must come from Him in this age, as in every other age. Men have been called to the Priesthood by revelation. Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph were called by God in their respective generations. Moses and Aaron were called in their day. The Apostles were called in their day by the Lord Jesus Christ. Evidently, then, the servants of God should be called in these last days in like manner by the revelation of God, and not by educational institutions for religion. It is good to be learned, if you hearken to the counsels of God.

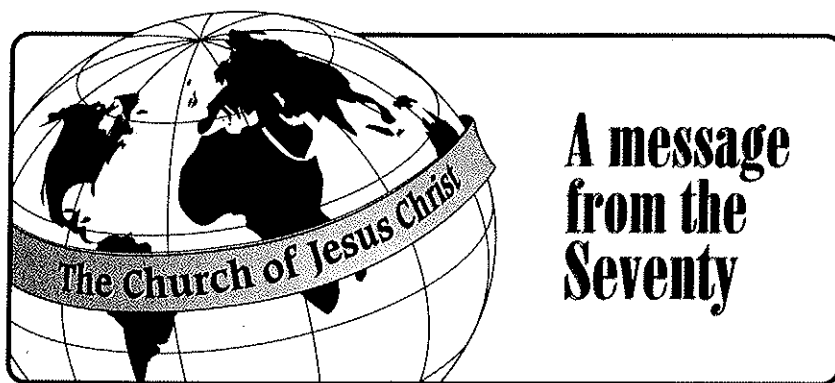
In the New Testament, we learn that faithful men were ordained into the Ministry by the laying on of hands. The Church of Jesus Christ, which I represent, and her Ministers are called by the revelation of God. It is the Kingdom of God established upon the earth in these last days.

Allow me to add this day: **Have faith in Christ Jesus. Repent, and be baptized for the remission of your sins. You shall receive the Holy Ghost, because the promise is to you and also so far as the Lord will call.** In conclusion, I shall repeat the words of St. Paul, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." May the peace of the Saviour abide with you all."

(Editor's Note: The above article is taken from the Book of Sermons published by The Church of Jesus Christ. It is based on a sermon by the late Evangelist, Timothy D. Bucci.)

Notice

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle will conduct its 80th Anniversary Conference in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on April 29, 2000. Please plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference.



Missionary Visit to Nigeria, West Africa

By Evangelist Joseph Perri, Co-Coordinator for Nigeria

The year was 1995 when we last visited on the western coast of Africa. Time does not stand still and four years and eight months have gone by swiftly. Various conditions within the country prevented us from traveling to Nigeria where there are approximately 3,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

News received by us in America, August 7, 1999, that our beloved Evangelist Edem Akpan Ebong had passed away saddened us, and it was not known whether we would be permitted to attend his funeral on November 5, six days prior to the start of the scheduled National Church Conference. Thankfully, all the permissions were received and Elder Malcolm Paxon and I departed for Nigeria on November 1 where we were greeted warmly by our Church Director there, Evangelist George Frank Arthur, and the Nigerian Priesthood.

Evangelist Ford K. Boadu, Director of the Church in Ghana, also made arrangements to attend the funeral, and he was with us during our entire stay until November 15. Brother Ford had been ill since his return from the World Missionary Conference in America last summer, but his condition had improved sufficiently to allow him to travel.

TOLD VISIT IMPORTANT

Our visit proved to be very important, having been told our brothers and sisters had been discouraged because

they had not seen any missionaries from the Parent Church for almost five years. Furthermore, the rumor had been circulated that no missionaries from America would ever be allowed to visit Nigeria again. In the words of our National Church Director, "Every meeting that you had with us, we felt new life and the spirit from heaven came down into every one of us and we felt blessed."

Our Nigerian brothers requested we go, which we did, to a few of their new branches which had recently been added to the membership rolls of the Church. During our busy schedule, visits were made to three districts and branches; our secondary school; the International Medical Association (IMA) clinic; the Social Welfare, Educational and Development Center where we are presently caring for thirty-one orphans, some of whom have sponsors and four days at the National Church Conference.

SUNDAY CONFERENCE SERVICE

At the Sunday gathering of conference, there was an overflow crowd which filled the main auditorium. Also, many sat under the cover of the veranda and could hear the sermon over the PA system. Several choirs sang beautifully. Brother Perri was asked to introduce the service, and he was inspired to use the first chapter of Galatians in which the Apostle Paul emphasized the importance of staying fast to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and

not being influenced to depart from it. Further, as the Apostle also stated, if any man preach any other Gospel, let him be accursed.

Brother Perri said he had been given that scripture just that morning, not knowing that he would be asked to speak. On behalf of the Parent Church, he thanked the Priesthood and members who have remained faithful to the Lord and The Church of Jesus Christ during their period of extreme difficulty. He admonished all the saints to be forgiving as Christ said we should be and show love to those who want to be with the family of God.

The sermon was interpreted in three tribal languages, Efik, Ibo, and Yoruba. Brothers Malcolm and Ford spoke, using the same scripture and relating how good God is to have given us the Gospel and the knowledge of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our baptism and the Church have become our passports to heaven.

The state of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria is very good. The overall excitement of the Priesthood and the membership is to have the Church established in every village. In particular, more recently, approximately one hundred people from another organization came into the Gospel.

Requests are for a permanent Church building where there are none (where they worship in a mud hut), Bibles, hymnals, other Church literature, and motorcycles for traveling elders. Poverty and inflation have hurt the Nigerian population. Their new government is making a tremendous effort to recover from years of difficulty; but that will take time.

SAD PART OF TRIP

The sad part of our missionary trip was to attend the funeral of our beloved Evangelist, Edem Akpan Ebong. From the day of his conversion in 1960 while listening to the preaching of our late Evangelists John Ross and Alvin Swanson, until his fatal illness would not permit him any longer to

(Continued on Page 11)



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

If someone makes a mistake or does something wrong, today's trend in society is to blame someone else. It is always the other person's fault or problem. It is never the fault of the person who committed the error or mistake. Few want to accept responsibility for their action or actions. Isn't it amazing that it is always the other person's fault?

Yet, this is the way it has been since the very beginning of time. Human nature and its frailties have not changed. It is really no different in our time than it was in the Book of Genesis. Remember Adam and Eve? They were commanded by the Lord not to eat of the tree of knowledge. They disobeyed the Lord. Adam and Eve did not follow the Lord's instructions. Both ate from the tree of knowledge. What happened?

When confronted by the Lord, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Some things never change! Did the serpent tempt Eve? He sure did, but he did not make her sin. She made a choice, a wrong choice. It was her disobedience based on her choice. Eve did not accept responsibility for her action. Neither did Adam. It was their choice but someone else's fault.

We go through life making choices every day. We have to live with our choices. We have to accept the responsibility and consequences of those choices. Consider a small example.

Have you ever made a poor choice when driving your car and made a wrong turn? When you realized you were not going in the right direction, was that a result of your choice and your decision? Or was it the fault of the civil engineer who designed the highway or road? It was your choice, your responsibility.

It is important to choose how you want to live your life. You can choose to serve the Lord. You can choose not to serve the Lord. Remember. It is your choice. No one else can make that choice for you. You and you alone bear the responsibility for your choice and your soul. You bear the responsibility for your own soul. Your soul is not the responsibility of another member of The Church of Jesus Christ, your neighbor, your friend or a family member. No one can give you faith, no one can repent for you and no one can get baptized for you. Only you can choose to have faith, repent, and ask for your baptism. The scripture is very plain. Men and women are free to choose. It is their choice to serve Jesus Christ. It is also their choice not to serve the Lord. The Lord will not make that decision for anyone. If He did, then it would be safe to say He is partial because He chose your life and your ultimate destiny, either heaven or damnation. He will force no one to heaven. He will call, direct and encourage people to serve Him. He will not force anyone to serve Him.

You cannot blame someone else if you do not regularly attend The Church of Jesus Christ once you are baptized and become a member. Your attendance cannot be predicated on someone else's attendance. It is your choice to attend or not attend. Your actions are your responsibility and are based on your choices. It is incumbent upon each of us not to look around and see what the other person is doing or not doing with their life. It is not for us to base our actions or lack thereof based on how others live their lives. What is important is how we live our lives. What is important is how we serve God. We cannot base our service to the Lord on how others serve the Lord. It is our choice on how we serve God. We are judged and will be judged on our actions and choices, not on the actions and choices of those around us. Many people make the right choice. Unfortunately, many people make the wrong choice.

In spite of God's commandment, Israel made a golden calf. It was their choice. It was a bad choice and they suffered the consequences of their decision. Laman and Lemuel chose not to serve the Lord. Their hearts were on the material things of life, their family treasures and wealth. They made a very poor choice. They bore the price of that decision. Their descendants bear the price of that decision. Instead of choosing the Lord, the rich man chose to build more silos

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"The Tears God Sees"

Dear Boys and Girls,

One of the shortest sentences in the Bible also carries one of the most beautiful messages. The sentence is found in John 11:35. It is the true story of Jesus' feelings when one of his precious friends had died and the family was suffering deeply. The sentence says, "Jesus wept."

This was the Savior, the Son of God. This was the man with the power of God to heal the sick and raise the dead. This was the man who planned to show the followers the power of God by raising his friend from the dead. But He still wept and shared the pain of His friends.

Our society tells us NOT to cry. But the Bible tells us over and over to love others and share their problems (burdens). We are not supposed to talk about them to others; we are supposed to go to a quiet place in our heart and talk to God about them. We are supposed to lift them up in prayer to the Lord. We are also taught to pray and tell the Lord our REAL feelings—not just the polite ones. But we are to break our heart before the Lord and tell Him what we need help with.

Tears are precious to the Lord. King David was called a "man after God's own heart." And King David never hesitated to fast, to pray, to openly cry unto God for help. In Psalms 6:6 he wrote, "I am weary [tired] with my groanings: all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears . . . the Lord hath heard my supplication [begging for help] . . . the Lord will receive my prayer." King David was a warrior when he wrote this. This was the man



who had killed the giant Goliath armed only with faith, a prayer and a few small rocks.

The Apostle Paul says in Acts 20:18-19, "I have been with you at all season . . . serving the Lord with all humility of mind [willing to learn] and with many tears . . ." Sometimes people forget that God wants to hear real feelings, and thoughts. God tells us not to pray in chants or in "vain repetition as the heathens [people who don't know the Lord] do."

When people get baptized, it is only after they have repented (been sorry for) the things that they have done wrong. God does not tell them to give Him money or pay to become one of His followers. He tells them to come truthfully to Him with a broken heart and contrite (sorry) spirit. Then God can begin teaching them all about His power and ways of doing things.

Scientists in the world today have done some very interesting studies about what is in a tear. They have discovered that there are chemicals in a tear and that it is good for our bodies to get them out. A nurse I know who works at Hospice, a gentle place where people go to get help with dying, told me that there are also other tears. Sometimes our bodies cry very bitter tears that almost burn the skin.

These are the tears that our bodies usually produce when people we need and love pass on . . . tears of grief.

So, do not fear your tears. The Lord, who created your body in His own image, created your ability to feel emotions from joy to sorrow. He finds tears acceptable and even necessary as a way of communicating with Him. Pray, be honest with the Lord over why

your heart is aching and trust in Him. He cares for you. Then you can say, as King David also says in Psalms 116:8, "For thou [the Lord] hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living."

With care,
Your friend, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THE	AND	CRY
LORD	SEES	HE
HEARS	THE	CARES
YOUR	TEARS	FOR
PRAYERS	YOU	US

L	T	H	E	A	R	S
S	E	E	S	U	R	G
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O	S	A	Y	A	R	R
F	R	R	E	A	N	D
P	C	A	R	E	S	L

Announcement

For March, 2000, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.90%
2 years	6.00%
3 years	6.10%
4 years	6.20%
5 years	6.30%

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

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 202 Waterworks Rd., Clarion, PA 16214, (814) 227-2421.



Missionary
Benevolent
Association

In Love With The Church of Jesus Christ

By Sister Mandy Griffith

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

The servants of the Lord expressed this theme of Christ's love as they gathered for GMBA Conference on November 13-14, 1999 in Greensburg, PA. The GMBA ended the 20th century by thanking and praising God for calling us into His glorious Church, and we welcome the new millennium with a greater excitement and desire to work for the Lord. We have fallen in love with The Church of Jesus Christ, and serving God is the story of our lives. "We've a story to tell to the nations . . ."

Saturday morning, Brother Isaac J. Smith opened the meeting speaking from Matthew where Jesus and His disciples were in the garden of Gethsemane. The Lord was very burdened with the trial He was about to embark on, and He asked His disciples to stay in the garden and pray with Him. Unfortunately, they fell asleep, and Jesus was all alone. Christ had to bear the weight of His burden all alone; however, we will never be alone in our lives. Jesus promised to never leave us nor forsake us. He is always by our side; a friend in time of need.

Throughout the day, various brothers and sisters testified of experiences where God intervened in times of trial, keeping His promise to hold our hand and stay by our side. The Lord saw Brother John Azzinaro through

cancer and renewed his strength. He removed pain from Brother Nick Rutledge through an anointing. He healed Erika Rooney, a young child previously diagnosed with a fatal genetic disease. Brother Dave Lovalvo thanked God for blessing his children who were born with premature complications and are now healthy children. These are living testimonies of Christ's great love for us. Brother Peter Scolaro offered a special prayer for all the sick and afflicted, knowing that God is the Great Physician who answers prayers.

That evening, we opened with the hymn, *Never Alone*. Brother Tom Liberto, Jr. followed the theme of the day and spoke from the Book of Enos. He said, "We have to be concerned for the welfare of our souls. If you feel like you are struggling like Enos, and you feel you are all alone in the woods of life, turn to Jesus. He is there and He offers us salvation." We can gain strength as Enos remembered the testimony of his father and sought out the Lord.

Brothers Bruce Picciuto, Patrick Monaghan, and Jason Monaghan sang, *Alone*, and Brother Chuck Jumper continued the message saying, "Christ had to walk alone, but He paid it all when He died to ensure we would never have to walk alone." In life, we are intimidated by the atmosphere and environment around us, but if Jesus goes with us, we can go anywhere. We can overcome this world through Christ. God told Enos, "Thy sins are forgiven thee," and we can have that same redemption if we walk and talk with the Lord. Reach out to Jesus, take care of your soul, give your life to the Lord because He gave His life for you.

Brother Paul Ciotti followed speaking of Moses giving his life to God: "Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh. He had a much higher calling. He was called to be a son of the Most High God. Today, we have been called to this higher calling. We need to go back to our testimony and never forget that He has called us by name to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ." This Church is the apple of God's eye. He has never left

us alone and has said we can do all things through His strength. We need to walk worthily, think soberly, live righteously. The young people came forward and closed our meeting with songs of praise. We thanked God for being with us and anticipated the Sabbath Day to come.

Sunday morning was opened with the song, *Our Church*, led by Brother Panfilo DiCenzo. As the body of Christ, we communed with the Lord and partook of sacrament. We sang, *Holy, Holy, Holy* as the bread and wine were passed, and the Spirit of God descended so sweetly as we remembered our Savior and His love. Then, Brother Dominic Thomas addressed the saints of God speaking of Christ's great love for this Church. "Serving God is the story of our lives. The MBA was the chief activity in our lives as young people. We need to work while we're young, with great strength and passion for God, using all of our energy and spirit with nothing left over. One person doesn't make up the Church. We work together to keep the pure, unadulterated Gospel. If we take anything into the next century, it should be the spirit of contrition. Have a broken heart and a contrite spirit and approach the Lord in sincerity and simplicity, allowing yourself to see and

(Continued on Page 11)

Notice

The GMBA Campout is scheduled to be held August 5-11, 2000 at the Antiochian Village, in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. The Camp Director is Brother Chris Scolaro and the Assistant Camp Director is Brother Brad Everett. The registration forms will be in your branch or mission soon! You are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Doesn't it sound wonderful to spend a week dedicated to the Lord and His Church, with no radio, no television and no newspaper? We look forward to seeing you at camp.



Ordination in Vanderbilt, PA

On September 26, 1999, Sister Peggy Stroko of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., who asked God that we be filled and that His Spirit be present. It surely was!

Brother Dominick Rose began our service stating, "Christ Jesus lives in our hearts, He is our foundation," making reference to Luke 6:48.

Brother James Link followed, speaking about building your house on a solid foundation.

Several other brothers spoke, following the same theme, building upon a sure and solid foundation which is Jesus Christ.

A number of experiences were read and shared with the congregation, concerning the calling of Sister Peggy Stroko.

Brother Lawrence King read the duties of a Deaconess. As Brother King read these duties, Sister Stroko states she listened intently, feeling the burden that was to be placed on her. She prayed that she would be worthy of such a holy office.

Sister Peggy Stroko's feet were washed by Sister Susan King. The Ministry formed a circle and Brother Robert Nicklow prayed, asking for God's guidance and inspiration. His prayer was that God would inspire one of the brothers to lay hands upon Sister Stroko's head and perform the ordination into the office of Deaconess.

Brother Thomas Stroko, Sister Peggy's husband, was touched by the Spirit of God and laid his hands upon her head. He prayed, asking the Lord to give Sister Stroko strength and help, to assist her through any burdens and give her many times of joy in the office of Deaconess.

The brothers and sisters greeted

Sister Peggy Stroko and extended their blessings and prayers that God would lead, guide, direct and use her.

Sister Peggy Stroko was given an opportunity to bear her testimony. She shared her experience of being called into the office of Deaconess and also shared an experience how she and her husband, Brother Thomas Stroko met several years ago. Sister Peggy also shared her thoughts of other Deaconesses in the Vanderbilt Branch; Sisters Mary Fleming, Ethel Thomas and Loretta Lowther. Her prayer was that God would allow her to follow in these sisters' footsteps and be used by God for His honor and glory. Sister Peggy Stroko closed her testimony by sharing a few lines from a card which read:

"Lord, grant me the gift of a generous heart that embraces each person I see,

"A heart reaching out in true kindness and caring to share all the best that's in me.

"Lord, grant me the gift of a bright, happy spirit that joyfully faces each day,

"A spirit that's loving and gently shines through in my actions and each word I say.

"Lord, grant me the gift of a wonderful life that fulfills what I'm sent here to do,

"A life that is lived in the richness and beauty of serving and following you."

God's Still on His Throne

Blessings have been flowing like the river seen in Lehi's wonderful dream. God is so good and always has been! Just as we were reminded by Brother Stephen Osaka (Kenya) at the World Missionary Conference, God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Before seven of us from Mid-Georgia embarked upon the spiritual adventure of our lives, we were already full of spiritual blessings from God's handiwork. Several weeks ago, we were asked to pray for a man that was only known to us by his name. Henry Scott was fighting for his own survival from a second deadly attack of pneumonia. He had lost several pounds,

and was nearing his short life's end at a young mid-forties age. As the color and life was slowly leaving his body, a clarion call came from Brother Dan Nowels as Henry was a dear friend he had talked with about The Church of Jesus Christ on several occasions. He requested the presence of an Elder at his bedside to be anointed, and he knew that God's will would be done, regardless of the outcome. Brother Ken Staley was the next scheduled Elder to support our mission, so he was blessed with the duty of going to Henry's call. Henry was anointed that Sunday afternoon after our Church service. Brother Ken stated that he did not envision Henry returning from his downhill slide to death.

The following Wednesday, Henry's name was again mentioned to our Lord in the form of fasting and prayer. Henry's condition at this meeting did not seem to be improving. Submitting to God's will, we all left the meeting with a silent prayer on our mind in continuance for Henry's welfare. A few days went by, and a Sunday meeting went by with no news of any recovery.

The following Sunday brought much rejoicing from the saints as we learned Henry was showing signs of recovery. He was gaining a bit of weight back and was regaining his natural color. Two weeks later, Henry was in a meeting with us to give his testimony to God and the saints that had submitted his name before our Father. Henry had gained back all of his weight to include a few extra pounds and was weak, but doing very well.

During that same meeting, we had the pleasure of seeing Colton Jarrett Mason blessed. A miracle baby! Three years before that, the parents, Don and Kris Mason, not baptized yet, had asked for prayer because Kris was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. At twenty-seven, this was a very difficult time for her as a woman and wife. The doctor told her she would never have children of her own so Kris underwent an untried method of therapy to get rid of the cancer. This was not a proven process and there were no guarantees with the outcome. She reluctantly

agreed to pursue this treatment instead of the obvious surgery and at the same time, asked for prayer from the brothers and sisters. After two years of prayer and treatments, her biopsies were coming back negative and they began planning their family. Kris has not yet gotten pregnant but they had both decided to pursue adoption as well.

While they lived in New York, they met a woman whose son had a baby. She was very distraught about this and she had gained custody of this child. A year later, her son's girlfriend became pregnant again. The woman, knowing Kris's peril, asked Kris if she might be interested in adopting her next grandchild before they moved back to Mid-Georgia. This thrilled Kris and Don so much. They again appealed for prayers from the saints. The baby was due in June sometime but came three weeks early, by emergency surgery. Colton Jarrett was born on Mother's Day, 1999. At this time, Don, Kris, Brother Corey and Sister Crystal made an emergency trip to New York to get the baby.

The first attempt too secure the child was unsuccessful as the natural father had some very distinct problems with giving up his child for adoption. After several hours of threats, while yet in the hospital, the natural mother decided to keep the baby. At this very time, one of the members in the Mid-Georgia Mission had a strong desire to pray for Kris and Don, because she felt the matter with the baby was not good. Of course, we were not about to give up on this baby, so we continued to pray. Three weeks later, the natural father and mother relinquished their parental rights and requested for Kris and Don to adopt their second son.

Don and Kris Mason asked us if we would share this testimony with you and share a bid of thanks to God and the saints for the prayers submitted on their behalf over the past couple of years. They know they would not have had the privilege of having Colton Jarrett blessed were it not for the intervention of God. During the service as Colton Jarrett was being blessed, Brother Ken Hatch stated that God spoke these words, "I give you a

living soul!" We know for certain this child will be protected by the Father.

We see through this, that our Eternal Father will give each of us a reason to be faithful, if we only give Him the lead in the matter. God is working miracles in our lives every day and we thank Him for His consideration in these matters. We sincerely hope you have gained a little strength from us sharing these testimonies with you. Remember this always, "God will not put you where He cannot keep you."

May God bless you richly,
Brother Corey and Sister Crystal Morris

Ordination of Brother Wally Cihomsky in San Carlos, AZ

By Evangelist Richard Christman

We were blessed by God's Spirit on December 12, 1999, at the ordination of Brother Wally Cihomsky into the office of Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Wally has been spending half of his time at the San Carlos Apache Mission and the remainder at the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch. He has always had a great love for the Seed of Joseph and worked with the brothers of the Atlantic Coast Region for many years with the various Urban Indian groups.

The Southwest Region members and visiting brothers and sisters from California were present at the San Carlos Mission. Brother David Ciccatti opened the service, using Ephesians, 4th chapter, and John 15. He spoke regarding the members' duty to support the Evangelical Mission of the Church. The main theme in his sermon was that we all have evangelical responsibilities.

Brother Anthony Piccuito followed and related how God directs us and encourages us as we preach the Gospel. He related several experiences regarding God calling people into the Church in Ohio during his mission work there, and how it was gratifying

to have God indicate the number of baptisms He had planned, unbeknown to all involved.

Brother Harry Smith, Vice Chairman of the Southwest Region Quorum of Seventy, spoke regarding the ordination and conducted that portion of the service. Brother Dick Christman washed Brother Wally's feet and Brother Larry Watson ordained him as one of the Seventy. The ordination was followed with a prayer for the Cihomsky family, and testimonies were given as well. We enjoyed several nice hymn selections from the San Carlos members and young people. Brother Wally expressed himself and encouraged the congregation. His sincerity and humility were evident.

Brother Joseph Calabrese gave some very encouraging concluding remarks, and we felt God had been with us that day in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Testimony and Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A thank you to all my dear sisters and brothers who sent me such beautiful cards and flowers, along with fruit and prayers.

My daughter, Sister Virginia, and my son-in-law, Brother Jonathan Molinatto, were sitting with me in the hospital during one of my many stays in the hospital. Brother Jonathan said to me, "Mom, you are having lots of prayers being sent to the Lord." I said, "Yes, I know, but how can I repay them?"

Sister Virginia and Brother Jonathan left. I was looking up at the ceiling in my room. There was a beam across the ceiling. A stool with a white cloth appeared with a person sitting on it. He too, had a white robe on. I did not see the face, only from the waist down. And flowing up to the Person were many fragile white plumes and feathers. That made me understand what Brother Jonathan had told me. To prove it, I am still here, praise the

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A Testimony and Thank You

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Lord. I also thank God that I celebrated my sixtieth spiritual birthday on November 12, 1999. My prayer is that God will bless you all. Continue to remember me in your prayers.

Sister Margaret Iorio

Note of Thanks

I want to acknowledge and express my thanks for the many prayers that have been offered during the illness of my late husband, Brother John Azzinaro. I also want to say thank you for the many encouraging cards and phone calls. We thank the Lord for your thoughtfulness. May the Lord watch and protect you all. God bless you all.

Sister Betty Azzinaro

Notice World Missionary Conference Tapes

The tapes of The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference of 1999 are now available. They include the exhibit hall, presentations, and meetings.

These tapes vividly capture the spirit, each missionary work and the entire week of worship with brothers, sisters, and friends from around the world.

There are a total of eight (8) tapes, each two (2) hours in length. They are sold in one complete set for \$120.00, which includes shipping and handling. The tapes can be ordered through The Church of Jesus Christ Print House, 8282 Boettner Road, Bridgewater, MI 48115; telephone 734-429-5080. Checks and money orders are to be made out to The Church of Jesus Christ Print House. Complete payment is required prior to shipping. Profit from this project will be donated to all missionary fields and works.

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God's Mercy

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called me instead.

In Debbie's dream, she found herself in a grassy area, not knowing where to go. The next thing she knew, I was in her dream and the two of us were walking up a hill together. We went over the top of the hill and were in a beautiful area with lots of people whom she didn't know. She sat down on a bench and I stood behind her and somehow touched her back. She said that this touch gave her a feeling like she had never experienced before and caused her to say, "I never knew it would feel like this," and she awoke. When I heard this dream, it reminded me of Lehi's dream in which he tasted the fruit and claimed it was the sweetest he had ever tasted. I told Debbie that I felt her dream was from God and that she had experienced God's touch and should follow up on that so she could experience His touch for real.

The next Sunday, Debbie was in Church for the first time in many years. She came forward to be prayed for, mentioned her dream and stated that she was seeking God's direction and comfort. During the prayer, Sister Cindy Bright, who was seated on the

aisle, heard somebody walking down the aisle and brush past her. Wondering who was walking around during the prayer, she opened her eyes but saw nobody there. At the conclusion of the prayer, Brother Nick Boruch had a vision in which he saw Debbie being embraced by the Lord.

I visited Debbie two nights later and we talked for a couple of hours about the Lord and His Church, focusing on the meaning of repentance and the role of the Holy Ghost in directing us after baptism. Her mother had brought her to Church when she was young so she was familiar with the basic beliefs of the Church and had no problem with them. She was clearly repentant, she wanted to straighten out her life and she had a definite calling from God. As far as I was concerned, the next step was clear.

Brother Phil Arcuri visited our branch the next Sunday. His sermon touched on the Holy Ghost and basically proceeded to address whatever questions and concerns Debbie had at that time. As we were about to close the meeting, Debbie rose to her feet and asked for her baptism. She was baptized the following Sunday, September 19, 1999. As I prepared to baptize her and asked her if she repented of her sins, she looked me directly in the eye and replied, "Yes, I do," with such conviction that I had to compose myself before continuing. Back at the branch, Brother Paul Benyola confirmed Sister Debbie as a member of the Church and asked that the Holy Ghost would direct her all the remaining days of her life. None of us had any idea how few those days were to be.

I received a phone call from Sister Debbie about three weeks later, on Tuesday evening, October 12. It was to be the last time we would speak. A few minutes after hanging up, she went for a drive and was the victim of a fatal car crash. She was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash. How fragile life is! How devastating for her family, losing her at such a young age (35). How disappointing that we in the Church didn't have the chance to get to know her as a sister.

Yet, what a blessing that God

called her into the Church, allowing her to get baptized and be forgiven of her sins prior to her death! With her garment spotless, we can feel assured that Sister Debbie has gone on to the Paradise of God. In fact, Brother Nick Boruch had a vision the next Sunday in which he saw Sister Debbie wearing a very happy expression, entering the Paradise of God. Sister Pat Valenti had a confirming experience. What a miracle we have witnessed as God took a sinner, converted her to a saint and took her to Paradise, all in a few short weeks!

From a personal perspective, this experience has given me an even increased appreciation for the magnitude of our responsibility as the people of God. What a difference a few words can make, or a prayer, or just being there for somebody. Sister Debbie's experiences were related at her funeral and what a powerful effect it had on her family and all who were there. Afterward, strangers actually asked where the closest branch of our Church would be to their homes. A teenage girl told her mother this was the Church she wanted to get baptized in. We thank God for His saving grace and the power He has entrusted with The Church of Jesus Christ. May we use this power to bring salvation to the lost souls of mankind.

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

exercise his Priesthood calling, he labored diligently to preach the Gospel and upheld the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. A man small in stature, he was a spiritual giant. In the final moments of his life, he gracefully accepted that God was calling him to his reward by saying precisely at the instant the Elder was concluding his anointing prayer upon him, "Amen. So let it be."

As we prepared to make our return home, we were asked to remind the Parent Church to remember the brothers and sisters in that part of the world and to pray for them so that they could and would, with God's help, remain strong in His service.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

to store his crops. It was a poor choice. He lost his life and soul that night. The rich young man could not choose to sell all that he had, distribute the proceeds to the poor and then follow the Lord. He could not give up his riches. His decision, his choice resulted in not following the Lord. This is another example of a very poor choice. It was the wrong choice. Judas Iscariot chose to betray the Lord. He paid an awful price. He lost his soul. He is described in the scripture as the son of perdition. What a terrible way to be remembered. Ecclesiastes 7:1 states, "A good name is better than precious ointment..." A good name can be associated with good choices, good decisions which result in a good life.

How many times have you heard someone testify they wished they had served the Lord from their youth rather than later in life? That testimony is based on the joy which is a result of their decision to love and serve the Lord. It is a testimony that expresses the blessings one experiences from his or her decision to cast their lot with Jesus Christ.

What is your choice? Whom do you serve? Whom do you want to serve? The Lord said you cannot serve God and mammon. It is one or the other. You cannot have one foot in and one foot out.

Joshua said, "... choose ye this day whom ye will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What a wise choice. Make it yours as well.

MBA Highlights

Continued from Page 7

hear the greatness of God. Be enthralled with The Church of Jesus Christ!" Brother Dominic encouraged everyone to make the work of the Church uppermost in our minds. "We can't put our own agendas before God. We need to work just as hard for the Church as we do for temporal things. We must turn over a new leaf in this

next century. Let's be people of purity, unity, and peace; quiet not contentious, patient not aggravated, inclined to cooperate at all times. There is no other way to bring the ship of Zion forward. Nothing takes the place of The Church of Jesus Christ!"

Concluding the service, the young people came forward and were addressed by Brother Tom Liberto, Sr. who encouraged them to prepare themselves to be used of God. Assist the Church in bringing others to the knowledge of Christ. Brother Joe Calabrese offered a prayer over the young people and we ended another beautiful weekend in the house of God. Praise and glory belongs to Jesus Christ; the Rock of our Salvation, the Foundation of our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, in which we love.

Baptisms and Reinstatement

Angela Gioia Ficarra was baptized on September 26, 1999 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, MI. She was baptized by Brother Mike LaSala and she was confirmed by Brother Frank Natoli.

Robert H. Joswiak was baptized on September 12, 1999 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and he was confirmed by Brother Russell Cadman.

Rebecca Hemmings was baptized on September 19, 1999 at the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area MBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother Arthur H. Gehly, Sr., and she was confirmed by Brother Isaac Smith.

Isaac Reyes was baptized on October 31, 1999 in the Freehold, NJ Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Perri and he was confirmed by Brother Jim Crudup.

Becky Charlton was reinstated as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Branch #2, Detroit, MI on November 14, 1999.

Jennifer Ann Nnadi was baptized on August 15, 1999 in the Columbus, Ohio Mission. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Alan Metzler.

Children Blessed

Isaiah William Ridley, son of William Ridley, Jr. and Angela Ridley, was blessed on April 4, 1999 in the Columbus, Ohio Mission.

Julie Kaeli Briann Cassiday, daughter of Lori (Champine) and Chris Cassiday was blessed on November 11, 1999 in the Inner City Branch, Detroit, Michigan.

Joseph Daniel Graham, son of Gary and Susan Graham, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on October 24, 1999.

Elizabeth Sacramento, daughter of Gilberto and Maria Sacramento, was blessed on December 5, 1999 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Gilberto Sacramento, son of Gilberto and Maria Sacramento, was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on December 5, 1999.

Leslie Sacramento, daughter of Gilberto and Maria Sacramento, was blessed on December 5, 1999 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Jacqueline Hernandez, daughter of Rosalba Hernandez, was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on December 5, 1999.

Stacy Lynn Michelessi, daughter of Brother Joseph Michelessi, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on December 19, 1999.

Tami Nicole Michelessi, daughter of Brother Joseph Michelessi, was blessed on December 19, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Shannon Marie Michelessi, daughter of Brother Joseph Michelessi, was blessed on December 19, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Joseph Thomas Michelessi, son of Brother Joseph Michelessi, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on December 19, 1999.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversary

We wish to express our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives. May God bless you.

Sister Eva Moore of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch, recently celebrated fifty-eight years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

OBITUARIES

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

JOHN AZZINARO

Brother John Azzinaro passed on to his heavenly reward on December 13, 1999. He was a member of the Simi Valley, California Branch. Brother John is survived by his wife, Sister Betty Azzinaro; two sisters, Sisters Josephine Jasmin and Marie McGuire; two sons, John Vincent and Daniel Peter and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

GRACE LaCOMMARE

Sister Grace LaCommare, a member of the Modesto, California Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on October 30, 1999. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Grace is survived by her two sons; Stephen and Joseph; three daughters, Mary Nichols, Pat Johannsen and Shirley LaCommare; ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

DOROTHY GILBERT

Sister Dorothy Gilbert, a member of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on January 5, 2000. She is survived by her sister, Sister Elizabeth Rosemeier, and many nieces and nephews.

PALMINA STRACCIA

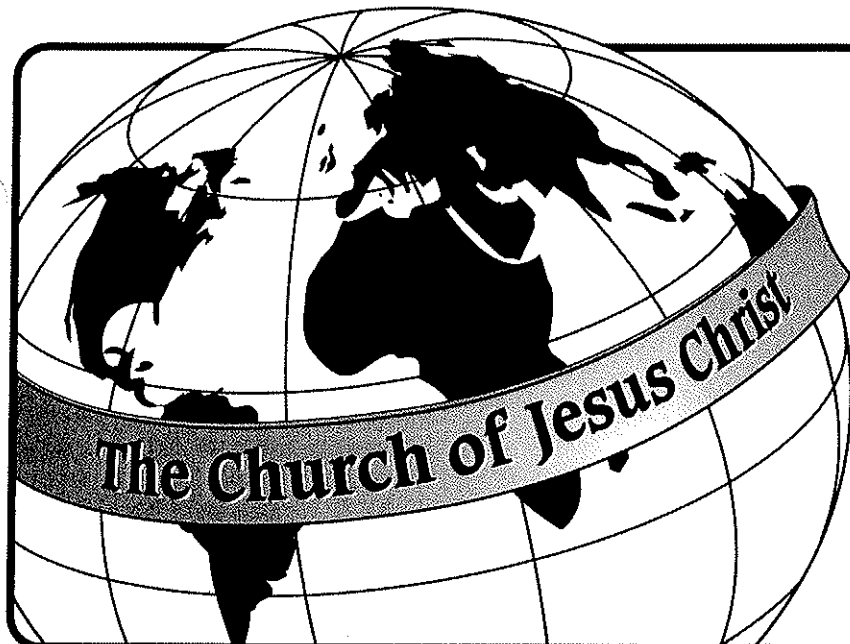
Sister Palmina Straccia passed on to her heavenly reward on August 18, 1999. She was a member of Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan. Sister Palmina was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by two nephews, a niece and their families.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 2000

Volume 56, No. 4

A Message from India

By Sister Mary Dev

I would like to write how The Church of Jesus Christ was started in Ayalur, India.

A very good soul, Dr. B. D. Livingston, who has since passed away, contacted The Church of Jesus Christ in 1974. At that time, he did not get baptized. Because of him, the Church made an effort to go to India. Brother Devanandam was baptized in the United States in April 1981 and was ordained an Elder on November 22, 1981. Thus, the work of "The Church of Jesus Christ" was started in Thiruniravar. But the will of the Lord was to build a Church at Ayalur.

In those days and still in these days, it was very hard to start the Church. Brother Dev used to cycle 18-20 miles every day. He would often get home at 1:00 in the morning. I cannot forget his cycled days.

Brother Dev is a God fearing man and he believed that you first seek the Lord. He would kneel daily and pray for eight hours. Brother Dev was very particular about the Gospel work. Church came first and then he would take care of our home. Really, it is the truth! God, the Lord Jesus has rewarded us with many wonderful blessings.

Permit me to write about the

wonderful and powerful works done in India. At the time of the dedication of our Church in Ayalur, a Hindu temple, which was nearby, fell down and was broken. I felt the power of God!

I must give testimony about Brother Joseph Calabrese. I can say he is quick to answer letters. He is a very encouraging man. All Church works are growing just like a light. In Brother Joe's last letter that he wrote, he said, "We pray for you and for your family always, for God used you and your family to establish His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, in India first." I wish Brother Joe a long life of ten thousand years to guide us. We waited and have seen the Lord's power. That is why we wait, God said.

I can give many testimonies in ways our Almighty God has helped us.

In 1984, I was touched by an angel. An angel touched on my shoulder and said, "Mary, you must take baptism." I obeyed! Permit me to write a line about myself. I was a staunch Lutheran, but by the inspiration of the Lord, I am following the paths of my husband. Brother Joseph Calabrese baptized me and my elder son, Jacob.

I did not know there were so many missions, but after being married, I came to know we had many

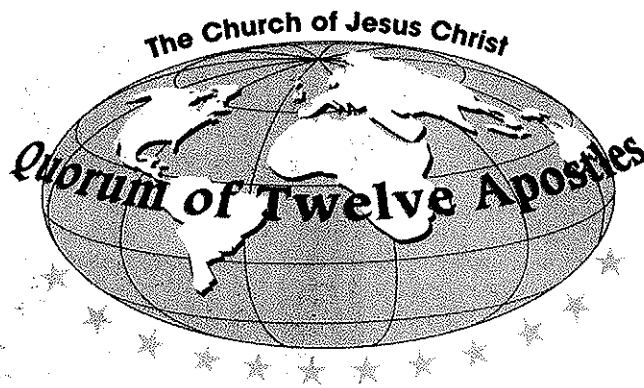
missions. I have three children; two boys, Jacob and David, and one daughter, Mercy Shiela. My wish is that I and my family will serve the Lord to our last breath.

I must give my testimony about my son Jacob. When he was a baby, he got very sick and was about to die. I knelt and prayed for his life. I prayed, "Lord, if he gets better, let my son Jacob be your sexton or even a sweeper in your Church." Our Lord was great enough to give him life and I prayed that he would be a Gospel worker. I prayed three years for his ordination. Surely, my Almighty Lord has ordained him. He has been a Gospel worker for two years and helps his dad in Church works.

We needed a Ladies' Uplift Circle in India. I can never forget the prayer of Brother Joe Calabrese and Sister Vicki Calabrese. At first, I did not like it but I used to tell him to pray. I hope that prayer brings victory. With prayer, all is gain, without prayer, all is vain!

The Lord Jesus heard our prayer. On December 1, 1985, the first Ladies' Uplift Circle began with ten sisters. We meet the first Sunday of each month. We have very prayerful sisters. I send our report to our President on the 5th of every month. In 1986, I prayed one night and an angel came to

(Continued on Page 10)



Ephraim and Manasseh

By Apostle Joseph Lovalvo

PART I

Great and mighty are the ways of the Lord! There is none like unto the God of Israel, who rideth the sky in His excellency, extending His great mercies and love to the human race from generation to generation, giving knowledge, wisdom and understanding to everyone who has come to Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.



Apostle Joseph Lovalvo

There have been many doubts about Ephraim, the son of Joseph, who was the son of Jacob, concerning how he came to this land and where he is today.

Referring to Genesis 49:22,

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall." These "branches" that went over the wall or the great sea, are none other than the descendants of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. If Ephraim and Manasseh went over the wall or the great sea, let us find out where they went and how they got there.

Genesis 49:26 reads, "The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors and 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."

In Deuteronomy 33:13-17, Moses blesses the Twelve Tribes of Israel, "And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things brought forth by the moon, And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. His glory is like the firstling of his bullock and his horns are like the horns of unicorns, with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

From the prophecies and blessings upon Joseph by Jacob and Moses,

we gather that Joseph was to receive a land over and above and beyond the land that was given to Ephraim and Manasseh in the land of Canaan. Both Jacob and Moses declared that this land would be a blessed land and that it would be gloriously fruitful. The Book of Mormon (Ether 13:2) definitely states that this land should be a blessed land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord. Genesis 49:25, "... who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills." Moses declared, "Blessed of the Lord be his land, the precious things of heaven." Again we see that Joseph would receive spiritual blessings from heaven. His descendants would have the glory, power and oracles of God entrusted to them and now he said, "and for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun and for the precious things brought forth by the moon and the chief things of the ancient mountains and for the precious things of the lasting hills." There were other prophets beside Jacob, who prophesied that the descendants of Israel would go over the sea. Isaiah 16:8 states, "For the fields of Heshbon languish and the vine of Sibman: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer, they wandered through the wilderness; her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea." Also, read Jeremiah 48:32, "O vine of Sibmah, I will seep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer; the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage."

Jacob was not alone in his inspired prophecy that Joseph's descendants or branches would go over the wall or over the sea. Isaiah and Jeremiah also declared that a remnant of Israel would go over the sea. It has been established that Joseph would be given a land, and that his posterity would go over the sea to that land that God would give

Ephraim and Manasseh as a land of their inheritance.

Let us search the scriptures a little further. In Genesis 48th chapter, Jacob declares that Ephraim and Manasseh were his, even as Reuben and Simeon were his. Jacob adopted these two boys and called upon the angel which had redeemed him from all evil to bless Ephraim and Manasseh. "... let my name be named on them, and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." When the Prophet Jacob made this declaration he was in Egypt, but if one stands where the prophet was and travels eastward or westward, one would come to the midst of the earth, the North and South American Continent.

Before the nation of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar, the Prophet Jeremiah spoke to the inhabitants of Hazor, which was a possession of Israel and occupied by them saying: "Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone" (Jeremiah 49:30-31).

At the time that Jeremiah spoke, this prophecy could not be directed to any other land upon the face of the earth, except the North and South American continents, which dwelt without concern or care, requiring no fortifications, no gates and no bars. It was isolated, alone and lay afar off.

In Isaiah 18th chapter, 1st verse, the prophet describes a land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia. Taking our place at Jerusalem where the prophet stood when making this declaration and looking beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, the Nile, and its wonderful tributaries which lay west of Jerusalem, the first and only land beyond is the North and South American continent which is stretched out like two great wings. In the mouth of Jacob, Isaiah, and

Jeremiah the truth is again established. The land which God gave Ephraim and Manasseh is the North and South American continent with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other which fulfills the words of the great prophet Nephi. He said, "We have been driven out of the land of our inheritance, but we have been led to a better land, that the Lord has made the sea our path and we are upon an isle of the sea." Again, Genesis 48:17-20, when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head: "And Joseph said unto his father, not so, my father; for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 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 younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh."

According to this prophecy, Ephraim and Manasseh would become inseparable. They would grow into a multitude in this great and promised land and Ephraim would become a multitude of nations. God gave this glorious land to Joseph in fulfillment of the words of Moses: "... they are the ten thousands of Ephraim and they are the thousands of Manasseh" (Deuteronomy 33:17). Nowhere else but in America could this happen. Columbus found a multitude of nations (Indians) living on this land. An estimated two thousand dialects were spoken by them.

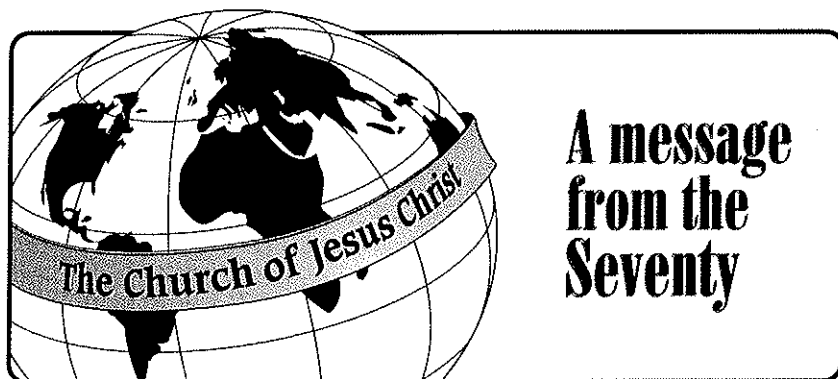
Again, the fact must be reiterated, that Ephraim and Manasseh would never be separated, but would dwell together in the land that God gave to their father Joseph. When God commanded Lehi to take his family and the records that were in Jerusalem and leave that city because of the impending destruction that was going to take place by the hand of the Babylonian Empire, he invited a man by the name of Ishmael to go with him

on this expedition. Ishmael was persuaded and along with his family consented to go with Lehi. They also took with them another man by the name of Zoram, the servant of Laban. It is recorded in the Book of Mormon that Lehi and his family were direct descendants of Manasseh. But, there is no record of the genealogy of Zoram.

In reading from *Discourse by Apostle Erastus Snow* at Logan, Utah, May 6, 1882; (see *Journal of Discourses* volume 23, p.p. 184, 185) it states, "The Prophet Joseph informed us that the record of Lehi was contained on the one hundred and sixteen pages that were first translated and subsequently stolen and of which an abridgment is given us in the First Book of Nephi, which is the record of Nephi, individually, he himself being of the lineage of Manasseh, but that Ishmael was of the lineage of Ephraim."

Another expedition was made during the time that Zedekiah, King of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon. The Book of Omni, the 16th to 18th verses states, "And they journeyed in the wilderness, and were brought by the hand of the Lord across the great waters, into the land where Mosiah discovered them; and they had dwelt there from that time forth. And at the time that Mosiah discovered them, they had become exceeding numerous. Nevertheless, they had had many wars and serious contentions, and had fallen by the sword from time to time; and their language had become corrupted; and they had brought no records with them; and they denied the being of their Creator; and Mosiah, nor the people of Mosiah, could understand them. But it came to pass that Mosiah caused that they should be taught in his language. And it came to pass that after they were taught in the language of Mosiah, Zarahemla gave a genealogy of his fathers, according to his memory; and they are written, but not in these plates." Now, there is a record of several persons, namely Ishmael, Zoram, and Zarahemla, brought to this promised land

(Continued on Page 10)



Missionary Committees Meet in February

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Two major missionary committees of The Church of Jesus Christ, the Americas Missionary Operating Committee and the Foreign Missionary Operating Committee, met during February. The AMOC assembled at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on Friday and Saturday, February 4 and 5, and the FMOC convened at the Liberty Branch in Warren, Ohio on Friday and Saturday, February 18 and 19.

The scope of the work being done was reviewed, and plans were made for the future. These included trips and budgetary requirements. The various subcommittees and coordinators for each of the countries in which missionary efforts are being expended presented reports and valuable insights about the locations under their charge.

PRAYER SERVICES

A prayer service was conducted at each of the gatherings to thank God for His direction, His preparation of the souls in the different fields, and to seek His favor in the future. The ways in which the Lord has been dealing with individuals in places where bases are established or are being explored were related and experiences received in the fields were cited, which brought many blessings into the meetings. The dreams and visions given to the sincere in heart, sometimes even before they met the Church, were edifying. It was necessary on occasion during the sessions, as the Spirit prompted, to stop and praise God for His love and kindness.

Committee presentations included the spiritual condition, status, potential, goals, and additional assistance needed in the particular fields. The audio and video portions depicted the actual places vividly. Baptisms and other ordinances pointed out the universal joy received in serving the Lord.

The touching testimonies of committee members reflected the direction, determination, and foresight being employed to further the Lord's work. Through their personal experiences, they disclosed how their lives have been affected by what has transpired in their working for the fields. Some of them stated that they had no idea they would be working in and for a certain country and location but that God had instilled the desire within them to do so and they were blessed. Anyone who has been active in any outreach activities can identify with this kind of fulfillment.

AUXILIARY UNITS

The help of the Church's auxiliary units was also specified, as the General Missionary Benevolent Association and member locals, the General Ladies' Circle and member circles, and the Sunday Schools have been very supportive of the missionary efforts. These groups have been faithful with their prayers and contributions.

The importance of the Missionary Foundation Committee of The Church

of Jesus Christ was also emphasized. The foundation is devoted to raising funds for the missionary efforts of the Church.

In formulating budgets for the future, specific goals which must be met were highlighted. These, of course, include the fixed goals and additional requirements which are necessary to operate properly. In some countries, humanitarian efforts are required for the good of the people. What could be achieved if more financial support were received was also considered. Importantly, more human resources were also documented as being necessary to expand further as direction from God is received.

COMMUNICATION FLOWS

Communication flows and internal and external methods of getting the good news out were also discussed. There is much to be reported but time and space limitations make it difficult to communicate effectively, as is true in just about any disseminating function. The realization is that the brothers and sisters are interested in knowing what is going on, as they have undoubtedly prayed and offered support for the missionary work, and want to be informed, accordingly. Accelerating the process would be greatly appreciated therefore. The *Gospel News* and the *Missionary Foundation Newsletter* are the main Church organs which are used to "get the word out." Utilization of technological advancements was also probed.

Among new initiatives discussed was the enlisting of additional workers

(Continued on Page 11)

Notice

The Mexico Missionary Committee will conduct its annual Conference of the Americas from July 17-23, 2000 in Tijuana, Mexico. Please note your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

How do people know you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? Is it because they see you going to Church? Is it because you have told your neighbors that you attend The Church of Jesus Christ? There is one way described by the Lord that conveys to the entire world that you are a disciple and member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

You will find the method of recognition depicted by the Lord in John 13:34-35 which states, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Please notice that Jesus Christ commanded that we love one another. This is not an option. It is a requirement for Him to extend salvation to you. He said on another occasion, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Christ continues this theme of love by expressing, "Greater love hath no man than he lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

Jesus Christ set the supreme example by sacrificing his life for mankind. He gave His life for His friends. He gave His life for the entire world that if they would obey His commandments, which include faith, repentance, baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost, they would reap an eternal reward in the heavenly kingdom of God and Jesus Christ. These are just a few of His commandments. There are many others, but bear in mind that He told Nicodemus that unless a man is born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, the Lord told Nicodemus that without this new birth, a person will not even see heaven!

Love is the true test of a disciple of the Lord. It is the true test of a son and daughter of Jesus Christ. It is the true test of a brother and sister in Christ Jesus.

One way we show our love to God and for God is through brotherly love. How can a person say he or she loves God and hates his brother? If a person says he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar. This is scripture! These are the words of the Lord Himself. It is also asked in scripture how can a man love God who he has not seen and not love his brother whom he has seen? It simply is not possible to love God and hate or despise your brother. You must remember, if you call your brother a fool, you are in danger of losing your soul.

The entire law hinges on the love of God. Jesus Christ tells us we must love God above all and we must love our neighbors as we love ourselves. He goes on to say we must love our enemies. We must do good to those who spitefully use us for their gain or gratification. We have to possess the love of God to obtain a level of righteousness that conveys a saint of God. This means we must love all men and women, regardless of their state or condition. We are not to love the sin. We must love the sinner. The Lord loved all. His examples of forgiveness are based on His love for mankind. He forgave the adulterous woman. He forgave the woman at the well. He forgave Alma, the son of Alma. He forgave the sons of Mosiah. Ask yourself, could you have washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, knowing that he was your enemy and would betray you? Have you ever tried to imagine the Lord bending to his knees, towel in hand, the feet of Judas Iscariot in His hands and Him washing the feet of the man who has come to be known as the son of perdition? This is the kind of love the Lord wants us to possess and exhibit towards our fellow man. This is known as Love Divine, All Love Excelling!

One of the Lord's Apostles, John, is known as the Apostle of love. He tells us in his writings that we know that we have passed from death into a life with Jesus Christ because we love or loved the brethren. Those that do not love their brother or sister abide in death! Those who do not love the Lord, do not love their enemies, their neighbors, their brethren, those that despise you, are in a sad spiritual state.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"Too Small to Fight"

Dear Girls and Boys,

When Solomon was king, he gradually disappointed God, and led his nation astray. As an old man, he let one of his new young wives talk him into building a temple for the statues of her false gods.

Soon a great many of the people began to serve all sorts of idols. They built temples and statues, and planted groves of trees in high places in the hills to worship. They forgot the good laws of God, and forgot His promises made to them, His chosen people.

When Solomon died and new kings came to power, the nation continued to serve their idols. Many wars broke out among these people and their neighboring countries.

Finally, a king named Asa was born who chose to lead his people back to God. Asa took away the altars of the strange gods, the high places, broke down the idols, and cut down the groves. He even removed his own mother from being queen and leader because she made an idol in a grove to worship.

Thirty years Asa ruled and struggled with his people to serve the one, true, living God. When he died, his son, Jehoshaphat, also chose to follow the commandments of God, and walk in his father's footsteps.

Therefore, God blessed this young king richly. The fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. They brought him gifts so he would not be their enemy. Some of the Philistines brought him silver, and the Arabians



brought him thousands of rams and goats. King Jehoshaphat's kingdom grew richer and more important.

Still, he never forgot what was more important than gold and silver—God's love. King Jehoshaphat sent Levite priests throughout the land to teach the laws of God to all the people. He built up the cities and set honest judges up to rule the people.

Again the Israelite people began to flourish, and word of God's rich blessings on this people traveled throughout the world. Then a terrible message was brought to King Jehoshaphat: A huge army from across the sea was on its way to attack Jehoshaphat's kingdom. There were three countries coming: the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the people from Mount Seir.

Against such a multitude, the small nation of Judah had no chance.

Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord. A fast throughout all the land was planned. No one ate or drank; all of Judah, the mothers, children, and fathers stood before the Lord and prayed for their lives.

King Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation and said to God, "O Lord, we have no might against this great company which is coming against us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." They trusted in God to save them, and He spoke to them by sending His Spirit to one of the Levite priests.

The Lord told them, "Be not afraid or dismayed by this great multitude of enemies that are coming upon you, for this battle is not yours but is the Lord's."

He told them tomorrow they

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

King	Mount	Precious
Jehoshaphat	Seir	Jewels
Ruled	Ammonite	He
People	Moabite	Is
Of	Killed	The
Judah	Each	Same
Be	Other	Yesterday
Not	Find	Today
Afraid	Gold	And
Enemies	Silver	Tomorrow

T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	M	W	T	R
S	L	E	W	E	J	T	O	D	A	Y	U
P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	H	F	S	L
S	E	I	M	E	N	E	P	Y	R	E	E
O	T	H	E	R	S	A	M	E	A	E	D
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Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Forest Hills, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

"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" (Matthew 11:29-30).

A burden was truly lifted on August 29, 1999, as Nick Zinzi, Jr., gave his life to Jesus Christ. Brother Nick has progressive multiple sclerosis and has been in a wheelchair for more than ten years. Throughout the years of fighting this disease, his wife left him and his two sons rarely communicate with him. The disease has progressed to the point where he is basically a quadriplegic. He certainly has not had an easy road; however, he always carries a smile on his face and offers this advice to anyone who is contemplating baptism: "If there is a will, there is a way."

The saints truly rejoiced as Brother Nick was carried in his wheelchair into the water by Brothers John Griffith, Milford Eutsey, Jr., Sam Risola, Jr., and Jim Speck. Brother John Griffith baptized Brother Nick and Brother Jim Speck confirmed him. Because of his condition, he was confirmed and given sacrament at the water's edge instead of going back to the branch. Afterwards, we congregated at the branch for our regular service and to give thanks to God for the wonderful miracle that we witnessed. We began our meeting by hearing a song by Sisters Linda Benyola and Christina Benyola entitled, *Living for Jesus*. Then, the Ministry related an experience that Brother Nick had while he was in the hospital with pneumonia:

"Thursday night, August 19, 1999, I was in the hospital. I was in and out of consciousness. While in an unconscious state, I had an experience. There were two robes, one black on the right and one white on the left, each

pulling my arms. The black one was pulling me down with much force, but the white one was pulling me up. The white robe eventually won! While being unconscious, and then back into consciousness, I knew the black robe was Satan trying to take me. Friday, August 27, 1999, I awoke crying. My mom, Sister Pearl Zinzi, came in and asked me what I wanted for breakfast, then asked why I was crying. She thought something was wrong with my health. I told her I wanted to get baptized and to call Brother John Griffith to get the elders together to see how it could be done. She asked what

ever he was going through. He had been on my mind quite often during the past month and each time, the thought of baptism would come to my mind. In the course of my praying, I just asked God if this was his time to be baptized, just let him open his heart to hear his call. I didn't understand why I had this thought. When Nick and Sister Pearl told me of Nick's revelation, I was able to relate to why he was on my mind. I thank God He is always there for us."

The members of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch thank God that another soul was brought to Jesus Christ. Continue to remember us in your prayers as we seek to bring more to Him in this part of the vineyard.



Brothers Sam Risola Jr., Nick Zinzi Jr., John Griffith, Milford Eutsey Jr., and Jim Speck.

brought this on? I told her I had a revelation. God came and told me to let it go, let it go, let it go, God will take care of everything."

While the Elders were praying for Brother Nick on Friday night, August 20, 1999, the gift of tongues was given with the interpretation, "Thus saith the Lord, I am with you." Sister Lorraine Rose also had an experience relating to his calling:

"After hearing from Sister Pearl about Nick going to the hospital, I prayed ever so hard for God to give Nick the strength to overcome what-

Baptisms in Branch #2, Detroit, MI

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

The Lord has continued to bless Branch #2 in Detroit, Michigan with growth. Recently, this growth has come in the form of three new members.

There are many similarities between these new converts. They are all three young women, still in high school. They were raised in The Church of Jesus Christ by loving and devoted parents. Each of them also felt their calling at a campout or conference. Two of them are sisters and all three of them are friends. I would like to share their testimonies with you.

Sister Karen Henderson was baptized on July 4, 1999. She felt the Lord's calling while at the World Missionary Conference in Kankakee, Illinois. Sister Karen writes, "We were gathered outside the main auditorium one evening singing and praying. I asked for prayer and Brother Ken Lombardo anointed me. While he was praying, I too was praying that it was my time to make a commitment to God."

"After prayer, we sang a song in Spanish. I knew that the song was for me even though I do not speak Spanish

(Continued on Page 8)

Baptisms in Branch #2

Continued from Page 7

and I had to ask Sister Alma Palacios to explain the words to me. She said the words meant, 'Decide, decide, the door is open, the time is now.' When the song was finished, I asked for my baptism. I shared my testimony with the group and we closed in prayer while holding hands and forming the shape of a heart."

Sister Karen was baptized at the Muncey, Ontario, Canada Mission while visiting with a group of young people. She was baptized by her father, Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo.

Sister Laura Lambert writes, "I was baptized on July 7, 1999, by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Dan Parravano. I asked for my baptism at the World Missionary Conference. My prayer for a few years has been to hear the song, *For Those Tears I Died*, when it was my time. During the conference on Wednesday night at the youth meeting, the brother that was leading the singing called hymn #115 in our songbooks and my heart started to pound. When I looked at the song, it was *For Those Tears I Died*. I could not stop crying through the whole meeting. I could feel the Spirit of God within me.

"After the meeting, I asked for prayer and then went to my room and asked God for another sign. The next day in chapel, we again sang the song and I knew that the Lord was calling me. I thank God for giving me this blessing and I thank Him for His wonderful Church."

Sister Christine Henderson was baptized on September 24, 1999, by her father Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. She writes, "I was at the Penn-Mid Atlantic Campout in Pennsylvania in September when I asked for my baptism. During the meeting on Saturday night, the young people were asked to come up front and sing and give their testimonies. By the time we were about to sit down, many were crying, including myself. I knew that I wanted to be anointed for direction but

as soon as the meeting ended, I went in the opposite direction of the pulpit. I found my older sister, Karen, and told her that I wanted to be prayed for. She took my hand and we went to the front of the room. As soon as Brother Pete Giannetti lifted his hands from my head, I knew instantly that it was my time."

Please pray for these three young sisters. They have a full life ahead of them with many choices. They are the future of our Branch. Please ask God to keep them close and share with them His Spirit and many gifts.

Souls Dedicated in Mid-Georgia

By Brother Corey Morris

Our recently baptized Sister Olive Polly had told her gentleman admirer, "All I want is a man who will serve God with me." That kind of spiritual persistence, coupled with a lot of prayer, ultimately culminated in the wedding union of Sister Olive and her admirer, Mr. John (Bebe) Thompson. But the truth be known, when Brother Bebe made his wishes known that he wanted to be baptized, the Priesthood

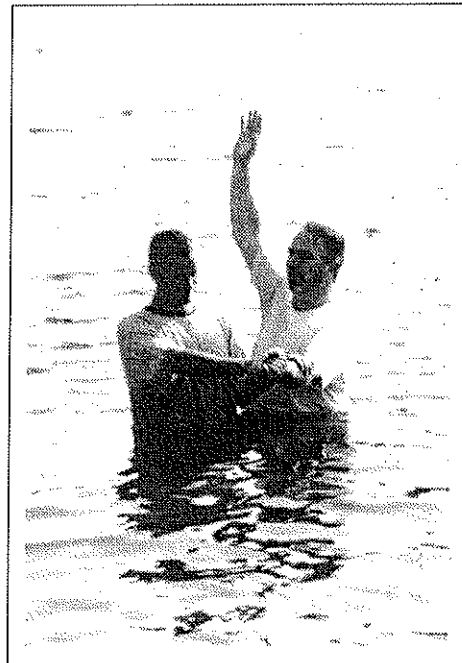
asked him to explain why he wanted to be baptized. With Sister Polly at his side, he simply replied, "No offense to her, but whether she agrees to marry me or not, I want God to forgive me of all of my sin." So with that response, on Saturday, August 28, 1999, Brother Bebe made a commitment to Sister Olive, and on Sunday, August 29, 1999, he made a commitment to the Lord!

Singing to the glory of God seems to be the Mid-Georgia Mission's favorite thing to do. So after the wedding, with many of the bride and groom's families still present, the saints gathered around the piano and began to sing praises to God. We ended our season of singing with prayer, thanking God for the beautiful day and asking Him for an outpouring of His Spirit on the morrow.

The next morning brought a special excitement as we started the day at the water's edge. What a beautiful morning it was, with a light breeze and a mild 75 degree temperature. With the water glistening in the background, Brother Ken Staley asked Brother Bebe, "Do you repent of all of your sin?" After his affirmative response, Brother Bebe was then asked, "Do you promise to serve God to the best of your ability all the remaining days of your life?" Mo-



Brother Ken Staley baptizing
Brother John (Bebe) Thompson.



Brother Ken Staley baptizing
Brother Daniel Nowels.

ments later, as Brother Ken slowly lowered Brother Bebe into the waters of regeneration, it seemed that even the air stopped moving to pay reverence to this most awesome act of submission. After the baptism, the elders held off closing the service at the water because a beautiful spirit of repentance prevailed. When asked, "Is there anyone else who wishes to surrender his life to Jesus Christ today," Daniel Nowels, son of Brother Rusty and Sister Keena Nowels (who were both baptized earlier in the year) and grandson of Sister Ruth Morris, exclaimed, "I too want to be baptized." Brother Ken also baptized Brother Daniel. After returning to the church building later that morning, Brother Bebe was confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxon and Brother Daniel was confirmed by Brother Ken Staley.

We thank God for a beautiful and wonderful day in His service. Please remember the Mid-Georgia Mission in your prayers.

A Miracle

By Sister Mary Tamburrino

I want to thank God that I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Recently, I went through a test and the doctor diagnosed me as having a bleeding ulcer. After going through further tests, the ulcer was found to be cancerous. I spent eight days in one hospital and nine days in another. I had all the tests they could give me. I was not given any food or water for six days and I did not miss it at all. I know the Lord helped me through this ordeal. He heard and answered your prayers.

The doctor decided to operate on me and they were going to remove my stomach, spleen and part of my liver, but they decided to do an exploratory surgery first. When I awoke in the recovery room at 3:00 p.m., I was disappointed that they had not done anything. A few days later, one of the doctors visited me and said the hole I had in my stomach was healed and sealed! I didn't pay too much attention to him. Instead, I began to question the

Lord about my condition. Later, the surgeon came to visit me and he said, "You know, the Lord did not let me do what I wanted to do to you, the hole you had in your stomach is healed!" Immediately it came to me. This is a miracle! The Lord answered our prayers. I began to call my family and tell them the good news. This is all due to your prayers, such love!

I'm going through chemotherapy and eating regular food and doing fine. Thank you for your cards, but most of all, for your prayers. I will surely pray for all of you.

Surrendering to Christ

By Sister Diana Stigleman

For several consecutive Sunday's, at the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, our elders knew God was calling someone to become a member of His spiritual family. Yet the call went unclaimed.

On Sunday, November 14, 1999, while Brother Gary Coppa was reading the weekly announcements, a voice spoke to my mind. It very quietly said, "Don't put your pen away. Keep taking notes, there's going to be a baptism today."

God chose Brother Richard Loffredo to be our first speaker of the day. His sermon covered the intertwined lives of King Hezekiah and the prophet, Isaiah. He explained how Hezekiah never made a decision without praying to the Eternal Father. When this did not seem sufficient, he sent for the Prophet Isaiah to call upon God for an answer. Still, in spite of all the faithfulness throughout the years, in the latter portion of his life, King Hezekiah allowed false gods to be worshiped in the land. It was a tough reminder for us to be ready and prayerful at all times.

Brother Gary Coppa, seeing this important message, asked an equally important question. He approached the question by declaring that there are many people worried about the year 2000 problem. They have been storing and saving supplies for the possible disaster ahead. Then came the bottom

line. Brother Gary asked, "Are you spiritually Y2K compliant?" He wanted to know if we were ready to meet our Maker!

Brother Gary Coppa had a desire to leave our meeting open for testimony, rather than to pass sacrament first. About midway into the testimony meeting, Peter Capone stood on his feet and called for his baptism. He stated it had been a long battle for him.

While tears of joy flowed, Sister Kathy Peshl stood to give her testimony. November 14 was her spiritual birthday. All during the week, she kept thinking how nice it would be if someone would ask for their baptism on Sunday and they could share their spiritual birthdays. Throughout the meeting, Pete Capone kept coming to mind. Our sister began to pray that God would give him the strength to ask for his baptism. When he stood and surrendered his life to Christ, our sister thanked the Lord for helping Pete to break free from what held him back for so long.

After we had gathered at the baptismal site, Brother Tim Capone, Brother Pete's natural brother, brought a whole church van filled with our saints from the Inner City Branch to witness the baptism and share our joy. Brother Paul Whitton baptized Peter Capone into The Church of Jesus Christ. Back at our Plumbrook Branch, Brother Tony Gerace laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Gary then allowed another season of testimony. During that time, Brother Gary Champine, an elder from the Inner City Branch, reminded us that life can be short, and we need to be ready at all times. Without knowing it, our brother reinforced the Plumbrook Sunday morning sermon. It's always amazing to see how carefully God orchestrates His messages to man.

Then just before sacrament was passed, Brother Gary Coppa made a heartfelt comment. Brother Gary now understood why he was given the desire to have testimonies before passing sacrament. It was to allow our new brother to partake with us. After a very blessed day, our meeting was closed with prayer.

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of you. I praise my Lord for all the Ladies' Circles. I wish that our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, would spread throughout the world. "Wait and see," were the words told to Brother Joe Calabrese. Put your food on the water and it will come back after many years.

Really, I am unworthy to go and give the message. First, I want to say that I appreciate and like the *Gospel News*. Many times I was impressed in my mind to send a message to the *Gospel News*. On December 19, 1999, an angel touched my heart as I was praying about this matter. Every morning I meet God in prayer that I will feel His presence, touching and blessing me.

India is a very big country, mountains with beautiful nature and creation. We have to praise our Lord for His creations and high seas. Everything is wonderful.

There are many Christian missions in India, but I am sorry to write, there are many places where Jesus is not yet known. I wish before the end of the world that The Church of Jesus Christ must be everywhere. I remember the hymn, *Stand Up for Jesus*. Till my next message, let the Lord be with us. God bless you all.

(Editor's Note: Sister Mary Dev is the President of the Ladies' Circle in Ayalur, India.)

GMBA Notice

Are you ready to "Give of Your Best to the Master" and are you a single person fifteen years of age or older? If so, plan on attending the 2000 GMBA Singles' Retreat, June 23-25 at Camp Ramblewood located in Darlington, Maryland. Activities are being planned for all who attend. The cost for the weekend is \$80.00 per person. Look for forms in your branch or mission in the very near future. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Linda Ali, 412-672-3827 or via email.

A Message from India

Continued from Page 1

me and said, "Mary, by the grace of God, five more Ladies' Uplift Circles will be in India shortly." We now have five more Ladies' Uplift Circles meeting in the missions. Now it is growing just like a light shining on the hill. We can communicate to God and our Lord Jesus throughout our life by prayer and take His blessings. Thanks giving must be given to the Lord. I need my spiritual life and will work for my Lord Jesus Christ and for The Church of Jesus Christ until my last breath.

I pray to my Lord for all the Apostles who come to India to help the Churches, and all those who are willing to come to India. We also pray for all

Ephraim and Manasseh

Continued from Page 3

by the hand of God, of whom there is no genealogy.

In the Book of Mosiah, 7th chapter 3rd verse, there is also another great man mentioned by the name of Ammon who was a descendant of Zarahemla. There again, is another mighty man of whom there is no genealogy.

It has been proven so far that, there were several groups brought to this land by the hand of God of whom we have no genealogy written in the Book of Mormon. Did God have a purpose in not revealing their genealogy?

ogy to the Gentiles? He certainly did. Jesus Christ gives us the answer in III Nephi, the 26th chapter starting with the 8th verse and ending with the 12th verse, "And these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus Christ hath spoken. And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be manifest unto them. And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation. Behold, I was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade it say, saying: I will try the faith of my people. Therefore, I Mormon, do write the things which have been commanded me of the Lord. And now I, Mormon, make an end of my sayings and proceed to write the things which have been commanded me."

(To be continued)

(Editor's note: "This article is being written with the purpose of documenting the fact that Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, were brought to this land, North and South America, by the hand of God. References will be made according to that which is recorded in the Bible and the Book of Mormon and other sources. It will also be proven that Ephraim and Manasseh were not brought to any other continent." Taken from the forward page of the pamphlet, Ephraim and Manasseh. This work was co-authored by Apostle V. James Lovaivo.)

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

for the committees, including the young people of the Church. The GMBA's Youth-in-Action Program was cited as being used to develop our young

people, as well as providing help and upliftment to the various locations they have visited in the past. The progress of organizing local MBA units was also presented.

The translating and printing of the Book of Mormon in different languages were discussed and encouraging reports were given that the printing of copies is being pursued. It is essential for the locations to have them so that the Word of God can be more fully studied, learned, and preached.

Everyone's prayers and support are needed for the vital work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The missionaries, committees, and other workers in this overall undertaking are devoted to continue bringing souls to salvation wherever they may be.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

The love of God is also known as charity. It is the pure love of God. It abides forever and whoever possesses it at their last day, it will be well with them. It is this love that attracts people to the saints of God and The Church of Jesus Christ. A young man has recently been attending The Church of Jesus Christ. He was raised in another faith. What is the attraction he finds in The Church of Jesus Christ. It is the sincerity of the brothers and sisters which is based on the love of God. He told his former faith that what they are doing is good, but it is about eighty percent. He went on to tell them that he has found The Church of Jesus Christ to be one hundred percent! His comments were not conveyed to be offensive. His comments were describing the love of God found in the Lord's Church, known as The Church of Jesus Christ.

Is your love for the Lord above all else? Do those around you feel and see the love of God that is so characteristic when you become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? What we send out, comes back! Remember, your love shows that you are a disciple of the Lord. Possess and convey the love of God. It is a commandment!

Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

should go down to the cliff of Ziz where they would find the enemy at the end of the brook, before the wilderness. And again the Lord told the people, "Fear not, you shall not need to fight in this battle. Stand still and see how the Lord will save you."

King Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all the people of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshiping Him also.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness where God had directed them. On the way, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Believe in the Lord your God, and you will prosper!" Then he appointed singers unto the Lord that went out before the army praising the holiness of God and saying, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever!"

King Jehoshaphat and his people did this in faith, believing that God would fight their enemies for them. At this moment, when they began singing and thanking Him, God began His work. The huge armies began to fight against each other. The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the people from Mount Seir, and when they had utterly killed them, they began to fight among themselves.

The people of Judah marched closer. They came to the edge of the wilderness, and they looked unto the multitude. Of that huge and great army, not one was left to attack Judah. They had killed one another. Bodies lay in heaps, and when Jehoshaphat's people went in among the bodies, they discovered precious jewels and much gold and silver lying there.

For three days they gathered the riches of their dead enemies. On the fourth day, they returned to Jerusalem to sing praises to God, who had delivered them. A great fear of God was on all the neighboring kingdoms when they heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was quiet, and the people lived in peace during the days they served God, and this is our God, too, the God of yesterday, today, and forever.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Kelly Humphrey and Natalie Castro were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 11, 1999, in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Daniel Bowens and Sister Michelle Lee Tate were united in holy matrimony on November 27, 1999, in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Anthony Calabrese and Kelly Pigman were united in holy matrimony in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on December 23, 1999.

Brother James Cipponeri and Sister Nicole Ficyk were united in holy matrimony in Branch #4, Redford, Michigan on June 11, 1999.

Jennifer Espy and Brother Daniel Buffa were united in holy matrimony on July 2, 1999, in the Saline, Michigan Branch.

Brandon Phillips and Adriana Stan were united in holy matrimony on October 23, 1999, in Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan.

Sister Sharon Boykin and Kenneth Sloan were united in holy matrimony in Lake Worth, Florida on November 20, 1999.

Children Blessed

Selena Ficyk, sister of Nicole Cipponeri, was blessed in Branch #4, Detroit, Michigan on September 19, 1999.

Nicholas James Eckhardt, son of Timm and Beth Kaylinn Eckhardt, was blessed in the Lindsay, California Branch on November 21, 1999.

Marco Dino DiMelis, son of Brother Dino and Sister Christina DiMelis, was blessed on February 6, 2000 at Branch #2 in Detroit, Michigan.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Baptisms

Joshua Moroni Pacheco was baptized on January 30, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ysidro Gonzalez and confirmed by Apostle Tom Liberto.

Nick Zinzi, Jr., was baptized in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on August 22, 1999. He was baptized by Brother John Griffith and he was confirmed by Brother Jim Speck.

Milford Eutsey, III was baptized on January 23, 2000, in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey II and confirmed by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr.

Miriam Maletta was baptized on September 26, 1999 in the Clairton, Pennsylvania Mission. She was baptized by Brother English Webb and confirmed by Brother David Nolfi.

Fiftieth Anniversary

Sister Marie and Brother Harry McGuire, members of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 1, 2000.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE C. WELCH, JR.

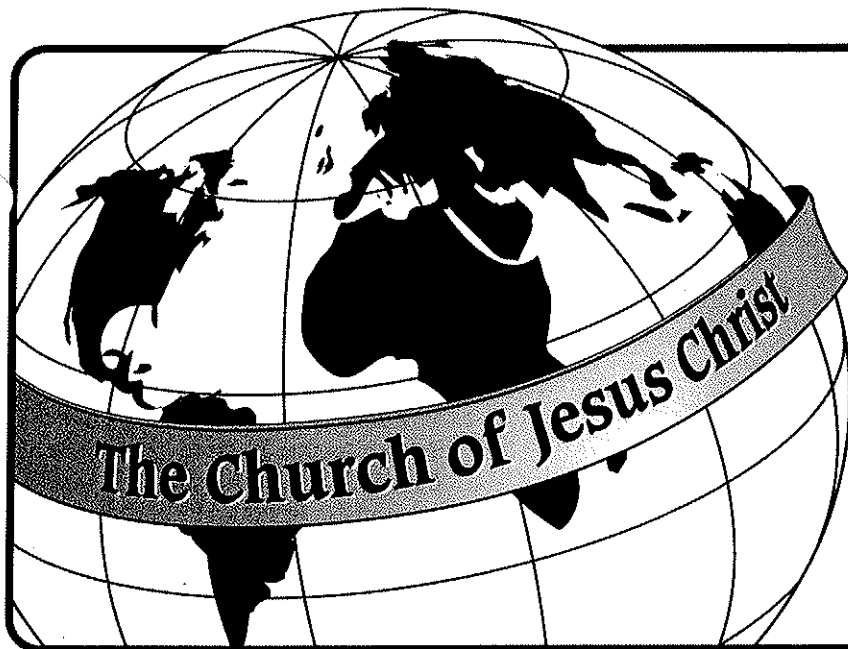
Mr. George C. Welch, Jr., an attendee of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on January 4, 2000. He is survived by his wife, Sister Louise Ambrose Welch.

ANNA MARIE FERA

Sister Anna Marie Fera, a member of Branch #4, Redford, Michigan, passed on to her heavenly reward on December 29, 1999. She is survived by three daughters; Lucille Fera, Sara Fisher and Annette Medowell and three grandchildren.

EVA MOORE

Sister Eva Moore, a member of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on January 29, 2000. Sister Moore was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Jim Moore Sr., and grandson Mark Buffington. Sister Moore is survived by two daughters; Sister Arlene Buffington and Kathleen Slay; one son, Brother Jim Moore, Jr.; five siblings, including Sister Pearl Nester; forty two grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 2000

Volume 56, No. 5

A Testimony

By Brother Ken Hatch

To the Prodigal,

To those who are trying to come back home, may these words bring you to the realization of how much God loves you. I do not give this testimony to exalt myself in any way, for I know I am but filthy rags before my God. But God's great love is such that He can forgive and welcome you home again. The following is the reason I can say this.

It does not matter how long I have been in the Church, or why I left, or how long it has been since my return. What really counts is that I have returned! I thank God every day for letting me return. I left the Church because some darts were coming my way from within the Church. By missing a meeting here and there, I found myself drifting to the outside of the love of God. My spirit was perplexed. I kept thinking about these darts and missed more meetings, until I had the mindset of, "Well, if they get to heaven, surely I will too."

This was the release, and down that long slide I went. At first, it was not bad. Then it seemed a small hole inside me was getting bigger until at last I felt the agony of a soul lost in

hell. I said I could fix that; I will go back and everything will be all right. Well, let me tell you of whom you already know, the devil was not going to lose me that easily. I drove to church several times, and could not get out of my car. The thoughts would come, "They don't love me anymore. In fact, they will put you down for being so weak. Besides, they are going to think you were the guilty one; that's why you left the Church."

Satan bombarded me with excuses not to go back. Nevertheless, the very thought of losing my soul, finally prevailed, and this set a sequence of events in motion between God and me. I will not relate everything, but it sufficeth to say, I lost everything. My heart was broken, and I cried to the only one I knew that could help me. I begged with every fiber of my being.

Unbeknown to me, my daughter felt this and asked the Church to pray for me. I then felt a spark of hope, and soon afterwards, I pleaded with God to give me the spirit of repentance, for I had to face the very one that threw the darts. It was very humbling, but necessary. I was reinstated, and to my surprise, I witnessed the scripture fulfilled, concerning the return of the Prodigal Son. God made me a feast that will always remain in my mind as long as I live. He killed

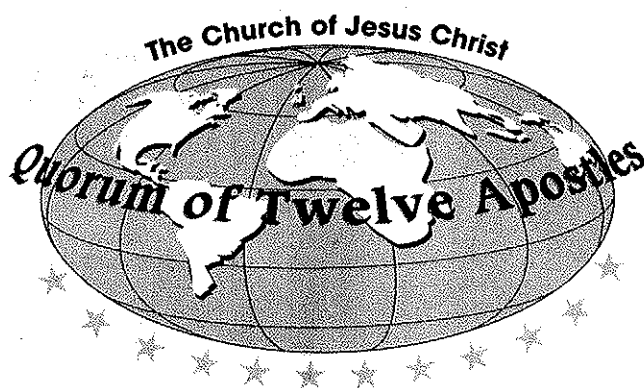
the fatted calf for me. He gave me experiences, one after another, and feelings inside that I had never considered. Again, I am writing this, not to exalt myself, but that I might encourage someone to turn around and come back home.

I will relate two experiences to show how God will open His storehouse to those who will endeavor to serve Him.

I was invited, by a friend to live on an Indian Reservation. God knew my love for the Seed of Joseph. The day I left to move there, I was not sure this was God's will. As I drove, I pleaded with God again to let me know His will. All of a sudden, I found myself standing in a hammock, which are trees in an open field. As I stood there, this darkness came toward me from my left. As I looked, I saw this large black snake come toward me. He was raised, looking me in the face, and said, "Who are you?" Before I could answer, an authoritative voice said, "This is my son!" The snake immediately withdrew and took the darkness with him. I then found myself back in my car, tears filling my eyes, and I thanked God. You can imagine how I felt.

Recently, I was driving and singing and such beautiful words came out of my mouth. I could hardly

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Ephraim and Manasseh

By Apostle Joseph Lovaivo

PART II AND CONCLUSION

Have the Gentiles really believed? Have they exercised their faith in the things that God restored? Only a few, a very few. From the very inception of the restoration, because of greed, vain glory, self-exaltation and desire for power and position, many have followed Satan to twist their minds and their hearts to the point where they have turned aside the teachings of Jesus Christ, the commandments of God, the Book of Mormon and the commission that the Gentiles have been entrusted within the last days. In the place of the restored truths they have instituted false revelations and their own teachings as the word of God.

And now, some are heard to say, "Where is Ephraim? Is he on the land of promise? Why isn't he mentioned in the Book of Mormon? And surely, the Choice Seer will come from the tribe of Manasseh!"

The words of the savior come back forcibly, "I will try the faith of my people . . ." (III Nephi 26:11). "... and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them" (III Nephi 26:9). The Book of Mormon is only an abridgment of God's dealings with the Seed of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, on this land of North and South America. While the Book of Mormon reveals the dealings of God with the descendants of Manasseh (through Lehi),

one must always keep in mind that it was Ephraim upon whom the greater portion of the birthright blessing was pronounced (Genesis 48:18-19). It deals or reveals primarily the dealings of God, in and through the tribe of Manasseh, which are great and glorious, fulfilling the words that Jacob said to Joseph, concerning his son Manasseh, "He too shall be great."

The Book of Mormon has been so revealing and so enlightening to the extent that it has made the Bible a new book. It is a book which has given us now the wisdom, knowledge, understanding and enlightenment that we need to understand the mysteries and secrets of the glories of God. How much more glorious will it be when the complete record of the Seed of Joseph will come forth through the Choice Seer, the Great and Mighty Prophet, that Joseph promised would come from his loins revealing the great and glorious things that God performed and will perform through Ephraim, the son of Joseph. The complete record of the Seed of Joseph will be in the hands of Ephraim, fulfilling the words of Jacob again to Joseph when he said that Ephraim, the younger brother, shall be greater than Manasseh.

In the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, the prophet was commanded of God to, "... 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 thine hand."

The same chapter of Ezekiel, verses 15-20, definitely speaks of two books or two sticks. One stick shall have the history of Judah upon it, and one stick shall record the history of Joseph and/or Ephraim. The latter history is called the stick of Ephraim in the 16th verse and the stick of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim in the 19th verse. Take note that the stick of Judah is in no one else's hand, but the stick of Joseph is in the hand of Ephraim.

It is quite evident that the Book of Mormon which we believe to be the history of the seed of Joseph is also called the "stick of Ephraim" (or book) by the prophet.

It is recorded in scripture that Christ should come from the tribe of Judah. We believe that the Bible is the stick of Judah as spoken in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. The prophet, by God's revelation, places the history of Joseph (the stick of Joseph) equal to the stick of Judah because, out of Joseph shall come the "shepherd" and "stone" of Israel (Genesis 49:24). We believe this to be Joseph, the Choice Seer.

The blessings given to Joseph by Jacob and Moses, exceeded the blessings upon all the rest of the tribes of Israel. "The blessing of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors . . ." (Genesis 49:26). "And his glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh" (Deuteronomy 33:17).

Joseph's sons also received the birthright blessings instead of Reuben (I Chronicles 5:1). The birthright blessing was usually given to the firstborn of a family. However, because Reuben defiled Jacob's bed, the birthright was given to the sons of Joseph. One would suppose that after the sin of Reuben (Genesis 35:22), the birthright blessing would be given to

the second son, Simeon. But Jacob, inspired by God, gave it to the sons of Joseph, his firstborn by the woman he truly loved, Rachel. Jacob also reserved the right by the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, to give the greater portion of the birthright blessing to Ephraim (Genesis 48: 14-22).

Ezekiel, knowing the excellency of the birthright blessing on the sons of Joseph and in particular on the head of Ephraim, predicted that the stick of Joseph would be in the hand of Ephraim. The history of Joseph would be kept in the name of Ephraim because the prophet also called the book (Book of Mormon) that was to come the stick of Ephraim. Why wasn't it called the stick of Manasseh? Simply because the greater portion of Jacob's blessing was on Ephraim. Jacob's right hand laid upon the head of Ephraim who was at the time standing on Jacob's left.

Without searching elsewhere the above scriptures should enable us to see that the Book of Mormon is the stick of Ephraim. Or in other words, the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim.

The prophet Ezekiel is representative of the Priesthood (or priesthood authority) of God. The two sticks were to be in the hands of the Priesthood, meaning to be used by the Priesthood in these latter days. It is equally obvious then that the stick of Joseph (the Book of Mormon) shall be declared by the one who was given the greater portion of the birthright blessing, Ephraim or his great descendant, the Choice Seer.

There is a type and shadow of this. Moses' position was given to Joshua who was of the tribe of Ephraim. The Book of Mormon records that the Choice Seer shall be like unto Moses. The Lord told Joshua that He would bless him as He had Moses. If the Choice Seer shall be like unto Moses and since he is of the tribe of Joseph, he is also of the direct descendancy of Ephraim.

Why look further than the scriptures when they are so very clear? Ephraim and Manasseh shall grow together. One cannot separate them. Ephraim is the one who

received the greater portion of the birthright blessing. Knowing, therefore, that Ephraim and Manasseh shall grow together in the midst of the Earth; how can anyone remotely suppose that Ephraim could be in any other land but the land of America?

We have received the stick of Judah, our Bible, and will not receive any more information on that until we get it through the brass plates. But, we have only received a portion or an abridgment of the stick of Ephraim, which is the Book of Mormon and we have taken the Book of Mormon and joined it together with the Bible and it has become one in our hands. God commanded Joseph Smith right from the very beginning of the restoration to take the Bible and the Book of Mormon and teach the elders of the church. They were not to teach anything except that which was written in the Bible and Book of Mormon. God also commanded the same to William Bickerton telling him to take the Bible and Book of Mormon and God would be with him. Then, it is the duty of the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ to keep these two records, the Bible and Book of Mormon, together as one stick or one book. We cannot separate these two records to attempt proving a personal opinion and then conveniently put them back together.

The Prophet Ezekiel was told, "they shall become one in your hand." The Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ representing the prophet in these the last days has a God-given commandment to keep these two records together and preach the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph with all of our strength, might, energy, and with the power that God gives us until the time when they will rise up from the valley of dry bones and say, "What do you mean by this, show, explain it to us." Then, God will take over! He will do the explaining through the instrumentality of Joseph, the Great and Mighty Choice Seer.

Again Ezekiel 37:19 states, "Say unto them, thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the

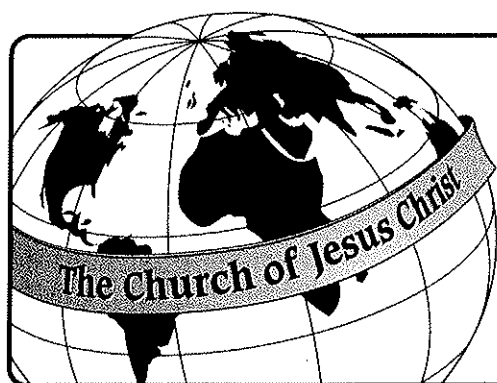
stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."

Now, he said, "... Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim ..." The Choice Seer will have already translated the complete record of the seed of Joseph and it will be in the hand of Ephraim, Joseph, the Choice Seer, who is a descendant of Ephraim. How great are the promises of God to Ephraim?

In Hosea 10:11, he says, "... I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods." Also, Hosea 11:8-10 states, "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city. They shall walk after the Lord: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west." Also, in Zechariah 10: 6-8, "And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the Lord their God, and will hear them. And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord. I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased."

In the great work of the final restoration of the house of Israel, when all the tribes shall be represented, Ephraim will occupy the distinguished place of the firstborn. In Jeremiah 31:9, "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a

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A message from the Seventy

India Trip

(Apostle Joseph Calabrese and Elder John Genaro traveled to India from January 24 to February 6, 2000. Following is an account of the trip written by Brother John Genaro, Coordinator for India—Evangelists Editor's note.)

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (St. Matthew 28:19-20).

Brothers and sisters, the Church in India is growing so rapidly that we are amazed to see the increase every time we return. For example, one of the newest works which has been started and is prospering is in Ambattur. The elder-in-charge of this area is Brother Stephan Pushparaj. He is truly highly dedicated in his labors for The Church of Jesus Christ and the work has blossomed under his guidance, because he is a man most confident in the power of God.

In 1998, when we were in Ambattur, Brother Stephan introduced us to two men who had a congregation of about seventy people but were seeking for a more truthful way, a way more in line with the scriptures, a way that would lead them to where the power of God existed. "... Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. ..."

These two men are Paul, the father, and John Paul, his son. Brother Stephan began to teach and counsel

them and introduced the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. Along with their wives, they were baptized in October of 1999. Within this timeframe, they had invited Brother Stephan to preach to their congregation at least once a month, leading this group to the knowledge of The Church of Jesus Christ. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations . . ."

DURING THIS TRIP

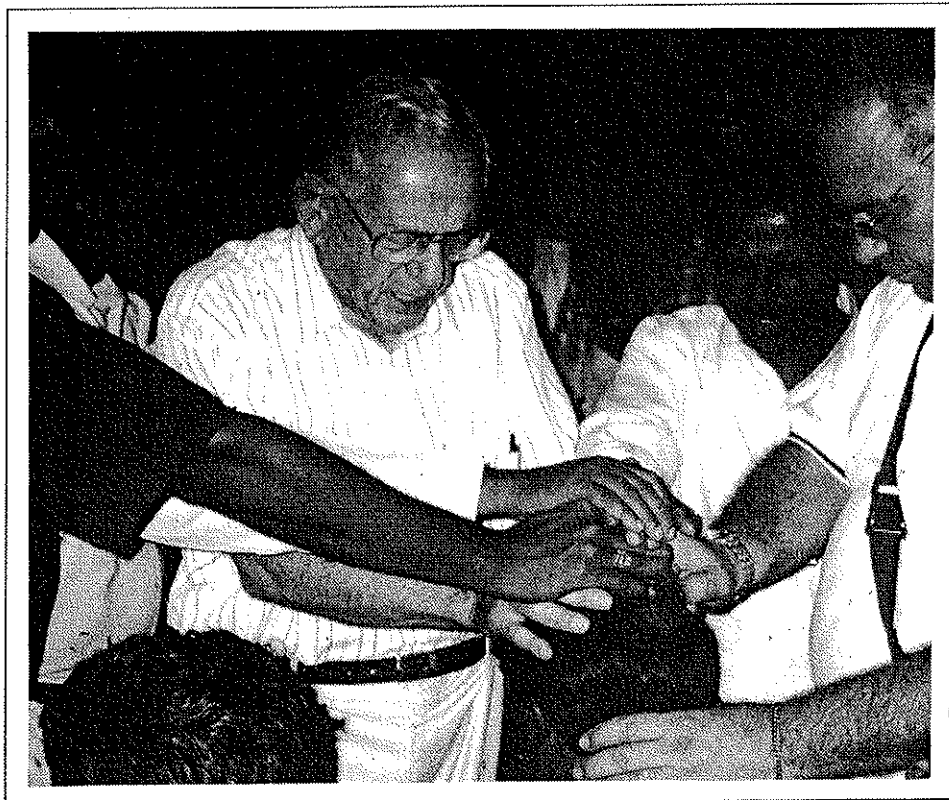
During this trip, we wanted to sit down with these two brothers to see whether God possibly had a work for

them in the future; to determine whether they had a potential to be used for the further glory of God. Their firm grasp on the teachings of Christ and of The Church of Jesus Christ was thrilling and inspiring. Our feeling was these two men were usable instruments in the hands of God. At the end of this meeting, Brother Calabrese told them that, after that night, the Lord's direction would be sought for them and not to be surprised with whatever might come forth.

At our second meeting with them, we reviewed in depth and covered the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel and pleasantly found they were well versed with them. Brother Stephan had done a tremendously thorough job of teaching them. Brother Solomon, Brother Babu and Sister Merlin, who helped with the translation, were also in attendance.

There was such a wonderful blessing with these two that Brother Joe and I felt they were being called and we wanted God's direction to show

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Apostle Joseph Calabrese ordaining Brother John Paul an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.



Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Apostle Paul Palmieri spoke to the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch brothers, sisters and friends on Sunday, April 2, 2000. He, along with Apostle Joseph Bittinger, attended to support the ordinations of four brothers into the office of a Deacon and one brother into the office of a Teacher.

His text was taken from I Samuel chapter 16 which depicts the anointing of a shepherd boy to become King of Israel. His name was David. David, was taken directly from the sheepfold and came to Samuel the Prophet with his shepherd's staff in his hand to the anointing that made him royal. Young David's focus was totally on his father's sheep. He encouraged the young brothers to be shepherds and care for the flock of the Lord as David cared for his father's sheep. Apostle Paul Palmieri emphasized the need for a Great Shepherd and that Shepherd is Jesus Christ. By prophecy, a Shepherd had been promised to Israel. It was not David. The Shepherd who was to come was Jesus Christ, from the lineage of the house of Jesse and his son David. You will note that a shepherd does not leave the sheep. He is there, night and day, regardless of weather. A good shepherd protects the sheep from predators and will zealously guard the sheep. This description amply fits the Lord Jesus Christ.

He stated on more that one occasion that He was the Good Shepherd and had many sheep. We read in John 10:1-2, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."

The very mention of shepherd and sheep reminded the listeners of this discourse of the often-quoted prophecies and psalms. The shepherd's vocation was generally well recognized and respected. There is no one who deserves the recognition and respect as the Lord.

The Lord showed that a shepherd has free access to the sheep. When the sheep are enclosed with safety, the Shepherd enters the gate. He does not climb over. He does not creep in. He, the Good Shepherd, the owner of the sheep loves them. The sheep know His voice and follow Him as He leads from pasture to pasture. He goes before the flock, while a stranger, though he may be a herder, is not known by the sheep. The stranger, also known as a thief and a robber, drives the sheep. He does not lead them. These were false shepherds who tried to climb over the fence to reach the flock. These were robbers, trying to get at the sheep as prey. Their selfish and hireling purpose was to carry off and kill the sheep.

Jesus let it be known that He is the door to the sheepfold. He made it very plain that only through Him could the sheep enter the pasture of His riches.

Jesus proclaimed in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." He showed the difference between a shepherd and a hireling. The Good Shepherd has a personal interest and love for the sheep. He knows each sheep by name. The hireling only knows them as a flock. The Good Shepherd is ready to fight to protect His own and if necessary, sacrifice His life for His sheep. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did for His sheep. The hireling flees when the wolf approaches, thus leaving the door open for the beast to scatter, rend, destroy and kill. In fact, the Lord warned the people to "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Consider the Lord who is the exact opposite of the described false prophets. He stated, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." This is just what the Lord did; He laid down His life. He did so voluntarily. He was not coerced. The Lord tells us that His Father, God, loved Him because He gave His life that we may live. He laid down His life for the sake of the sheep.

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

God's Plan for the Promised Land— A Great Mystery

Dear Boys and Girls,

There are many ancient mysteries of God that He will reveal to His people when they pray. Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon are filled with beautiful promises and true stories of people who drew close to God and received great blessings and even power.

From the beginning of creation, God had a plan. He knew what mean things humans were capable of doing. He understood our "human nature" and how the old devil works hard to make people unhappy. So, right from the start, a plan was made for Jesus to come to earth and be born. A plan was made for Jesus to teach us about God, forgiveness, repentance, and love.

This is one of the most amazing mysteries of God. It is that God has a special plan. He is in charge of this world. And Jesus can change a person's heart. No one has to stay full of hate, sadness, or defeat. Jesus can help us change. If we are afraid, we can pray to be brave. If we are facing a big problem, Jesus can show us how to solve it. If someone we love is very sick or dying, Jesus can help us, one day after another, to deal with it.

In the Book of Mormon, we are taught that God set aside the Americas as a land of promise. The people who live here must serve God. He has promised that He will bless them richly if they do. His prophets have also taught us that if we do not serve God, the people will start fighting against



each other and wipe one another away.

First the Jaredites, who came during the Tower of Babel days did this. They forgot God, started hating each other and wiped one another away. Then the Nephites came. As long as they loved each other and served God, they lived safe lives. But when they broke God's laws and quit asking for His protection, they also were destroyed by their enemies (II Nephi 26).

And finally, the last mysterious promise. God's holy prophets tell us that we, the Gentile people, (people who are not descended from the twelve sons of Israel) must serve Him in this Promised Land. Otherwise, when our nation pulls away from God, and sin increases, we will also have warfare and be removed.

So, what is your job? Very simple; your job is every day to love Jesus and others. Forgive your enemies. Do good to others and shine your light. Pray to God for guidance. God loves His children to call out to Him. He is a jealous God. He does not want to be a forgotten God. He will not tolerate that in this Promised Land. Watch where you go and what you do. Keep His commandments. He promises to take care of His own. He cares for you.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

A	PROMISE
TRUE	TO
MYSTERY	PEOPLE
GOD	PRAY
DOES	ASK
KEEP	HIM
HIS	

P	E	E	K	S	A	M
E	S	G	O	D	Y	E
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Branch and Mission News

Sweet Spirit in Lake Worth, FL

By Sister Josie Jasmin

Sunday, October 30, 1999, a beautiful and inspired service was made manifest in our midst. Brother Gene Perri led the service and was certainly inspired by God in his message.

Instead of the usual order of meetings, we started the day by giving our testimonies of God's love and blessings in our lives. Everyone arose and gave thanks to the Lord.

It was so beautiful that words fail to express the beauty of the day. A confirmation of this meeting was had by one of our brothers before coming to Church. Tears of joy were shed with thanksgiving to our dear Lord. Many experiences were related and beautiful hymns were sung by the congregation along with duets and solos.

Today was also our feet washing service, and the love of God continued to prevail through this most humble ordinance that we observe in The Church of Jesus Christ. We followed with a covered dish dinner which we do as a branch after every feet washing service. We had a wonderful time socializing with each other. "There was a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

Examples of Faith in Forest Hill, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

Faith is the Victory was the theme for the Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, Florida. Brother Chuck, Sister Joyce, and Evan Kogler visited along with Sister Louise Rosati on October 31,

1999. During the Sunday School service, while speaking on the unity of the Church, tongues were spoken with the interpretation, "My children, wherever they may be, receive the same bread of life; thus saith I am." Brother Chuck opened the morning service by asking the congregation to sing, *Faith is the Victory*. He then related portions of scripture that defined faith. We can have great faith or we can have little faith. Matthew 15: 21-28, speaks of a woman of Canaan who begged the Lord to heal her daughter who was vexed with a devil. She had great faith to pursue the Lord when the disciples wanted to send her away. Because of her great faith, her daughter was made whole. Matthew 14: 25-33, explains of how we can have little faith. Jesus was walking on the water and bid Peter to come and walk with Him. Peter took a step out on faith and walked on the water; however, when he saw the strong winds blowing, he became afraid and began to sink. Jesus said unto him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" We must not doubt the Lord when we take that step out on faith. He can perform mighty miracles!

Brother Phil Benyola, Sr., continued by giving another good example of great faith using Luke 8:43-48. A woman with an issue of blood for twelve years fought her way through throngs of people to touch the border of Christ's garment to receive a healing. Christ immediately was stopped in His tracks, so to speak, because He felt virtue flow from His body. After discovering who touched Him, He declared to the woman, "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

The meeting was then opened for testimony where many gave thanks for the beautiful message that was presented and for the spirit that was felt during the service. Brother Dan Risola testified of how he used the same exact scriptures relating to faith in his teenage Sunday School class and noted that it was not by coincidence.

We then turned our hearts to God as Brother Sam Risola, Jr., offered a special prayer for Erika Rooney,

daughter of Eric and Rhonda Rooney. Twice Erika had been anointed in the hospital. Eric and Rhonda met the Church through one of our members and have been attending regularly ever since. They were looking for a good place to raise their daughter under the sound of the Gospel and delighted in the fact that we believe in blessing children, as Christ taught. Unfortunately, it was discovered that Erika had a rare disease and was staying at All Children's Hospital. The outlook was bleak, as this disease is considered worse than leukemia. Many hearts broke as we petitioned the Lord on behalf of Erika, who is only eighteen months old. After the prayer, a brother from the Ministry testified of how he felt the Spirit of God so strongly telling him that she would be healed. At that time, another brother spoke in the gift of tongues and immediately the gift of interpretation was given, "I am that I am, thus saith the Lord." We truly thanked God for that day and knew that the matter was in His hands.

Saturday night, November 6, 1999, during our dedication service, Eric Rooney was invited up front to update the congregation on Erika's condition. Apostle Paul Benyola then offered a special prayer on her behalf, asking the Lord that if we would have the faith as the woman with the issue of blood, that we would touch the border of His garment and virtue would flow from on high and heal this precious child. It was no coincidence that Brother Paul referenced the same scripture that was used in the service the week before. Certainly, God was in the matter.

Later on in the week, the doctors ran another test on Erika and the results came back negative. The fact that Erika had tested negative was further substantiated by at least two rare disease laboratories in the United States. The results showed that she did not have a rare, fatal disease and that after a few chemotherapy treatments to treat a tumor, she would be just fine.

Praise God for this miracle wrought upon Erika's life. He truly is a God of healing, if we but have great faith like the woman with the issue of blood.

Blessings Overflow from AMOC Meeting

By Sister Karen Progar

It was a joy and a privilege for the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch to host the Americas Missionary Operating Committee Meeting on the weekend of February 4-5, 2000. The saints in the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region were invited to hear and see presentations of the various works on Saturday evening.

Sunday brought twelve visiting Elders to the branch. There were brothers from the branches of San Diego, Tse Bonito, Phoenix, Hollywood, Tampa, the Inner City of Detroit, Branch #1 of Detroit, and Kinsman. In addition, brothers representing the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region were also in attendance, namely, Monongahela and McKees Rocks.

Brother Paul Liberto, Evangelist and Chairman of the AMOC, opened the meeting, using Psalms 37:25 as his text. The scripture reminds us that we will never see the righteous forsaken. We were then delighted to hear a group of Mexican people from the Youngstown, Ohio area sing in Spanish, *Keeping Step*, along with a medley of other hymns.

Apostle Isaac Smith stated that he felt overwhelmed and it was the same blessing we all felt. He stated that we should be proud that the Lord has redeemed us and acknowledge that we can never repay the Lord for His wonderful mercies.

Evangelist Richard Christman continued by stating that the brothers have found the Lord to be faithful and reminding us that He will be faithful to us as well. Our next speaker, Brother Larry Watson, shared experiences regarding the Tse Bonito building, as well as how God had moved in his life and upon his family.

Brother Daniel Mora then sang, *In La Vina Del Senor*, after which he stated that we are all awaiting a great miracle, the completion of the scriptures. He used as an example the scripture where the man sat by the pool of Bethesda for thirty-eight years,

waiting to be healed. He stated that many things happened to that man in those years, however, he still waited. The important question when Christ passed by was, "Do you want to be made whole?" Just as Christ asked that man, Brother Daniel asked the congregation. He said that only Christ can touch the heart. He also affirmed that The Church of Jesus Christ has heard and that we must remember that important question.

After a moving communion service, our meeting was closed and we all enjoyed a time of fellowship and a wonderful lunch provided by the branch. We thank God that a meeting intended to cover the business of the AMOC, blessed us all and we are truly thankful to our Savior for His mercies.

Ordination in Vanderbilt, PA

By Sister Peggy Stroko

October 31, 1999, we gathered in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch for another joyous occasion. We were gathered to enjoy the blessings of God and to witness the ordination of Brother Chester Nolfi into the office of an Elder.

Brother David DeLuca opened the meeting, making reference to the tenth chapter of Luke, beginning with the 25th verse. He focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan and reminded us that life is all about "choices."

Several other brothers spoke, reflecting on fond memories of Brother Chet and adding more to the message that Brother DeLuca had delivered.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., then spoke, reading from Alma 13, verses 3-4. He spoke on the calling of the Priesthood and the choice to serve God. He stated that this choice is a privilege.

Brothers Jason and Patrick Monaghan sang a beautiful song entitled, *Jesus and I*.

Brother Fred Olexa continued the speaking, making reference to 1 Samuel 10:1. He said, "God has called

us to labor. We must give our best. God has promised us eternal life."

Brother Richard Lowther related to the congregation of the blessing our branch has received, having Brother Chet and his wife, Sister Phyllis with us. He told of experiences that Brother Chester had been given about his calling.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sang, *Master, the Tempest is Raging*, selected by Brother Chet as Brother Chet was preparing to have his feet washed. Brother Chet's feet were washed by Brother Richard Lawson.

After the Ministry prayed, Apostle Joseph Bittinger poured the holy and blessed oil upon Brother Chester's head, praying to God saying, "I bestow upon you the office of the Priesthood of the Son of God as has been given in these last days. That you might go forth and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of preaching, of bringing men and women into repentance, and bringing them to the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ here on this earth."

We truly wish and pray for God's glorious blessings upon Brother Chester as he endeavors to do the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Building Dedicated in Mid-Georgia

By Brother Corey Morris

Early in the summer of 1999, the Mid-Georgia Mission began to out-grow Brother Corey and Sister Crystal Morris' garage, which was the meeting place for the Mid-Georgia Mission. The members of the mission were asked to pray that God would direct them to a place to rent. All efforts to find a suitable place to rent proved futile because of the cost. It is noteworthy to mention that the brothers and sisters in Mid-Georgia are rich in the love of God, but have limited financial resources.

As Brother Art Campbell was searching the newspaper for a place to rent, he noticed an ad to sell a church

building. He quickly overlooked the ad, thinking the mission could not afford to purchase a building. Several weeks later, Brother Art saw that same ad again. However, this time, the Spirit prompted Brother Art to call the number listed in the ad and ask to see the building. Once Brother Art toured the facility, and based on the Spirit that he felt there, he quickly asked God to show him what he was to do if this was to become The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Art made this a sincere matter of prayer and felt instructed to contact Brother Ken Staley, who was not only the Elder-in-Charge of the Mid-Georgia Mission, but is also in the real estate business.

Two days later, Brother Ken visited the building and felt a confirming spirit that God was in this matter. The gentleman who was representing the congregation selling the building explained that there were two other groups interested in purchasing the building along with two acres of ground surrounding the building. Brother Ken asked and was granted permission for the Mid-Georgia Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ to hold a meeting in the building the next Sunday, as the previous congregation had already disbanded.

That particular Sunday, the

Atlanta, Georgia Branch joined the Mid-Georgia Mission for a joint feet washing service. After a glorious day of worship and fellowship, the Mission voted to move forward with the purchase of this facility, and to trust in God to make a way for it to become possible. As a reminder, at this point, the Mid-Georgia Mission treasury was \$180.00. The mission immediately began fund raising and soliciting contributions for their cause. Bake sales, yard sales, craft sales and plenty of other initiatives were feverishly embarked upon as a means of accomplishing the goal. Within sixty days, \$14,000 was raised towards the purchase. A brother donated sufficient money to purchase and install a new kitchen, and a piano was donated by a sister.

Praise God, on October 4-5, 1999, the Mid-Georgia Mission dedicated this humble, but comfortable, church building for the honor and glory of God. Visitors were present from Florida, South Carolina and Pennsylvania, including Apostle Paul Palmieri, who was blessed with an inspired dedication sermon regarding Solomon's dedication of the temple. Brother Paul included a stirring personal testimony of the day he dedicated his life to Jesus Christ. Finally, Evangelist Eugene

Perri from Lake Worth, Florida offered a moving dedicatory prayer.

At this time, the members and friends of the Mid-Georgia Mission would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to this miracle. Without your love and support and the guidance and direction of the Lord, this task could not have been accomplished! May God richly bless you all, even if your support was a humble prayer for our success, for surely you have not prayed in vain!

Continue to remember the Mid-Georgia Mission in your prayers. We look forward to your visits at our new location.

Directory Update

continued from Page 6

Lovalvo, Anne
214 Brecon Drive
Saline, MI 48176
734-944-9004

Matthew, Charles and Melissa
3012 Grandview
Windsor, Ontario, CN NAT 2L9
519-974-5854

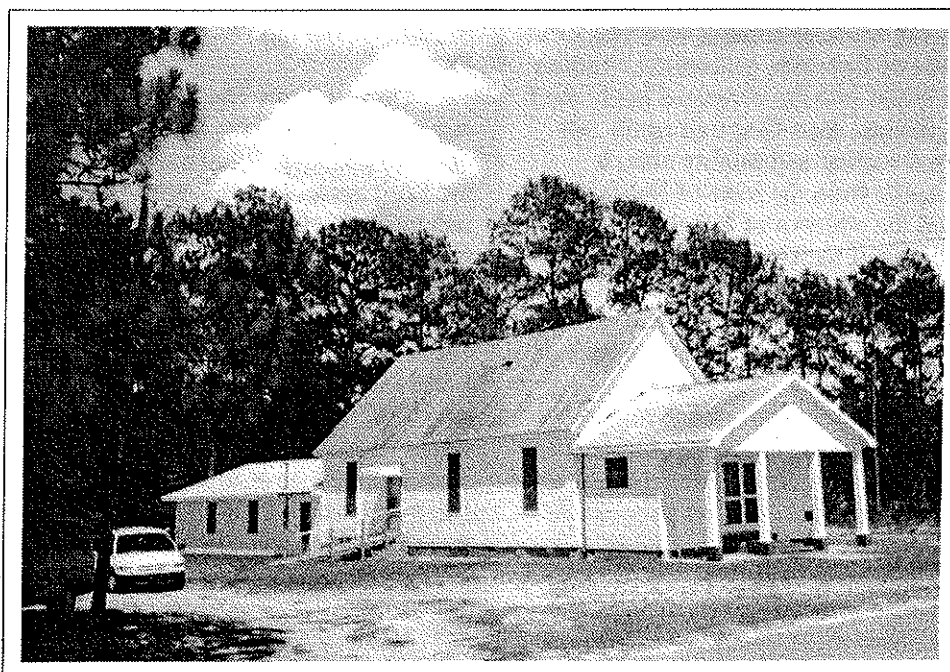
Moore, Gladys S.
1006B South 17th St.
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
561-460-0777

Morris, Ruth
P.O. Box 4722
Eastman, GA 31023
912-374-1239

Pastorelli, Kathleen M.
5289 Cedar Lake Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33437
561-752-3204

Sechez, Herman, Elaine
1261 Tower Lane
Erie, PA 16505
814-451-0471

Vucinich, Mary
1908 Faith Ave.
Haines City, FL 33844
863-419-1033



The Mid-Georgia Mission Building

He Alone

By Brother David Nolfi

An innocent man condemned a sinner,
to die on a cruel cross.

The agony He willingly endured,
that our soul would not suffer loss.

Death claimed its victim
that dreadful day,
precious blood in anger was shed.
Entombed in rock, sealed by stone,
guards stood to protect the dead.

Only three days and three nights
could death hold this sinless prey.
For the resurrection of the firstborn
was destined that glorious day!

Jesus Christ triumphantly arose,
victorious over death's great power.
He sits at the right hand
of Almighty God,
pleading our cause at this hour!

Please, Oh please, don't turn Him away,
He loved unto death you and me.
Accept His forgiveness,
repent of your sins,
by Him alone our soul is set free!

Our soul is precious, it lives forever,
through the ages of eternity.
Prepare now for the day
that surely will come,
when we His face shall see!

A Testimony

Continued from Page 1

believe it. I said, "Lord, if you will help me get these on paper." Again, that same voice said, "These words are not for paper, these are for you!" God is so good. Do not stay out there in the world. Come back home. The time is short and all the brothers and sisters are praying for you. Take advantage of this opportunity and come home. The saints never had such hopes and promises that are promised to us in these Latter Days. Come home, and enjoy the greatness of serving a living God. You know what

joy awaits the saints in the Latter Days. Do not allow the devil to dim your vision any longer. Plead with God to help you. I am living proof that He will come to your aid. You may not have the same things holding you back that I had, but I know God can ease them. It breaks His heart to see His creation withheld from Him because of trivial things. "Try me," He says, "And see if I won't shake the very heavens for your sake!" Need I say more?

(Editors' note: Brother Ken Hatch is seventy years old. He shares this testimony that it might affect others and prompt them to return to The Church of Jesus Christ.)

Ephraim and Manasseh

Continued from Page 3

straight way, wherein they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn."

When Moses and the children of Israel stayed forty years on the borders of the land of Canaan, the time came for them to enter in and God told Moses that he would not lead the children of Israel into the promised land. God told Moses to select a man by the name of Joshua, who was of the tribe of Ephraim, to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. And in the last days God will again call upon a great and mighty man, a prophet from the tribe of Ephraim, to lead the children of Israel and the nations of the Gentiles into the promised land, in the North and South American continents and will establish a reign of peace for all the nations of the world.

In conclusion, please refer to Psalm 80: 1-3, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us. Turn us again, O God and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved." We also refer you to the following: Our church hymnal, hymn

no. 38, our Sister Amy Martin was so inspired to write such beautiful words. The beautiful hymn no. 13, was given by inspiration to W. W. Phelps to write, *The Spirit of God Like A Fire Is Burning*.

(Editor's note: "This article is being written with the purpose of documenting the fact that Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, were brought to this land, North and South America, by the hand of God. References will be made according to that which is recorded in the Bible and the Book of Mormon and other sources. It will also be proven that Ephraim and Manasseh were not brought to any other continent." Taken from the forward page of the pamphlet, Ephraim and Manasseh. This work was co-authored by Apostle V. James Lovalvo.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 4

Who are those sheep? It is all of us. The Lord willingly sacrificed His life so all men and women would have an opportunity to save their souls. What do we have to do? We have to follow the leader of the sheep. We have to follow the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Do you know His voice? Do you remember the disciple at Damascus named Ananias? What happened when the Lord spoke to him? Did Ananias recognize the Lord's voice? Was it a strange voice to him? It was not. When the Lord spoke to Ananias, the response from Ananias was, "Behold, I am here, Lord." Ananias knew the Lord's voice. No doubt, he had heard it before, perhaps many times. When the Lord spoke on the land of America shortly after His resurrection, His voice is described as not harsh or loud. It was described as a small voice but it pierced the hearers to the very center of their being.

Have you heard His voice? Have you heard His call? Listen and you will hear. He is there. He is near. It is up to you.

Message from the Seventies

Continued from Page 4

into which offices they should be ordained. After the second meeting, it was brought to our attention that Sister Renee (Brother Solomon's wife) had a vision in which she saw a big ship and onboard were brothers and sisters. There was a young man trying to get on this ship but there seemed to be someone keeping him from boarding. The scene then changed, and she saw this young man aboard and all the brothers and sisters were very happy. As soon as we heard this experience, Brother Joe and I felt the confirming spirit that Brother John Paul should be ordained an Elder.

When we met with these two brothers, we told them we would ordain Brother John Paul an Elder and Brother Paul a Teacher. Brother John Paul began to weep, showing that the Spirit of God had fallen upon him. They were ordained that very night before their own congregation.

THE NEXT SUNDAY

The next Sunday, Brother John Paul addressed his congregation and twelve souls were converted into The Church of Jesus Christ, with two more later that week. "... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost ..."

Sister Mercy, Brother Stephan's wife, related she had a dream a month before our visit in which she saw Brother Joe and me visiting Brother John Paul's church.

The Church is also moving forward well in other parts of India. This was obvious as we traveled to the other locations and viewed the Lord's working with His people. The Pacific Ladies' Uplift Circle and another member donated money for two badly needed buildings in the Erode area where there are three hundred and fifty members and not one Church building in which they can worship. It was very gratifying to receive these donations.

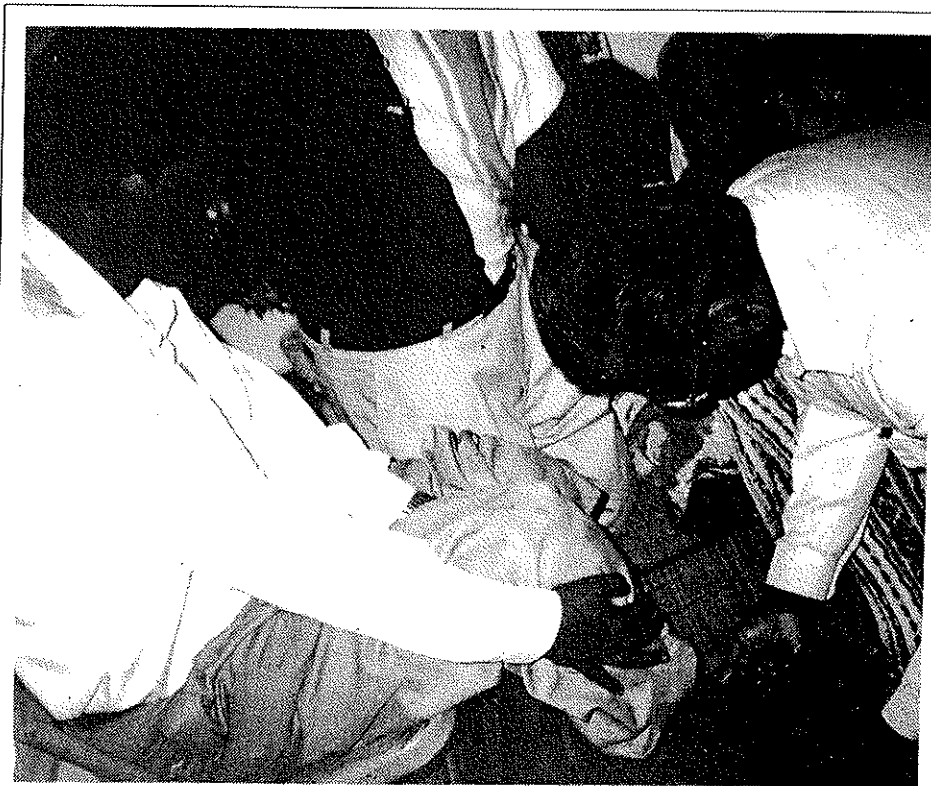
Brother Manuel, the Elder-in-Charge of Erode, suggested some potential villages for the buildings. Two locations were visited and two desir-

able plots of land were found. Each plot is adjacent to the village it will

serve. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations . . ."



Brother John Genaro washing Brother John Paul's feet.



Brother Dev washing Brother Paul's feet.

* WEDDING *

Susan Trinh Ricci and Jeffrey Joseph Kattan were united in holy matrimony on July 17, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Children Blessed

Sydney Marie Munson, daughter of Ronald and Melissa (Ross) Munson, was blessed on October 17, 1999 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brady Cole Carver, son of Chris and Beth Carver, was blessed on March 12, 2000 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Robert Neal Bradwell, Jr., son of Brother Bobby Bradwell, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on August 29, 1999.

Jacob Peter Mehera, son of Brother Sam Mehera, was blessed on August 15, 1999 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Christe Lynn Mehera, daughter of Brother Sam Mehera, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on August 1, 1999.

Alison Nicole King, daughter of Michael Jesse King and Keri Hixenbaugh, was blessed on December 12, 1999 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Baptisms

Carlos Penaranda was baptized on July 5, 1999 in the Miami-Dade Mission, Florida. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., and he was confirmed by Brother George Kovacic.

Daryl Lane McMurray was baptized on March 5, 2000 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother John H. Manes and he was confirmed by Brother Tony Ricci.

Patricia Schipani was baptized on March 5, 2000 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and she was confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo.

Ordinations

Brother P. J. Robinson of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Ernest Geracitano and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Brother Bradley Kurowsky of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Jason Rogolino and he was ordained by Brother Charles Kogler.

Brother Joshua Nicklow of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and he was ordained by Brother Donald Ross.

Brother Jeremy Nicklow of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother James Sgro and he was ordained by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Brother Richard Nath of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Alexander Cherry and he was ordained by Brother Fred Olexa.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

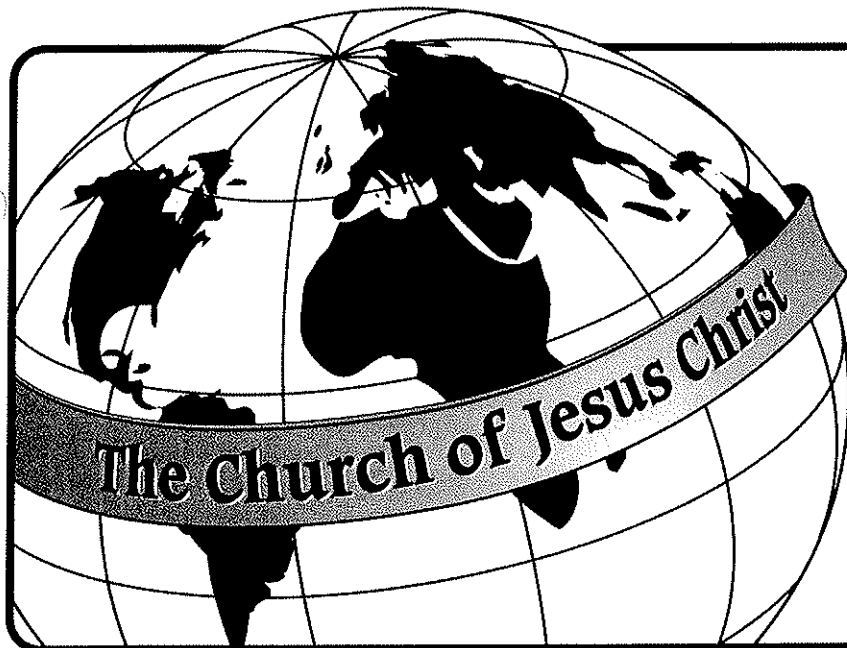
Phone _____

OBITUARY

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

OLGA MAVRICH

Sister Olga Mavrich, a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on February 23, 2000. She is survived by two daughters, Angie Sincic and Olga Danylo; one son, Brother Tony Mavrich; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

June, 2000

Volume 56, No. 6

The Origin of Churches

By Evangelist Frank D. Giovannone

Many Christian people today, think that all churches are headed in the same direction, working toward the same goal, worshipping the same God, that beliefs and doctrines do not make any difference, that it does not matter what church we belong to, and that as long as we are honest and sincere, we will be saved. Do you believe that?

What did Jesus think? What did He say?

There were many churches in His day, already established and in full operation. Judaism had been divided into sects for a long time, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes and others. And there were many non-Judaic and pagan religions. But Jesus chose none of them. For He said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). When the Disciples of John attempted to check Jesus by the doctrine of the Pharisees, He said, "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment" (Matthew 9:16).

He, Jesus, warned His own Disciples to "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matthew 16:6)—leaven being understood to mean Doctrine (Mat-

thew 16:12). Jesus knew that His purposes would be frustrated by those existing organizations, that He would have to make a new beginning to build the Kingdom of God. He knew that if He were to save mankind, He would have to follow a specific plan of salvation, incorporated in a definite organization which was free of religious tradition, and which would be devoted to the redemption and regeneration of the human race, according to His plan.

King David knew it made a difference what kind of spiritual home was used, for he said, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1).

There have been many religions and churches established by men, with which God had nothing to do. Anyone who is dissatisfied with an old church can organize a new one of his own. But that does not mean that God commanded him to do it, nor that the result is God's Church.

Do you think God will recognize these man-made churches? Can salvation be found in them? Christ did not say He would build any man's church. He said, "I will build My Church?"

Men today have changed the teaching and doctrine of Christ, saying, we do not need His doctrine. What does the Apostle Paul say? (II Timothy 4:2-4).

Verse 2: Preach the word: Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

Verse 3: 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.

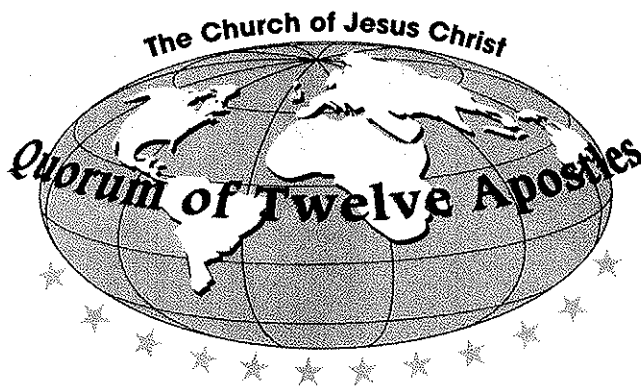
Verse 4: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

II Timothy 3:16-17 states: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

More scripture: II John 9 states, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the Doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." Also refer to and read, Acts 2:42; St. John 7:16-17.

(Continued on Page 9)



Be Ever Watchful

By Apostle Robert Watson, Jr.

I Corinthians 16:13 states, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

Upon reading this passage, we may divide it into four divisions. Each plays an important part in the advancement or retrogression of our lives. It can be readily seen that, with the application of these admonitions in our lives, we flourish. With the neglect of such truths, we are destined



Apostle Robert Watson

to retrograde. Let us briefly examine them; and, if we do so with an unbiased mind, they may supply the answers as to why we are not advancing spiritually.

Many people have to burn themselves before they begin to watch for the dangers of fire. Our lives are greatly influenced by what we see;

therefore, watching is the root of learning. Distraction is an enemy to careful observation, and it should be avoided. The moment we take our eyes off our objective, we lose ground, which must be recovered.

May I ask you: "Of just what does your daily life consist? Are you methodically forming routine habits, which drive you to inactivity? Are you watching for opportunities to break down the barriers of indifference and idleness which rob you of daily blessings?"

Watching sharpens our alertness and sounds the alarm when danger comes. As the ship sails out into the perils of the open sea, the captain's eyes are trained to watch for the dangers of the deep, which constantly endanger the lives he has in his care. Similarly, we should train ourselves to watch for the infiltration of sin, which brings moral decay and ruin. Remember, if we do not answer to the rudder, we must answer to the rocks. It is far better to look where we are going than look back with remorse to where we have been.

In Psalms 19:12-13, David says, "... cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins ..."

Perhaps, if Judas Iscariot would have watched when the lust for money crept silently into his heart and would have destroyed it at its inception, he would not have been enslaved by the urge that led him to betray his Master. If Eli would have watched and checked his sons while they were young and were forming habits, which would later develop into character, he would not have needed Samuel to come to him and prophesy of the

ultimate destruction. Aaron was neglectful and did not watch for the symptoms of idolatry, which came in the form of discontent and unbelief. He could have, upon recognition, given himself to earnest prayer and saved the shameful display of ingratitude shown to God by worshipping the golden calf.

As a last illustration, I would like to speak of David as he stood upon the palace roof and looked at Bathsheba, who was washing. If he only could have recognized the symptoms of adultery, which drew his eyes toward her with possessiveness and applied restraint to his life he would never have developed them into adultery. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of not only watching for these symptoms but seeking a cure. I feel that more time should be spent on the prevention of sin. Then less time would be needed for combating sin.

Watching also is the essence of action. For example, one would not stand idly by if his neighbor's house were burning, but he would instinctively engage himself with the work of shortening the life of the fire. Yet, as Christians, we insist on closing our eyes to the dire needs of this world, which is burning with degeneracy and is ripening fast for destruction.

We can truly rejoice with James as he says, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." But, alas, there will be bitter anguish felt on the Day of Judgment, when God shall require this generation at our hands. We who have received the enlightenment of the Gospel cannot escape the fiery indignation of God if we fail to carry this word of life.

In the earlier days of civilization, the Lord winked at the ignorance of man. His allowance for sin was greater, but, as He began to pour out His knowledge and wisdom upon His creation, He expected more in return. In the Book of Exodus, He established rigid laws at the foot of Mt. Sinai. These were destined to be overshadowed by the Doctrine of Christ.

Jesus did not make any allow-

ances for the presence of money in the temple when it was used as a means of business. Rather, He took the whip and drove them into the street. Neither did He allow for willful refusal to accept His miracles performed in the cities of His day. He stated:

"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

"But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you."

These verses show the position in which Jesus placed these cities in comparison to Sodom and Gomorrah. Why was their condemnation greater? Because they had beheld greater divine proofs. Yet, they had not seen or heard of the greatest miracle, the resurrection of Christ.

Oh! I fear for the position in which God has placed us, we of this so-called enlightened age. We know Jesus did resurrect and open wide the entrance to heaven. He said, "... I go to prepare a place for you ... that where I am, there ye may be also."

Two thousand more preparatory years have elapsed since He made this promise. The earth is reaching its maturity, when as Peter says, "... the elements shall melt with fervent heat ..." Jesus warned, in effect, that when ye see the fig tree begin to bud, you will know that summer is nigh.

So, likewise, when you see these things come to pass, you will know that the Kingdom of God is near at hand.

Can we deny that we are living in the last dispensation of time allotted unto man? Is it not alarming to see the retrogression of this present generation in comparison to the last? We have approached the time when the marriage vows are being desecrated every day. Juvenile delinquency is fast gaining momentum. At this moment, while I am speaking to you, political machinery is working that will be used to destroy lives again. Is it any wonder I caution you to watch? There is only one way to

escape from this destruction, and it is through Christ.

The second part of the topic verse, "... stand fast in the faith ..." is a result of careful watching. James says, "... For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

Will we be able to say with Paul that we have fought a good fight, have finished our courses, and have kept the faith? Only when we have convinced ourselves can we hope to convince others. The way to stand fast is as the verse goes on to say, "... quit you like men ...", which means we must reach maturity in the sight of God. Paul says, "When I was a child, I spake as a child ... but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

The time comes in our lives when we are set free from the guidance of our parents. We venture into this world to forge our own destiny. As children, we live in a world of make believe; as men, in a world of reality.

We admire the manly heart which inspired Peter to say to the Sanhedrin Council, "... We ought to obey God rather than men." One of the most important things to a man besides the appearance of men is the strength of men. This observation brings us to the last instruction of our subject verse, "... be strong." Paul says, "... when I am weak, then am I strong." God helps us to be strong.

The strength of Samson lay in the covenant he held with God. When he broke that covenant, his strength was taken from him; and he was captured by the Philistines. Likewise, our strength depends on the covenant we make with God. We must be ever "watching," "standing-fast," "quitting like men," and God will grant us the strength to endure unto the end.

(This article is taken from the Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

**Congratulations
Graduates!**

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all the brothers, sisters, and friends throughout the Church that prayed, called and sent cards during my recent bout with cancer. The Lord once again has seen fit to heal me of this terrible disease. I know this happens with your prayers. I especially would like to thank the Ladies' Circle, Sunday Schools and MBA's of the Church for their gifts and cards, which always arrived at the right moment.

Brother Tony DiFalco
Sterling Heights, MI Branch

Announcement

For June, 2000, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.30%
2 years	6.40%
3 years	6.50%
4 years	6.60%
5 years	6.70%

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

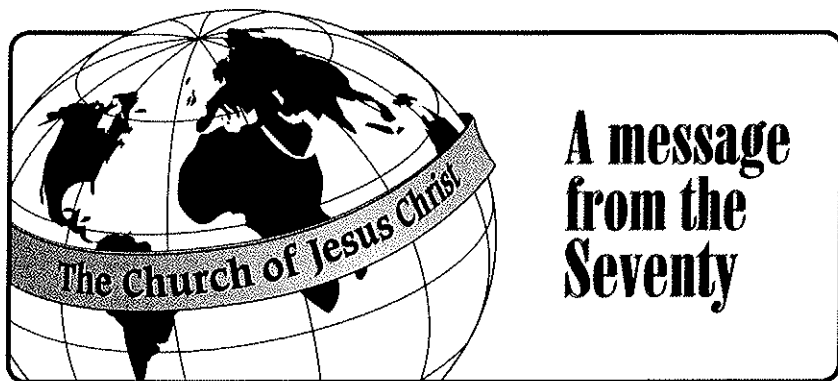
To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 202 Waterworks Rd., Clarion, PA 16214, 814-227-2421.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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561-641-1833

Valenti, Jerry and Patricia
326 Kilburn Road
Langhorne, PA 19047-1935
Tel. 215-702-9591
Fax 215-702-9593



Kenya Mission 2000—A Living Testimony

By Brother Wayne Martorana, Evangelist

On Saturday, March 4, 2000, we embarked on a two-week missionary visit to Kenya, East Africa. The brothers traveling were Mark Kovacic, Frank Natoli, Jeffrey Giannetti (making his first trip after an experience that he had a work to do in Kenya) and Wayne Martorana.

The anticipation of gathering together with the brothers and sisters was great; especially following the loving reception the Osaka's received

at the recent World Missionary Conference. We arrived safely and remained in God's gracious care throughout the visit, because of the dedicated, consistent prayers of the saints on both sides of the ocean. "... The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man (woman) availeth much" (James 5:17).

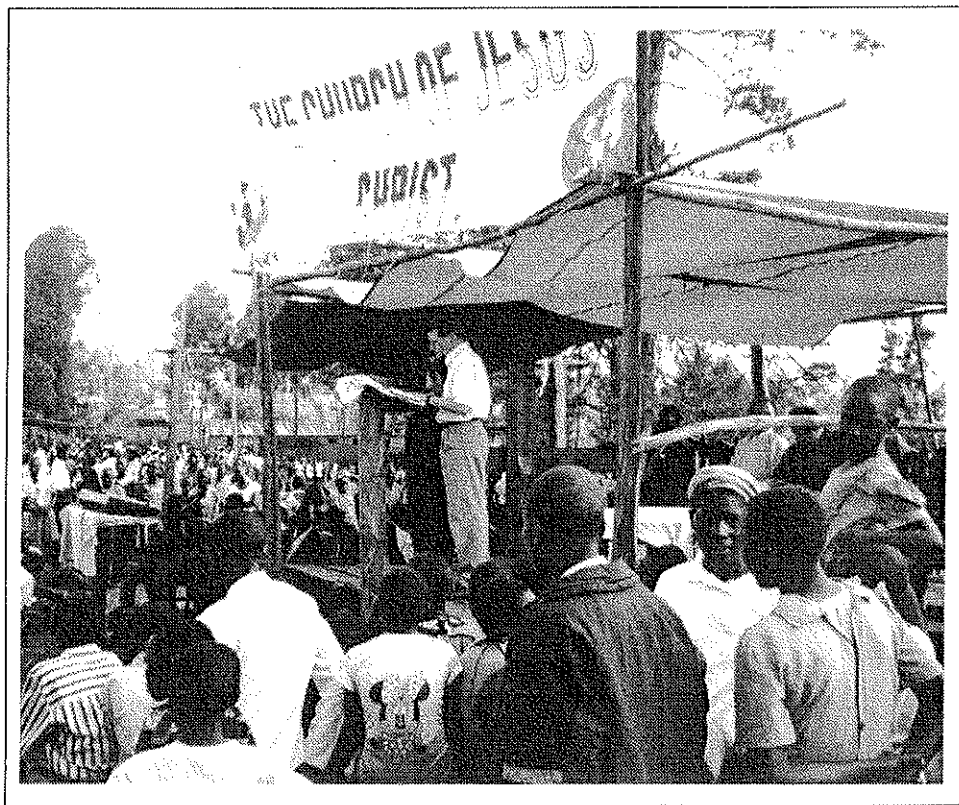
Prior to our visits to the villages, we had wonderful fellowship in Nairobi with Brother Josphat Mugambi.

Brother Josphat, baptized a few years ago, is 230 miles (8 hours) from the body of the saints. Despite this distance from the Kisti area, he has been quite active in giving his testimony to friends, co-workers, and family, as well as studying God's word. It was obvious to us that God has been blessing our brother and frequently answering his prayers. We dined with Brother Josphat spiritually and temporally. Our service together was blessed with the Spirit of God and we shared the Lord's Supper in memory of our Savior's suffering, death and resurrection.

VISITS TO VILLAGES

Once in the Kisti area, we were able to visit seven of ten village locations where the brothers and sisters worship. By name, they are Kiogosi, Kenyanya, Nyabinto, Nyandiwa, Itibo, Nyasongo, and Omosasa. Of special note were Kiogosi and Kenyanya, where the crusades were conducted; Itibo, where, for the first time during one of our visits, the saints had a building to worship in; Nyasongo where spiritual revival occurred after difficulties with the original building location; and Omosasa, where we conducted Sunday Services with forty two baptisms, performed by Brother Jeffrey and Brother Dismas Abuga, the most recently ordained Kenyan Elder. The baptisms confirmed a dream given to one of the brothers prior to leaving, as he heard and saw a congregation singing, "Shall We Gather at the River," typically synonymous with baptisms in the United States.

Services at the village locations were truly blessed, including prayer, spirited singing, inspired preaching, beautiful testimonies, and heart-felt anointing. We also utilized the visits to the villages to satisfy some spiritual and temporal needs. Such needs included towels for baptism and feet washing, utensils and wine for the Lord's Supper, Bibles for study, oil for anointing, donated clothing and, of course, some candy for the children. All items are welcomed and very graciously received.



Crusade at Kiogosi Village

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Jesus Christ came for all people. He came to rescue the sinners, whether men or women. The Lord did not exclude anyone from His plan of salvation. How do we know this to be a fact? Consider His commandment to His eleven remaining disciples prior to His departure from earth.

In Matthew 28:18-20 the Lord states, "All power is given unto me in heaven and 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 always, even unto the end of the world."

It is important to note that He has all power. He can do all things that are expedient in the Father. The Lord can make the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame walk, the lepers skin as new. He can and will intercede for our sins provided we present Him the opportunity. The Lord did just that when He allowed Himself to hang on the cross, suffer a cruel death by crucifixion, and resurrect from the grave. Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be sacrificed for the entire human family, that whosoever will believe in Him, whosoever will follow and obey His commandments, will have everlasting life.

The Church of Jesus Christ has the authority, power and commission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. No nation, no people, no language will be overlooked. All shall hear the message and divine commandments of Jesus Christ. Every nation, people and tongue will be given an opportunity to hear the true and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is our mission. It is our commission.

Every nation, kindred, tongue and people will be taught to observe all things that He commanded His disciples. His message was not only to His remaining disciples, it is for us as well. We have to possess the zeal, enthusiasm, and spiritual drive to preach and teach all nations. It will take the strength and power of God to make this commandment a reality. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot do it with our strength. We can only do this with the strength and power of Jesus Christ.

The Lord stated in the scriptures that we will do greater things than He did in His lifetime. What can we do that He did not do? We will be used as His instruments to gather the House of Israel. We will seek them out in the North Country. We will seek them out by the direction of Jesus Christ, to preach and teach that Jesus Christ is Lord, their Saviour and Redeemer. We will go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people with the message of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All people will hear that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to be preached to every nation, every kindred, every tongue, and every people. No one will be overlooked. No one will be excluded from the message of salvation and the requirements for salvation. All shall hear they must believe, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. All shall hear that The Church of Jesus Christ is the Church of the Lamb of God. It is the Church He gave His precious name to and it is the Church that He gave His life.

This message of salvation was also given to King Benjamin by an angel of God. King Benjamin declared to his people, "... wo unto him who knoweth that he rebelleth against God! For salvation cometh to none such except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." King Benjamin went on to declare that the Lord sent His holy prophets among all the children of men, to declare these things to every kindred, nation, and tongue, that thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same will receive remission of their sins, and rejoice with an exceeding great joy.

The Church of Jesus Christ is at the threshold of moving forward and carrying out this

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"God Judges the Murmurers"

Dear Friends,

The Bible is very clear that people who serve God also need to be obedient and respectful of their spiritual leaders, chosen by God. In the Book of Jude, written by the brother of Jesus, the spiritual leaders are warned they must be alert themselves that they do not fall into all sorts of traps and temptations.

Jude warns that they, and we, are not supposed to deny Christ. We are not supposed to commit sins of the flesh, lusting after people who are not our husband or wife, or do like the city of Sodom and Gomorrah when men wanted to be with men (be gay). We are not supposed to pretend to show respect for others for the sake of our own advantage (make them like us so we can get something). And we are not supposed to complain and murmur against others and against what God has given us.

In the days of Moses, the people were freed from slavery in Egypt and started their long journey across deserts to the Promised Land of Canaan. These people had their own set of leadership before Moses was sent, and for many, they were jealous of Moses' power and they began wanting it for themselves.

One powerful man named Korah (also called Core, read Numbers 16) started murmuring against Moses, along with his two friends Dathon and Abiram. They gathered together two hundred and fifty men who were spiritual leaders and talked against Moses and his brother Aaron. They argued, saying, "Moses, you take too



much upon yourself. These two hundred and fifty men are holy too. Why do you lift yourself up above the congregation of God?"

Moses was shocked and angry. If you remember the true story, God called him forth after appearing in a burning bush. He told Moses He was going to send him back to Egypt to free His people, and Moses tried to talk God out of it. Moses told God, "But I am not a man that speaks well in front of people." And God told him, "Who made your tongue? I did. I can give you that power." And when Moses hesitated, God offered to send his brother, Aaron, to be the messenger for the things God would tell Moses to teach His people. So Moses went.

And now these people were again murmuring against Moses and God's plan. Korah continued saying, "Moses, you led us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey to this desert!" And God heard their murmuring and was not pleased.

Moses prayed to the Lord. He said, "Lord, I have not taken any of their money, or offering. I have not taken one donkey from them. Neither have I hurt anyone of them." Then he told all the people, Korah, Dathon, Abiram, and the two hundred and fifty spiritual leaders, "Let the Lord decide." Tomorrow you two hundred and fifty men come here before the tabernacle and bring your containers of incense that we light when we pray to God. God will show us all."

And when the people gathered the next day, Moses warned them, "Move away from Korah, his two friends and everything that they own. Now watch and see what God will do. If these men die like normal men, then God has not sent me. But if the Lord shows us a

new thing, and these men die in a way you have not seen before, then you will know that God has sent me."

Just as he finished saying this message, the ground made a horrible rumbling, and a huge crack opened up right where the ungodly houses (tents) of Korah and his two friends were. These rebellious men and everything they owned were swallowed up and buried deep in the earth. As the people ran and screamed, the Lord sent fire from heaven and it struck the two hundred and fifty leaders who also had been rebelling. All were struck down by God.

God had clearly showed His people that Moses was their chosen leader and they should accept this. But the following day, thousands of them woke up furious that God had disciplined and corrected them. Again, a huge crowd went up to the tabernacle complaining, murmuring against God and saying, "Moses, you killed our spiritual leaders."

And when they looked at the tabernacle, behold, a cloud covered it

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

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Missionary
Benevolent
Association



Branch and
Mission News

Great Lakes Area MBA

By Sister Marge D'Amico

Once I was blind, but now I can see. This was the theme of Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, Vice President of the GMBA, as he addressed the Great Lakes Area MBA at Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan on Sunday January 23, 2000.

He posed the questions, "How are your eyes? How clearly do you see Jesus Christ?" He related many scriptural examples of those who were naturally and spiritually blind and were made to see.

Brother Jeffrey emphasized that as we can naturally be made to see more clearly with surgery, ever more so we need to have spiritual surgery so the veils fall from our eyes and we can clearly see Jesus Christ.

Brother Larry Champine, Great Lakes Area MBA Chaplain, followed by saying, once we have received our sight, we must be excited and share the blessings we have. We are not to be afraid, even though there are those who would try to take away our sight.

We need to take the message out into the world, and praise God we are in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We extend our thanks to Brother Jeffrey Giannetti for his visit to our Area. Please remember us in your prayers. May God bless you all.

Notice

Video tapes (set of 8) of the World Missionary Conference are available for \$120.00 a set (includes postage). Order from:

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Ordinations in Monongahela, PA

By Sister Leah Nath

On April 2, 2000, four young servants, Brothers Jeremy Nicklow, Joshua Nicklow, Bradley Kurowsky and Paul Robinson, Jr., were ordained Deacons and Brother Richard Nath was ordained a Teacher. The day was a day of blessings. There were many visitors and friends from New Jersey, Michigan and branches from Pennsylvania, including Apostles Paul Palmieri and Joseph Bittinger.

Apostle Joseph Bittinger opened our meeting in prayer. We then listened as Brother Michael McGuire sang that beautiful hymn, *For Those Tears I Died*. This song touched every person in the building, as each one listened to the words.

Apostle Paul Palmieri opened the meeting by reading the last verse of *For Those Tears I Died*, and asked, "Isn't that beautiful?" He went on to talk about how the Lord told Samuel to go to see Jesse's sons. Samuel thought it was Eliab, the eldest son, the Lord wanted Samuel to anoint as the next king of Israel. But, "The Lord does not see a man as man seeth, for man looked on outward appearance, But God seeth the heart." When David, Jesse's youngest son was called from tending the sheep, the Lord said to Samuel, "Stand up, it is he." Samuel anointed him right then and there. Brother Paul explained David was picked by God and we have to be willing to open our hearts and be like David.

Brother Sam Sgro stood and said as the Spirit moved him, "David was called unto the Lord. We have the same calling. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The power of God is unto salvation for all. Because of His people, He is patient."

Brother Jim Sgro followed by saying, "We only do things by God's

power." He mentioned how some people would ask, "How could these four brothers be ordained Deacons when they are sixteen years of age or younger?" Mormon learned to love the Lord at age fifteen. We are the sheep of God. David said, "Is there not a cause?" when he heard about Goliath. Is there not a cause that we are here today? A Goliath will always be there, but God will not let His people down. Brother Jim stated, "Jesus is our cause today." He then asked, "If there is somebody that has not met Jesus, serve Him. Is there not a cause? Are we doing enough?"

Brother Jim related a dream he had when he was going through much sorrow and confusion. "I met the Lord, and I fell to my knees and closed my eyes. The Lord said to open my eyes, so I could see the scars on His feet. The Lord said, 'I did that for you.' I felt the power of God and understood the grace of God and at that moment, my sorrow turned to joy." The Church is to tell the true and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our cause is to rise up and serve God. Love the people of God with all your heart, mind and soul, and God will bless you. We were encouraged by Brother Jim to take up the challenge, to take up the same cause as David. If you take up the cause and never let it go, God will bless you.

Brother Tony Ricci closed our morning meeting in prayer. We enjoyed one another's fellowship during lunch.

Our afternoon meeting was opened by singing, *There is Power in the Blood*, and prayer was offered by Brother Karl Kirschner. The young people had a desire to sing and honored us with *The Standard of Liberty* and *If You Would Labor in Zion*.

Brother Don Ross, our Presiding Elder, explained how ordinations are done in The Church of Jesus Christ. This was done because there were many in the congregation that had never witnessed an ordination. Brother Don then shared with the congregation the experiences concerning the calling of these brothers.

Brother William Chepanoske had an experience during a Sunday morn-
(Continued on Page 9)

Forest Hills, FL Dedication

By Brother Dan Risola

Saturday, November 6, 1999, we gathered together to dedicate the Forest Hills, Florida work to the Lord. Many visited from Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, California, and the Southeast Region. We were also privileged to have Apostles Dominic Thomas, V. James Lovalvo, Paul Benyola, Joseph Calabrese, and Peter Scolaro visiting our branch.

Apostle V. James Lovalvo opened the service with Isaiah 33, speaking on building a house unto the Lord. He recalled of how he was sent here in 1969 as the Apostle assigned to the Southeast Region. He has certainly seen many houses dedicated to the Lord in Florida since then. Brother Lovalvo spoke of the need for more spiritual builders to proclaim the Gospel to every kindred, tongue, and people.

Sunday, November 7, Brother John Griffith opened the meeting by relating two experiences that occurred in last night's meeting. While Brother Dan Risola was reading the history of

the many experiences from the Palm Harbor Branch and the events that led us to Forest Hills, Sister Pearl Zinzi saw a Personage behind him all in white. At the close of the meeting, while the Forest Hills choir was singing *God's House*, a sister saw the face of Christ in the window smiling as if He was pleased with the house that was being offered. She looked three times to verify if what she was seeing was true and each time she looked, she saw the same thing.

Brother John spoke of how the temple of God is in our hearts. We have a precious gift, a pearl of great price, and we must not take it for granted. He thanked God that we were able to complete the building. However, he is more thankful that we can put the hammer down now and focus on building our temporal house to become more spiritual. Brother John then turned the meeting over to the visiting Apostles.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese offered the dedicatory prayer that this place would be a house of worship and would draw others unto God. Then, Apostle Dominic Thomas spoke of when he first came to know the Lord

about forty years ago in Lorain, Ohio as a boy. He recalled learning from the Elders how to pray, to fast, to study the word, and to testify. He read a portion of scripture relating to when Solomon dedicated a house unto the Lord. Brother Thomas said we must be more spiritual; to have our anchor rooted in Jesus Christ, so the evil one cannot pull us away.

Apostle Paul Benyola continued by speaking on the workmanship of the building. He said that those who have passed on to their reward from our branch would have been proud to see the work that was accomplished. He was reminded of how many brothers and sisters pulled together to build the Metuchen Branch in New Jersey.

Apostle V. James Lovalvo followed with reasons why God wants a house dedicated unto Him. Brother Lovalvo said the House of God is a place where the congregation can come together to fellowship, to sing, to pray, to study the scriptures, and to meditate upon His word. We must consecrate ourselves unto the Lord to separate ourselves from the world.

Lastly, Apostle Peter Scolaro commented on the beauty of the



The Forest Hills Florida Branch Building

building and then exhorted the congregation to leave it behind. He said we must put God first now and focus our efforts to serving Him to the best of our ability in order to become more righteous.

We thank God for the wonderful spirit that was felt over the weekend. Please remember us in your prayers that we may carry the Spirit of God with us at all times, and as the experience was given, that Christ may look through the window of heaven upon us and be pleased with this work in Forest Hills.

Ordinations in Monongahela

Continued from Page 7

ing service. He was observing the four brothers, Jeremy, Joshua, Bradley and Paul Jr., and felt very strongly that he was looking at the next Deacons to be ordained in Monongahela. As Brother Chepanoske was experiencing this feeling during the service, he leaned over to Brother Don Ross, who expressed the same feeling and concurred with Brother Chepanoske. The Monongahela Priesthood was unanimous concerning the calling of these brothers. When Brother Don approached Brother Jeremy about meeting with the Priesthood, Brother Jeremy stated he could not describe the feeling that came over him during this brief conversation. The other brothers said the same.

Brother Karl Kirschner had a dream where he was in a large field with several lambs. He gathered them around, picked one up, and the others followed to get fed by their mother. Brother Karl did not quite understand this at first, because he never raised sheep, only cattle when he was a young man. The Priesthood felt these brothers needed to be nourished by the mother, The Church of Jesus Christ, and they would follow and work with the Priesthood of the branch.

Brother William Chepanoske read the duties of a Deacon, taken from our Minister's Manual and from Acts 6:1-8. A prayer was offered by Brother Alexander Cherry that the Lord would choose those Elders who were to ordain these four young brothers. Brother

Jeremy Nicklow's feet were washed by Brother Jim Sgro and he was ordained by his grandfather, Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. Brother Joshua Nicklow's feet were washed by his father, Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and he was ordained by Brother Don Ross. Brother Bradley Kurowsky's feet were washed by Brother Jason Rogolino and he was ordained by Brother Charles Kogler. Brother Paul Robinson, Jr.'s feet were washed by Brother Ernie Geracitano and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione. Brother Paul Lambert stood and said he saw angels, end to end, protecting the four brothers from evil. Brother Jason Rogolino stood and stated that while he was washing Brother Bradley's feet, he felt a fire encircle him with great love. Sister Anna Mae Geracitano stood and said she saw the Three Nephites come in while the brothers were having their feet washed. She then saw Jesus with a staff, standing next to each one while their feet were being washed.

Brother Alexander Cherry read the duties of a Teacher. Brother Richard Nath's feet were washed by Brother Alexander Cherry and he was ordained by Brother Fred Olexa.

The newly ordained brothers then expressed themselves and thanked God for their callings. Brother Paul Robinson, Jr. stated it very well when he said, "Some will say we are young. The way I look at it is that we have more time to work for the Lord." Their parents also expressed themselves and we enjoyed a wonderful season of beautiful testimonies.

Brother Don Ross addressed the young people and encouraged them to serve the Lord and work for Him and His cause. He asked the congregation to pray for those Church members who have family members that do not belong to The Church of Jesus Christ. He encouraged us to be good examples to them, that they would see the love and humility and the joy of being part of God's beautiful and true Gospel. Our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Richard Scaglione. We can say that we enjoyed the blessings of God. Please remember these brothers in your prayers. May God bless you.

Origin of Churches

Continued from Page 1

Some of the times and dates that you will read below were taken from the 7th edition, *Handbook of Denominations*.

How did some of these churches come about? In the beginning was pagan religion.

Martin Luther was a Catholic priest. He was dissatisfied with the abuses, doctrines, and practices. He withdrew from the Catholic Church and organized his own. He never made the claim that God had commanded him to do so. He was trying to get back to the purity of the "strait and narrow way" of Christ. So, in 1529, he started the Lutheran Church.

In 1729, John and Charles Wesley, who were Catholic priests, started the Methodist Church.

In the 18th century, John Wesley organized the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. In 1910, they dropped the Pentecostal. It is now known as the Church of the Nazarene.

Roger Williams, a priest of the Church of England, came to this country and identified himself with the Presbyterians for a time. But in reading his Bible, he came to believe that infant baptism and sprinkling as a mode of baptism were wrong. So in 1639, he organized the First Baptist Church in America.

In 1810, Alexander Campbell, a minister of the Baptist Church, came to believe in baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). But, he failed in trying to introduce that doctrine into the church, so he withdrew and organized a church that later became known as the Christian Church.

These and other events like them, explain why we have so many churches today that claim to be the church of Christ.

None of these churches teach the same doctrine or have the same creed.

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Origin of Churches

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Many teach conflicting doctrines and ideas. Can all of them be right?

All Christian Churches have something in common; their belief in God and Christ, their hope of heaven, their concern for souls. But, they diverge, and they have many differences of opinion, belief, practices and ordinances.

Can Christ build His Church with a lot of quarreling followers and conflicting or contradictory creeds? Many honest people mistakenly think He can.

Jesus knew He could not, for He said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation" (Matthew 12:25).

The question is asked: When did all these different religions take place?

They all came forth during the Dark Ages; while the power and authority was taken away from the earth, as stated in Revelation 12:4-6 that God had a place prepared for the woman with the man child, in the wilderness, and took care of her for one thousand, two hundred and three-score days (1260 days). This period of time is known as the Dark Ages.

Now, while John the Revelator said days, Ezekiel said he appointed a day for a year (Ezekiel 4:6, Numbers 14:34).

It is my belief that the Gospel fell away about the year 560 A.D. The Apostle Paul said there would be a falling away (II Thessalonians 2:3).

We believe that John saw an angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to be preached unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. (Revelation 14:6)

We believe that this angel has flown in the year 1820, keeping in mind the time from 560 years to 1820 years is 1260 years. We believe that the Gospel was restored again with the power and authority from God, on May 15, 1829.

There are many references in the Bible that will show us and prove these facts. I believe and hope that this will enlighten the minds of those who will see the truth, with God's help.

Message from the Seventy

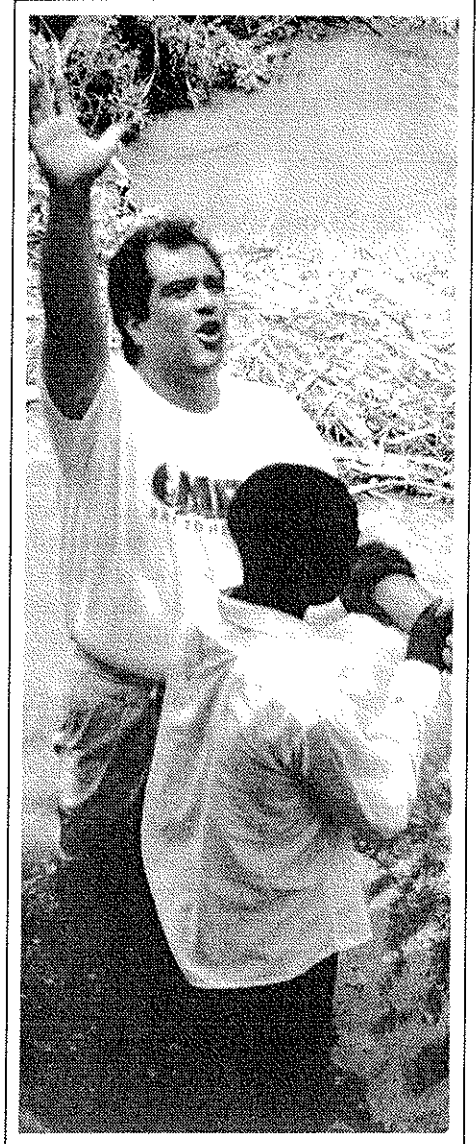
Continued from Page 4

Numerous brothers and sisters gave a living testimony to the honor and glory of God because of how Jesus Christ changed their lives. Brawlers became peacemakers, drunkards were sobered, and an imprisoned man had his life completely changed by the power of the Savior. One young mother bore witness that she was very sickly, receiving regular medical treatments and being unable to adequately care for her children. However, after conversion to The Church of Jesus Christ, God healed her body even though the doctors said there was no hope. She exclaimed, "God is the doctor of all doctors!"

Sister Nina Osaka related an experience when she was having stomach problems, severe back pain and a high fever. Because of this serious condition, traveling to the United States for the World Missionary Conference was very much in jeopardy. The doctors desired to perform surgery, but she was inspired to call the Kenya Coordinator, Brother Frank, to ask the saints to fast and pray for her afflicted condition. Through a powerful experience, the healing power of Christ miraculously touched her. She was able to journey to the United States and to this day has not needed the recommended surgery. Sister Nina is well and strong. God is so good.

Several brothers, sisters and friends were anointed at the villages for affliction, vices of this life, spiritual strength and direction, and to draw closer to God with a desire to soon serve Him. Noteworthy among the anointings was that of Sister Doris, a Deaconess at Nyandiwa village. Our

sister has been sorely afflicted for five months, suffering severe weight loss and becoming quite weak. A great spirit of love and compassion filled the room and overwhelmed the brothers prior to and during prayer. We felt we were in the presence of God's holy angels. Please continue to remember our sister in prayer as we have placed



Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti baptizing at Omosasa Village.

her in the hands of a merciful God. Sister Doris is one who was previously imprisoned and received cruel treatment for the sake of the Gospel. However, she has remained firm to the faith and her commitment to serve Christ.

CRUSADES

Two-day crusades were planned during our visit, one each at the villages of Kenyanya and Kiogosi. Both locations have existing Church congregations. On a peak day, there were 600-700 in attendance at the crusades. During the services, the Ladies Circle, Sunday School, and youth group each sang several selections. The Sunday School students also provided a brief skit depicting David's victory over Goliath. There were visiting saints from Nyasongo and Omosasa who sang beautifully as well. The students from the Church sponsored technical school also delighted those in attendance with powerful, spirited selections. Thank God a few days later, the schoolmaster, who was also very active with the choir, was among those baptized. While there was preaching at each of the crusades, Brother Mark preached at one of the services, which was quite remarkable given that he had been somewhat ill only the previous day. God truly blessed him with a message.

Toward the end of the service each day, those in need of prayer for affliction came forward, as well as those who were interested in learning more about The Church of Jesus Christ. Special prayer was offered for both groups in need. It was also a privilege to have the village chief (comparable to a city mayor in the United States) in attendance at the services of each location. He commended The Church for her spiritual work in the village and proclaimed that we are welcomed there. The chief also addressed the congregation briefly with an encouraging message.

LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE

The Ladies' Uplift Circle, organized a few years ago, is active and progressing well under the direction of Sister Nina Osaka. In each village, the Ladies' Uplift Circle sisters have taken the initiative to have a unique, color coordinated uniform for the purpose of easy identification and recognition within the village area. Last year while the Osaka's were in the United States,

several of the Ladies' Circle organizations donated yarn for the sisters in Kenya to use either as a fund raising project or to make articles for use within the Church buildings. We were able to see the evidence of their hard work and diligence as several table and chair coverings had been completed and countless others were still in progress. The articles were beautiful and very well made. As we visited each village location, Sister Nina was quick to recognize and commend the wonderful efforts of the Ladies' Circle sisters.

In conclusion, we leave you with the words of one of the ordained officers from Kenya, pleading for and encouraging the continued support by the Parent Church in the United States. "When the brothers and sisters in Kenya cry, please see our tears, feel our needs in your heart, and know that we love you very much." It truly becomes more difficult to leave our Kenyan brothers and sisters with each passing visit. Please continue to pray for the "Great Work of the Lord."

Editorial Viewpoint

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commandment of the Lord. It is on the move. The momentum is increasing and we are reaching out to many people and soon, yes, very soon, all people.

Trips are being planned and scheduled to visit the Philippines, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Colombia, Ecuador and elsewhere. Requests for The Church of Jesus Christ are coming in from many nations. Letters are being received from around the world about The Church of Jesus Christ. People are hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is represented by the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You might ask, "How can we accomplish this with limited resources?" With God, there is no limit. With God, there are no limitations. The Apostle Paul stated in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

This "can do" attitude must apply to all of us. We can also do all things through Jesus Christ. Do we need finances? The answer is yes. God will provide. He always does if you look to Him. Do we need workers? The answer is yes. God will provide by moving on those who express a sincere desire to be used by Him and for Him.

Do not limit your thinking. Think big! Remember, ask and you shall receive. God will provide!

The Children's Corner

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and the glory of the Lord appeared. God told Moses, and Aaron, "Move, I am going to strike them down."

But Moses and Aaron fell upon their faces before God and begged Him not to. Moses told Aaron, "God has sent a plague to strike them down. Quick, light the incense, the censers, before God, and pray for forgiveness for them. Run out unto the people!" Moses stayed in the tabernacle, praying and begging God to spare the people.

And Aaron did as Moses commanded. He stood between those already dead and the living. And God spared the rest. Yet, 14,000 of the murmuring, rebellious people died.

The complaining, stubborn people once more were shown that God had sent Moses to lead them to a new future. The rebellious, jealous men who tried to overthrow God's chosen leaders were destroyed. God's will be done.

We are taught in the Book of Mormon, that when the Choice Seer comes, he will be "like unto Moses." He too will have a new and strange connection between God and His people. He too, will change the way the people of God will operate. Many people believe that our generation will see this new man and the same type of amazing miracles. All I know is that I trust God and He will do His will in His own time. We need not fear.

With care,
Sister Jan

* WEDDING *

Brother Alphonso Hopkins and Sister Consuella Jackson were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November 27, 1999 in the South Bend, Indiana Branch.

Sister Colleen Joy Capone and Jacob Moore were united in holy matrimony in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on July 3, 1999.

Baptism

Susan Ann Franc was baptized in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on April 9, 2000. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., and she was confirmed by Brother Richard Lawson.

Fiftieth Anniversary

We extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives. May God bless you and keep you.

Sister Assunta Feola of the Bronx, New York Branch, celebrated fifty-one years as a member in The Church of Jesus Christ on January 16, 2000.

Brother Nicholas Ritz of the Miami-Dade Mission, celebrated seventy-nine years as a member in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 1, 2000.

Sister Pauline Ritz of the Miami-Dade Mission, celebrated seventy-seven years as a member in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 22, 2000.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

Nathaniel Michael Zaccagnini, son of Brother Mario and Sister Sara Zaccagnini, was blessed on March 5, 2000 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan.

Moroni Elijah Grosbeck, son of Brother George and Sister Tina Grosbeck, was blessed on December 15, 1999 in the San Carlos, Arizona Mission.

OBITUARIES

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

LENA CAMPAGNA

Sister Lena Campagna, a member of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on October 22, 1999. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Guieseppe Campagna. Sister Lena is survived by two daughters, Sarah (Vincent) Aluzzo, and Josephine Bell; one son, Joseph Campagna; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

ELIZA (PEARL) HUGHES

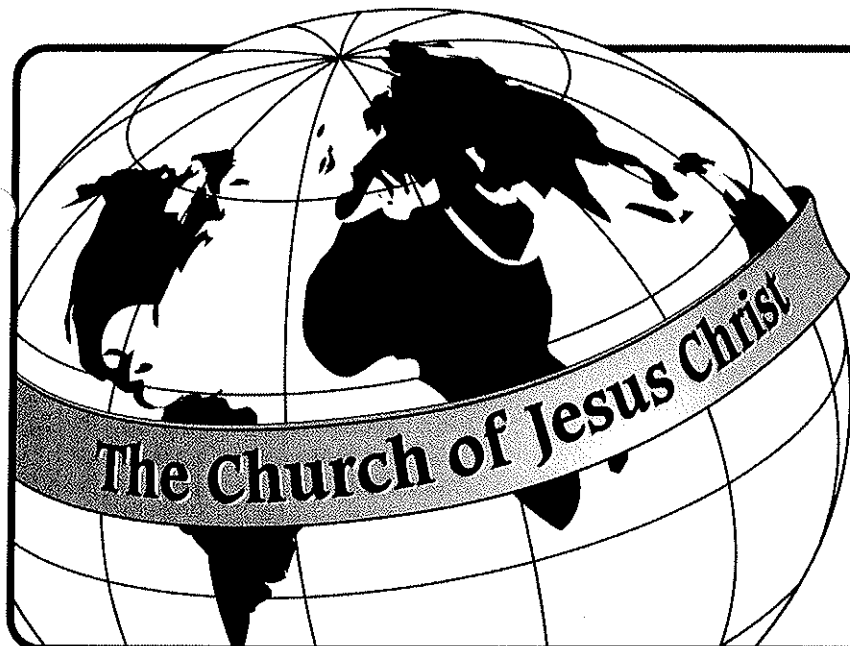
Sister Eliza "Pearl" Hughes passed on to her heavenly reward on March 26, 2000. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Eliza is survived by one brother, Emerson Fuller; one sister, Sister Molly Koslosky; two sons, Michael J. Strauch and Pat Lee Strauch, and two grandchildren.

GUISEPPI BOLOGNA

Brother Guiseppi (Joseph) Bologna of the Modesto, California Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on January 16, 2000. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joseph is survived by his two sons, Peter Dulisse and Brother Jim Dulisse; one sister, Sister Mary Moran; one brother, Brother Reno Bologna, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

ROY VULTAGIO

Roy Vultagio, of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on September 22, 1999. He was preceded in death by his late wife, Frances Carrado. Left to mourn are his mother, Anna Caruso-Vultagio; two sons, Joseph and David; one daughter, Sister Marlene Coppa; three sisters, Jennie Morgan, Maria Stargshien and Ann Bunjorno and eleven grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 2000

Volume 56, No. 7

Trip to Ahome, San Isidro and Mexico City, Mexico

By Brother Joseph Ciarolla

From January 16 through January 27, 2000, I had the privilege to visit a number of locations of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico. It began when I called Brother Hector Gastelum and told him I was on my way! I considered this another opportunity to go among God's chosen people, the Seed of Joseph. As I always do, I brought suitcases filled with beautiful clothing for the brothers and sisters in Mexico. Thank God, I got the green light, no one stopped me at the border and I proceeded with my overfilled luggage.

We had a service the first Monday night in San Isidro. We had a beautiful time of fellowship and enjoying God's rich blessings. Tuesday, during the day, we visited more of the saints and again we felt the love of God and His many blessings. That night I spent time with the teenagers. We reviewed and very openly discussed topics and events that are pertinent to the youth of our Church. I had great liberty in directing them on the things that the Lord commanded, that, "I have taken you out of this world." I instructed them that we are the temple of God

and that we are to keep this temple clean in order for God to abide within us!

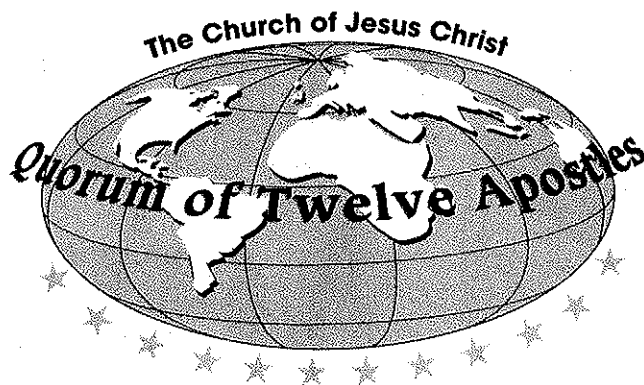
There was a nineteen-year-old sister who asked for her baptism. We spent time reviewing her duties as a saint. We made sure she understood what was expected of her. We had a Wednesday night service. Brother Hector Gastelum did the interpreting. I had great liberty in preaching the Word!

One of our branches in the United States had given me a donation for Brother Hector to get his truck repaired. I found out when I arrived in Mexico that he bought a car with the money. I was pleased with the way he spent this money. We then set out for Mexico City. We got to the Church around lunchtime and I had time to spend in the Church building. I assessed what needs there were for the Mexico City building. I had the opportunity to meet with some people and discuss The Church of Jesus Christ. I also met a woman who was requesting baptism. She gave her testimony how she was deep into the things of the world and how far down sin had dragged her in her life. She

told us that she began to hear about the Church and little by little, she began to get her life in order. She met a man and got married and found her way to The Church of Jesus Christ. She told us that her husband is coming to Church and is listening very intently. This same night, a young couple came to the home where we were meeting and they had a small child. The child was deadly sick. She was burning up with fever and sweating. And, it was only forty degrees in the house! The baby was very sick. We had found out that since the baby was born, she was not able to take milk. She was drinking a solution prescribed by the doctor. I took the child in my arms and I could feel the heat coming from this child. After I anointed the baby, she immediately recovered! The next morning, the baby was drinking milk and made a complete turnaround. The mother and father were so thankful for the change in their child's health. We took advantage of this miracle and told the parents of The Church of Jesus Christ. They both received our message well. The father was touched.

The next evening we went to visit another young couple and the young man asked for his baptism. He had been seeking a place to worship and was not able to find what he was looking for until he met The Church of Jesus Christ. He fell in love with the

(Continued on Page 10)



Feet Washing

By Apostle Peter A. Scolari

The Church of Jesus Christ practices *Feet Washing*, as it does *The Lord's Supper*, after the example set by Jesus Himself. It is remarkable how a pending Feet Washing Service always generates a wonderful anticipation of God's blessing among the brothers and sisters. Moreover, carrying out the ordinance often results in outpouring of love and fellowship that cannot be compared to any other experience.



Apostle Peter Scolari

What is Feet Washing?

Some say that it was merely a custom of the times—practical and relevant in the period of the Bible but irrelevant today. On a very superficial level there is some basis for such an opinion. However, as convenient as it might be to gloss over the issue

so simply, to do so is to underestimate both the wisdom and the love of Christ. Actually, Feet Washing is an extremely important ordinance instituted by Christ and one which demands spiritual maturity and focus in order to fully commune in love and humility as Jesus intended.

Let us first consider the custom of the period. Re: Dirty Feet

In Biblical times roads and paths were dirt—mud when wet. Walking was the primary mode of travel and resulted in feet coated with dirt. Upon arrival, it could be offensive for one to enter a house with dirty feet. An infrequent visitor would particularly avoid doing so.

Scriptural references show that, as a courtesy, travelers were offered water with which to wash their own feet before or upon entering a house. In providing water to the visitor, the host facilitated the guest's transition from a dirty "outsider" to a clean "insider." This was both practical and a gesture of welcome. See Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Jud. 19:21. Today in most of the world quite some effort goes into preparing roads and pathways with pavement and landscaping so that the accumulation of dirt on feet and/or shoes as we move about is minimal. Furthermore, walking itself is generally only a short-distance mode of travel. It is true that, where these modern circumstances prevail, the custom of washing feet before entry has no relevancy.

In Exodus we see a ritualized derivation of the period custom wherein God's instructions for the temple included a lavar provided for the Priesthood to wash feet and hands

before entering the vicinity of the altar. This was to avoid offense, in this case, to God. The instruction was based upon a presumption of need to remove filth before entering a clean place and was specifically applicable to the Priesthood approaching the altar. We can see that the purpose and specificity of the instructions as well as those instructed precludes relevancy of these instructions to the practice instituted by Christ (Ex. 30:19; 30:21; 40:31).

Were there other applications of Feet Washing in the Scriptures?

In the New Testament (Luke 7:36-47) we encounter feet washing as an expression of love and gratitude. Jesus contrasted the event against the customary courtesy of the times. After dinner, a sinful woman who knew that Jesus was dining at Simon the Pharisee's house sought Him out and tenderly washed His feet with her tears. She kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment. Simon was critical, but Jesus chastised him crediting her gesture to the love she felt for having been forgiven her sin. Jesus recognized that Simon—not having been forgiven of sin such as hers—did not understand her feelings.

Some key observations (Luke 7:36-47):

- Jesus' feet were not being washed upon arrival but after eating. It had nothing to do with cleaning before entering.
- Jesus did not wash His own feet, nor did a servant of the house.
- The sinful woman was overcome with gratitude and love for Christ because He had forgiven her. She washed with her tears and anointed His feet with ointment. Again, nothing to do with dirt.
- Jesus clearly understood the gesture to be an expression of love, gratitude, and humility. He was pleased to accept the gesture.
- The Pharisee's failure to extend customary courtesies was an indication of his lack of a relationship with Christ.

This act of love and gratitude had nothing to do with dirty feet. While it

was a clear departure from the simple custom of expedience, it was not the institution of Feet Washing as an ordinance of the Gospel. However, it did have some of the elements of the ordinance Jesus later instituted in the upper room.

It might be noted here that some have dared to hint that this incident had something to do with carnal feelings the woman might have had for Jesus or vice versa. This is absurd. Aside from the fact that such a relationship would have been completely inconsistent with everything Jesus did while He lived on this earth, the scenario described by Luke could hardly be construed as part of any romantic affair.

Actually, the Old Testament does hold precedent for the act of one washing another's feet as a demonstration of humility and gratitude. See I Samuel 25, especially verse 41. Here Abigail, who was being asked by King David to become his wife, expressed her humility by offering to be only a servant to wash the feet of David's servants.

Can we determine what Jesus had in mind in the upper room? Not dirty feet.

The thirteenth chapter of John tells us of the example Jesus set as a prototype for the Feet Washing Service we have today. Here Jesus was gathered with His followers for what has come to be known as The Last Supper. As the dinner ended...

John 13:

3. Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself.

5. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, And to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7. Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now;

but thou shalt know hereafter.

8. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

This was not a scenario comprised of travelers with dirty feet. Rather this was a very tight group of comrades having just completed a very special dinner with their Master. Most of the Apostles, being accustomed to Jesus doing things when and how He saw fit, did not resist this humble, generous act. Peter, stricken by his own unworthiness, rigidly refused to allow the Master to assume such a humble position with respect to him.

If we compare ourselves, outside of the Gospel we would hardly allow any friend to lower himself this way. Certainly we can understand the position Peter took. Jesus was not just another friend. He was the Master. In effect, Peter was saying, "Lord, I love you too much to allow you to lower yourself to wash my feet." When Jesus answered that Peter's refusal to be washed would serve to permanently disassociate him from the Lord, Peter was taken aback and exclaimed his acceptance. At this instant we can see that Peter had to love Jesus even more to allow Him to wash than to refuse Him. The mutual love flowing between Peter and Jesus was the Love of God, the greatest gift that Jesus brought from the Father.

9. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit; and ye are clean, but not all.

11. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. In fact, Peter went overboard, thinking of the washing as a cleansing—as was the customary purpose—he asked for a complete washing. Again, the Lord set him straight. Peter had been baptized. He was not in need of cleansing. The Feet Washing was not for cleansing.

So we can see clearly that Jesus used the washing of His disciples' feet as another means to show His love. If

He had wanted to clean their feet He would have done so before dinner, not after. If it wasn't a matter of love, He would have offered them water to wash their own feet before entering.

Furthermore, Jesus went on to establish that this sharing of God's love was the experience Jesus wanted to create, for that moment and for future experiences among those who would follow Him. The declaration to Peter, "thou hast no part with me," should ring in the ears of anyone who would omit this practice from our service to the Lord:

12. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13. Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet: ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Clearly, as important as Jesus found it to convey His love to His disciples, He also found it just as important that they should convey the Love of God for each other. Specifically, He prescribed Feet Washing as an essential means of expressing this Love. Not only is humility a necessity to wash another's feet, but as we saw with Peter, to allow oneself to be washed can be an act of humility in itself.

Did Feet Washing continue in the Church after Jesus was crucified?

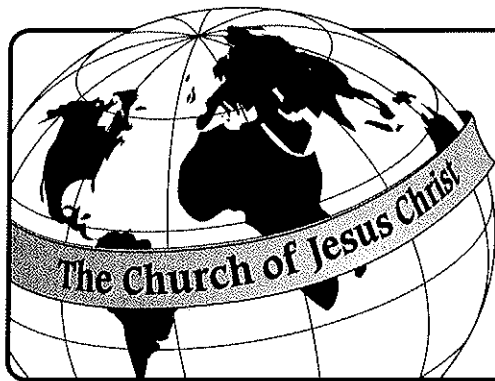
The practice of Feet Washing is evidenced among the early saints by Paul's description of a saintly widow as one who participated in Feet Washing:

I Tim. 5:

9. Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.

10. Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if

(Continued on Page 11)



A message from the Seventy

Ordinations in Peru

By Evangelist Richard Christman

On March 26, Brother Juan Mestes was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Miguel Bicelis washed Brother Juan's feet and Apostle Paul Palmieri ordained him. A beautiful and powerful spirit was present during the ordination. Brother Juan was the first minister to be ordained in Peru since the Church existed in the period recorded in the Book of Mormon. Sister Carmen Mestes, Brother Juan's wife, was ordained a Deaconess the same day. Evangelists Phil Jackson and Dick Christman, along with Sisters Patricia Christman and Melissa Bicelis, were also present.

Brother Palmieri conducted an intensive training program for Brother Juan who attended the daily sessions of four to five hours. The brothers were very impressed with his eagerness to learn the Restoration and all aspects of the ordinances and doctrine of the Church. He had several experiences regarding his calling as a Minister.

Brother Juan works hard as a stone cutter to support his family. He also assists his wife in her sale of jewelry and tourist items; yet he devotes his energy to the welfare of the Church and the congregation with enthusiasm and dedication. He has been blessed with a fine family who are active in the work of the Mission.

Sister Carmen Mestes stated that she saw Brother Paul Palmieri in a dream prior to his arrival. Anna Cordano also had a dream that two men were coming with an important message, and she saw her dream come to fulfillment when she met Brothers Paul and Phil.

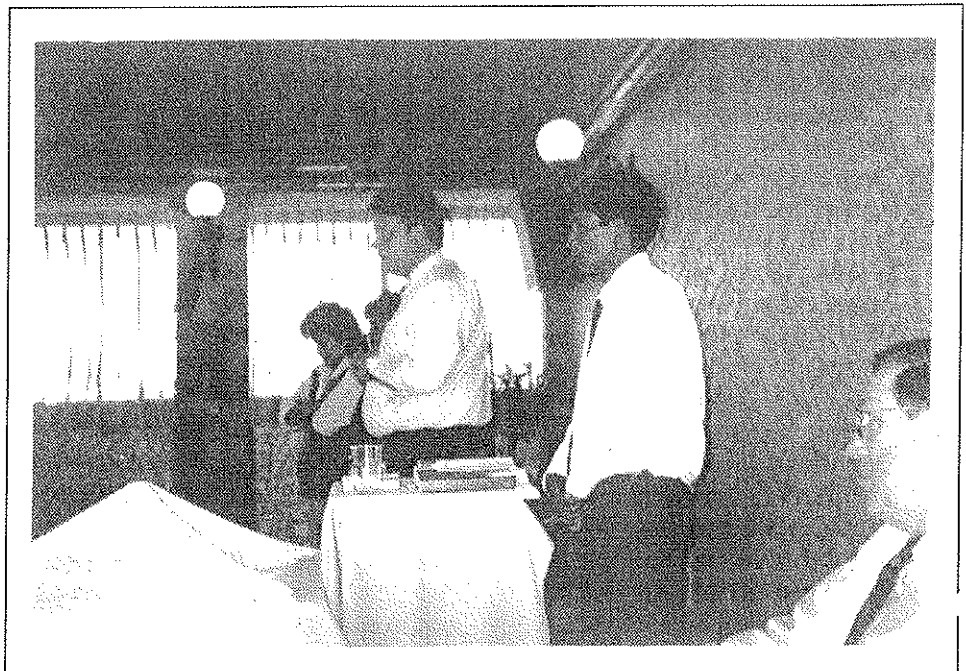
We had the opportunity to pray for many young people who wanted God's direction in their lives. In addition, families asked for prayer and first-time visitors, feeling the spirit of prayer, got up and expressed a need for prayer. We all felt God's direction in our services and feel He directed us and provided for us throughout our trip.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN

Several young sisters volunteered to teach the Sabbath School classes and are anxious to learn more about the Church and the scriptures. They had many good questions. Brother Jackson was blessed in his presentation to the group, along with Brother Palmieri. We had obstacles to overcome as Satan always tries to discourage the work; but God overcame all obstacles and blessed our efforts. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was preached and His presence was felt, as well as the presence of heavenly visitors.

On this trip, God provided us with an excellent place to meet. It is very suitable for Church services and has multiple Sunday School classrooms. It is in a nice neighborhood with good accessibility.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Peru. The economy is very bad and it is difficult for young people to obtain jobs even though they are trained. Many families have to forego sending their children to school because of financial hardship. We pray that God will prosper the land of Peru as they obey the Gospel.



Sister Carmen Mestes, Brother Miguel Bicelis, Brother Juan Mestes and Apostle Paul Palmieri in Peru at Brother Mestes' ordination.

EXPERIENCES RECEIVED

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The word judge has a number of meanings. According to the dictionary, it can mean: To sit in judgment upon; to pass sentence upon; condemn; to arrive at or draw a conclusion; to have as an opinion or assumption; suppose.

As you read these definitions, is it any wonder that the Lord commanded all men that we are not to judge one another? The Lord commanded us in Matthew 7: 1-2 that we are not to judge another. He emphatically commanded, *Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.* He went on to ask why do we see the mote that is in our brother's eye, but do not consider the beam that is in our own eye. The Lord also said, Are we to say to our brother, let me take out the mote in your eye when we have a beam in our eye? Those who judge, those who see the mote in another's eye but cannot see the beam in their own eye are called hypocrites by the Lord. The Lord states we are to cast out the beam in our eye before we can "clearly" cast the mote out of our brother's eye.

Human nature is such that we look at the faults and shortcomings of others without seeing our own. We look at the failures of others and make quick and immediate judgments. According to the Lord, this is not acceptable. If it were, many would never have been accepted into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many would never have had a chance to express their repentance and had it accepted in human terms. Consider a couple of examples from scripture.

The scripture informs us that Zeezrom was expert in the devices of the devil. He was a lawyer and expert in the use of words. He gave Alma and Amulck a very difficult time. He tried to twist their words and convey to the people that Alma and Amulek were not telling the truth. Zeezrom tried with every word to tempt Alma and Amulek. Zeezrom was so cunning that Amulek called him a "child of hell!"

It was not long after this encounter that Zeezrom sought out Alma and Amulek. He was tormented and realized what he had said and done was wrong in the sight of the Lord. Because of his iniquities, Zeezrom's soul was in spiritual pain. He was also very sick with bodily pain and fever. Zeezrom called for Alma and Amulek. What did Alma and Amulek do? Did they ignore him? Did they ignore his plea, his call for help? Did they go another way? Did they pass judgment upon Zeezrom? The answer to all of these questions is no! Neither Alma or Amulek judged Zeezrom. In spite of all the difficulty and trouble Zeezrom had created for Alma and Amulek, they went to see him to try to heal his body and more importantly, save his soul through the power of God and God's word. Alma and Amulek did not let their human nature interfere with the work of God. Their role was to preach salvation and bring redemption to the wayward body of people. Alma preached salvation and redemption to Zeezrom. He accepted, repented and was baptized in the name of the Lord. If Alma and Amulek had judged Zeezrom, he would never have become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

According to the law, the adulterous woman was to be stoned. She was brought before the Lord by the Scribes and Pharisees. They wanted to tempt the Lord to see how He would handle the situation. Those who gathered around her had passed judgment by their accusations, and wanted to carry out the law and their judgment. What happened? The Lord was there and simply said in John 8:7, *He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.* When the Lord made this statement, they were convicted by their own conscience. They all left the scene, leaving only the Lord and the adulterous woman. The Lord then addressed the woman, *Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?* Her response, *No man, Lord.* The Lord then said to her, *Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"God Will Prune His Vines"

Dear Boys and Girls,

Many times I talk to friends at Church who are going through a hard time and feel terribly shocked and disappointed.

"Why me?" they say. "I didn't do something wrong! I'm not a bad person. Why is this happening to me? Is God mad at me?"

Sometimes I've seen people, even myself feeling so scared and upset at first that they become very sad and confused. Sometimes people even want to give up. Or they withdraw (go inside themselves) and refuse to talk about their fears and heartaches.

What is going on? And what can we do to help our brother, sister, and friend? The Bible tells us in John 15 that we are like plants. We are like a branch on a strong vine. As the vine grows from the earth, many little branches spring out to grow. Each branch has the ability to grow fruit (do good things) as long as it is securely attached to the main vine, as we are attached to Jesus through prayer. The main vine is like Jesus, our Lord. The little branches will never be thirsty as long as they are attached to the vine. The main vine (Jesus) also holds up the little branches when terrible storms or winds come, known as troubles in life.

So, what can we say to a friend, a little branch of Jesus, who is getting hurt by the troubles in life?

We can remind them that Jesus loves them. We can pray to Jesus to help them through the hard time. We



can physically go over to be with them, visit with them. Play with them even if they are sad or angry or suffering. If you are worried about it, pray for words of kindness while we talk. Then listen.

Remind them that we are branches that get our strength from the true vine, Jesus. In John 15:2, Jesus tells us that He is the Vine and God is the Husbandman, or Creator of the garden. Jesus tells us that every little branch that grows fruit also must be purged, trimmed and cut. When the main gardener does this, the little branches are at first much smaller, and almost in shock. But, then they grow far more beautifully and bring forth much more fruit.

This means that after you go through a terrible heartache and suffer, you will have learned many things. You will understand the pain of someone else, and be proof that Jesus can help bring them through their problem too. You will be a stronger branch with more to offer others.

Don't give up on your little branch if it is being pruned or swished about in a storm. Call on Jesus. Read His promises to take care of you. Remember that when a branch is pruned, we come back stronger and more beautiful inside with more ability to help others (more fruit.) Reach out and help another branch. There is something you can do. You can always pray inside for others.

The Lord loves every one of His little branches. He knows you; He cares for you.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

MATTHEW	PRUNE
FIFTEEN	IT
JESUS	AND
IS	GOOD
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O	A	J	E	A	N	D	P
M	P	R	N	W	I	L	L

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Missionary
Benevolent
Association

Go Tell It on the Mountain

By Brother Joseph Bogle

Even though it was the coldest night of the year, great warmth was felt as we entered the Monongahela building. Members of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA began our traditional winter activity with a delicious covered dish dinner, which was enjoyed by all. Brother Larry Ali, Area President, welcomed everyone and made mention of those who stand in need of prayer. He continued by reminding us that there is a need for hunters and fishers in the Gospel. The young people sang, *Wave the Flags of Zion*. Brother Matthew Kurowsky offered the opening prayer.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., Area Chaplain, admonished us regarding the seriousness of spreading the Gospel.

The seminar was taught by Brother Joel Gehly, from the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch, who stated, "I hope to make this seminar an open discussion and exchange of ideas on missionary work for each and every

member of the Church. We have been given the great privilege to live in a time which is of extreme importance to God as He establishes the final Kingdom of God on the face of the earth. I feel that this seminar topic should reinforce the understanding of that great Kingdom and the duty of each individual to work for its fulfillment. Everyone has a part to play."

Brother Gehly was assisted by Brother Richard Lawson of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Dick read Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 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 always, even unto the end of the world." Amen.

We learned from the verses that action is required; however there is a promise with it that God will be with us always. The blessings come to each one when they share their testimony. The congregation then sang, *To the Work*.

Brother Larry Ali concluded by asking if we are ready to be mountain climbers. Prepare yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually.

We closed with hymn, *If You*

Would Labor in Zion. The closing prayer was offered by Brother Joshua Nicklow.

Campout 2000

Response to camp has been very good this year. Unfortunately our space for accommodations is very limited. At the time of printing, there are no open rooms remaining. There may be some remaining space left in existing rooms. Please inquire with Sister Julie Gibson (248) 608-6780 regarding any open space. There are a number of hotels within 30 minutes of the camp. Some of these are:

Ramada Inn, Ligonier—
(724) 238-9545
Wingate Inn—(724) 861-9000
Days Inn, Donegal—
(724) 593-7536
Sheraton/Four Points,
Greensburg—
(724) 836-6060
Holiday Inn, Greensburg—
(724) 838-7070
Comfort Inn, Greensburg—
(724) 832-2600



Branch and
Mission News

Miami-Dade, FL Mission

By Sister Betty Gennaro

On Sunday, April 2, 2000, the saints of the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission were given abundant blessings through the word of God. Brother Bryan Griffith and Sister Melissa Bicelis sang a beautiful hymn, *Thy Sea So Great, My Boat So Small*.

Brother Richard Christman,

visiting Evangelist, opened our meeting. He and his wife, Sister Pat, recently returned from Peru. Brother Dick shared with us that there is a newly ordained Elder in Peru, Brother Juan Mestas, and his wife, Sister Carmen, was ordained a Deaconess.

Brother Dick used Ether 2:22-25 as his scripture for the service. He related how the Brother of Jared asked the Lord, "Wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness?" Because of his faith, the Lord prepared sixteen stones to be light for them in their ships. We are not all sailors, but we all have to make the voyage of life. A child comes into life with no skills at all and has to face this darkness. So God gives us parents to

guide us through life. A sailor knows and recognizes the value of light, especially a lighthouse. In our spiritual lives, God is our lighthouse. A couple with us today was provided the Light for over ninety years of life. They journeyed through difficult economic times, providing for a large family. God touched Brother Nicholas Ritz at the age of fifteen, and his wife, Sister Pauline at thirteen. They have been true to that Light and this has been beneficial to them and their family.

We are all vessels. This body carries us through this life and it will age and eventually go down to the grave. Only God knows our future.

(Continued on Page 8)

Miami-Dade, FL Mission

Continued from Page 7

"Behold I prepare you against these things for you cannot cross save I prepare you." How many would like to go on a trip for ninety years or so without light for direction?

Brother Dick thanked God for this lighthouse. He thanked God for Jesus Christ who has helped him many times in his life. God gives us that precious gift of light and you do not have to answer many questions, just two. They are: "Do you repent of your sins? Do you promise to serve God all the days of your life?" God is the Giver of that great light. He gives us a little ahead of time if you seek it out. He gives you enough light so you can make the right decision. He continues to shine it until we see the light on the other shore.

Between birth and death, there are so many storms and trials. "Never mind the tossing billows, I will still thy pilot be." Jesus Christ is the Light of our life. At the conclusion of Brother Dick's sermon we sang, *We Are Walking in the Light*.

Brother Justin Severson continued stating, "Those that acknowledge the truth find the Light." God elaborates His truth in the Gospels. St. John I mentions witness of the light. From the naked eye, we cannot see colors, but taking a prism to the light, you can see the colors. We are the prisms today, witnesses of the light. Let your light so shine as a candle. May we be strengthened and be good representatives of the True Light.

Brother Miguel Bicelis referred to Samuel, the Lamanite, prophesying the time for Christ to be born. There would be light for thirty-six hours, no darkness at the appointed time, simply light as if one continuous day. A visitor in the Peru Mission had a beautiful experience. As they were ordaining Brother Juan Mestas as an Elder, she saw a blinding pure white light and felt electricity go through her body. This glorifies God and gives witness to the power of the Gospel. Through the darkness comes the light. Christ is the Light of the world. Let the Light of God shine in our life that we may glorify Him.

Atlanta, Georgia Gathering

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

On Saturday, April 8, 2000, brothers and sisters from Russellville, Alabama joined the Atlanta, Georgia brothers and sisters in the home of Brother Mark and Sister Kelly Kovacic. What a wonderful, blessed evening we had! After having a delicious picnic supper, we retired to the living room where Brother Oswaldo Gonzalez played his guitar and he and the other saints from Russellville sang hymns in Spanish for us. Though none of us understood much of what the brothers and sisters were saying, they along with us, all understood a universal language. The language of God's love was being spoken and we all felt and understood. Sister Berta Gonzalez, Brother Ozzie's mother, was visiting from Tijuana, Mexico. She gave her testimony, with the help of Brother Alfredo Mora's translation, of how she met the Church through Brother and Sister Perdue. Sister Azar, Brother Alfredo's wife, then gave her testimony of how after moving to Alabama from Mexico, it wasn't their natural families that they missed as much as their spiritual family. We were all blessed greatly to witness their sincerity and humility, and we all were touched by the loving spirit that this group carries with them. After such a wonderful evening, it was hard to take our leave but would all meet together for the Sabbath.

Sunday dawned cool and sunny as we met in Fayetteville, just south of Atlanta. Along with our brothers and sisters from Alabama, we were joined by the saints from the Mid-Georgia Mission. On this day, we had forty-seven in attendance for Sunday School. Our Sunday School lesson was centered on the gifts that we receive from God. Brother Sam Kunkel, adult class teacher, pointed out that we must take notice of all the adjectives and appreciate all of the gifts even more. For example, "exceeding, great joy, and loving kindness." As Sunday School closed, we all looked forward to the

morning service, for today we would also celebrate the ordinance of feet washing with all of our brothers and sisters.

After a few hymns and a warm welcome from our Presiding Elder, Brother Mark Kovacic, Brother Ron Morle opened the service reading about Jesus instituting the ordinance of feet washing by washing His disciples' feet and how this act exemplifies Jesus' life, His humility, His love and His long suffering. Brother Art Campbell, Teacher from the Mid-Georgia Mission, then gave a few remarks about how we as saints of God all share the same love, no matter where we are or what language we speak. As we were partaking of the Lord's Supper, Brother Oswaldo played and sang the *Twenty-Third Psalm* for us. Before testimony, we enjoyed a hymn from the entire Russellville group. We enjoyed many testimonies and all of us were greatly blessed by things we heard. Before we began our feet washing service, Brother Bill Kunkel asked to be anointed. He suffers greatly from arthritis and recently took a fall. He was anointed by Brother Malcolm Paxon, and in just a short time Brother Bill stated that he felt better already. God is so good to each of us! We have but to ask. Our feet washing service ended as it had begun; with such a feeling of love and humility. What a wonderful day so far. We were feeling some of that exceeding, great joy we had talked about earlier.

After we were dismissed, we all partook of a great lunch prepared by our sisters and had a wonderful time of fellowship. As everyone began to reluctantly depart for their homes, we were all truly filled. We were filled with all of the best that God offers.

Three Called in Dallas-Ft. Worth

By Sister Amy D'Orazio

The Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas Branch was blessed to dedicate a new building to the Lord's work on Febru-

ary 26, 2000. The blessing was tripled during the meeting, when the membership and visitors from far and wide saw the Lord's purpose fulfilled as three new souls asked for their baptisms.

The weekend began on Saturday evening with a singspiration. Great joy and excitement was felt by all as we greeted brothers and sisters from California, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Florida.

During the opening prayer, Brother Albert Giannetti asked the Lord to give us blessings so great "that these four walls could not contain them." The Lord immediately responded that He would give us blessings such that the walls had never heard before.

The singing was blessed with His Spirit and during the singing of *Sheltered in the Arms of God*, tongues were spoken with the interpretation of "Find yourselves within My arms, for you will find safety there, thus saith the Lord." A number of beautiful testimonies were also given that night. One in particular was given by soon to be Sister Mary Casillas who testified that her heart was pounding so hard and the spirit she felt was so great, she could hardly speak.

The Sunday meeting was also blessed with a beautiful spirit. Apostle Peter Scolaro spoke on the dedication of the temple and how Solomon asked that the Lord might dwell therein. Apostle Isaac Smith followed, exhorting the group to build their spiritual houses on the foundation of Christ. The brothers then asked if anyone was in need of prayer. Sister Mary Casillas quickly asked to be anointed, and after prayer, asked for her baptism. After the meeting, Sister Esperanza Cruz and Sister Blanca Esthela Monsivais also felt the spirit of repentance and requested baptism.

The three sisters were baptized on March 5, 2000. Sister Esperanza and Sister Blanca were baptized by Brother Tom D'Orazio and Sister Mary was baptized by Brother Joseph Ignagni. All three sisters were confirmed by Brother Joseph Ignagni. What a beautiful inauguration for our new building! Remember us in your prayers.

Conference Brings Visitor to Aliquippa, PA

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On April 17, 2000, the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch held a special meeting to afford Brother Rosario Scravaglieri, from Italy, the opportunity to speak to the saints from the branch, surrounding branches and even visitors from the Ohio-Midwest Region. Interpreting for Brother Scravaglieri was Brother Andrew Locci from the Rochester, New York Mission.

Brother Rosario told us that when we travel for the Lord, He is always with us. His pattern is to preach that the Bible and the Book of Mormon are one in the hand of God. He tries to give our people in Italy a better understanding of the Book of Mormon. He preaches in a loud voice of the truth found in The Church of Jesus Christ, but the traditions are strong in the people of Italy and many don't understand.

He affirmed how important testimony is in the Church. Brother Scravaglieri himself came to know the Church through his father-in-law, who spoke to him of the Church's teachings, giving him a Bible and Book of Mormon to read. Through these teachings, he began to see how wrong his way of life had been. He found the saints to be humble and sincere in their worship. After attending, he had a dream in which a beautiful Personage stopped him from entering The Church of Jesus Christ until he asked if he was permitted to do so. He realized that the permission required was baptism.

The congregation sang, in Italian, *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder*, after which Brother Joel Gehly, Foreign Missionary Operating Committee Chairman, asked for our prayers for the Church in Italy. He expressed a confidence that, while there is currently an older membership in Italy, the Gospel will continue on there. He shared that one sister fasts each weekend for an increase. Faith such as this is a blessing to the Church. Brother Russ Martorana, from the

Liberty, Ohio Branch, shared with us the condition of his granddaughter, who has been sorely afflicted. He thanked everyone for their prayers and said that only prayers can sustain us during such trials. He and his wife, Sister Lena, are planning a trip to Italy to visit with the saints. Brother Locci told us that he has made two trips to Italy and confirmed that the people are hungry to hear the word of God.

Brothers Patrick and Jason Monaghan sang *There Shall be Showers of Blessings* with Brother Rosario, after which our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Carl Frammolino of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. We spent time in fellowship before our extended conference weekend drew to a close. We were blessed to have this opportunity and thank God for evenings like this.

An Experience

By Brother Mark Cotellesse

One night, I was very sad because I was struggling to grow closer to the Lord and having a difficult time. I suddenly had a desire not only to pray for myself, but for all the struggling young people in the Church.

I prayed with my whole heart and soul. When I fell asleep, I had the following dream. I dreamed that all the young people were in a field. I saw Jesus and in front of Him was the side of a mountain. He started running up the mountain with no problem. The young people started to run after Him, but the mountain was very muddy and slippery. The more we tried to climb the mountain, the more we would slip and fall. Finally, I found myself to be drained of energy and I could not move a muscle to climb the mountain. I fell in the mud and I could not go on. I had no more power. At that moment, I saw Jesus running back down the mountain. He picked me up and said, "You can make it. I will help you."

The whole point of this experience

(Continued on Page 10)

An Experience

Continued from Page 9

is that it doesn't matter how low you are or how down you are if you try your hardest and trust in the Lord. No matter how many times you fall, if you are sincere in your desire to serve Him, He will pick you back up and help you the rest of the way. God bless you.

Soul Surrendered in Forest Hills, FL

By Brother Dan Risola and Sister Hope Eutsey

The members of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch had a wonderful meeting on January 16, 2000. We started the Sabbath by listening to Sister Christina Benyola sing *He Changed My Life Completely in a Moment*. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., then opened the service with Mark 16:14-18, speaking on the definition of a saint. Brother John Griffith followed by noting there are greater things than miracles. Do we praise the miracles, or do we praise and serve the One who made the miracle. He exhorted us on the inward change we have and how our baptism is the outward evidence of that change. All things are possible through God. During testimony service, Milford Eutsey, III, related how he had been praying to the Lord for direction in his life. He was shown Acts 2: 37-38, where their hearts were pricked and Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Milford continued to pray as he felt he had sinned so much and needed more from the Lord. He was then given the scripture of the prodigal son which Milford read to us during his testimony. He then said that he was like the prodigal son and was hungry and had seen the saints feasting and he too wanted to serve the Lord and be baptized. Sister Carolyn Griffith then testified of a dream she had where she told someone who was arguing about what is different about this Church and she said that we have t

he Restored Gospel. Brother Scott Griffith gave thanks to God because he was contemplating during the week of who would open the meeting and his mind went to Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., confirming the spirit of unity.

The following Sunday, we gathered at the water's edge to witness this outward sign of an inward change. Brother Milford Eutsey, III was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, II. When we returned to the branch, the children's choir beautifully sang, *Let It Shine*. Brother John Griffith opened the service by reading scriptures regarding baptism and the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Milford Eutsey, III was then confirmed by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. Brother Tony Calabrese, visiting from Lorain, Ohio with his wife, Sister Ally, followed with Hebrews 10:22-25, speaking of your baptized life from birth to death and holding your faith. Brother Sam Risola, Jr., continued by remarking on how seeing the baptism brought back remembrance of his baptism. He read Alma 7:14-16. We thank God for prayers answered on behalf of Brother Milford Eutsey, III.

Trip to Mexico

Continued from Page 1

Church and its people. He asked for his baptism. We met in the home and discussed with him the responsibilities of being a member. His wife was there and she was so very sad—they had a child that she lost eight months into her pregnancy. I marveled at this young woman. She was a full-blooded Native American. We spent hours in that home talking about the Church and trying to encourage them with the love of God.

We met a family and they told me their testimony. The husband was shot several times by a robber and badly wounded. Brother Arturo Martinez was out knocking on doors. He came to this house and met this family and presented the Church to them. The wife explained the circumstances to Brother Arturo. He then told them that

the Church would pray for this man and invited them to the Church for a prayer service for her family. The woman was very excited about the love that Brother Arturo showed them. From that time on, they started attending our Church and soon they were baptized. Upon their conversion, their children turned against them because they joined our Church. He told his children that they would not leave The Church of Jesus Christ and in a matter of time, things smoothed over after they had received much persecution. I got along with this man in a wonderful manner. They are beautiful saints.

One of the experiences that was had at the water's edge during baptism was when Brother Enrique Acosta was in the water preparing to baptize. He heard a voice say, "Enrique, you have the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to baptize these people." A woman had another experience. She had a vision and she saw the heavens open and saw a huge eye looking down at her. We had a beautiful time at the water's edge. God blessed us with wonderful experiences.

Sunday morning, I gave a Sunday School lesson on the precious things that were removed from the Scriptures. I was blessed with presenting this lesson to the brothers and sisters in Mexico. I had to emphasize that the Church is the same in Mexico as it is in the United States. We also had the confirmations of the two converts, as well as several ordinations. One of the experiences that came forth confirming the ordinations was a dream that Brother Enrique Acosta had. He asked the Lord for help and the Lord told him to "take two certain Deacons and make them Teachers, and as time goes on, I will take one of these Teachers and make one an Elder." He asked when all this was to happen and the Lord told him that when the coordinator for Mexico comes to visit, that these ordinations would take place.

We met a family of six that lived in one room, a small room, with one bed. I asked where everyone slept. They told me that the four children sleep in the bed and the parents sleep on the concrete floor. Brother Hector and I both felt that we needed to get

this family some beds. So, we headed downtown, and took care of the matter. We also bought them some chairs, so they would have somewhere to sit. These are the conditions that exist in the Church in Mexico. This man has a job where he rides a bike and makes deliveries. He rents the bike. I asked him how much he would need to buy this bike. He told us that he would need \$300. So this is my next project, to raise \$300 to buy this man a bike. If he could own his own bike, he could more adequately support his family.

We spent a lot of time visiting and encouraging the saints. We attended several baptisms and had ordinations. It was a wonderful and blessed trip.

There are many needs for the work in Mexico. We need brothers and sisters to get involved in this work. So please, be prayerful that God might bless this work and provide workers. We must be prayerful that this work continues to grow.

Feet Washing

Continued from Page 3

she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Why is Feet Washing still important today?

In addition to the fact that, in the upper room, Jesus called it an example to be followed, we must realize that Feet Washing is one of the practices that He implemented to sustain the conveyance of the Love of God from disciple to disciple. In Feet Washing we seek not the love of a man for his wife, a mother for her daughter, or any such. Rather, as did Jesus, we seek to manifest the Love of God. This goes back to the two great commandments that Jesus declared:

Matt. 22:

37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38. This is the first and great

commandment.

39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. When we "do as I have done" we must avoid allowing our spirits or intentions to be tainted with a lack of belief or understanding. Hiding in the comfort of our fleshly relationships by regularly seeking family members to wash or be washed by can deprive us of the complete fellowship of the Gospel. Consider the Lord's view on fleshly relationships as compared to spiritual: Matt 12:

46. While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

47. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

49. And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

50. For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Let us view each other as Jesus views us. He has already shown how He would behave in a Feet Washing meeting. Let us take pause from our daily burdens and let the Love of God envelope us so that we can experience the same love and divine fellowship that our early brothers did at the last supper with Jesus.

- Focus on the service. Try to stay engaged by remembering Christ's love for us and considering the love that we have for each other. Avoid drifting into other thoughts during the times that you are not involved in washing or being washed.

- Try to participate fully by both washing someone's feet and having your feet washed.

- Be ready to relieve others. Don't allow someone's physical stamina to become challenged such that

his or her spiritual blessing may be jeopardized. Likewise, do not attempt to carry out a marathon. Stamina is not an objective; the Love that was in the upper room is ours to experience through Christ and His Gospel. Truly, Jesus had tremendous vision when He wrapped that towel around Himself in that upper room. Let us allow that vision to be fulfilled in us, His Church of today.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

Can you imagine the feeling of this woman who was about to be stoned to death? She was judged and condemned by her peers and was about to be stoned. The Lord did not stone her or condemn her for her sin. She was forgiven by Jesus Christ.

These two examples show how man judges and has difficulty extending mercy to a wayward individual or individuals. They also show what happens when we allow the mercies of Jesus Christ to be manifest in our lives. They depict what happens when we follow the Spirit of God, His grace and His love. When we carry the love of God and His grace, we will not judge. We will work with sinful individuals and people to bring them the message of Jesus Christ, which is redemption and salvation. We must remember that we were sinners and Jesus Christ forgave us. Who are we not to forgive those around us that stand in need of forgiveness? We must possess the love of God so we will not judge but extend mercy, understanding, and forgiveness to those who need it. When you see someone that needs the Lord's help, please do not judge that person. What you want to do is remember that person in your prayers. Petition the Lord that He will have an effect on that person and rescue their soul through the preaching of His word and by the example of the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. Please do not judge. Remember, that is the Lord's business. Pray for those that need the Lord's help. He will reward you for your goodness and mercy.

Children Blessed

Gary Auguiste, son of Raphael and Helena Auguiste was blessed on the Island of Dominica on April 9, 2000.

Dary Auguiste, son of Raphael and Helena Auguiste was blessed on the Island of Dominica on April 9, 2000.

Trish Awnesha Cabey, daughter of Annette Cabey, was blessed on April 9, 2000 on the Island of Dominica.

Kyle Cabey, son of Annette Cabey, was blessed on April 9, 2000, on the Island of Dominica.

Kirk Edward Cabey, son of Annette Cabey, was blessed on April 9, 2000 on the Island of Dominica.

Alex Rooney, son of Brother Eric and Sister Rhonda Rooney, was blessed in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on March 20, 2000.

Kaitlin Nicole Kocuba, and Olivia Rae Kocuba, twin daughters of Gregory and Sister Cheryl Kocuba, were blessed on May 7, 2000 in the Butler, Pennsylvania Mission.

Braden Joshua Joswiak, son of Josh and Lisa Joswiak, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on March 13, 2000.

Toni Marie Schipani, daughter of Brother Tony and Luanne Schipani, was blessed on May 7, 2000 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Dominic Anthony Schipani, son of Brother Tony and Luanne Schipani, was blessed on May 7, 2000 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Fiftieth Anniversary

We wish to express our congratulations to those celebrating these significant spiritual milestones in their lives. May God bless you.

Sister Jean Pusateri of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch celebrated her fiftieth spiritual anniversary on June 4, 2000.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Note of Thanks

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls and all the thoughtfulness and cares which have brought me through until this day. God has heard all of you, and I pray to God that He repay each one of you for your concerns. Words cannot express my appreciation toward each one of you. May God's blessings and His love be upon each one of you.

Sister Anne Lovalvo

Baptisms

Eric Rooney was baptized on March 20, 2000 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Sam Risola, Jr.

Rhonda Rooney was baptized on March 20, 2000 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Jim Speck.

Shirley Connor was baptized on November 21, 1999, in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Benyola and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

Jared Bright was baptized on December 26, 1999, in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola.

Benjamin Bright was baptized on December 26, 1999 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Scaglione and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

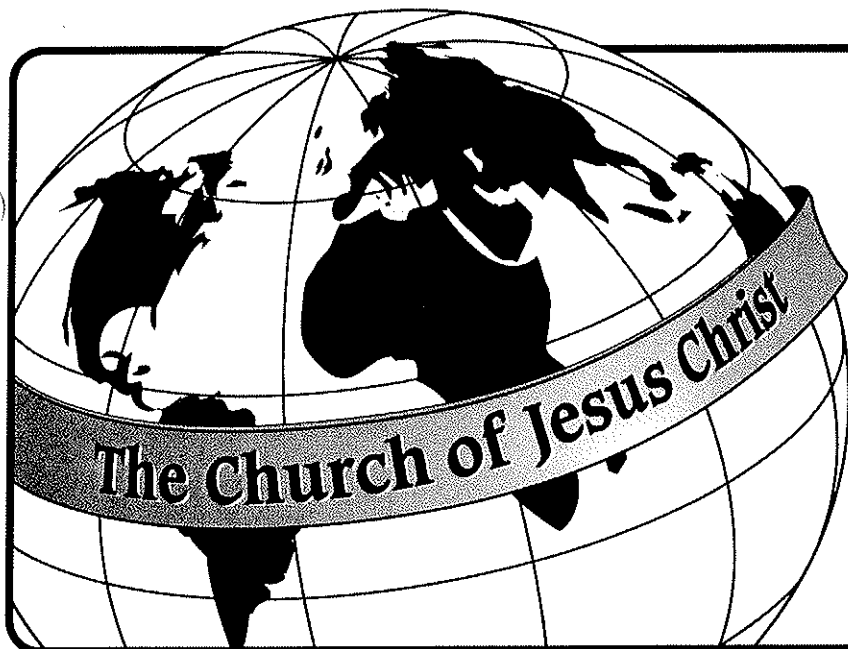
Tiffany Ann Swanger was baptized on December 19, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mike Hildenbrand and confirmed by Brother Rick Scaglione.

Shauna Kay Young Bonds was baptized on December 19, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was baptized by Brother Chat Young and confirmed by Brother Mike Hildenbrand.

Michael Maletta was baptized on December 19, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chat Young and confirmed by Brother George Timms.

Mfon Eka Udosen was baptized on December 26, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was baptized by Brother Chat Young and confirmed by Brother George Timms.

Chandra Kathleen Julianna Young was baptized on December 26, 1999 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was baptized by Brother Chat Young and confirmed by Brother Art Gehly, Sr.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

August, 2000

Volume 56, No. 8

Pacific Region Spiritual Conference March 4-5, 2000

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

As the saints met in Modesto, California for our Pacific Region Spiritual Conference, we were filled with anticipation for the weekend's activities, including seminars by age group and in the evening, the celebration of Apostle Joseph Lovalvo's 90th birthday. Brother Paul Liberto, Region President and the organizers had chosen the theme: *"The 21st Century-Where the Church Has Been and Where Is It Going?"* Each of the seminars carried a common thread of reflection upon what advances and changes, both positive and negative, were made in the last century both in our society and in The Church of Jesus Christ. The discussions were both thought provoking and exciting, as we recalled the prophecies of our Church regarding our hopes in the future, of reaching the world with this Gospel and the establishment of Zion and the Peaceful Reign upon the earth.

That night, all of us in the Pacific Region as well as many visitors from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona and New Jersey gathered to honor Brother Joe Lovalvo at his 90th birthday party. There were

slides of his life shown on the screen and the hymn was played, *The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows*, which has surely been the theme of Brother Joe's life for his many years of Ministry in our Church. Many family members, friends and brothers and sisters came forward to speak of Brother Joe's love, wisdom and service to God on this happy occasion.

On Sunday, we met together again at the Modesto Branch for our meeting in great anticipation of God's blessings and to hear the words our brothers would speak to us. The Pacific Region recognized Brother Paul Liberto and Brother Edmund Buccellato with an award for twenty-five years of dedicated service in the Ministry, with loving appreciation for all they have done.

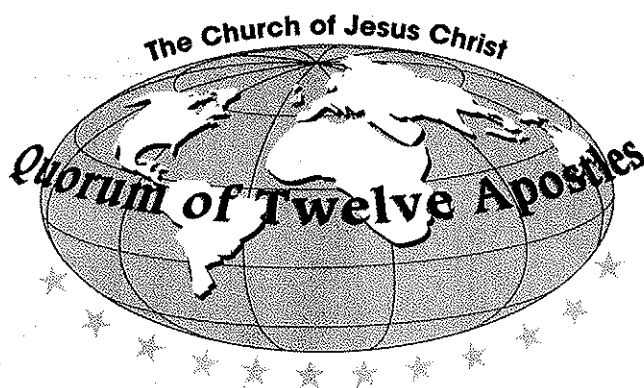
Apostle Paul Palmieri spoke first of the Peaceful Reign. Our goal as a Church is to move the Church in this direction so we can be happy and live in God's Kingdom on earth. We now have brothers in Kenya, Dominica, Italy and Peru. The Gospel of Jesus Christ going to all the world is not a dream anymore, as in the days of William Bickerton. Brother Paul then

explained what it means to be *"of the world,"* anything which keeps us from serving God is of the world, be it our family, our jobs, or the determination to acquire possessions. We have to be willing to put God first in our lives. Will we, or will it have to be the next group of people who come along? As long as we live righteous lives, God will move the Church forward. We see a great movement in the world, but the Gospel is going to move throughout this land as well, through the branches of the Church. He asked us, *"Isn't it our responsibility to tell our neighbors and friends what God has done for us, not to bring them in for numbers, but so that their souls might be saved?"*

Brother Isaac Smith, Sr., followed, speaking of his conversion and how he was called to go out on the Indian reservation to be of service to the Lord. He exhorted all of those who have not yet accepted the calling of God to serve Him in their youth and not to put off the opportunity to be part of the things of the Lord when you feel the Spirit calling. He recounted the words God spoke to him, to take the Gospel to the Spanish speaking people now because God's people are among them.

Brother Jim Lovalvo spoke next, reminding us of Christ's words, *"Greater things than these will you*

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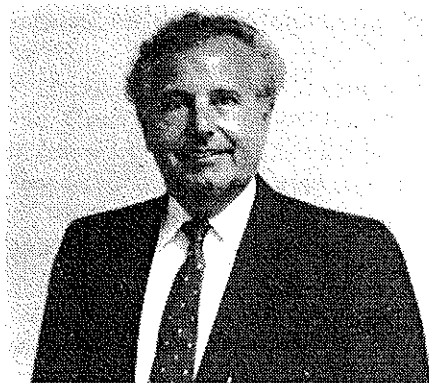


Righteousness

By Apostle Paul Benyola

What is righteousness? Are we a righteous people? Are you a righteous person?

What is righteousness? Do we consider ourselves a righteous people? Are you a righteous person? Before we can answer these questions let us consider the Ten Commandments given by God through Moses. Are they outdated? Were they given only to Israel in the wilderness to transform them from the slave mentality that they acquired while in servitude to the



Apostle Paul Benyola

Egyptians? Were they given to raise their natural and spiritual consciousness to allow them to become a free nation?

We believe that God's Commandments were given to all mankind throughout the ages of time. They transformed our will from a tendency to obey the desires of the flesh that could enslave us to raising our natural

and spiritual consciousness that allows us, through His Holy Spirit, to live a life dedicated to following God's commandments.

The definition of Righteousness is: Living in accord with God's commandments.

As we study the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17) 3491 years after they were given to Israel, let us determine if they are outdated or are still applicable to us in the last millennium that we are living in.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Today, especially in America, we are blessed with a constitution that allows men to worship God freely. The original intent was for this nation to be united under the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. One God who is the God we read about in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Is this commandment still applicable in today's environment? The answer is a resounding "yes." Those that are looking to replace God with alternative "gods" have found no peace of mind and end up very disillusioned with life.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

Many nations made graven images and served these dumb idols as gods. We may not serve a "graven image" today but anything that may come between us and our love for God can become an idol to us. It

could be our love for playing golf on Sunday morning, which would prevent us from attending church, or it could be a home, car, boat, family or any other thing that we would place first in our life before God.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.

If we quote God or His beloved son Jesus Christ, are we using their names in a reverent manner? Are our actions a reflection of our words? Do we use God's name with curse words? We hear children as young as 3 years old using God's name in vain. Who taught them to do this? We are role models for our children; God cannot be pleased with the language used by many in today's society.

IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The followers of Jesus Christ celebrate Sunday, the Day of Jesus' Resurrection, as our Sabbath day. Do we observe Sunday as a day set aside to worship God, partake of communion, give our testimony, and visit the sick or fellowship with one another in the love of Jesus Christ?

V. Honour thy father and thy mother.

Our father and mother should be respected and loved, especially if they are abiding by the commandments of God. Today there are many that have no respect for their parents and sometimes do bodily harm to them. How do we treat our parents? Is it different today then it was 3491 years ago?

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

The Bible distinguishes between killing and murdering. Cain murdered Abel. The Israelites were sometimes commanded to kill their enemies. Some were forced to kill in defense of their family and country. We read too often where children murder others in their school and where others murder their fellow

citizens in brutal senseless acts of violence.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

This is very clear. One out of two marriages are failing in America. Many of the failures are due to the breaking of this commandment. Did God foresee the importance of including this as the seventh commandment?

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

If you can't buy it don't steal it. The laws of the land will place you in prison for stealing. The challenge is not to steal even if the law officers of the land cannot catch you. God knows each of our thoughts. Is taking office supplies from your employer stealing?

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Don't start or spread malicious untrue rumors that can literally destroy persons, families and church congregations. Tell the truth in all cases. Don't lie.

X. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbour's.

Don't be jealous of your neighbor's possessions. Remember that your neighbor may have a lot of personal possessions but may also have a tremendous debt load to carry. Be content with what God gave you. Have peace of mind; this is your greatest possession.

Jesus also gave us other commandments.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self."

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:37-40).

"If ye love me, keep my

commandments" (John 14:15).

How well did you do in responding to each of the commandments? Jesus expects us to keep His commandments if we love Him. Can improvement be made in some areas?

Are we a righteous people?

When Jesus established the Church in Jerusalem He said, *"this is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you"* (John 15:12).

He gave us the great commission: *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in the 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 always, even to the end of the world. Amen"* (Matt. 28:18-19).

In the upper room the Church was *"filled with the Holy Ghost"* (Acts 2: 1-4).

Within 560 years, the Church established by Jesus gradually declined from its purity into a complete apostasy from the original teachings.

The reformation proved that there were many sincere people seeking to bring the church back to Jesus' original establishment but their efforts were not successful.

God recognized the need to restore The Church of Jesus Christ to the original beautiful simplicity that His Son Jesus Christ established in Jerusalem. In 1827 God selected a young man, Joseph Smith, to translate the Book of Mormon. On April 6, 1830 the true Gospel, using the scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon, along with the priesthood authority was restored (Rev. 14: 6-7, Isaiah 29:4, Ezekiel 37: 16-20).

The Church of Jesus Christ is following the "great commission" given to us by Jesus Christ and we are taking the Gospel to all nations. We also have a "special mission" to bring the Gospel to the Native Americans (Descendants of Joseph of Egypt). We also have a promise that a Choice

Seer will arise from the descendants of Joseph and he will convince *"them of my word, which shall have already gone amongst them"* (II Nephi 3: 5-25).

We have a great hope that the establishment of the "Stone Kingdom" (Peaceful Reign, Zion) on the earth will take place. It is a condition of peace that the world has never seen. As we reflect on this wonderful environment, described in Isaiah chapters 2, 11, 33, 51, 65 also 1st Nephi 14:2, from our vantage point in this last millennium we know that this change will only come through the mighty power of God.

If we as a Church are living in accord with God's commandments and instructions, then we are a righteous people. We must continue to place a priority on the important responsibility that has been placed upon us in the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Are you a righteous person?

That can only be answered by you and GOD. No one knows the most innermost thoughts of your mind better than you do and no one can judge your actions better than you can. We must continue to improve our righteousness until, by God's grace; it is perfected in the Paradise of God.

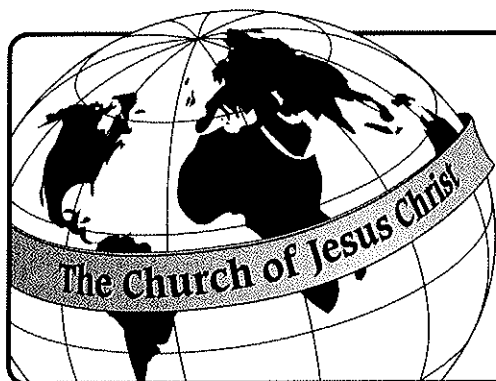
Announcement

For August, 2000, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.50%
2 years	6.55%
3 years	6.60%
4 years	6.65%
5 years	6.70%

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

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at: 202 Waterworks Rd., Clarion, PA 16214, 814-227-2421.



A message from the Seventy

General Church Missionary Foundation With God, the Impossible Became Possible

*By Apostle Paul Benyola
Chairman of the Missionary Foundation*

With God, all things are possible! In 1988, the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists were inspired to identify several countries throughout the world to which The Church of Jesus Christ could be introduced. In 1989, the General Church Missionary Board, which was instrumental in starting the work in Nigeria, India and locations among the Seed of Joseph, was placed under the Quorum of Seventy. Missionary operating committees were formed to take the word of God to other foreign countries, and provide assistance in domestic work.

The organization was now in place to fulfill our commission given to us by Jesus Christ to *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"* (St. Matthew 28:19), but there was a challenge. We did not have the finances to support the missionary programs that were developed.

WORKING TOGETHER

The impossible became possible. In 1990, after meditating and praying about this challenge, all of the committees of the General Church worked together in harmony with the members and the General Church established the Missionary Foundation to meet the humanitarian, spiritual and educational needs of all peoples throughout the

world. The funds from the Foundation would be a supplement to the annual General Church Spending Plan.

Through donations to this fund and working in harmony with each committee of the General Church, all debt owed to financial institutions was paid off. The Church became debt free, through the consolidation of missionary funds and the donations of over three hundred families. Think of the blessings that six hundred families would provide to the missionary work. The Missionary Foundation grew from an initial donation of \$10,000 to current assets of over \$900,000. This fund has generated missionary funds of over \$200,000 in interest plus direct pass through donations to specific areas of over \$250,000.

Your donations have supported such as the secondary educational school and orphanage in Nigeria; Book of Mormon translation in Ghana; speaker system in Kenya; the needs of the San Carlos Mission; Tse Bonito, Mexico, Guatemala, Muncney, and other missionary locations. Financial resources are used to provide food, clothing, and shelter to needy children and adults. The Foundation also provides the Word of God through the Bible and translations of the Book of Mormon to languages of the countries we are involved with. This is the bread of spiritual life.

WORDS IN ROMANS

The Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Romans very eloquently wrote, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"* (Romans 10:13-15). This applies to the United States as well as other countries.

Through your contributions more missionaries have been sent to various parts of the world in the last ten years than we have ever sent out since the organization of our Church. Your donations are essential to the success of these efforts.

Please continue to pray for our members throughout the world who desperately need our spiritual and natural support to enjoy the very basic essentials of life. The World Missionary Conference in 1999 brought us together with some of our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world. We felt their love and devotion to God and indeed were blessed to have them as our brother and sister in Christ. We also were introduced to their culture and how we could help them share in the bountiful blessings we enjoy in America.

WAYS TO HELP

You can contribute to the Missionary Foundation in the following ways:

- You can donate to the perpetual missionary fund where the interest is donated to the missionary work. The principle amount of your donation continues to earn interest in perpetuity.
- You can designate that you want the entire donation to be disbursed to the missionary location or locations that are listed. The Foundation will then send your entire donation to that missionary area.

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ (PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Do you know the meaning of being dedicated? It is to set oneself apart for a deity, meaning God and Jesus Christ or for a religious purpose. It also subscribes to the definition of committing oneself to a particular course of thought or action. Does this describe you in your service to the Lord?

Are you dedicated to the Lord? Are you dedicated to His cause and The Church of Jesus Christ? Only you can answer these questions.

It is necessary that we are completely and totally dedicated to the Lord. Why? Without salvation, there is nothing else really worth pursuing in this life. We pursue excellence on our jobs. We pursue excellence in the homes we build or buy, the cars we purchase or lease and other material possessions. In the end, they are all left behind. In the end, it is simply you and the Lord, one on one in His Kingdom and His bar of justice. As it was so eloquently and powerfully articulated in a recent dream experienced by Apostle Dominic Thomas, *nothing else counts!*

We have no other prerogative but to be dedicated in our service to Jesus Christ and His Father. Yes, we are free to choose. But what choice have you made? Have you made a commitment to Him and if so, are you dedicated to that commitment?

Alma the Younger asked a number of very powerful questions in the 5th chapter of Alma. Most if not all of the questions dealt with the dedication of the people to the Lord. The questions were directed to members of The Church of Jesus Christ and to those who had not made the decision to serve the Lord. Alma asked his questions in Church! They were part of a powerful sermon given to stir up the people. The questions commenced in the 6th verse and really do not conclude until the 59th verse. Consider some of these questions for your soul's well being.

Have you been spiritually born of God? Have you received His image in your countenances? Have you experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of Him who created you? Can you imagine hearing the voice of the Lord saying to you at your last day, "Come unto me ye blessed, for your works have been works of righteousness?" Or do you think you can talk your way into heaven when your works have not been works of righteousness? Do you think you can tell the Lord an untruth about your behavior and get away with it and He will save you? Alma continues by asking, can you look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? Some key questions were, if you have experienced a change of heart, and if you have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, can you feel so now? Have you walked blameless before God? If you were to pass away today, can you say you have been sufficiently humble? Can you say your garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ? Are you stripped of pride? If you are not stripped of pride, you are not prepared to meet God! If you are not the sheep of the Good Shepherd, of what fold are you?

Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord. It was the place to meet and to worship God Almighty, no other. The Apostle Paul instructs us that we are the temple of God. We are also in a sense, dedicated to the Lord.

The Apostle Paul informs us in his Epistle to the Romans, that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. He goes on to state that we must not conform to the world but we must be transformed, changed, by the renewing of our mind that we may prove what is good, acceptable and the perfect will of God. We are to think soberly towards the things of God. We must be dedicated to God.

We cannot give our life to anyone but the Lord. There is no one else who can offer us eternal

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock



"Let God Change Your Heart"

Dear Boys and Girls,

One time a person I knew tried to get me to do something that I knew was wrong. When I said, "No," they kept trying to change my mind.

They said to me, "You're no fun!"

I answered, "It's no fun to do something wrong and feel terrible for weeks or days." They looked surprised. Some people don't realize what the Bible says. It says, "The wages of sin [what you get from sin] is death."

When I am sinful, my hope of forgiveness dies. When I am sinful, and turn away, my trust that the Lord is right close listening and ready to help, dies. When I am sinful, my peace and feeling of joy inside dies.

I feel sad inside. I feel mad at myself inside. And usually I fight with others when I am unhappy inside. I feel ashamed of myself and guilty inside. What can I do?

After Adam let Eve talk him into tasting the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, many things changed. Adam and Eve had rebelled against what God had told them to do. They had chosen to do things their way, not God's way. They were no longer innocents just like a little baby who realizes he wants to do something different than his parents want him to. Now they also knew they were naked; they took large leaves and sewed them together as aprons. When it was evening and God came to the garden to walk with them and talk with them, they hid.

"Where are you?" God called. And Adam answered, "I heard

your voice and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself."

"Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Have you tasted fruit from the tree that I told you was not for you to touch?"

And God knew they had sinned. No longer were they free and joyful and able to talk face to face with Him. They hid instead. They argued and blamed each other and they blamed the serpent that talked Eve into first taking the fruit and going against what God had wanted them to do.

And that is the same with us. God was very willing to forgive them, and is very willing to forgive us, but first they had to make things right by being sorry. And then they had to ask for forgiveness. So do we. And it was then time for humans to leave the Garden of Eden, but God went with them. He made them coats of animal skin to clothe them (Genesis 3:21). He never quit loving them; He never forgot them.

Our pride often tells us, "We're not so bad." But we are. Our pride says, "It's their fault! I'll never apologize." Then they keep on doing wrong because no one ever tells them in a loving way how much they have hurt another brother or sister. No one helps them grow up inside and be a better person. As Adam and Eve had to grow up, leave the Garden of Eden and work hard to take care of their families, we have to grow.

Serving God is an amazing adventure in change. We will learn new ways of thinking and acting. No longer will we be afraid to prayerfully try new things. When we are wrong, we can admit it quickly, and ask for forgiveness. God will walk with us. Jesus, His Son, will guide us each

moment. He will teach us to grow.

Our Creator, God, can forgive us and teach us to forgive others just as Jesus did. He can change us to be better, stronger, more faithful people. We will be alive in Christ, without tears, never ashamed to take our problems of the heart to the Lord. So, if you have sinned, ask for forgiveness and start over. Right away you can be a new creature in Christ. Ask Him to help you. He can change the most stubborn, lonely heart. I know for He has changed me.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

BE	WAGES
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Missionary
Benevolent
Association

Train Up A Child

By Sister Karen L. Progar
GMBA, Assistant Editor

The GMBA FENCE (Focus on our children, Energize your branch, Network with other teachers, Children learn through music, Exercise your gifts) Program held its landmark first workshop at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on January 15, 2000. Thirty people, representing the Atlantic Coast, Ohio Mid-West, Penn-Mid Atlantic, and Southwest Area MBA's attended the workshop.

Brother Joel Calabrese, FENCE Chairman, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for making sacrifices necessary to be part of the workshop. In addition, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, GMBA President, thanked the committee for its tireless efforts in preparing a full day of activities for the GMBA membership.

A combined session began the day. During the session, participants learned new songs and gleaned ideas from the instructors that could be used in their classes. The group was then divided into three breakout sessions, the topics of which were: Music, Arts and Crafts, and General Teaching principles.

Sister Bonnie Metzler taught some songs and showed the group how to piggyback lyrics dealing with the subject of our lessons onto well known tunes. Sister Jacqui King taught us how to create lesson plans for our classes and gave us numerous tips on how children learn, many of which the participants could immediately institute with their classes. Sister Connie Frankenberry had her classes work together coming up with ideas for crafts and then had each person make a craft which would be a souvenir of the day.

All enjoyed a luncheon provided by the McKees Rocks Local. At the conclusion, the attendees were then

afforded the opportunity to play a number of games brought as examples.

I learned so much from the workshop and was so impressed by the quality of the job done. Special thanks to Sister Tammy Valenti, secretary/treasurer of the committee, for a wonderful job organizing the weekend and for preparing the "so very useful" workbooks which each attendee received.

The entire day's activities were taped and it is the intention of the GMBA to provide the tapes and workbooks to the Area MBAs so that the lessons taught can be enjoyed and used by each of us as we endeavor to "train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old, he shall not depart from it."

A Weekend of God's Pure Love in Herndon, VA

By Sister Mary Gehly

During the weekend of May 5-7, 2000, the Herndon, Virginia Branch had the pleasure of hosting twenty-five saints from various branches of the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region. We gathered together on Saturday for an all day picnic at Lake Fairfax. There, we fellowshiped and truly felt the unity and pure love of God. That evening we met at Sister Iva and John Bordeaux's home where we sang praises unto our Lord and testified of God's blessing and goodness.

Our Sunday meeting was opened by Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr., who spoke to us concerning the promises of the Lord, the promises for each of us if we choose to keep His commandments. Brother Richard reminded us how Christ sought out those seeking Him, those truly in need. Christ didn't sit in high places, but was with His sheep, feeding His lambs.

Brother John Ali followed and related how there were many kings and leaders. Christ was the only King that gave His life, that bled and died, so our

souls could be redeemed. He read from Isaiah 52:13, "*Behold my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.*" Brother John also spoke how there must be opposition in all things. How in order for each of us to appreciate all that Christ does for us, we must face trials and tribulations. This keeps us humble and prayerful.

Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr., was directed to speak regarding our confidence in the Lord and how outward appearances can be deceiving. He told us how David had no hesitations in challenging Goliath. He had such a confidence in the Lord. Size was of no value. God uses the weak and most humble to show the world His power. We as a Church and as the saints of God must be prepared spiritually, not with natural armor but with the armor of the spirit God gave each of us. It is up to us as individuals to be humble and to sanctify ourselves. The world, one day, won't say, "Look how strong that Church is." They will say, "God has moved."

After our brothers finished speaking, we heard songs sung by Sister Karen Progar and Brothers Jason Monaghan, Patrick Monaghan and Bruce Piccuito.

Afterwards, the saints gave their testimonies, again sharing about the true love in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We thank God for a beautiful and wonderful weekend in His service. May God bless everyone.

Notice

Pictures on video of past GMBA Campouts are available for the price of \$10.00. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the Print House at:

8282 Boettner Rd.
P.O. Box 30
Bridgewater, MI 48115
734-429-5080



Our Women Today

The Flower Garden of the Lord

By Sister Karen Progar

It is hard to believe that the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ has reached the milestone of eighty years as an auxiliary of the Church. On April 29, 2000, our Circle did celebrate such an anniversary! There were candy flowers, beautiful purple and silver napkins, stationery made especially for the event and a photo taken to commemorate the day.

Our President, Sister Arline Whitton, began our conference by welcoming sisters from almost every area of the Church to the meeting and reminding us that our attendance makes the meeting a success. We sang *A Song of Welcome*, after which Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President, spoke regarding her thoughts on the theme. She said that whenever a garden is mentioned, her thoughts always go to Gethsemane, but we should also think of the Garden of Eden, which was our beginning. A new beginning came about for us when Christ surrendered to His Father's will at Gethsemane. A garden is always a place of quiet, solitude and prayer.

Business dealt with the sharing of exciting details of our next fellowship weekend. Sisters Diane McDonnell and Lynette Huttenberger advised us to reserve the weekend of July 19-22, 2001. The anticipated price will be \$175.00 per person. The fee includes food and lodging for three days, with a four person occupancy in the rooms. The sisters passed around beautiful photographs of the facility, which is located in Ontario, California. It was suggested that flight arrangements be made into the Ontario, California Airport.

Our first keynote speaker was Apostle Paul Palmieri, the General Church Liaison to the Circle. He

stressed that sisters need to be involved in the work of the Church. The beauty of the Church must be seen in each of us. In the garden of the Lord, Brother Paul said that we each shine. He also told us that the Lord is waiting for a people to step out and tell others of Jesus. As Brother Paul concluded, he reminded us to be active and shared that his mother received love and learned to love from her involvement in the Church.

After a wonderful time of fellowship and lunch prepared by Brother David Gibson, Apostle Joseph Bittinger, a long time supporter of Circle, opened the afternoon service with prayer. The afternoon began with a program on the "Flower Garden of the Lord," presented by the Penn-Mid Atlantic Area Circle sisters. Sister Mabel, our past Circle President, was unable to attend the meeting due to poor health. It was appropriate that the Penn-Mid Atlantic Circle was able to use one of her poems in the program since our sister devoted so much of her life to the Ladies' Uplift Circle and its efforts to support the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Dominic Thomas, General Church President, addressed our conference in the afternoon service. It was a great joy to hear Brother Dominic's testimony regarding his youth and the role in his upbringing that many women had in his life. He shared how, even though he had lost his mother as an infant, an older cousin and then a wonderful stepmother showed him the love that he needed to grow in the Church.

Before Brother Paul Palmieri closed the meeting in prayer, the General Circle officers recited a poem of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Join us as we look forward to our next time of fellowship on Saturday, October 14, 2000 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. We look forward to blessings like the ones we enjoyed here at the Monongahela Branch, where our organization had its beginning eighty years ago. Special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a sweet memory, which we will cherish.

The Garden

*By Sister Mabel C. Bickerton
(November 13, 1985)*

There is a garden
and I have been there,
A garden of love, of hope and prayer.
The place is bright
and tended with care,
By the Master's touch
with colors so rare.

The Gardener is there
with His tools of love,
Pruning each plant
with a smile from above.
The flowers all nod
with a greeting gay,
"Good morning," they say,
"Have a lovely day."

These beauties have come
from the East and West,
To show much concern
and wish me the best,
They know how it helps
and lightens the load,
Along my pathway
and down the long road.

Mem'ries shall linger
for many a year,
Of friends, Brothers and Sisters
from far and near.
I thank the dear Lord
for our fellowship sweet,
And someday in the Garden,
we all shall meet.

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Branch and Mission News

Three Baptisms in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On April 16, 2000, one new sister and two new brothers in the Modesto, California Branch went into the waters of regeneration. They were Sister Mary Rosales, Brother Owen Wilcoxson and Brother Alex Tapia. Sister Mary had expressed her desire to be baptized earlier this year. On March 26, Owen had stood up under the spirit of repentance, asking for his baptism. When he sat down, Sister Francis Camarda put her arm around him and said to him, "Another one will ask for baptism today." The Lord had revealed this to her. When Owen went forward for prayer, young Tyler Ciarolla also went to the front and held Owen's hand. At that moment, Owen felt a heat go into his hand, up his arm and filling his entire body, and he felt strongly that Tyler would be asking for his baptism. That day, Tyler asked for his baptism and shared that he is looking forward to the day of his baptism in the future.

Alex Tapia went forward next, for prayer for spiritual strength. As she was praying at her seat for Alex, Sister Christina Vinsick saw in a vision Owen going up and greeting Alex, then she saw the brothers and sisters at the river's shore where we baptize, with Alex and Owen standing together. After the Ministry's prayer for Alex, Owen stood and went forward, putting his arms around Alex, exactly as it had happened in Sister Vinsick's vision. Alex Tapia was next to feel the spirit of repentance, asking for his baptism also. It was a glorious day, and we anticipated the day when we would gather at the river.

On this day, the three candidates were assembled with us, and as we waited, we saw three ducks swim past

us single file; the female first, followed by two male ducks. Sister Mary was baptized first, by Brother Joe Ciarolla. As she came back up out of the water, she was obviously very overcome with the Spirit of God, weeping very hard. She explained to us later that God had answered her prayer for an experience so that she would know that He was with her, by giving her a vision of three doves overhead when she opened her eyes after coming up from the water. Brother Owen and Brother Alex followed into the waters of baptism, with Brother Joe Ciarolla baptizing Brother Owen and Brother Louis Parravano baptizing Brother Alex.

After the three new converts were back on the river's shore, the same three ducks swam in front of us again in the opposite direction; first the female, then the two males, in the exact order of the sister and two brothers who had been baptized.

How good God is! We rejoiced with the angels on this beautiful day as we witnessed the union of three souls with Christ. Please pray for our new sister and brothers as they begin their spiritual walk with Him.

Blessed Day in Forest Hills, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

March 20, 2000 was a day filled with many ordinances and blessings. The day began by witnessing the baptism of Eric and Rhonda Rooney. Eric and Rhonda met The Church of Jesus Christ through one of our members. Brother Eric sells drinking water for a living and stopped by the branch as it was being built to see if we would like to use his company. Thank God that is not all he was looking for. He was also looking for a church to have his newborn baby, Erika, blessed in. Brother Bobby Woods, who was our General Contractor, was led by the Spirit and explained to Brother Eric our beliefs in blessing children as Christ taught. Brother Eric was satisfied with their conversation and began attending shortly thereafter

with his wife, Rhonda, and baby girl. A few months later, they had their baby blessed in the Church and also testified of the Holy Spirit working within them. They also witnessed a healing of Ericka who was diagnosed with a rare disease. The previous Sunday, they stood up in testimony and asked for their baptism. Brother Eric and Sister Rhonda were both baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr.

When we returned to the branch, we witnessed a play entitled, "Getting the Brass," depicting Lehi's journey through the wilderness performed by our youth group. Sister Pam Benyola then sang, *First in My Heart, First in My Soul*.

Brother John Griffith opened the service with Acts, second chapter, explaining the need for baptism of the water and of the spirit. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., offered a prayer asking God to direct the Ministry to instill the Holy Ghost upon our newly baptized members. Brother Eric was confirmed by Brother Sam Risola, Jr., and Sister Rhonda was confirmed by Brother Jim Speck.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., continued by reading Matthew 9 and 19, explaining why we bless children. Then Alex Rooney, Brother Eric and Sister Rhonda's newborn son, was brought forward to be blessed. Brother Sam Risola, Jr., offered the prayer, asking God to watch over and protect him all of his days and that one day, he too may become a member of this wonderful Church.

As we turned our hearts to the beautiful ordinance of sacrament, Brother Dewayne Eutsey read III Nephi 18:1-5 and I Corinthians 11:24-27. After a brief period of testimony, Brother Scott Griffith read and explained the ordinance of feet washing, using John 13. The Ministry related how they questioned Brother Eric and Sister Rhonda if they wanted to participate in the feet washing service since they were just baptized. They replied by stating if it is found in scripture, then we will do it. We truly thank God for a beautiful day full of blessings and ask that you remember us in your prayers that we will continue to draw closer to the Lord.

Quadruple the Blessings in Greensburg, PA

By Brother Andrew Gehly

A calling into the service of The Church of Jesus Christ regardless of the title is both a great honor and an immense responsibility. On Sunday, April 30, four members of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch, Brothers Larry Ali, Joseph Fallavollitti, Tim Gehly and Sister Anita Noel answered such callings.

The meeting, attended by fourteen Elders, was led by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., emphasizing that the members being ordained were facing a challenge not to fulfill their office by their own abilities but to have a higher degree of faith and to completely rely on God. Brother Chuck Kogler followed and spoke from scripture regarding the members' call to the positions including Hebrews 5:4 which says, "And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri spoke of the feeling of unworthiness that the then soon to be ordained members may have felt, and said that they should thank God for the humble hearts that make such emotions. Brother Alvin Gehly, who expounded upon the importance of having the Holy Ghost in order to understand God and Jesus, spoke the last sermon of the morning.

The ordinations of Brothers Larry Ali and Tim Gehly as Teachers, Brother Joseph Fallavollitti as a Deacon and Sister Anita Noel as a Deaconess had all been confirmed earlier by experiences of both themselves as well as other members of the branch. Brothers offering the ordination prayers included Brothers Paul Gehly and John Ali, who had the unique privilege of ordaining their own sons as Teachers.

Both Teachers, the Deacon and Deaconess, although already valued members of the branch, will indeed prove to be even greater blessings in their newly ordained positions in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Memorial Day Atlanta, GA

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

The weekend of Memorial Day saw the brothers and sisters of the Atlanta, Georgia Branch taking part in the making of some new memories. Brother Cameron Staley graduated from high school and many friends and family members came from various parts of the Church to wish him well on life's new journey and to praise the Lord. Saturday evening, we all gathered to fellowship with brothers and sisters we have been separated from for a long time. People came from California, Louisiana, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Illinois. After an evening of food and fellowship, we bid one another a good night.

Sunday's meeting was held at the Cheatham Hill Community Club near Powder Springs, Georgia. We had a large group and again, we had representatives from many places. We had several visitors among the crowd also. Visiting Evangelist, John DiBattista, opened the morning meeting, speaking to us about the perfect love we all have in Christ. He was followed by Brother Rocco Benyola who began by leading us in *First Love*. Then he continued with the same theme. That love was truly surrounding us! We had several solos by Brother Ike Smith, Brother Justin Paxon and Sister Marlea Frentzos. Each was so touching and beautiful. After a season of testimony, communion was served and what a loving spirit was felt by everyone. Brother Justin Paxon took a few moments to bid all in the Atlanta Branch a heartfelt and love filled goodbye. He is relocating to California due to employment. We here in the Atlanta Branch will surely miss him for he was an integral part of our little group, always a willing worker and a caring brother.

We closed the meeting and bid one another farewell till we meet again. Later, some of our visitors remarked about the love and fellowship and also, the singing. Each visitor seemed to

really enjoy all of the singing and the freedom with which each hymn was called out. I know, from a personal standpoint, it seemed as though we had a crowd of two hundred people behind me singing. Surely the Lord and all of His angels sang with us!

How Can I Sufficiently Praise Him

By Sister Joyce Ross

How can I sufficiently praise Him for the breath of life He has restored to me? Many thoughts pass through my mind since my serious illness. The prayers of the saints are so important, for it is those prayers before our Lord that heal the body and the soul.

It is now seven months since I was first diagnosed with carcinoma of the left lung. The Elders of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, anointed me. I was also anointed by Apostle Paul Palmieri. After lung surgery and bronchial trach surgery, among other surgical procedures, the doctors were skeptical that I would survive. Surgery found no lung cancer! The doctors and nurses were stunned when no cancer was found! They could not understand it. They said on more than one occasion, "We can't understand it!" However, I was also diagnosed with septic pneumonia, an illness that very few survive. I spent twelve days in the trauma center of Mercy Hospital on full life support, since I could not breathe on my own. I have no memory of being in the trauma center for twelve days. I spent another week in progressive care.

After many x-rays, blood tests, and extended physical therapy, on July 11, the pulmonary specialist discharged me from his care. His words to me were, "Your blood tests are good, your x-rays are perfect, you have made a miraculous recovery!"

My heart is full of joy, appreciation, and gratitude to all of you for your many prayers, cards and telephone calls. I wish to say thank you to

the many who visited me during my extended stay in the hospital. I wish to express my thanks and praise to God for His goodness and the miracle He has performed in my life. I am eternally in His debt. I wish to praise His High and Holy Name. How can I sufficiently praise Him for the great things He has done?

A Thought

If you can't sleep,
Don't count sheep.
Talk to the Shepherd.

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

• The Foundation also receives donations made in memory of a loved one.

Remember, however, these donations are to be given in addition to the amounts given regularly for the requirements to the General Church's approved annual spending plan through

Pacific Region Conference

Continued from Page 1

do." Christ only had three years; we have more time to accomplish the Lord's work. He exhorted us to put Christ first and to sanctify ourselves before God. God is asking for our reasonable service, to fast and pray, to lay a foundation and study the Word of God while we're young. He directed his comments to the youth: *"If God is calling you, don't wait! Today is the day of your salvation."*

Brother Joe Lovalvo then addressed us on the New Jerusalem and the conversion of millions of Gentiles who will assist in building it and preach the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. Our hearts were filled with the hope and expectation, as our mind's eye focused on that beautiful vision which will become reality sometime in our future.

our branches and missions.

We thank each of the Missionary Foundation members who provide a great amount of time and unpaid effort to contribute to the success of the Foundation. We also thank the families for their very generous donations and pray that God will richly reward each of you for helping to support those who truly have basic natural and spiritual needs.

God's sweet spirit descended upon us throughout this weekend as we renewed our strength as well as our fellowship with one another. May God bless all of you is our prayer.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

salvation in the Kingdom of God. Only the Lord has the power to deliver us and save us from unrighteousness and eternal damnation. He does this through our dedication and commitment to serve Him in spirit and in truth!

There are many wonderful examples in scripture of those who dedicated their lives to God. There was Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Paul, Peter, Nephi, Alma, Moroni, Phebe, Lydia, Job and many others.

A college professor once referred to the Book of Job in a literature class as a fairytale that the Jewish writers and scholars had to make have a happy ending. This statement is really utter nonsense. The Apostle James referred to the patience of Job and acknowledged his endurance and dedication that delivered him from the enemy of his soul.

It is important to remember that He gave His life for you, for all. Since He gave His life for you, what have you given Him? Have you given your life to Him? Are you dedicated to Him?

Ordinations

Brother Timothy Scolaro was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch on April 30, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Anthony J. Scolaro and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Brother James Calabro was ordained a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on March 19, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother John Huttenberger and he was ordained by Brother James Crudup.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

MISSIONARY

F O U N D A T I O N

I would like to donate to the following:

*"What shall I render unto
the Lord for all his
benefits toward me?"*

PSALMS 116:12

Please fill in the amounts for each work that you want to donate to and return in envelope provided.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
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P.O. Box 80, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

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Kenya	\$ _____
Mexico	\$ _____
New Works	\$ _____
Nigeria	\$ _____
Peru	\$ _____
Missionary Foundation Fund	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

* WEDDING *

Heather Paula Gibson and Robert Moyer were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on May 6, 2000.

Patricia A. Fiumara and Jonathan M. Mavrich were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on May 20, 2000.

Lori J. Hiber and Brother David DeLuca were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on May 27, 2000.

Children Blessed

Isabella Loren Dino, daughter of Sister Doreen Schmitt-Dino and Ross Dino, was blessed on June 11, 2000 in the Denver, Colorado Mission.

Hailee Jean Elliot, daughter of Seth and Sister Mindy Elliot, was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on June 4, 2000.

Thomas Scott-Christopher Benyola, son of Therese and Scott Benyola was blessed on May 26, 2000 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Hallee Rae Ivey, daughter of Brother Mike and Sister Karen Ivey, was blessed on April 30, 2000 in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Sydney Berelle Good, son of Symuel and Beryl Good, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on May 14, 2000.

Simeon Avery Good, son of Symuel and Beryl Good, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on May 14, 2000.

Darron Keith Ricks, Jr., son of Symuel and Beryl Good, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on May 14, 2000.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Baptisms

William Lowden was baptized on May 28, 2000 in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother James Moore and he was confirmed by Brother James Abbott.

Tabitha Nardoizzi was baptized on March 19, 2000 in the Columbus, Ohio Mission. She was baptized by Brother Frank Giovannone and she was confirmed by Brother Alan Metzler.

Sergio Metzler was baptized on March 19, 2000 in the Columbus, Ohio Mission. He was baptized by Brother Alan Metzler and he was confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Patricia Brown was baptized on March 19, 2000 in the Columbus, Ohio Mission. She was baptized by Brother Alan Metzler and she was confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Fiftieth Spiritual Anniversary

We wish to express our congratulations to those celebrating these significant milestones in their lives. May God bless you.

Sister Lydia Cavallaro, a member of the Simi Valley, California Branch, celebrated her fiftieth spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 30, 2000.

OBITUARIES

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

ALMA VANCIK

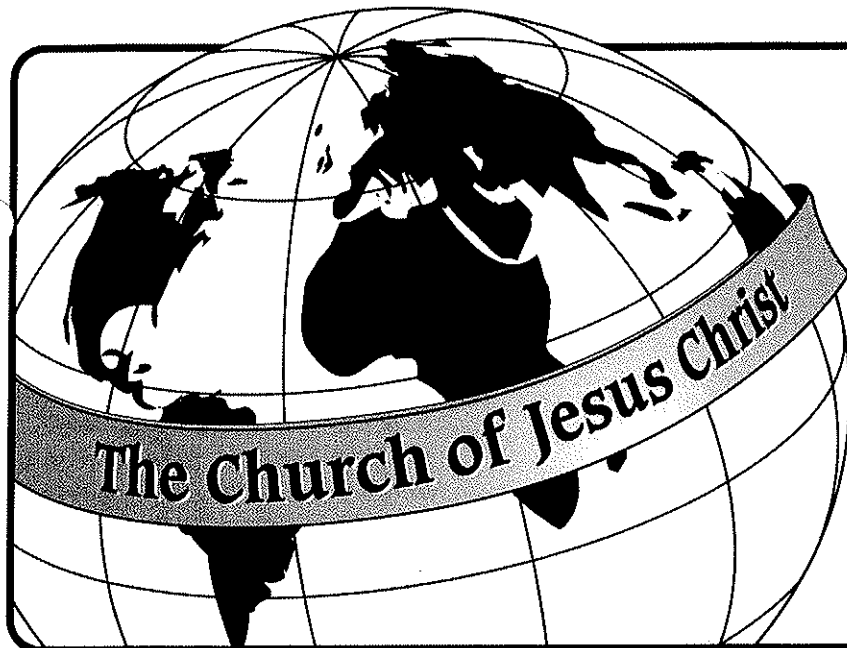
Mr. Alma Vancik, son of the late Sister Katherine and Brother Paul Vancik, Sr., members of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on April 3, 2000. He is survived by his daughter, Sherry Vancik.

JOHN DEMCHAK

Brother John Demchak, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on April 5, 2000. He is survived by his wife, Sister Beatrice Demchak and children.

JOHNNIE LEE GRAY

Brother Johnnie Lee Gray passed on to his heavenly reward on April 27, 2000. He was a member of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission. Brother Johnnie was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Shirley Gray, one daughter, three sons, and eight grandchildren.



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 2000

Volume 56, No. 9

Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

By Evangelist Jerry Valenti

Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ. We hope you enjoy your day here. During the course of the meeting, questions may arise as to how and why certain things are done. We have chosen the most common questions and attempted to answer them in the following pages. If there is anything left unanswered, feel free to ask. The last two questions on the final two pages will tell you where to get additional information. We hope you will choose to continue to worship with us and that we will see you frequently at The Church of Jesus Christ.

1. Questions that may arise when you enter the Church building.

Q. Is the name of the church significant?

A. Yes, Jesus told us *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20) and the Apostle Paul adds *"whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"* (Colossians 3:17). We believe that a church named after the man belongs to that man, but that a church named after Jesus belongs to Him, as long as it is founded on His precepts.

Q. Why aren't there crosses or holy pictures displayed in the church?

A. There are no crosses or holy pictures because they could be interpreted to represent images which have been forbidden from the time of the ten commandments: *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath"* (Exodus 20:4). Moses later had to remind the Israelites: *Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth"* (Deuteronomy 16:22). Although Jesus' death on the cross was an important part of the plan of salvation, it is not the cross that redeems, but Jesus. Thus, we worship Him and let the cross simply have its place in history.

Q. Why isn't there an altar in front of the church?

A. There is no altar because in the Old Testament, the altar was used as a place to offer sacrifices to God. When Jesus was crucified, He became the perfect sacrifice; thus, the altar became useless as no sacrifice we can offer can compare to Jesus. Paul describes the type of sacrifice God

wants from us: *"By Him (Jesus) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."* (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Q. Are special services held to celebrate traditional Christian "holy days?"

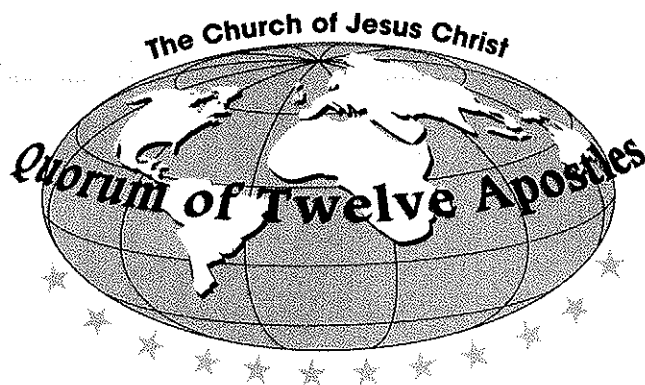
A. No, special services are not held to celebrate traditional "holy days." We feel that serving God and following Jesus is a 365 day per year activity. We do not wish to support the notion that Jesus should only be remembered on certain days of the year or that attending church on "holy days" relieves a person's obligation to attend church the rest of the year. To do so would be "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," which is discouraged in Paul's writings to the Hebrews (Hebrews 10:25). However, we do observe holidays, such as Easter and Christmas, remembering what the Lord did for mankind.

2. Questions that may arise prior to the start of the meeting.

Q. Why do members of the church greet each other with a kiss?

A. "Greet one another with an holy kiss" is mentioned in at least four

(Continued on Page 3)



Repentance

By Apostle Isaac Smith

According to the dictionary, the word repent means to feel pain or sorrow on account of something done or sorrow on account of something done or left undone, especially for sin committed; change from past evil; to feel penitence or regret. Repentance is contrition and sorrow for sin.

Jarom, the son of Enos, wrote one chapter in the Book of Mormon called the Book of Jarom. In the 2nd verse he wrote: "For what could I



Apostle Isaac D. Smith

write more than my Fathers have written? For have not they revealed the plan of salvation?" I thought what else is there to say that has not already been said.

My thoughts went to John the Baptist, St. Matthew 3:1-2, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And

saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In Matthew 4:17, Jesus began to preach, and to say, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In III Nephi 11:37-38, Jesus spoke saying: "And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God."

In the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, as they were preaching to thousands, verse 37 states, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The Apostle Peter responds in Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Faith, repentance, and baptism are the doorway into the Kingdom of God.

What a wonderful blessing when we are in the presence of someone repenting of their sins with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Jesus said in Luke 15:7, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Standing at the waters of baptism the candidate is asked, "Do you repent of your sins and promise to serve God, to the best of your ability, the rest of your life?" We all can remember that day and the joy we felt coming out of the water, knowing that our sins were washed away.

While taking the Gospel to the indigenous people on the Island of Dominica with Brothers Paul Aaron Palmieri, Isaac Joseph Smith and Paul Ciotti, Sr., a member of the Carib Tribe came to me with a horn. The horn is called a shofar. On a trip to the Island of Antigua, to purchase goods for her motel, a person approached her and said, "I have this horn for you to take to your people. I am a Jew from the Inupiaq (Eskimo) tribe in Alaska. When you blow this shofar, it will sound as a call to repentance." The woman wanted to know what to do with the horn, or if I wanted it. I told her I didn't know what to do with the horn, but we were offering them the call of repentance. As Jesus said, all must repent of their sins and be baptized, to be a part of the Kingdom of God. No one can come through the doors of salvation without repentance. We must take the call to repentance where ever the opportunity comes.

I am reminded of the 2nd chapter of Joel. He says, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain, let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh; for it is nigh at hand."

We in the Ministry must always sound the call to repentance in our branches and missions and within our communities.

One of the reasons we enjoy the gatherings and campouts of the young people is our anticipation of the spirit of repentance being prevalent. I remember well standing at the shore of the Mississippi River in Nauvoo, Illinois when Brother Joseph Calabrese had the privilege of questioning twenty-one young people before they entered the waters of baptism. We seem to remember each gathering by those that repented and were baptized.

We look forward to Israel's return. It is our job to sound the call for repentance to all, especially to Joseph. Some day their ears will be opened that they may hear and their eyes will be opened that they may see.

I will close by quoting Mormon 8:22, "For the eternal

purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled." Each Elder must take our calling so serious that it becomes the most important thing in our life. Let us each do all we can to further the cause of Christ and His Kingdom. The world depends on us.

Welcome

Continued from Page 1

different places in the Bible (II Corinthians 31:12, I Thessalonians 5:26, Romans 16:16, I Peter 5:14), and therefore our membership follows this example. In order to ensure that kisses are not construed as anything but holy, we restrict kissing to members of the same sex.

Q. Why are members called "Brother" or "Sister?" Shouldn't those titles be reserved for positions of honor within the church?

A. We do in fact use the terms "Brother" and "Sister" to refer to the most honorable position in the Church, that of a member. As we are all part of the Family of God, and are "*affectioned one to another with brotherly love*" (Romans 12:10), the titles are certainly appropriate. Jesus showed preference to His followers over His own natural family when He announced, "*Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in Heaven, the same is My brother, and sister*" (Matthew 12:50, Mark 3:35). If Jesus was willing to call His followers brothers and sisters, who are we to call them anything different.

Q. How is the mode of dress determined?

A. In regard to general behavior, Paul wrote, "*Let your moderation be known unto all men*" (Philippians 4:5) and in regard to attire specifically, "*that women adorn themselves in modest apparel*" (I Timothy 2:9). Our people are thus encouraged to dress moderately. In general, we want to make a good appearance in the House of the Lord, so we dress nicely, but modestly.

Q. What is the function of the woman who sets the table in front of the church?

A. The woman seen setting the table is called a Deaconess and is ordained to serve the church in appropriate situations, such as setting the table for communion. Even in biblical times, there was a place for female servants in the Church. Paul wrote to the Romans, "*I commend unto you Phebe, our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That you receive her . . . in whatsoever business she hath need of you*" (Romans 16:1-2). God has work for anyone who is willing to serve Him.

3. *Questions that may arise while the congregation is singing hymns?*

Q. Why are there so many different books?

A. We use many hymnals because our people love to sing praises to God and "*make a joyful noise unto the Lord*" (Psalms 100:1). The *Saints Hymnal* is our traditional hymn book, the *Saints Favorites* contains hymns composed by members of the Church, and the *Songs of Zion* are hymns composed by inspiration. Some branches may add other books if they contain hymns not included in the books already mentioned. "*Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of saints*" (Psalms 149:1).

4. *Questions that may arise when the meeting is opened in prayer.*

Q. Who is being prayed to?

A. Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray, "*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in Heaven . . .*" (Matthew 6:9). We pray to God the Father, but we do so through Christ, His Son. As Jesus said, "*. . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6).

5. *Questions that may arise while the sermon is being delivered.*

Q. Who are the men who sit in

front of the church and deliver the sermon?

A. The men sitting in front of the Church are Elders (Ministers), responsible for the spiritual well being of the Church. In Acts 14 and 15, Paul traveled throughout the Church, ordaining Elders in different locations to look after the Church's needs in each area. Our Elders serve a similar purpose.

Q. Why aren't there any female Elders?

A. Although it is difficult discussing a female's role in our Church in today's modern world, the Apostle Paul was very definite on this matter, "*Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted for them to speak*" (I Corinthians 14:34) and *I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve*" (I Timothy 2:12-13). Women do have responsibilities in the Church (see earlier question regarding the Deaconess), but not those of an Elder.

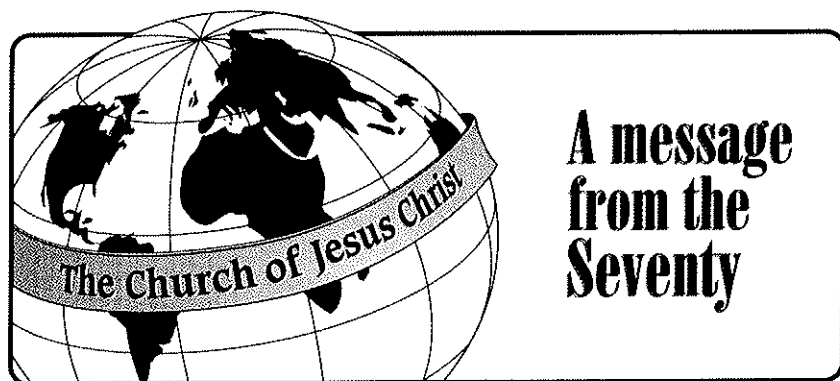
Q. Why aren't the Elders referred to as "Father" or "Reverend?"

A. Our Elders are not referred to as "Father" or "Reverend" because Jesus said, "*call no man your Father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in Heaven*" (Matthew 23:9). In short, we reserve such honorable titles for God and Jesus only, not for any man.

Q. Why don't Elders wear robes?

A. Our Elders do not wear robes because, as mentioned earlier, our people dress in moderation and are not set apart by clothes they wear, this includes Elders. Jesus spoke in contempt of the appearance conscious scribes, "*Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, . . . the same shall receive greater damnation*" (Luke 20:46-47).

(Continued on Page 9)



God Is Working in Dominica

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

From April 7-11, 2000, Brothers Paul Aaron Palmieri, Isaac J. Smith, Harold Littlejohn, and Carl Huttenberger, Jr., made a trip to the Island of Dominica, and it can certainly be said God is working there.

It all began on the flight from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Dominica. A heavy rainstorm had developed over the island. The small plane carrying the brothers kept circling but could not land. The pilot said after eventually landing that, in only three more seconds, he was going to turn around and travel to another island.

A large passenger van was rented, and Brother Smith easily navigated it the entire time, even though it was a manual transmission and traffic drives on the left side of the road in Dominica, just the opposite to what we are accustomed. God continued to work as the brothers began visiting the people with whom they had become acquainted on previous trips, inviting them to a service on Sunday at the Floral Gardens Hotel where a large meeting room was to be rented.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The van was filled to capacity on Sunday morning, and there were almost thirty (30) visitors in the meeting. Evangelist Harold Littlejohn spoke about the love of Jesus, and then mentioned Revelation 14:6-7, which speaks about how another angel flew in

the midst of heaven carrying the Everlasting Gospel.

Brother Huttenberger talked about to whom Jesus was referring when He spoke about the other sheep He needed to visit, whom He loved, and the naming of The Church of Jesus Christ, as found in the 28th chapter of III Nephi. Brother Palmieri gave his own touching personal experience regarding the love Jesus has for us and what He can do for us. Brother Smith concluded by identifying the love God has for the Island of Dominica and how, through prayers, Hurricane Mitch was diverted away from the island some time ago.

After it was explained how Jesus blessed little children, several mothers came forward wanting their children to be blessed. There were five blessings. Two other people asked to be anointed, one with Downs's Syndrome. The Spirit of God and His love were felt strongly throughout the day.

A family whose 36 year-old son had committed suicide the week before was visited after the service. Prayer was offered for them, and the family clearly was encouraged by the visit.

WALKED THROUGH TERRITORY

On Monday, a young man named Alexis Valmond assisted the brothers in walking throughout the Carib territory (the name given to the area in which the Carib Indians live), inviting

everyone to a service that night. Again, God worked amazingly as the chief of all 3,400 Carib Indians offered the Council Meeting Hall for use, and he also wanted to attend. The meeting was very successful, especially with Chief Joseph's interest and understanding of the Book of Mormon and who the Caribs really are. He had already read halfway through the Book of Alma and mentioned he had shared the Book of Mormon with a Cherokee Indian from another island.

There are many needs among the Caribs, as with all the Seed of Joseph. An added blessing was when God worked once again, as the brothers found a computer store where they were able to develop a welcome flyer giving information about the Church to hand out as they visited. Before leaving, the brothers were able to set up a computer, which had been generously donated by a brother in the United States, in the home of Raphael and Helena August, who have been very receptive from the beginning. Communication was thus vastly improved.

INITIATED WORK

Evangelist Richard Santilli and his wife, Sister Anabel, initiated the work in Dominica in the mid-1990's and subsequent visits were made by the Santilli's and other brothers and sisters for the past four years. Brother Santilli has maintained contact and guidance as several other brothers have taken an interest and the responsibility for this work.

Please pray for everyone on the island. God is working within Dominica, especially with Alexis who helped the brothers invite people and tell them about the Church and a woman named Kathleen who expressed a desire to be the first Sunday School teacher (she currently works as a school teacher). We are hopeful and prayerful to have converts shortly.

Thank God for how He works and shows forth His power when we follow His lead.



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What would your life be like without The Church of Jesus Christ? Where would you be? What would you be? In essence, what does The Church of Jesus Christ mean to you?

The Church of Jesus Christ represents God's Kingdom on earth. It represents the organization that Jesus Christ set up when He was on the earth. There were a number of religions when the Lord was on the earth. However, He found none of them acceptable. The Lord prepared a better way, the best way for mankind to love and serve Him. That is why He established The Church of Jesus Christ.

People in the day of the Lord were really no different than people of today. They struggled to make a living. Someone probably tried to take advantage of others when they bought and sold. It was, what is best for me? How can I get the most out of this natural life? How can I obtain riches? How can I get a mansion that is the envy of the neighborhood? How can I get the best clothes that will make me stand out among the crowd?

Human nature was and still is about "self!" There was little thought about one's neighbor. There was little teaching about love God above all, love thy neighbor as thyself, love your enemies and do good to them who persecute you. This is what the Lord brought to His Church. These were the ultimate commandments He gave to the people and His beloved disciples. His Church taught true forgiveness. People were shocked at the Lord's approach on forgiveness. They adhered to the law. No forgiveness. It was an eye for an eye. His Church taught the necessity of the love of God in our lives. Remember, without the love of God, without this charity, we are nothing but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.

The Lord began His Ministry and message of The Church of Jesus Christ with the Sermon on the Mount. You will find it in the Gospel of Matthew, 5th, 6th and 7th chapters. Read these chapters. Is it any wonder that when the Lord concluded His sermon, *the people were astonished at his doctrine?* These chapters contain the way we are to live our daily lives. You might say they are a roadmap for life. This roadmap is both natural and above all, spiritual.

These chapters capture the Lord's teachings on the poor in spirit, the meek, those that mourn, those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those that are persecuted for the Lord's sake, and the blessings you receive when men revile you. These qualities are what you experience when you become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. These qualities and characteristics describe the people of God, the saints of the Almighty.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, you can testify how wonderful it feels to be poor in spirit, to mourn with those that mourn, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, to be merciful, to be pure in heart, to be a peacemaker, to be blessed by the Lord when someone persecutes you and when someone reviles and hates you.

Years ago, the late Evangelist John Ross, was slapped across the face with an oily rag by a man while they were at work in the steel mill. The man reviled him. The man called Brother John a derogatory name, an ethnic slur. Brother John Ross's testimony is that his arms went limp. He could not retaliate. He felt the love and peace of God come over him. He remembered his calling into The Church of Jesus Christ and the change that comes over an individual when he or she follows the teachings and commandments of the Lord. Keep in mind that Brother John Ross was a boxer when he was a young man. He could have retaliated and possibly hurt this man.

This is what happens to those who become members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They experience a newness of life. They experience the goodness, mercies and gifts of God. They literally and figuratively become a new person, a new creature. Is it any wonder that we are referred to as a peculiar people?

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

"What Are Your Treasures?"

Dear friends,

Have you ever thought about what is really important to you? If God told your family to flee (move quickly) because a terrible destruction was coming, what would you bring? You can't use a car; there will be no gas in the wilderness, or good roads. You each only have your two hands, and one back to carry things. There would be no stores for batteries, or games, no electricity or CDs or television.

What healthy things to eat and drink could you carry? How much would you need? What kinds of pots and pans would you carry? What clothes should come to keep you warm or be rainproof? Who would carry all of these? What shoes or boots would protect your feet? What blankets would keep you warm? How would you build a fire? And finally, what books of scriptures would help your people know God's laws and how to set up a society once you found a new home?

In the days when Nephi's family fled the beautiful city of Jerusalem, plastic was not invented. Backpacks were heavy leather. Waterproofing things involved soaking leather with oil before wrapping something. Oil smelled. There weren't good bug repellants. People used little twigs to clean their teeth. For hunting purposes, they learned to shoot with a bow and arrow or starve.

When God told His Prophet Lehi to warn the people of Jerusalem that destruction was coming, they did not



believe him. They threw rocks at him and mocked him. But Lehi truly believed in God. He told his wife and four sons to start getting ready. They were going to leave their modern city and go wherever God would send them. Along the way another family joined them who had daughters that the boys grew up and married.

In order for these people to know their history and connection with God, it was necessary for them to bring scriptures, a written record. These records were not written on paper which could get wet and ruined, but were written on plates of thin metal, sheets of brass. God sent Lehi's son, young Nephi, to the man called Laban who kept the records. Laban tried to trick them by offering to give them the plates if they gave him great riches. So they did. But tricky Laban stole the riches and refused to give them the scriptures.

God made a way. Nephi went again to Laban's house and ended up killing Laban for the records. Nephi did not want to kill him, but the Lord said, "It is better for one man to die than for a nation [that would grow from Lehi's people] to languish in unbelief."

So now the people leaving for the wilderness had scripture to teach them God's ways. And somebody had heavy, precious, brass plates to carry all day long, month after month. The Book of Mormon tells us of this amazing journey. It tells us that "the women became hard, [very strong muscles] like unto a man" and that God made the meat sweet so they could eat it when they could not build a fire to cook it. The people learned to hunt and no doubt gather plants, wild berries, and seeds to feed themselves.

They learned to build barges to cross rivers in their paths. And eventually they built special barges to carry them all to a new land far across the ocean, in the Americas. But first they must have learned how to use vines and animal skins to make ropes. They must have carried axes or hatchets. The life they'd once lived in the city was far away now.

The thousands of people that they had left behind in Jerusalem were attacked by enemies and dragged away to be slaves. If Lehi had not listened to God, his family would not have survived. Those people who refused to listen to God's prophet, Lehi, lost everything, including their homes, their riches, and their freedom. Probably there were many of these who had listened to Lehi and wondered if his message really came from God. Probably many of them simply could not bear the thought of giving up their "treasures," the things of life that made them comfortable and gave them pleasure, to listen to God's message. Our Bible warns us in Matthew 6:19-21, "*Lay not treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt [ruin], and*

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WORD SEARCH

LEHI	GOD	LAND
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TREASURE	A	FOR
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R	R	O	F	D	O	B
E	A	R	T	H	L	Y



Missionary
Benevolent
Association

It's An Exciting Time for the GMBA (A Conference of Firsts)

By Sister Karen L. Progar

When I was younger, I loved going to GMBA Conference. It was a time to see my friends from all over the country and it was an exciting weekend. I mention this because, beginning on May 19th when the General Missionary Benevolent Association held its Semi-Annual Activities and By-Laws Committee Meeting in the Greensburg building, an excitement for the activities supported by the GMBA began to swell within me. I still go to conference to see my friends, but I am now overwhelmed with the power of God and how He will use His people, if we make ourselves available!

As each committee began to give its report, I could see that our organization was not only supporting the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ financially, but also our membership was taking on the role of participating in the missionary work with its time and skills. Young people were anxious to give up their summer vacations to assist with the Vacation Bible School in San Carlos, after touring the west coast as a GMBA choir. A second Youth in Action tour will assist with a Vacation Bible School in the Fort Worth area. I was filled with anticipation for the conference, which would be held the following day in the World Conference Center.

This was indeed a Conference of Firsts and I was delighted to play my small part in the organization. Saturday, May 20, 2000, was our first conference of the new century. Even as our Chaplain, Brother Isaac J. Smith, opened with scripture from Ephesians, reminding us to "walk worthy of the vocation of which we

have been called." I could see that there were those willing and able to do just that.

As the officers' reports were given, Sister Tammy Valenti reviewed the work being done on the first history book of the GMBA that will cover its first 100 years as an auxiliary of the Church.

The first luncheon for our college students would be held following the morning meeting. Brother Patrick Monaghan, Student Support Chairman reported. The young people would receive their first SSP Lifeline audiotape, containing a sermon and several songs intended to encourage them while they are away at school.

For the first time, members of the GMBA, Sister Megan Jackson and Heather Everett, will assist setting up a Sunday School Program in Peru, partially supported by the GMBA.

The FENCE Program gave a report on its first teacher-training workshop that was held this past January. The program plans to sell, by the end of the year, a video and workbook from the workshop that will assist teachers of MBA and Sunday School classes throughout the Church.

Our Audio Visual Chairman, Brother Matthew Gehly, requested permission to work on a documentary at our GMBA Campout in August, which will focus on the Faith and Doctrine of the Church, the *Songs of Zion*, and the Latter Days. The interview process and subsequent documentary is another first.

Brother Brett and Sister Julie Gibson reported that the first lesson for the Light Your Lamp Program, on the subject of Light, is finished and ready for distribution to interested parties.

Sister Alice Suska reported that the Recognition Pin Program would be the first GMBA Program to be translated into a foreign language (Spanish) for use in the missionary fields.

When Brother Doug Obradovich rose to tell us about the International MBA (IMBA), it was the first time any of us heard the experience had by our President, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, at the November 1993 GMBA Conference. In a vision, Brother Paul saw the wall behind the

rostrum disappear and children of every nation stand behind Brother Brian Martorana, who was the GMBA President at the time. He immediately knew that the MBA was meant for the young people of every nation and was even able to identify the nations in the vision.

In the evening the Kids for Christ presented a brief program on spiritual food, using the food pyramid and comparisons with it as the basis for the presentation. Sister Linda Ali, Sister Robin Burns and Sister Amy Urana did a wonderful job of relating something the children are familiar with, to the spiritual.

The first ever combined choir then presented a program with the theme of "Holy, Holy, Holy." The Penn Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Areas membership united their voices to glorify God.

Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Vice President, spoke briefly following the programs, using Matthew 13 as his text. The Kingdom of Heaven is indeed like unto a treasure, he admonished us, and The Church of Jesus Christ is the pearl of great price! He concluded by reminding us to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Apostle Dominic Thomas, General Church President, introduced our first member from the country of Colombia, Sister Rosio Conte, who bore testimony in Spanish, which was translated for the congregation by Sister Julie Gibson. At the conclusion of Sister Rosio's testimony, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri advised the young people that if they ever want to know what they can do to be a part of the missionary work of the Church, think about being an interpreter.

We thought our cups were already full, but as Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., addressed the congregation on Sunday, we knew that there were yet more blessings waiting for the saints. Brother Paul spoke from the 32nd chapter of Jeremiah, telling us that the Kingdom of God is like a treasure hid in a field and that the man who found the treasure wanted to purchase the whole field. Brother Paul stated that

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Branch and Mission News

Ordination in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

Brother Chuck Dulisse was ordained into the office of a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 14, 2000.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Leonard Lovalvo, opened our service. He reminded us of the fact that Jesus had spoken of a spiritual organization that would be built upon the rock, which is Jesus Christ. He explained that the highest calling in the Church is that of a faithful member who dies faithful to God. Brother Leonard went on to clarify how the physical organization of the original Church was established. In the 4th chapter of Ephesians, there is a description of the attributes of the spiritual officers of Christ's Church. He exhorted us to walk worthily of our calling in the Church while explaining how the calling of a Deacon had come about as a help to the Ministry in taking care of the needs of the widows and other saints in the homes and the hospitals, and the Church would multiply as a result.

Brother Leonard charged Brother Chuck and the Deacons of our branch to fulfill the office God has given them, that the Church would be blessed.

Brother Chuck gave a testimony of his experience. Several months ago, he had set aside time for prayer with some brothers in the Church to discern whether it was God's will he continue in the military. He had a dream that is as clear in his mind now as the day he had the dream. In the dream, there was a great destruction; the ground shook, and opened up, and the crevices began to fill with water. He and Brother Thomas P. Liberto were helping the youth of the Church to climb higher and avoid the danger. More kids were arriving, and the higher they climbed, the ground would open up in more places. They reached a peak and continued helping the kids to the top.

When he woke, Brother Chuck knew that his calling was to help the Church, and felt in his heart that God was showing him that He has a work for Brother Chuck; that his work was not in the military.

Brother Leonard asked one to come forward who felt the prompting of the Spirit to wash the feet of Brother Chuck. Brother Paul Vinsick, who gave a very moving prayer, asking God to guide and direct Brother Chuck in fulfilling his calling, washed his feet. Brother Leonard Lovalvo laid hands on Brother Chuck for the ordination as a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He asked God to give our brother wisdom, love and a greater portion of His Spirit.

We ask also for your prayers for Brother Chuck as he begins his work for the Lord in this new capacity as a Deacon.

The Denver, Colorado Mission Update

By Walter Jankowski

Greetings from the saints in the Mile High Mission of Denver, Colorado. We are alive, well and blessed

by the Lord. Time has gone by and it's been a good year for us. We have been blessed with two visits from the saints this year.

On March 19, 2000, Brother Randy and Sister Jill Ciccati and their children, Austin and Carly, visited us from Minnesota. Brother Randy spoke to us from Alma 26 and helped us to focus on the blessings that God has given us with the hope of more to come. It was uplifting for us to see our brother and sister again, and their visit was one of the blessings that God gave us early in the year.

More blessings came our way when ten brothers and sisters from the Omaha, Nebraska Mission took the time to spend a weekend with us on June 10-11, 2000. Brother Clifton and Sister Valerie Wells and their daughters Christina and Joy, Sisters Dorothy Miller, Joyce Mohl, Laverne Harris, Mary Harris, Claudia Wright and Brother Todd Wright all made the trip. In addition, Sisters Jennie and Lori Schmitt and Edie Blazer and Brother Jim Schmitt were here from New Jersey celebrating the birth of Sister Doreen and Ross Dino's daughter, Isabella Loren. Also visiting were Brother Tony and Sister Rose Palermo from Phoenix, Arizona. It was like a mini conference and those of us from



The New Jersey, Omaha, Nebraska, and Arizona visit to Denver, Colorado Mission, June 10-11, 2000.

the Denver Mission really appreciated the support.

On Saturday, we had a season of song and testimony relating a little about who we were and how we came to meet the Lord. Sunday's meeting began with the blessing of Isabella Loren Dino who was an answered prayer for her parents, Sister Doreen and Ross. Brother Clifton then spoke to us very powerfully when he pronounced, "Who shall declare the generation of the Lord" from the Prophet Isaiah's words. Brother Todd followed by reminding us of the Lord's Sermon on the Mount to keep us focused and prepared to declare Christ's coming.

We thank the Ciccatti's from Minnesota and all of the saints from Omaha, the brothers and sisters from New Jersey and Arizona in remembering and supporting us. We all miss our branch affiliations and, at times, it's difficult and lonely with just a few people in these remote places, but the Lord provides weekends as He did where we can get energized in His Spirit and uplifted for whatever the future may hold. Keep Minnesota, Omaha, Nebraska and Denver, Colorado in your prayers and, if the Lord can provide you a way, any and all of these missions would appreciate a visit where we can fellowship together. God bless you all.

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Note of Thanks

I want to thank everyone for all the beautiful get-well cards, written messages, and phone calls I received since my baptism. It brought me both joy and tears to know how much you care for me. You have shone the pure love of Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

Brother Nick Zinzi, Jr.

Welcome

Continued from Page 3

Q. Do Elders prepare their sermons in advance?

A. The Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ speak under the inspiration of God, allowing the Spirit to direct their words, such that the congregation may be fed spiritually, therefore they speak from no prepared text. God alone knows what sermon should be preached on any given day, so we leave it to His all-knowing judgment. Paul wrote to Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Q. Do the Elders of the Church get paid?

A. The Elders are not paid any money for their work in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each holds a regular job to make a living for himself and his family. Jesus said, "freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Paid ministry is not at all consistent with our belief that truth must be brought forth. Paul faced this situation with the Corinthians, "Have I committed an offense in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you

service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man" (II Corinthians 11:7-9).

Q. How does someone become an Elder?

A. A man does not choose to become an Elder; only those who are called by God are ordained into the ministry; "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God" (Hebrews 5:4). God reveals Himself to the Priesthood of the Church who should be called and ordained into the Priesthood.

6. Questions that may arise when testimonies are given in the meetings.

Q. What is the purpose of testimony? Why is it done weekly?

A. The testimony portion of the meeting gives the members of the congregation the opportunity to praise God openly for what He has done for them. As David wrote, "praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt Him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders" (Psalms 107:31-32). It is done every week because God blesses us continually and should be praised as often as possible, "I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more" (Psalms 71:14).

Q. Are only members of the church allowed to testify?

A. Everyone has a reason to praise God, so all are given the opportunity to testify. "Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud Him, all ye people" (Romans 15:11).

7. Questions that may arise if someone requests the Elders to pray for them?

Q. For what reasons do people request the Elders to pray for them?

A. People who are physically ill or spiritually troubled may request that the Elders lay hands on them to ask God to relieve their afflictions. "Is any

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Welcome

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sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick; and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14-15).

Q. What determines whether or not the person is anointed with oil?

A. Oil is used if the person is physically ill. If the prayer is for spiritual uplifting, oil is not used. *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (James 5:16).

Q. Why do all the elders lay their hands on the person instead of just the one who is praying?

A. The Elders all lay their hands on the individual for whom they are praying to indicate that they are united in their faith and desire that the person's affliction would be healed, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* (Psalm 133:1).

Q. Who is the man who sets up the chairs where individuals sit while being prayed upon?

A. The man seen preparing the building for the various segments of the service is called a Deacon and is ordained to assist the Church by looking after the general comfort of the membership. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the disciples needed men to serve in this capacity and relieve the ministry of that responsibility. They looked for *"men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom"* (Acts 6:3). Stephen was one of the men chosen to be a Deacon.

8. Questions that may arise during the ordinance of sacrament.

Q. What is the purpose of the sacrament?

A. The purpose of sacrament is

to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, that His body was broken and His blood spilt to atone for our sins and give us the opportunity to gain eternal life with God. When Jesus set the examples at the Last Supper, He stated the purpose very simply *"this do in remembrance of Me"* (Luke 22:19).

Q. Why are bread and wine used?

A. Jesus used bread to represent His body and wine to represent His blood, so we use bread and wine as well. We see no reason to deviate from the example Jesus set the night before His crucifixion, *"He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you"* (Luke 22:19). *"and he took the cup and gave thanks and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God shall come"* (Luke 22:17-18).

Q. Is sacrament served only to members of the church, and if so, why?

A. Yes, the Elders will serve the bread and wine only to dutiful members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, *"he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body"* (1 Corinthians 11:29). None are worthy of themselves; Jesus makes us worthy. Thus, until a person has accepted Jesus in the way our Church believes, they cannot receive communion from our Elders. We do not mean to cause any offense among our visitors. We pray that some day all who desire to participate with us will be in a position to do so.

9. Questions that may arise if one of the following special situations arise.

Q. How does someone become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ?

A. A person becomes a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by obeying the words of Jesus, *"Except a man be born of water and of the*

Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Anyone desiring to join the Church is baptized (born of water), after which the Elders lay hands on them for reception of the Holy Ghost (born of the Spirit).

Q. How is baptism performed?

A. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ are baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist; they are completely immersed in an open, free flowing, body of water. John the Baptist said, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance"* (Matthew 3:11). *"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him"* (Matthew 3:16). See also Acts 9:26-39.

Q. What is the purpose of feet washing? How often is it performed?

A. By washing each other's feet, we demonstrate humility and our feeling that one person is not better than another, and therefore we perform this ordinance four times per year. Again we follow the example set by Jesus, *"He poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded"* (John 13:5). When He was finished, He told them, *"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"* (John 13:14-15). When Peter at first refused to participate, Jesus answered him, *"If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me"* (John 13:8).

Q. What does it mean when someone stands and speaks in a tongue that cannot be understood?

A. When someone speaks in an unknown tongue, this is known as the "Gift of Tongues" and is generally followed by an interpretation, given by another person who has heard the words in English (or whatever language he happens to understand). The gift of tongues and interpretation are listed among the spiritual gifts in

Paul's writing to the Corinthians: "to another (is given) divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues" (I Corinthians 12:10). The message from God is generally in the form of instruction, admonishment or encouragement to His servants.

Q. What does it mean when someone stands and says, "Thus saith the Lord" followed by a message? Is this the same as the gift of tongues?

A. When someone stands and begins his speech with, "Thus saith the Lord," this is known as "speaking in the Spirit" and is not the same as the gift of tongues. Many of the Bible's prophecies came while prophets were speaking in the Spirit. Isaiah said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me" (Isaiah 61:1).

10. Questions that may arise concerning scriptures.

Q. What are the scriptures that the Church uses?

A. The Church of Jesus Christ accepts the Bible (King James Version) and the Book of Mormon as divinely inspired Holy Scriptures. In preparing this pamphlet, we used only passages from the Bible to support our responses. Book of Mormon passages could have been quoted as well, but we chose not to use them, as people who read this probably do not presently believe in the Book of Mormon. It is beyond the scope of this pamphlet to fully explain why we accept the Book of Mormon. Briefly, it is a record of the descendants of Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Israel, and chronicles their history in the land of America. Ezekiel made reference to the Bible (stick of Judah) and Book of Mormon (stick of Joseph,) advising to "join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thine hand" (Ezekiel 37:16-17). The original plates containing the text of the book were found in the ground, fulfilling David's prophecy, "Truth shall spring out of the earth" (Psalms 85:11). If you are interested in hearing more about our belief in the Book of Mormon, please let us know and we will be happy to explain it in more detail.

Q. If you believe in the Book of Mormon, doesn't that make you a Mormon?

A. If you believe in the Old Testament does that make you a Jew? Absolutely not. If you believe in the Bible, does that necessarily make you a Catholic? Of course not. The Church of Jesus Christ has no connection whatsoever with the Mormon church and does not defend its actions in any way. We do wish to point out that the activities for which the Mormons are criticized (i.e., multiple wives) are strictly prohibited by the Book of Mormon. We ask that any judgments of the Mormon church be put aside when evaluating the Book of Mormon.

11. Questions that will arise if you have further interest in the Church.

Q. Where can I get more information about The Church of Jesus Christ?

A. The Elders and/or Teachers of the Church will be able to answer any further questions you may have about the Church. A Teacher is another ordained office that God set in the Church, "God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers . . ." (I Corinthians 12:28).

Q. How do I decide if The Church of Jesus Christ is the right church for me?

A. We invite you to go to God in prayer and ask Him to direct you in regard to decisions about the Church. James said, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). Many of our members came to The Church of Jesus Christ in this way. God will not mislead you; put your trust in Him!

(This article is the pamphlet entitled, Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ, authored by Evangelist Jerry Valenti and published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

As we consider The Church of Jesus Christ and what it means in our lives, please bear in mind it possesses many gifts that the Lord wanted His people to experience and spiritually enjoy as they serve Him in spirit and in truth.

Think of the gifts of the Lord. We have experienced and witnessed many if not all of them. A few of these gifts are: the gift of tongues, the interpretation of tongues, healings, angel administration, visions, dreams, discernment of spirits, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Many religious teachers will tell you that these gifts and blessings were for apostolic times. The Lord does not work that way today. Nothing could be further from the truth. Kindly remember the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. His teachings and workings among men are no different today than yesterday. He wants us to experience His heavenly gifts and manifestations. We can truthfully say we have experienced and continue to experience His gifts and blessings. This is The Church of Jesus Christ.

Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

where thieves do not break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Yet, it is in our human nature to get distracted by the things around us and to forget to take time with the things inside of us. We especially need to take time over and over every day to think about all the beautiful, good things that God gives us and to thank Him. All God wants us to do is to love Him with all our hearts and to treat others as we would be treated. He loves us each. He cares for you.

With love,
Sister Jan

Obituaries

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

MARY D'ANTONIO TAMBURRINO

Sister Mary D'Antonio Tamburrino, a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, passed away to her heavenly reward on June 26, 2000. Sister Mary is survived by her husband, Brother Dan; her mother, Sister Sabina D'Antonio; two sons, Kenneth and Gary; three sisters, Sisters Joan Gibson, Eva Ondik and Elizabeth Eiler; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

JAMES "JC" KIRSCHNER

James "JC" Kirschner, of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch and the son of the late Apostle Sam and Sister Ruth Kirschner, passed on to his eternal reward on June 21, 2000. He was preceded in death by a brother, Vernon and a sister, Ruth Beatrice. "JC" is survived by five brothers, Samuel, Norman, Paul, William and Brother Karl; one sister, Sister Charlotte Olexa, and several nieces and nephews.

GIOVANNI "JENNIE" BENYOLA PURKALL

Sister Giovanni "Jennie" Benyola Purkall, a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on July 7, 2000. Sister Jennie was preceded in death by her husband Brother Sam and a daughter, Sister Regina Davella. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Mary Faragasso; two sons, Julius "Sonny" Purkall and David Purkall; eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

Jace Lee Kerchner, son of Heather Jane Kerchner, was blessed on March 5, 2000 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Jalen Dru Koontz, son of Alicia Nolfi and Brad Koontz, was blessed in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch on March 12, 2000.

Julia Giovannone Raub, daughter of Sister Carrie Giovannone-Raub and Leo Raub, was blessed on October 3, 1999, in the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

Baptisms

Mary Rosales was baptized in the Modesto, California Branch on April 16, 2000. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Ciarolla and she was confirmed by Brother Tony Picciuto.

Owen Wilcoxson was baptized on April 16, 2000 in the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Ciarolla and he was confirmed by Brother Joseph Lovalvo.

Alex Tapia was baptized on April 16, 2000 in the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Louis Parravano and confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

GMBA

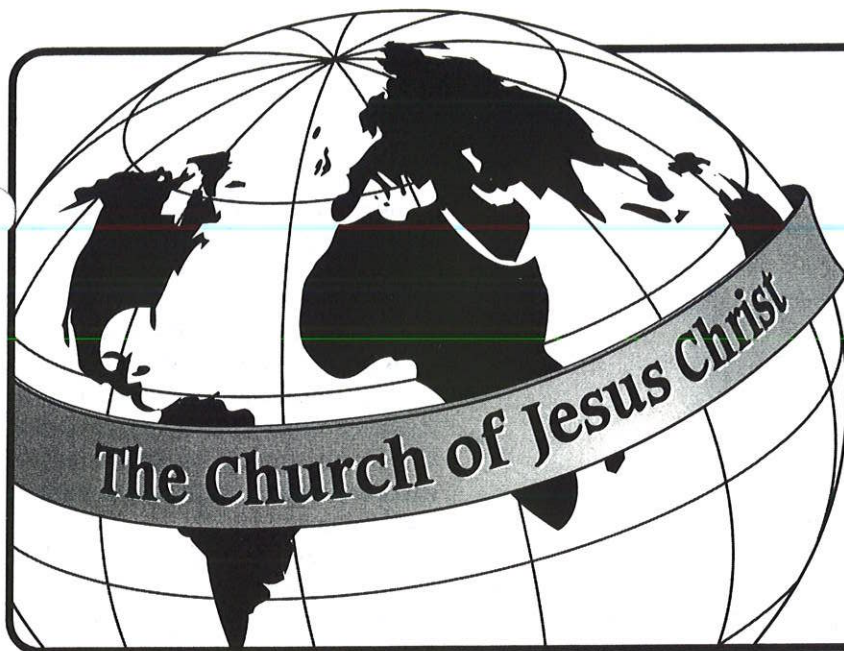
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we have the right of redemption and the right of inheritance. Jesus paid it all for us and the gifts belong to us. He asked, "What stands between us and God?" We were encouraged to make the best of the time we have on this earth and that the Restored Gospel is the treasure of the saints. He warned us to be careful not to cross the boundaries of the land. While the Lord will take us back if we do stray, we will surely bear the scars of our actions.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sang, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*, after which Brother Joel Gehly affirmed that the Lord knows us all by name, just as He knew Nephi by his name in Helaman, 10th chapter, 6th verse. At the conclusion of Brother Joel's remarks, Sister Rosanne Champine sang, *Determined*, which was very fitting.

Apostle Paul Palmieri, GMBA Liaison Officer, spoke to the young people after they sang a few songs for us. He then offered a special prayer for them. Brother Dominic Thomas commented on the unity he felt during this weekend. To conclude a marvelous weekend, Brother Andrew Gehly requested baptism.

Perhaps you can now see why I am excited to be a member of the MBA and why I get so excited about attending conferences. Join us in November and be part of the excitement!



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 2000

Volume 56, No. 10

The Role of a Missionary

Are you a missionary? Have you ever wanted to be a missionary? Have you ever thought what kind of a missionary you would be if you were given an opportunity? If you ever pondered these questions, then this article is for you.

When we think of missionaries, one cannot help going to the Book of Mormon and recalling the story of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. These four men were some of the greatest missionaries the world had ever seen, and through their efforts they brought thousands of souls to repentance and belief in God. What was their secret to success? How did they become great missionaries? Let's examine their story and find out how we can become like them.

Their story begins in Mosiah 27 with Alma (the son of Alma) and the four sons of Mosiah, Ammon, Aaron, Omner, and Himni, who were not members of the Church, going about destroying the Church of the Lord, which was in many locations throughout the land. Alma was a great speaker, and with his ability, he led away many of the people from the Church, convincing them to do all manner of iniquity.

One day as he and the sons of Mosiah were going about rebelling

against God, an angel of the Lord appeared unto them, and they became so frightened that they fell to the earth. The angel told Alma to stand before him, and asked him "why persecutest thou the church of God?" The angel told him that the Lord had heard the prayers of the brothers and sisters and also of his father Alma and that he had come to them to convince them of the power and authority of God.

After the angel departed, Alma and the sons of Mosiah fell again to the earth, realizing that it was only the power of God that could have shaken the earth and caused it to tremble as though it would part asunder. Alma was so frightened by this experience that he became dumb where he could not speak, and he could not move his hands.

The people then carried him and laid him before his father and rehearsed unto his father all that had happened unto them. His father then gathered together the ministry and they began to fast and pray. After two days, Alma's strength came back to him and he stood up and said, "I have repented of my sins, and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold I am born of the Spirit."

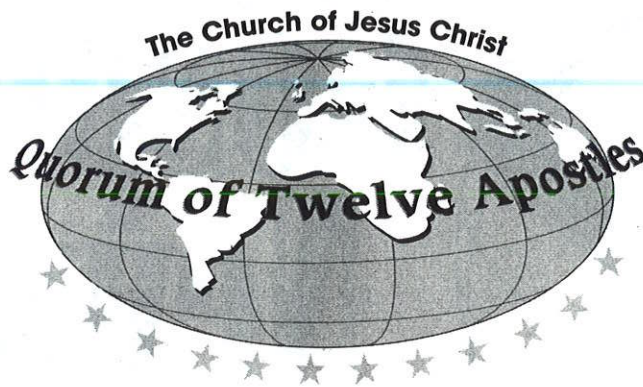
From this time on Alma and the

sons of Mosiah traveled throughout the land telling all the people what had happened to them, and preached the word of God in much tribulation being greatly persecuted by those who were unbelievers, being smitten by many of them.

After this, the sons of Mosiah had a desire to go up to the land of Nephi to preach the word of God to their brethren the Lamanites. After receiving permission from their father the King, they embarked on their journey. Alma on the other hand stayed behind working very diligently in the Church, and became the first Chief Judge over the people of Nephi.

Alma 17:8-11, *"And thus they departed into the wilderness with their numbers which they had selected, to go up to the land of Nephi, to preach the word of God unto the Lamanites. And it came to pass that they journeyed many days in the wilderness, and they fasted much and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his spirit to go with them and abide with them, that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring, if it were possible, their brethren, the Lamanites, to the knowledge of the truth, to the knowledge of the baseness of the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct. And it came to pass that the*

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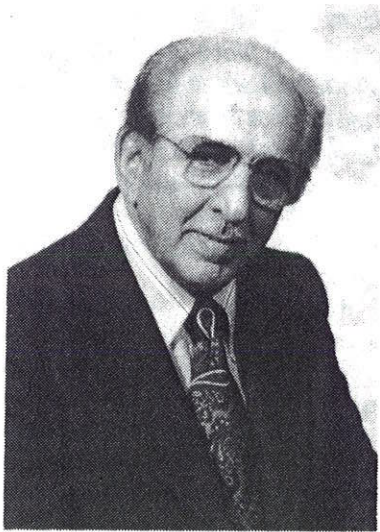


Follow Me

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

No person can ever be a good leader of men unless he has at one time or another learned to take orders from his superiors and followed them implicitly. Jesus Christ, the Greatest Leader of all men, only became such because He submitted His will to the Father's. This leads us to my text this morning, entitled "Follow Me."

He said, "I must work the works



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

of him that sent me . . . He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

Need I quote more to show that Jesus had been commissioned by God, the Father, to relay the true plan of

redemption to the world? Scripture is full of facts that the Son, Jesus, was submissive to the Father at all times. This was so even to the end, when in the garden of Gethsemane, He ended His prayer by saying, "... Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

Having shown the Father that He was willing to abide in His (the Father's) will, Jesus then became commissioned to tell others to follow Him. To the lowly fishermen of Galilee, He spoke and said, "... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

To Matthew, the Publican, James and John, and to many others, the inviting words, "Follow Me," struck a deep and responsive chord in their hearts, so that they left their various labors and meekly and submissively followed the Master. They asked no questions but reverently believed that Jesus would not betray their trust in Him. They forsook all so that they might prove worthy followers of the Lord.

The few short years they spent as followers of the Great Teacher were merely a schooling to make them great leaders of men. Willingly, they sat at His feet, while from His gracious lips poured forth words of divine wisdom. "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Their souls thrilled to the new and beautiful doctrine of the Master. No greater words had they heard than those such as "Blessed are the poor in spirit: Blessed are the meek . . ."

While they drank His words as from a fountain, they could not

visualize that following Him would bring not only joy and happiness but sadness, persecution, and eventually, death. The Master sought to make it plain that following Him would mean to be hated by the world, despised by all who would not hearken to the Gospel. Notwithstanding all this, however, Jesus also sought to imbed in their hearts that, after their days on earth were spent, a mansion of glory awaited them.

A young man once said to Him, "... Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Following Jesus would mean hardships and sufferings. He told them so.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

The Disciples did not fully realize these things until the Lord was taken from them. When they became leaders, staunch pillars of the Church, they understood more fully what Jesus had told them.

Their faith and confidence, which were strengthened after the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was given to them, did not falter. With determination born of love for Him, who had died for them, they faced the world boldly proclaiming the risen Christ.

Throughout their lives, whether in sorrow or grief, whether in anguish or pain, whether in chains or in dungeons, they could hear the voice of the Master, "... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The prisons could not hold them, and even martyrdom could not still the voices of these heroic men who were willing to follow Jesus even unto death.

When trouble assailed them, they could always hear, "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and

follow me." The crosses which they were called upon to bear, became light when they remembered the cross He had to bear for them. They endured all manner of persecutions, because they knew He loved them. Because of this, they were willing to follow Him unto death.

The Prophet Isaiah said, He came to give light to the blind and to heal the broken hearted. How many people came to Him for deliverance from sickness! He turned no one away. The ones who were broken hearted were made to rejoice.

Mary and Martha mourned their brother Lazarus' death. Their only joy was gone. There was no grief like theirs. When they buried Lazarus, their hearts were buried, too. Their friends sought to comfort them, but to no avail. Then Jesus came! He brought peace. He restored joy to their hearts by resurrecting Lazarus. When He stood by the tomb, He wept and they said of Him, "... Behold how he loved him!"

My radio friends, let me tell you this morning that Jesus loves you, too. Are there any of you who are sad and weary, sick and afflicted and broken hearted? Come to Jesus. He loves you as no one else does.

Are you following Jesus all the way, or are you content to have a lip worship? Is your following the Lord just a matter of going to church and then spending the rest of the day or evening in some forbidden place? Do not be content with just saying, "I go to church once a week." Rather, I advise you to come and learn more of Him. The Church of Jesus Christ welcomes all regardless of race, color, or creed. In the Church, which I represent, you will find the true followers of the Lord, who have borne their crosses and who have a living testimony that Jesus lives!

To you who are burdened with sin, I say, come to Jesus. He loves you, also. Cast on Him your burden. Open your hearts to Him who died for you. Be like Bartimeus of old, described in St. Mark 10:47-52, who did not make the noise and din of the multitude stop him. Over and above the noise of the crowds, Jesus heard a

voice saying, "... thou son of David, have mercy on me." Who was this calling? No one else cared, but Jesus did. He heard blind Bartimeus calling, "... thou son of David..." When Jesus drew near, He asked, "... what wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" What else could Bartimeus ask than for the greatest physical joy, "... Lord, that I might receive my sight." Jesus gave him his sight immediately. You, too, my friends, might be like Bartimeus. Are you sure you see spiritually? If not, do not let the din and noise of sin and transgression detain you. Let your voices arise up until Jesus stops by you, also.

I invite you to become a follower of Jesus in spirit and in truth. Peter, James, John, and the other disciples did not let the world stop them. They followed Jesus regardless of pain or persecution. They were called fishermen. They let out the net day and night, untiringly. The seas at times became rough and troublesome; but they remembered that, one time when the winds and the waves were about to swallow them, they turned to Jesus and said, "... Master, carest thou not that we perish?" They remembered how He arose and rebuked the winds and the waves, "... Peace be still." And they were calm.

Now, also under fiery trials, they often felt the reassuring words, "... Peace, be still." The winds and waves of persecution, grief, and sorrow were stilled. They went upward and onward. Under every and all circumstances, they heard the all inspiring words, "Follow Me, Follow Me!"

My dear friends, remember, to follow Him is to have life eternal. To follow Him is to enjoy peace and rest of soul. In conclusion, I quote the undying plea and promise of the Master,

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(This sermon by Apostle V. J. Lovalvo is taken from the Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

Role of a Missionary

Continued from Page 1

Lord did visit them with his Spirit, and said unto them: Be comforted. And they were comforted. And the Lord said unto them also: go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish my word; yet ye shall be patient in long-suffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples unto them in me, and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls."

With this the brothers separated one from another and went out to preach unto the Lamanites. Many times they were chased out of different cities, many times they were thrown into prisons, but with all this opposition, they remained faithful to their calling.

Fourteen years later as they were returning home, after converting thousands of souls unto God, they met Alma on the road.

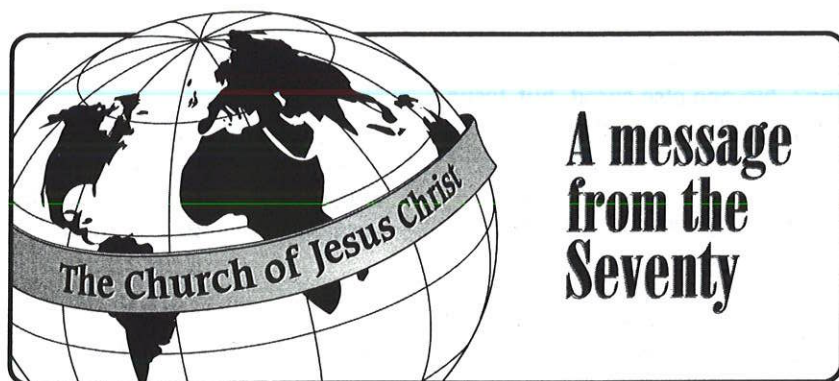
Alma 17:2, "*Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren; and what added more to his joy they were still his brethren in the Lord.*"

What a wonderful story of success in the ministry of these men. But what were the keys to their success? Let's examine again their story.

1. They were fully converted.

After they were struck down to the earth by an angel of the Lord, there was no doubt in their mind of the power and authority of God. They were brought to an undeniable knowledge that all men had to repent of their sins, or they could not enter into the Kingdom of God. So great

(Continued on Page 10)



A Banner Year for Youth-in-Action

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti
Chairman, GMBA Youth-in-Action Program*

The year 2000 was one of the best years ever for the General Missionary Benevolent Association Youth-in-Action Program. Now in its seventh year, this GMBA program, which organizes missionary oriented activities for young people aged 15-25 at established Church locations, enjoyed unprecedented success as God truly poured down His blessings upon all who participated. The statistics are impressive, 13 baptisms, numerous miraculous healings and countless visions and other experiences, but we are also thrilled that many good seeds were sown which should lead to additional reaping in the future.

In Texas, the group numbered almost thirty some days, including ten to twelve visiting young people, seven to eight adults and those from Fort Worth who participated. The group traveled about nine hours south one weekend to visit Laredo, Texas where the Gospel has been recently introduced. As a result of the weekend of meetings, six people were baptized; five from Laredo and one young man from Michigan named Jason Machnik who was traveling with the group.

Jason's testimony is quite powerful. Not active in the Church, he came to Texas to vacation with relatives and was unexpectedly drafted to participate with the YIA group. In Laredo, he was blessed with three visions; one of a dead flower coming back to life; another of an angel stabbing him in the heart with a knife which unleashed a

black substance from his heart, and the third of chains being broken from one of the men who was prayed for and subsequently asked for his baptism.

IN FORT WORTH

Back in Fort Worth, the YIA young missionaries, led by Brothers Joe Ignagni and Jeff Giannetti, distributed about 10,000 flyers, blanketing the surrounding area. In addition to being invited to come to a "Church of Miracles," families were invited to bring their children to a Vacation Bible School being held that week. A total of thirty-five children attended the VBS, including twenty-five who had never been to the Church before. Several of the parents attended the Saturday night meeting and other visitors and inquiries have resulted from the flyers as well.

The "Church of Miracles" theme has been ongoing in Fort Worth and was appropriate for this trip as well. Sister Julie Schroeder, a veteran YIA participant, was healed of partial deafness, which she has had since birth. Her father, Brother Roger, was healed of a ringing in his ear, which he has suffered for five years. On it went, people prayed for and healed. Two others asked for their baptisms during the week and were scheduled to be baptized after Church on Sunday. It had been decided that the two new converts would be confirmed and administered communion at the water's

edge. When packing the leftover bread at the Church, it was noticed that there were four pieces remaining. Sure enough, two more came forth at the water's edge to be baptized, bringing the total to four for the day and ten for the entire trip.

TWO GO TO PERU

At about the same time that this group was in Texas, Sister Megan Jackson and Heather Everett traveled to Peru (with the YIA sponsoring) along with Brother Richard Christman and others. They brought with them training materials (including some from the GMBA's F.E.N.C.E. Program) for instructing children in an organized Sunday School and spent the time working with prospective Sunday School teachers there. The two young people were able to put to use their knowledge of the Spanish language and their committee hopes the young people of the Church will be able to participate in other future foreign efforts, in conjunction with the Quorum of 70, as the Lord directs.

For the final YIA activity of this year, approximately twenty young people gathered in California to form a choir, which was to travel along the West Coast and perform in various branches. Brother Tony DeCaro prepared the music for the program and worked with the group as they practiced the first day. Right from the beginning, it was clear that God was with the group as several participants were healed of afflictions during that very day. Sister Amy Buccellato, who had a featured solo in the program, was suffering from severe congestion in her head that was causing her ear to pop and her head to hurt whenever she tried to sing. She was anointed and healed instantly. Shortly after that, she sang her solo and brought everyone in the room to tears. Angels were seen surrounding the group at that time.

FIVE LOCATIONS VISITED

The choir, led by Brother Tom Liberto, presented concerts in Simi

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The word authority is defined as the power to command, enforce laws, exact obedience, determine or judge. In our society, police have the authority to enforce and maintain the laws of the land. The judges and judicial system have the authority to pass judgment and render sentences to those who violate the law, based on judgments and decisions of the jury.

The Latin word or words for authority are *auctoritas*, *auctor*, and meaning creator. This meaning causes us to reflect on the authority of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. They reign supreme and have the power and authority over all things.

On a number of occasions, they have bestowed this authority to individuals for their divine purposes. In the Old Testament scriptures, the Lord appointed Judges to govern the affairs of Israel. He gave Moses authority over the House of Israel, and this authority was manifested in a number of ways when Moses appeared before Pharaoh. Moses was a direct representative of Almighty God. He had God's power with him and used it for His glory. The rod of Moses represented the power and authority of God. It consumed the serpent of Pharaoh's magicians. It was more powerful; it had the authority of God.

Prophets such as Samuel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Samuel the Lamanite, Lehi, and many others had the same authority granted to them. They were also direct representatives of Almighty God. The works these men of God performed and accomplished could only have been done through the authority of the Lord.

By the authority of God, these men of God were used for His purpose. Isaiah prophesied of the Restored Gospel and the gathering and restoration of Israel. Ezekiel prophesied of the two sticks, the Stick of Judah, representing the Bible, and the Stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, representing the Book of Mormon. Samuel the Lamanite prophesied of the coming of the Lord. Lehi prophesied to the Israelites the pending destruction of Jerusalem.

Jesus Christ had authority over all things when He came to earth. He had authority over the stormy sea. He had authority to preach, to heal the sick of all manner of illness, to forgive the sinner, and to bring salvation to the entire world. By His authority, He set up and organized The Church of Jesus Christ. His Church was instituted so men and women could serve God in truth, in spirit and in the manner the Lord authorized. Remember, when Jesus Christ came to earth, there were many religious factions in existence. However, they were not acceptable. By His authority, people were forgiven of their sins and baptized for the remission of their sins. Prior to His departure after His resurrection, He gave His Apostles authority to bestow the Holy Ghost upon members of The Church of Jesus Christ to lead, guide and direct them in all things. Jesus Christ granted His Apostles the authority to preach His Gospel and commanded them, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

In the Book of Mormon, He gave His Disciples authority to preach repentance, forgive, baptize and bestow the Holy Ghost on all converts. His words were, *"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."*

In both instances, the New Testament and the Book of Mormon, clearer words were never spoken on the authority of Jesus Christ, and this authority was granted to His Ministry that governs and presides over the church that bears His name, The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

People change their minds all the time. One day a friend may become angry with you and stop showing you love and care. Another day, they may want you back. People can be unpredictable. But God is not! God promises us, "I am the same yesterday, today and forever."

He has gentle but firm rules on how to live happily. When we follow them, instead of our own will, then we are loved and safe and happy with one another. When we do God's will instead of our own, we forgive each other and take care of each other. There is so much power in our God of love.

In the early days of the Bible, one good man, Abraham, found God and served Him faithfully. Abraham talked with God. Angels walked with Abraham. When his enemies attacked his tribe of people, God gave them great power to fight back and save others.

God gave Abraham two sons and one promise. He promised Abraham that his children's children (called descendants) would become a huge group of people. God said they would number more than the sands of the sea, and more than the stars of the sky. He promised that He would preserve them and that a Great Deliverer (Jesus), would come forth from them. (Jesus was from Abraham's son Judah; he was a Jew.) All the great nations that persecuted these descendants vanished into history. Their enemies, the Hittites, Philistines, and Egyptian



Pharaohs are all vanished. But, God's people live on!

God kept His promise by working with Abraham's son, Isaac. Isaac had two sons and God favored the youngest one, Jacob. Jacob, also called Israel, became the father of twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. Even after hundreds of years passed and then thousands, God's promises went with these children of Abraham.

One of the promises that interests us in The Church of Jesus Christ is found in Genesis 49, verses 22-26. Jacob was a powerful man of God like his grandfather, Abraham. As he lay dying, he called his sons and children unto him so he could pray and ask God's special blessings upon them. This was not just a blessing for that day, but was a blessing for centuries to come.

Jacob put his hand on Joseph's sons and prophesied that the children of Ephraim would become a multitude of nations (Genesis 49:19). And then he explained where these nations of Joseph would go. He said, "Joseph is a fruitful bough [a branch of a tree, like Joseph is a branch off of his father, and off of the tree trunk of his grandfather Abraham], even a fruitful branch by a well [God's love, like water will help them grow strong] whose branches go over the wall [over the ocean because in the old days, people saw the ocean as a wall]. The archers have sorely grieved him and shot at him and hated him [these are the Native American tribes who have been terribly persecuted since Columbus brought white Europeans to take their land], but his bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands are

made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob [God will protect and preserve the Native Americans; and He has]."

And now we see this prophecy come true as the Native American people grow in strength. And we also know that the Choice Seer will be coming soon to truly bring the Native Americans and us to a pure way of serving God.

God has kept His promises made so many thousands of years ago. Amazing times are upon us. And you and I are part of them. Our job is to praise God and to love and serve Him with all of our hearts. He loves you. He has a plan for you. Do not fear. He will never change. He is the God of the universe. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

GENESIS	BOUGH
FORTY	WHOSE
NINE	BRANCHES
JOSEPH	GO
IS	OVER
A	THE
FRUITFUL	WALL

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



Youth-in-Action Trip to Texas

By Sister Amy D'Orazio

The Youth-in-Action trip to Texas was filled with blessings and miracles. The trip began with a Texas style barbecue at the Fort Worth Branch where the trip to Laredo, Texas was planned. The excitement and anticipation was evident from the beginning and heightened when, during Brother John Buffa's prayer for the trip, Brother Mike Nuzzi had a vision in which the group was surrounded by fire, and a pillar of fire descended into the middle of the group and a voice said, *"I have opened the doors and prepared the way for you!"*

The meeting in Laredo began Saturday evening. Because of the size of the group, approximately seventy-five to eighty people, the meeting was held outside, a concern for many, as the temperature was 105 degrees. After prayer, the temperature dropped from 105 to 85 degrees in two hours, and a cool breeze sprang up and stayed throughout the meeting. Not one person at the meeting reported feeling hot. The meeting was filled with a wonderful spirit and beautiful testimonies. During the meeting, Brother Mike Nuzzi and Sister Lynette Buffa had the same vision of an angel descending into the crowd with a box of precious jewels and walking among the people, offering them these jewels. As the ministers knelt in prayer before beginning to anoint the sick, the word of the Lord came forth, *"I have heard thee and I have answered."* More than twenty people were then anointed and prayed for—for afflictions, for blessings, and for spiritual strength. Three individuals asked for their baptisms at this meeting: Sister Dora Elisa Sifuentes, Brother Jose Raul Romero Castillo, and Brother Miguel Trevino. When Brother Miguel was

receiving prayer, another vision was had by Brothers Mike Nuzzi and Jason Machinik, of chains breaking and crumbling to dust around Brother Miguel. Brother Jason also asked for his baptism that evening.

Sunday's meeting in Laredo was likewise blessed. Two more asked to be baptized at this meeting, Brother Alejandro Arata and Sister Ivana Angelina Sifuentes. Many were again anointed and during the prayer for Brother Alejandro, the gift of tongues was spoken with the interpretation, *"Oh how long I have waited for thee my people. I will gather thee unto me, saith the Lord."* Six saints were taken into the waters that day, praise God, but He is so great, there were more to come.

More miracles awaited us throughout the week. At a Monday night service at the Fort Worth Branch, Sister Julie Schroeder came forward and asked to be anointed for her hearing, as she had been deaf in one ear since birth. As she was being prayed on, she felt a pop and normal hearing was restored in her ear. This miracle was repeated the following Sunday as her father, Brother Roger Schroeder came forward to tell of a ringing and impaired hearing he had been experiencing for five years. Again, after being anointed, the ringing ceased and normal hearing was restored to Brother Roger. Also on that Sunday, we witnessed the miracle of souls being saved as Sister Belinda DeLaCruz, Sister Christina Churchill, Sister Tammi Martinez and Brother Tommy Casillas were taken into the waters of baptism.

An additional miracle has since been made known to the members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Branch. Doyle Bryant, an elderly man who is confined to his home in Fort Worth due to medical problems, recently began a relationship with the Lord and began praying about the need to be baptized. Within days of beginning earnest prayer for the Lord to send him His people, a flyer, passed by one of our Youth-in-Action participants, appeared at his door. Brother Doyle was immediately convicted in his heart of the truth held in The Church of Jesus

Christ. He called the Elders and asked to be baptized into this Church. Brother Doyle Bryant was baptized on Sunday, July 30, 2000.

We thank God for His rich and many blessings.

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Publication Notice

The Gospel News (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly, 12 issues per year at \$12.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters at 525 Sixth St., Monongahela, PA 15063 and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030. The Editor is Donald Ross, 201 Royalbrooke Drive, Venetia, PA 15367. The Assistant Editor is Jeffrey Giannetti, 713 Bryson Way, Southlake, TX 76092. 2125 copies are printed, 1948 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1949 are mailed monthly.



Branch and Mission News

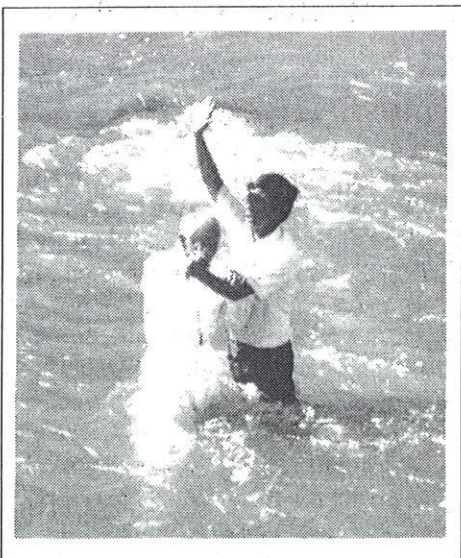
Six Baptisms in Arequipa, Peru

By Evangelist Richard Christman

The first two weeks in July were a highlight of God's blessings in Peru. Brother Daniel Mora, Brother Dick Christman, along with Sister Patricia Christman, and the first two Youth-in-Action participants in Peru, Sister Megan Jackson and now Sister Heather Everett traveled to Peru.

The Youth-in-Action sisters were requested to assist with training the young sisters that were responsible for the Arequipa Mission Sabbath School, and also to conduct a seminar for the children of the Mission. Brother Daniel assisted with his guitar and taught the children several songs, which they later sang for the congregation.

Brother Juan Mestas, our newly ordained Elder, has been working diligently in the community, preaching the Gospel and praying for the sick and needy. He has been holding meetings in various homes and at our rented building on Sundays.



Bro. Juan Mestas baptizing Brother Fortunato Puma in Peru.

Brothers Dick, Daniel and Juan conducted a number of meetings, including a feet-washing service. Early in the visit, a husband and wife who had become acquainted with the Church through Brother Juan and his wife, Sister Carmen, asked for their baptism. Brother Pastor and his wife, Sister Juana, had been attending services and were baptized on a Thursday morning, along with Brother Fortunato Puma, who lives in the same neighborhood as Brother Juan. The name of this community is translated as The City of God.

A large group of saints gathered at the river site, which was an area outside of town, in a mountain canyon. The river flows swiftly from the ice and snow on the mountains, which rise high above the city. This was Brother Juan's first baptism and as he took the three candidates into the waters of regeneration, God's Spirit was present. The new members sat on the riverbank upon large, smooth river rocks and Brother Daniels, Brother Juan, and Brother Dick bestowed the Holy Ghost upon them. Sister Carmen Mestas and Sister Pat Christman assisted as Deaconesses. The whole group enjoyed a beautiful and memorable occasion.

On Saturday morning, the parents brought the children to the meeting place that the hotel provided. Sister Megan and Sister Heather conducted the seminar for the children while Sister Pat had a question and answer session for the mothers, and Brother Daniel had a class for the fathers. Brother Dick prepared snacks and a light lunch for all.

We were delighted to have Brother Willie and Sister Juanita Pinto ask for their baptisms, along with Sister Charo Delgado, who had been attending Church for several years. She had experienced a very difficult time trying to support her family. We arose early on Sunday morning and went back to the river. The water was running swiftly and Brother Daniel went in to assist Brother Juan with his fourth, fifth, and sixth baptisms. God blessed all of the baptisms and the confirmations, as well as our Sunday meeting that followed. We had a

wonderful day and yet we had to say our goodbyes to many brothers and sisters, as we had to leave early Monday morning to journey to Lima and then on to Miami. We culminated our journey at the Conference of the Americas, feeling God's blessings through all He provided. We wish to express a special note of thanks to Alberto Garcia, and Gianni and Anna Cordano, for all of their help.

Hollywood, Florida Celebrates A New Soul

By Sister Jan Humphrey

Being born of Godly parents, fifteen-year-old Andrew Paul DiNardo was taught to love the Lord. The brothers and sisters of the Hollywood, Florida Branch have watched young Andrew grow up to be a fine young man. The Lord knew Andrew's heart and, through His mercy and grace, called Andrew to give His life to Christ.

The blessed event of Andrew's baptism took place on May 7, 2000. Prior to gathering at a small serene lake near the Church building, Brother Dennis Moraco read from the Book of Matthew recounting the event of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. Then all departed for Oak Lake to witness the baptism of our brother. While all sang, *Shall We Gather at the River*, Andrew was moved by the Spirit. Brother Joe Catone offered prayer at the water's edge. The candidate rendered his obedience to serve God to the best of his ability the rest of his life. Having the authority given of God, Brother Dennis Moraco baptized Andrew in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Arising and leaving the waters of baptism, he was joyfully greeted by his father and mother, Brother Paul and Sister Barbara DiNardo.

Upon reconvening at the Church building, the congregation sang while the Lord's Table was prepared. Brother Joe Catone opened in prayer, acknowledging the salvation that Jesus Christ has to offer through the waters

of baptism, by putting off the old and arising anew in Christ. His Holy Spirit will lead, guide, and direct us to keep us on His holy path. With the authority of the Priesthood, Brother George Kovacic confirmed Andrew so that each and every day the abiding Holy Spirit will guide him.

Sister Barbara DiNardo told of the following experience she had recently. While at the beach, Andrew found a wristwatch in the ocean. At home, while cleaning off the sand, the Lord spoke to Sister Barbara saying, "It's his time; he needs to be at the water's edge." Andrew testified that a big vision or experience was not part of his conversion. "The Lord touched my heart." The story was recounted of how, many years ago, baby Andrew stopped breathing in the kitchen of the Church. CPR was not working, so the Elders quickly anointed him and made a fervent prayer to breathe life back into Andrew. Now, the Lord has given Andrew back life a second time. He gave him life eternal!

Showers of Blessings in Greensburg, PA

By Brother Andrew Gehly

In the third chapter of John, Jesus speaks, saying, "*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*" On Sunday, May 28, 2000, three souls took this scripture to heart and became members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

After the rainy morning baptism of Andrew Gehly, by his grandfather, Brother Paul Gehly, Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. offered the prayer for Brother Andrew to receive the Holy Ghost. Throughout the morning, several Elders and Teachers spoke on the subject of baptism, discussing both the blessings and responsibilities that come with committing one's life to God.

As the testimony portion of the meeting arrived, Amy Urana told of how good God has always been to her

and her family. Amy, who had long been the dedicated teacher of the children's Sunday School class, continued to speak of having an urgency to get closer to the Lord, yet still feeling hesitant to make the commitment. Both Amy and her husband, Alan, had hands laid on them for the spiritual strength which moments later led to both asking to be baptized.

With joy in their hearts and smiles on their faces, the members of the Greensburg Branch traveled back to the rainy baptism site. Brother Bob Nicklow baptized both Amy and Alan. The Holy Ghost was then bestowed on Brother Alan through the laying on of hands by Brother Bob Nicklow and to Sister Amy by Brother Paul Gehly.

What began as one baptism on a rainy morning became three. If ever there were showers of blessings, the Greensburg Branch experienced them that day.

Ordination and Blessing in Maine Mission

By Sister Cynthia M. Onorato

On June 4, 2000, many brothers, sisters, family and friends gathered from near and far to witness the ordination of Brother Darryl Onorato into the Priesthood. Our visitors included, Area President, Brother Jerry Valenti, First Counselor, Brother Jim Sgro, and Brothers Matthew Rogolino and Sam Sgro.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. welcomed everyone. He told the congregation that today would be a blessed day with the ordination and blessing of a child. Brother Richard reminded the congregation that we must be as little children, pure in heart, with no malice. Brother Richard then blessed Parker Wellington Onorato.

Brother Jerry Valenti opened our meeting. He asked that we have a prayer in our hearts that the Lord would lead us. His subject was "Titles." Brother Jerry used the scripture found in Mosiah, chapter 5, verses 8-9, where King Benjamin in

addressing the congregation told them to "Take upon you the name of Christ. Whosoever doeth this shall be at the right hand of God." What better title than to be called a saint of God, a child of God, and a son or daughter of Jesus Christ. What greater title than to take upon oneself the name of Christ, to be called saints! Brother Jerry encouraged us to be representatives of our title and to fulfill it with sincere devotion. He stated we must take heed and continue on in our calling. Christ gave us liberty in Him. We must put off the natural man and take upon us the name of Christ. It must be written in our hearts. Brother Jerry went on to say that Brother Darryl Onorato receives another title today, the title of Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. This title represents new and added responsibilities. Let us remember Brother Darryl in our prayers and support him in his new duties.

Brothers Matthew Rogolino and Sam Sgro followed the sermon. They emphasized on how the Lord liberated them from the world and how He changed their destinies in life. Brother Sam Sgro quoted Mosiah, chapter 5, verse 10, "*And now it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall not take upon him the name of Christ must be called by some other name; therefore, he findeth himself on the left hand of God.*" Brother Sam stressed that today is the day to be liberated and salvation has already been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., then expressed himself by bearing a sincere testimony of how the Lord changed his life. He stated how we have to answer for all the deeds we do in our lives, whether good or bad, and God will bless us for all the good we do in life. Using his own life as an example, Brother Richard testified that the Lord has great love and compassion and can change any heart. There is no excuse for not serving the Lord.

The ordination of Brother Darryl Onorato followed the sermon. Brother Matthew Rogolino washed his feet. Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. ordained him.

(Continued on Page 10)

Maine Mission

Continued from Page 9

Brother Darryl Onorato expressed himself, thanking God for the teachings given to him by his parents and grandparents. He said that Matthew chapter 11, verses 28-30 was given to him during the course of the week. It states, *"Come unto me all ye that labor 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."*

Our testimony meeting was full of thankfulness and glory was given to God. Many visiting members, family and friends expressed their heartfelt testimonies. Brother Donald Perrello testified that before the ordination, the Lord revealed to him that Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. was going to ordain Brother Darryl. Sister Cindy Bright related how at the Region Conference, when Brother Darryl's recommendation into the Ministry was announced, she saw three personages standing behind him. At that time, the words of a hymn came to her, "It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country." She felt strongly that the power and authority of God was going to be with him.

In closing, Brother Jim Sgro stated, "To waste an opportunity is a terrible thing. Greater than that, take the opportunity." Sometimes opportunities come only once.

Truly we were blessed and our prayers are that we shall all stand and raise up the Standard of Truth in honor of our Savior who gave His life for our liberty in Him!

A Thought

What you have outside
counts less than what
you have inside.

Live For Others

Lord help me from day to day
In such a self forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayers shall be for others.

Help me in all I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I would do
For Thee must needs be done to others.

Let self be crucified and buried deep
And all in vain my efforts be
To rise again to be with Thee
Unless I live for others.

And when my task on earth is done,
May my work in heaven begin,
May I forget the crown I have won
While thinking still of others.

Others, yes, Lord, others,
May this my motto be,
Help me to live for others,
That I may be like Thee.

Author Unknown

Role of a Missionary

Continued from Page 3

was this conviction within them, they could not stand that anyone would perish. Mosiah 28:3, *"Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble."*

2. **They devised a plan.** They did not wake up one day and say to each other, come on, lets go preach to the Lamanites, and left. They developed a plan. First they went to their father the king and sought permission. After receiving permission to go, they picked certain ones to go with them. There had to be the preparation of the

journey, food would be involved, weapons for food and protection, along with the right clothing. All these things had to be considered.

Christ said these words in Luke 13:28-30, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish."*

They also had to decide who would go where, and how long they would stay. In their story, we find many of the places where they did not have success. How could this be? Was God not with them? With all our successes, there come many failures. God allows us to fail many times for many reasons, but He does not forsake us. He moves us on gently by His hand, guiding us with His wisdom.

3. **They were men of fasting and prayer.** What we are and what we become in God's sight is related to our dedication in prayer. They learned by the example which they saw through their brothers and sisters, and also their father. It was through prayer that God touched their lives. It was through prayer that God restored their lives back to them. It was through prayer that God led them to those in need. It was through prayer that they became the great men that changed the world.

Alma 17:3, *"But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God."*

If you have any desire to be a missionary, you must have the power of God, and you will not receive it unless you give yourself to fasting and prayer. Paul said in Romans, "present your bodies a living sacrifice." Why? "That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

When they were cast into prison did they complain, and begin to doubt the power of God? When Ammon had to fight off those that wanted to steal the flocks of the King, did he hang his head in shame? When they had an opportunity to speak of God, did they walk away, or did they stand and proclaim the glory of their God. The strongest one in Christ's Kingdom is he who is the best knocker.

4. **They were willing to sacrifice all.** Did you realize they were sons of a king? Before they decided to go to the Lamanites, King Mosiah their father asked each of them if they would become his heir apparent. They were willing to forsake all, for the glory and honor to work for God.

I am sure beyond any doubt that they received a great crown of glory when they met the Lord Jesus Christ. One day when we see them in heaven, with all those their testimony had touched, what a day of rejoicing that will be. Isn't that what it's all about, what we do for God? The lives we touch with our testimony. The honor and glory we bestow upon Him who died for us.

Be a missionary. Be fully converted to the Lord, have a plan, fast and pray for God's spirit and direction, and give it all you have.

I would like to end this with a story I heard about a missionary.

This man had gone into the mission field in Africa. After forty years of ministering, he wrote home and told those that had sponsored him that he would be coming home. As his ship entered into the harbor in New York, he went out and stood at the bow, anticipating seeing those that would meet him. As he stood there, he could not believe his ears, as he heard a band playing and hundreds of people standing on the shore. However as the boat finally docked, he realized they had all come to see a famous person on board. No one had come to greet him. He left the ship sadly and sat down on a park bench. He looked up to heaven and said to God, "After forty years I gave in the field, could not one person

come to welcome me home?" After some moments of silence, he heard a voice say, "You are not home yet, when you get home, I'll be there to welcome you!"

Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Valley, Lindsay, Anaheim, Tijuana and San Carlos. A large segment of the Church received daily updates on the choir's progress as members of the respective branches submitted email reports that were circulated to the large mailing list that has been so effective in circulating prayer requests and other Church news. Requests for baptism resulted after the concerts in Lindsay and Tijuana and there was another during the Sunday meeting in San Carlos. The choir group concluded this trip by playing an active role in the annual Vacation Bible School in San Carlos.

Even as this report is being written, additional news has come in from Texas. There is a man living in the Fort Worth area who is unable to get around much because of illness. He has grown close to God during his illness and has spent much time reading the Bible. In the course of reading, he felt strongly that he had a need to be baptized. Because of his physical condition, however, he was really in no position to go around and check out churches to find the right one. Instead, he prayed that God would send somebody to him to show him the way to the right Church where he could be baptized and save his soul. The next day, the YIA team came to his door and brought a flyer inviting him to The Church of Jesus Christ. He is now a baptized member of the Church. This is the first time that a new member has been brought in from the outside as a direct result of the YIA program. We are very thankful to God for this exciting news and for the young people of the Church who are being used by God to make a difference in the lives of people.

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

It is this same authority that was restored when the angel Moroni, representing another angel, flew in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel. If the Gospel already existed, there was no reason for him to fly in the midst of heaven. However, the Gospel did not exist. It had fallen away and was now restored to a man child, His Priesthood, to preach the true and unadulterated Gospel, The Gospel of Jesus Christ. This Priesthood, through the authority of Jesus Christ, is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to every nation, every kindred, and every tongue and people. In other words, The Church of Jesus Christ, its precepts, its faith and doctrine, the doctrine of Jesus Christ, is to be preached to all the earth. Everyone shall hear, from the youngest to the oldest.

This authority exists in The Church of Jesus Christ. In some parts of our country, the Church is referred to as "The Church of Miracles." Why? Because of the mighty works of God and the miracles that are taking place wherever His Church is established. This could not happen without the authority and power of God. Cherish this authority. Use it wisely. Use it for His honor and His glory.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Andy Jankowski and Kimberly Vasquez were united in holy matrimony on May 13, 2000 in Dallas, Texas.

Anthony Gentile and Celeste Quinlan were united in holy matrimony on April 22, 2000 in Branch #1, Detroit, Michigan.

Child Blessed

Parker Wellington Onorato, son of Daniel Thomas Onorato and Catherine Gauvin was blessed on June 4, 2000 in the Maine Mission.

Baptisms and Reinstatement

Brother Jerry Mowrey was baptized on May 21, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Bob Womack and he was confirmed by Brother Ken Jones.

Sister Melissa Clarke was baptized on May 21, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ken Surdock and she was confirmed by Brother Thomas M. Liberto.

Brother John Hawthorne was baptized on May 21, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Surdock and he was confirmed by Brother David B. Ciccati.

Sister Gloria Cordoba was baptized on May 28, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother David B. Ciccati and she was confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Jack Mowrey was baptized on June 25, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother David B. Ciccati and he was confirmed by Brother Bob Womack.

Brother Wayne Edmonds was baptized on August 13, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Thomas M. Liberto who was assisted by his son, Brother Thomas P. Liberto, due to Brother Edmonds' health. Brother Edmonds was confirmed by Brother Thomas P. Liberto.

Sister Stacey Lynn Shawkey was baptized on July 9, 2000 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Alvin Gehly and she was confirmed by Brother Arthur Gehly.

Brother Jan van Buuren was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 21, 2000 by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Gil Garcia was baptized on April 30, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Ignagni and confirmed by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Brother Miguel Trevino was baptized on July 2, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Ignagni and confirmed by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Brother Jose Raul Romero Castillo was baptized on July 2, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tom D'Orazio and confirmed by Brother John Buffa.

Sister Dora Elisia Sifuentes was baptized on July 2, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti and confirmed by Brother Joseph Ignagni.

Sister Ivana Angelica Moreno Sifuentes was baptized on July 2, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Brother Alejandro Avarca was baptized on July 2, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch. He was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti.

Ordinations

Brother John Cihomsky was ordained a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 19, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Stacey Light and he was ordained by Brother Walter Cihomsky.

Sister Nancy Hemmings was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 19, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Marcia Liberto and she was ordained by Apostle Thomas M. Liberto.

Sister Lisa Hemmings was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 19, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Lynette Huttenberger and she was ordained by Brother Lou Ciccati.

OBITUARIES

ROSE (SURACE) COLAGIOVANNI

Rose (Surace) Colagiovanni of Monongahela, Pennsylvania passed on to her eternal reward on July 7, 2000. She is survived by one daughter, Anita Skiles; one son, Renny Colagiovanni; one brother, Paul Surace and several grandchildren.

ALBERTA MANCINI

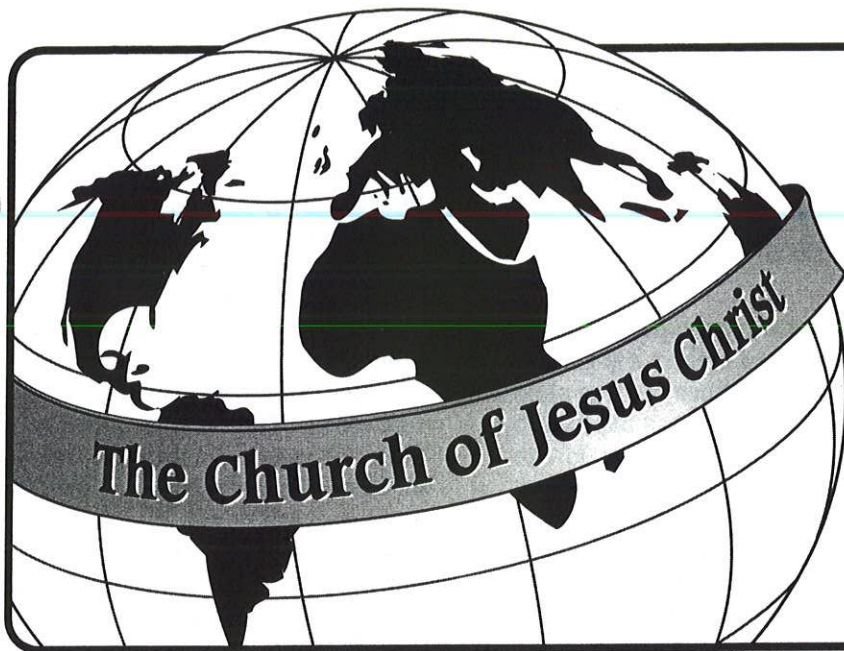
Alberta Mancini of Monongahela, Pennsylvania passed on to her eternal reward on August 10, 2000. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Janet Mancini; one son, John Mancini and several grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

November, 2000

Volume 56, No. 11

My Testimony

By Sister Rocio Conte

"On December 27, 1992, while living in my homeland, Bogota, Colombia, I was assaulted by a robber attempting to steal my purse. I was carrying the money to pay my rent and to buy food for my four children. When the robber demanded my purse, I took off running. I did not know he was armed. He shot me twice in the back, from a two-meter range, as I tried to escape. When I fell to the ground, I pleaded with him not to shoot any more and threw my purse to him and he fled. Several people came to pick me up off the ground and took me to the hospital.

"One bullet went through my thorax, bounced and continued into my spinal (vertebral) column. The other bullet also went through my thorax, bounced and went into my right lung. I underwent surgery to repair or reconstruct fifteen different parts of my body that although I will not attempt to name them all, they are mentioned in my medical files at the Kennedy Hospital in Bogota, Colombia. The chief surgeon who operated on me was asked by his medical peers and medical students, 'How did you manage to perform so many surgeries in one day?' He answered,

'I don't know how.' The medical staff marveled since they believed I would not live long and I would not survive the surgeries. A lady doctor told my mother, who never lost her faith nor ceased to pray, that God might have a great purpose in my life because I was still living.

FIRST DREAM

"Four years later in October 1996, while I was sleeping, I began to dream that I was being chased by many bad spirits. I dreamed that they were touching me and they wanted to capture me, but a more superior power than mine helped me face them and they disappeared. At that moment, I was made free.

"At that time, two angels appeared before me, one on my right and another on my left side. The angels took me to a place I had never before seen on earth. A place where everything around me seemed to be made of bright clouds forming everything we have on earth. The angels were showing me everything that mankind was doing on earth, good or bad, while at the same time I could see absolutely everything in the sky.

"Then, the angel told me to look! And I saw how the angels destroyed all the sin I had committed in my life. I started to feel very bad. I felt much pain for having offended God, such a

wonderful and merciful Being. At that time I said, 'Forgive me Lord, forgive me Lord.' I was saying it over and over, crying and feeling much pain in my heart. Then the angels erased or cleaned everything they had formed in the sky thus far. Suddenly, I saw several angels bring a beautiful ribbon for me, and the angel said that God loves me very much and that He takes care of me.

"Then I continued to walk with the angels and one of them told me that God had had mercy on me, and that He had forgiven all of my sins. The angel told me that the years of affliction would end. He also said that the wilderness I was going through would conclude after the end of 1996. He said that God had shortened my time in the wilderness by two years, implying that I was supposed to go through it for six years, from the time I was injured with a firearm on December 27, 1992.

"The angels took me before a servant of God. The place where he was found was surrounded by burning lights, like lit candles of different sizes. The servant of God began to talk to me and asked me to look at the amount of people that defile themselves in sin. I noticed that the spirit of people before they sinned was transparent, colorless, and a shining whiteness. But, when

(Continued on Page 3)

The Lamb's Book of Life

By Evangelist Matthew T. Miller

Our topic today is found in Revelation 21:27, *"And there shall be in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

Readily, when this topic is introduced, it brings to our hearts, minds, and souls, a feeling of sacredness. It also arouses a realization that we are contemplating a place where splendor and grandeur far exceed any place we have ever visited or may ever expect or hope to visit in this transitory life.

Whenever I am in deep meditation and visualization of this, our future abode, it makes my heart glad beyond expression, and I can readily see what Paul meant in Romans 8:18 when he said, *"... that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

It is necessary for us to analyze the qualifications for fit citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, so that, when the roll is called up yonder, we may be there to answer, "Here I am, Dear Lord." In Romans 10:13-16, we read:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"

The Apostle Paul said these beautiful words, for he was persuaded that we cannot understand the things of God unless we pursue the direct course mapped out by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

According to the prophecies of all the true prophets of God, Jesus

came to redeem mankind from its fallen state. As a child, He grew up immaculately. When He was almost thirty years old, He was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan, commending the will of the Father upon Him. The Holy Ghost came down as a dove and sat upon Him, and the voice of God was heard, fully approving His procedure: *"... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*

After this great deed, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days and forty nights. This was another great act of self-denial and crucial preparation for the temptations which were to follow. The temptations were, first, to make bread out of stone; second, on the pinnacle of the temple where He should cast Himself down; and, third, up into an exceedingly high mountain where He was shown and offered all worldly glory if He would fall down and worship the devil. To all of these temptations, the Saviour had over-coming answers, showing that He trusted in His Heavenly Father to aid Him in overcoming the devil. This is an example to us, that we must trust in God and He will give us grace to overcome all things and be complete victors over the evil one both for time and eternity.

Jesus now, after having overcome the evil one, began to call His Twelve Apostles. The first two were Peter and Andrew.

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him."

Our prayer is that the day may soon return when many people will be as ready and willing to make Jesus their choice. Then, as the children of God, they may be recipients of His nature, to demonstrate and exemplify good. Christ's teaching in Matthew 15:14 shows this: *"... And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."*

What we need in these days more than anything else are men of vision. We read in Proverbs 29:18, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."* Are we perishing today? Yes, we are on every hand. The only thing which can save us is a mass return to God to put His implicit will into effect. Then, the Kingdom of God will come. His will will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. The perplexities of life will cease, and we can become that peculiar people of God, the salt of the earth, the leaven, the light of the world.

On earth, we have many temples; but heaven is one temple, containing countless millions of spotless adoring worshipers. Heaven is filled with the bright splendors of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, as the God of creation, providence, and redemption. This is a blessed state where there is no sight of sin, of ignorance, of sorrow, or of death. It is a blessed city into which the redeemed of all nations shall enter and stay for eternity.

Before concluding, I shall give a few examples of people who turned to God. If they remained steadfast to the end, possessing the qualities of which God approved, I am sure their names were written in the Lamb's book of life. They were the poor Zoramites, who received the words of Alma and were told that they were blessed because they were humble. They were informed they would be much more blessed by receiving the word without being brought to be humble through much poverty. The Anti-Nephi-Lehies were others. They were converted to the Lord through the preaching of the sons of Mosiah, who buried their swords deep in the ground so that they might retain their brightness as a sign that they would never use them again for the shedding of man's blood. Also, the wonderful lesson found in the Book of Jonah, when Jonah went and preached to the people of Nineveh that the city would be destroyed in forty days, cannot be overlooked. They fasted and repented in dust and ashes, and God was merciful unto

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My Testimony

Continued from Page 1

they sinned, their spirits began to stain with intense colors. According to the sin committed, each part of the body would start to stain. The servant told me that if they would die in their sins, those people would not be saved. At that time, I started to feel much pain for the people who were losing themselves in their sin. The servant of God told me, 'You also sinned, but God had mercy on you.' I said to him, 'I wish I had never known sin, forgive me, I don't want to sin any more in my life.'

"The servant of God spoke to me again and told me that God would begin to bless me in everything. He said that God would bring a child (son) of His to be my husband. He told me that God loved him very much and that together, we would have a child.

"The servant of God was in front of me. He embraced me and looked me in the eyes. I felt that his eyesight penetrated my being with his pure love. It was wonderful and indescribable. I wanted to remain in his presence, but the servant of God told me again that God would begin to bless me. He repeated that God would provide me a companion who would be my husband before the year would end, a child of God whom God loves very much, the one chosen for me to arrive to the right way of the Lord.

"The servant of God showed me a telescope. It was made of pure gold, with many precious stones. It looked very antique. I had never seen a similar telescope. When I looked into it, I saw myself with the one that was meant to be my husband, sitting on a rock in Poland, on a beach with a wonderful seashore view. I felt very excited. It was grandiose to be able to look through the telescope to the companion and husband that God would give me for life. I felt love for him since that moment I saw him for the first time. The servant told me, 'It is time for you to leave.'

"After I awakened from my dream, I felt the need to write down

my dream. After writing it, I then kneeled to pray beside my bed. I felt an immense pain for all I have seen in that dream in reference to sin. Notwithstanding, I felt a great emotion and joy, to see God's mercy towards all of us.

"I told the whole dream to my mother. I felt very weak and my blood pressure was so high that many capillaries ruptured. My mother called a doctor who immediately prescribed me an intravenous medicine that stabilized me and I began to improve.

SECOND DREAM

"I saw a city with many people gathering. I saw myself with a servant of God; I did not know who he was. We walked along to a building that was going to be demolished. That was a site where much degradation had occurred. I saw how it would crumble and all the evil that there was disappeared.

"Now, at this site, a Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, was going to be built. I saw people come to survey the land in preparation to build. The site was on a high mountain.

"The people surrounded the place. I was telling them, 'Look, there was much evil here.' Then all the people were able to see all the sin and filthiness that had taken place in that building. I talked to them and asked them not to sin anymore, that they would not be destroyed.

"Some did not believe and passed into the building that was being destroyed, and continued to sin. Nonetheless, there were many people surrounding the place where The Church of Jesus Christ was going to be built. There was a great multitude that repented of their sins, and I saw how they would kneel and ask forgiveness to our Lord Jesus with full intent of heart.

"I marveled to see the transformation, the cleansing (purifying,) and liberation that God had brought about to such a great multitude. When the temple began to be built there were so many people that it was impossible to accommodate them in the building.

There were thousands of people surrounding the construction site. They were all kneeling and saying, 'What must we do to serve our God?' Somebody answered them saying, 'Go everywhere and tell what God has done for all of you.' I saw people crying with exceeding joy. Also, there was a person saying, 'Jesus Christ is coming soon, the hour is near.'

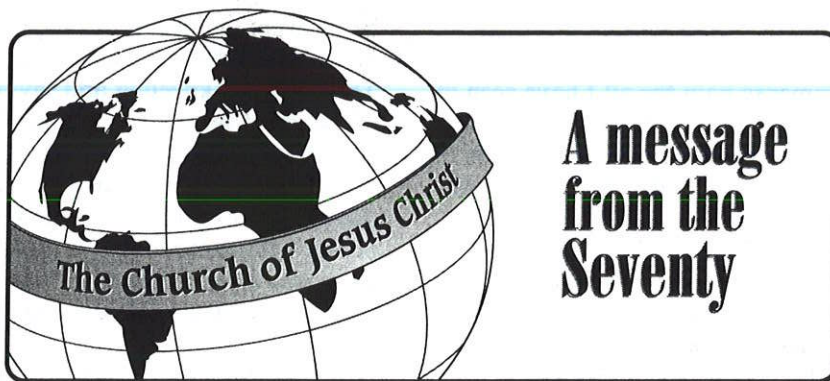
"Suddenly, there was a group of people that came to advise us that there was an aqueduct pipe that had broken and soon the whole city would be flooded. Then we went to the place where the pipe had broken and we saw that there was a lot of water heading our way and towards the city. At that time, somebody prayed and the waters reversed their downward course. Everybody marveled to see the power of God. Everyone that arrived there was healed by the power of the Word of God.

"God had spoken to me and had said that the Church will be comprised as in the beginning. There are apostles, prophets, elders, evangelists, teachers, and deacons. All of them will have the power to heal and to perform miracles in the name of Jesus. Many will see the miracles and God's chosen will begin to be converted.

"As the days passed, around the beginning of November, I would tell my mother that although I did not know the day, the hour, the place or the occasion, I knew I would soon meet my husband, as I had been shown in my first dream and the Church as in my second dream.

"On November 28, I received a phone call that told me that a friend of a cousin of mine was visiting in Bogota and wanted to meet me. I went that afternoon to the lobby of the hotel where he was staying to meet him. He came down to meet me, accompanied by a young man who was helping translate for him. The young man introduced him to me and I immediately realized he was the same man I had seen in my dream. It seemed incredible but true. It was

(Continued on Page 10)



Missionary Endeavor in Italy

By Evangelist Russell Martorana

"You have saved the best for last," exclaimed the ruler of the feast of the marriage in Cana. Likewise, my wife, Sister Lena, and I saved the last fifteen days of our time in Italy to visit with the saints in Cala Gogone, Sardegna.

This last May 30, we arrived in Olbia, Sardegna in the early evening, rented an automobile, and traveled south toward Cala Gogone. We stopped at Dorgali for dinner; but when we returned to our auto, we realized the shift rod would not go into reverse. Upon our asking for help, the manager of a nearby coffee shop sent one of his friends to assist us. He entered the auto, manipulated the shift control a few times, and the shift went into reverse. He then showed us the secret of his discovery. Of course, we thanked the stranger and thanked God for providing the aid so late at night.

ARRIVED AT CALA GOGONE

Upon arriving at Cala Gogone about 11:00 PM, we began looking for Brother Stefano Romano, the Elder-in-charge. After touring the area for some time and being unable to locate him, I saw a man working in his backyard. I asked him whether he knew Brother Romano. He said he did not; but suddenly a voice came from the upper balcony, saying he lived next door. Praise God! He came to our rescue again. I looked behind me, and, to my surprise, Brother Romano was coming to greet us. What a glorious

meeting in the love of God. We stayed with Brother Stefano and Sister Immacolata Romano and had a great and wonderful fellowship.

The next day, we visited the home of Brother Ainello Romano; his mother, Sister Silveria; his son, Peter; and his sister, Sister Marisa, and her daughter.

On Friday, June 2, Evangelist Rosario Scravaglieri arrived at Cala Gogone after a sixteen-hour trip from his home in Milan, Italy. After greeting him in the love of God, we discussed many important needs of the Church in Italy.

The next day, we had the privilege of meeting Brother Stefano and Sister Immacolata's sons, Antonelli and George, and Sister Fernando Locci, and her sister, Rosaria, from Cagliari. In the evening, we had a church service with scriptural study. Brother Rosario taught from Philippians, dealing with charity, unity, and humility. He also stressed the saints must be quick and bold with our testimonies for Jesus Christ. This scripture additionally teaches that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Hymns, prayers, scriptural reading, preaching and communion comprised the highly enjoyable Sunday service. The sermon was based on St. John 4, the living water of Jesus Christ. Fifteen people were in atten-

dance, five of whom were visitors.

After several more wonderful days in fellowship with Brother Rosario, he returned to Milan.

Wednesday was a long day. A call had been received that Sister Teresa Pitzalis, 100 miles north on Maddalena Island, needed prayer. Six of us (the Locci sisters, Brother Stefano and Sister Immacolata, and the Martoranas), drove two autos north to a city called Palau, boarded a ferry in our vehicles and journeyed to the island. Our aged sister was anointed; we had a wonderful fellowship, and then returned to Cala Gogone about 11:30 PM.

The next morning, Sister Immacolata was afflicted, was anointed, and was healed. Praise God! In the evening, a meeting was held in the Church, and I was asked to lead the scriptural studies on the Apostasy and Restoration. Throughout the rest of the week, there were lessons on the love of God, fruits of the Spirit, state of the soul (40th chapter of Alma), prayer, and behavior of saints.

On Saturday, the Loccis departed for home in Cagliari. Later that day, we drove to the neighboring city of Dorgali where we met Lena Romano, Antonelli Romano's wife. She is a tour guide at the local museum. She was very pleasant and informative about the history of Sardegna. It was an interesting visit, sharing many experiences both spiritual and temporal.

ANOTHER HEALING

The next morning, Brother Stefano asked to be anointed, as he was very dizzy and unable to stand up. He was anointed and praise God, he was healed.

At the Sunday service, the lot fell on me to speak and the topic was Revelation 14 and Ezekiel 37, the Gospel Restored with the two sticks: the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Teaching, prayers, singing, and communion occupied most of the balance of the meeting.

On Monday, we drove to another city called Oliena and visited with

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

This is the time of year when families celebrate America's national holiday, Thanksgiving. It is the time when families gather, from far and near, to prepare the best holiday foods and enjoy the company and spirit of family and friends. This holiday feast, on many tables, is a meal fit for a king, his subjects, friends and guests. Many times, a particular family member who invites other members of the family, guests and friends to his or her home hosts this feast.

Might this remind you of a parable preached by the Lord? Do you remember the parable? It is the parable of the royal marriage feast. This wonderful parable is found in the Gospel of Matthew 22:1-10 and was directed to the chief priests and Pharisees.

Jesus said in the second and third verses, *"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come."*

The ones who were originally invited to the feast refused to attend. This is astounding when you consider the king had his oxen and fatlings killed and everything was ready. No doubt, the table was magnificent! It was resplendent with the best of foods. But, those who received the first invitation would not attend. They made light of it. One went to his farm. Another went to his merchandise. The others showed contempt for the king's servants and slew them. When this news reached the king, he was extremely angry. This scripture states, "he was wroth." He sent his army to destroy those who killed his servants and burned their city.

The king extended another invitation. He said to his remaining servants, the wedding is ready, but those that were invited the first time were not worthy. The king then instructed his servants to go into the highways and as many as they could find, they were instructed to bid them to come and attend the marriage feast. They gathered all and as many as they found, they brought them and the wedding was furnished with guests.

It is difficult to comprehend that those who were initially invited refused to attend the marriage feast of the king's son. This is analogous to the many who hear the Lord's call, yet refuse to obey His voice and commandment to come and dine with Him. Some might say this act of refusal was a rebellion against the royal authority and a personal indignity against both the reigning sovereign and his son. It is a duty and an honor for loyal subjects to attend the marriage feast of the prince, whom we should regard as heir to the throne, and therefore, the one who someday will reign over all.

The turning away by one man to return to his farm and the other to his merchandise is evidence of their material pursuits and total disregard to their sovereign's will. They placed their personal affairs above the call of their king. The king found those who were invited the first time unworthy. He then had his servants gather others in from the highways and crossroads, from the byways and lanes, all they could find, regardless of rank or station, rich or poor, good or bad. "The wedding was furnished with guests."

It is evident that the king in this parable is God. The son whose marriage prompted the marriage feast is Jesus Christ. His people rejected Him. He reached out to other people.

When God extends an invitation to you, will you accept or go another way? Will you heed His voice? If you do not, you may experience a spiritual hunger that may last for a long time, possibly forever. It is of extreme importance that you heed His call and voice. Without God in your life, your life is void of His goodness, mercy, joy, peace, compassion and love.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Our "Just in Time God"

Dear Boys and Girls,

As you get older, you will learn more and more about our wonderful God. You will also learn how God is constantly trying to teach us to be like little children and have faith that He will take care of us. The Book of Mormon teaches us to pray about everything. It teaches us to cry unto God for all our needs (Alma 34:17), for the things and people that we are concerned about and then trust God, and wait. This is called faith.

But waiting is usually the hardest part. Our human side starts to worry and wonder. And the evil one also comes around hoping to make us doubt and fear. When these things happen, we can make ourselves stronger and more hopeful, more faithful, by remembering how God has taken care of us in the past, and how God has always taken care of His people.

Think about the story of Joseph. When his angry brothers were overcome by jealousy, they threw him into a deep pit without any food, water, or a bathroom. He could hear them talking about how much they hated him and how they wanted to actually kill him. Only one brother, Judah (father of the Jews) disagreed. And just in time, God showed His plan. God sent a caravan of travelers right along their path in the wilds, and Joseph was sold as a slave instead of being murdered.

And think of Moses. His job was to lead thousands of people out of Egypt to freedom in the desert. Even



though God sent a pillar of fire by night and a tail cloud by day to lead them, they doubted. But can you imagine how they felt when God led them to the banks of a huge sea where there were no boats to cross? And how do you think they felt when they looked behind them and saw the ferocious army of Pharaoh racing across the desert towards them?

I wonder how many of them had faith in God? I wonder how many screamed in fear and terror? But, just

in time, God sent a blinding sandstorm that confused Pharaoh's armies and protected them. Then, God sent a powerful east wind that parted the great waters so that Moses and his followers could run across the sea bottom to safety. And when Pharaoh's armies rushed after them, God released the wind. And just in time, the deep waters crashed down and fell upon the enemies of Moses and God's people.

Think. How many times has God been there "just in time" for you? How many accidents has your family miraculously been protected from? How many of your problems has He solved? How many times has God touched your life in wonderful ways? Scripture teaches us our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He will not forsake you. He knows and loves each one of us. He will always be there "just in time." Don't give up. He cares for you.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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A Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

friends named Frank and Anne Falle. The Church and the goodness of God in our lives were discussed. Anne Falle, an expert in needlecraft, is the lady who made the communion cloths for our Church in Cala Gogone. She wanted our cloths to be unique. After she completed the set, she destroyed the pattern so it could not be duplicated for anyone else. Later that same day, we visited another family, the Grazellas, and shared many experiences with them.

On Tuesday, June 13, Sister Lena and I reluctantly left the vibrant group of saints in Cala Gogone and returned to the blessed land of America. Their hospitality was superb during our stay. The Lord was with us each step of the way.

Our prayers are for all the saints in The Church of Jesus Christ. We thank you for your prayers.



Branch and Mission News

Baptisms in Monongahela, PA

By Sister Leah Nath

On Sunday, August 13, 2000, four young people surrendered their all to God. The morning started with many brothers and sisters gathered at the waters of regeneration. There were many visitors from Mesa, Arizona; Tampa, Florida; Tse Bonito, New Mexico; Lorain, Ohio; Herndon, Virginia; and from several branches in Pennsylvania. We also were privileged to have Apostles Joseph Calabrese and Isaac Smith visiting with us.

The four converts were Brian Joseph Smith who was baptized by Brother Isaac Smith and confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese; Richard Louis Scaglione III who was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione; Juliette Smith who was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione and confirmed by Brother Isaac Joseph Smith, and Jamie Ann Nicklow who was baptized by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr.

Brother Isaac Joseph Smith opened our meeting and used Romans 10:9 and the 12th and 13th chapters of Mosiah, concerning that great man of God, Abinadi. Brother Ike stated that these four young converts had to commit themselves to God and said yes to being baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. We must all be committed and not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to preach and testify of the Gospel. Abinadi was tried as a man of God. He withstood his trial and did not turn back on his commitment to God. He said, *"Touch me not, for God shall smite you if ye lay your hands upon me, for I have not delivered the message which the Lord sent me to deliver . . ."* Brother Ike also stated,

"God has blessed us today. We should prepare ourselves for the blessings of God by fasting and praying more and to be concerned for one another. We should enjoy coming to Church and if we have a distraction, pray about it to overcome it. We should pray about everything that affects our lives and service to God. He will never let us down. Allow God to take your burdens and rejoice at His answers. He will give you the strength you need."

Apostle Joseph Calabrese followed and stated, "If we go to God, He will illuminate our minds and give us interpretations to His great plan and workings among men." "Are Ye Able," was the theme of the GMBA Campout and these words have come alive! Many confessed, "I Am Able," and were baptized for the salvation of their souls. Brother Calabrese mentioned we are in a miniature Zion, spiritually preparing ourselves for the Zion, Peaceful Reign, that will come. He told the congregation that we do not have to be ordained ministers to spread the Gospel. Those with the gift of testimony, our testimonies, allow us to become salesmen and saleswomen for God. He raises us up and gives us that spirit of the Gospel Restored. We are called to His purpose and all things work out for good. Brother Joe related an experience from when he was in the hospital. He kept questioning the Lord, "Why are you doing this to me?" The Lord took him back to the beginning of time, through the galaxy and the sky above. He saw Cain kill Abel. God would not do that to His children. That is the spirit of evil and it came from Cain when he slew Abel. Then Brother Joe saw Joseph Smith martyred. "The Lord took me back to my room and put His hand on me, and said all those that serve God, that all things turn out good." Brother Joe also stated that under the banner of the Restoration, greater things are going to come. "We need to get that desire. The Lord is coming to work with you, provided your knees are close to the floor."

The meeting drew to a close. Brother Don Ross reminded everyone that when we are baptized, we receive the Holy Ghost, the mind of the Father

and of the Son. That is what the four converts received through the laying on of hands during their confirmation. Brother Don said, "When Christ was baptized, the Holy Ghost descended from heaven in the form of a dove." Brother Peter Darr had an experience at the waters of baptism. "He saw a dove with each of the converts and this dove followed each convert into the water. After Sister Jamie Nicklow was baptized, the doves, four of them, flew away together."

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr., stood and said while Isaac Joseph Smith was praying over Sister Juliette Smith, he saw a planter's pot, a green aloe plant with four small shoots coming out of it.

Brother Ed Donkin closed our beautiful morning service with prayer.

During the afternoon service, the new converts expressed themselves, thanking God for calling them into His Church. Sister Ivana Scraglieri, from Milan, Italy, visited with us and gave her testimony as well.

We can surely thank God for the many blessings we have received throughout our lives. Please keep these young brothers and sisters in your prayers. May God bless you all.

Four New Converts in Fredonia, PA

By Sister Martha Cadman Gehly

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This verse certainly is a truism when it applies to the children of the saints. At the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch, we have seen evidence of this truism on four occasions during the past year.

In September 1999, two of our "children" surrendered their lives to God. Robert H. Joswiak, son of Brother Robert and Sister Michelle Joswiak, was baptized by his great uncle, Brother Paul Ciotti. Apostle Russell Cadman bestowed confirmation. A spirit filled day was enjoyed by visitors from McKee's Rocks, Pennsyl-

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Four New Converts

Continued from Page 7

vania and members of Fredonia as Brother Paul addressed the congregation.

Rebecca Hemmings was baptized the next Sabbath at the Penn-Mid Atlantic Campout by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. Apostle Isaac Smith attended to Rebecca's confirmation. Rebecca is the daughter of Brother Timothy and Sister Paula Hemmings.

Stacey Shawkey had a dream where her friends were inviting her to go out with them. She said, "No, I have to go to my church to get saved!" Stacey subsequently asked for her baptism and was baptized by her grandfather, Brother Alvin Gehly on July 9, 2000. Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr., bestowed the confirmation of the Holy Spirit. Speakers who spoke from II Nephi on the subject of baptism were Brothers Joel Gehly, Paul Gehly and Alvin Gehly. A very active testimony meeting followed.

Jennifer Martin made her wishes known for baptism after Stacey was baptized. Jennifer was baptized on August 27, 2000 by her father. Jennifer is the daughter of Brother Gary and Sister Darlene Martin. Apostle Russell Cadman confirmed our new sister. Brother Richard Lawson was the main speaker. He spoke from II Nephi, second chapter, concerning the choices we make in our lives.

Rebecca and Jennifer are the sixth generation descendants of William and Elizabeth Cadman who came from England in 1856. Therefore, a conclusion to the matter is found in Proverbs 13:22, *"A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."*

Visitors at Lake Worth, FL

By Sister Josie Jasmin

We have been blessed the past few months with visitors from many different parts of the Church.

One of our meetings welcomed

Brother Chuck and Sister Diane Maddox and their family from Cincinnati, Ohio. Brother Chuck stressed the importance of a gift, the impact it may have on the one who receives it. Why is the receiving of a gift different than the giving of the gift? "If we would know the gift of God, then the reception would be a different one. The gift of God is the greatest gift that we could ever receive."

Brother Rocco Benyola from the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch followed this theme and read from James 1:17 which states, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* Brother Rocco continued by stating that God has given us the gift of the Gospel and everlasting life, through His Son, Jesus Christ. God has given us many gifts, through healings and miracles to sustain us through the many problems and trials of life that we encounter along the way. We were encouraged to stand firm for the Lord!

At another meeting, Brother Frank Rogolino, from the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch visited us and brought with him a beautiful spirit, one filled with love, and joy. Brother Frank used for his text, Moroni 9, which tells us that we need to stand before God, spotless from sin, pure, fair and white. This comes by being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb and obeying "all of His commandments."

Brother Dennis Moraco, from the Hollywood, Florida Branch visited us prior to his recent illness. He brought a beautiful message with him. He spoke concerning Enos, found in the Book of Mormon. He related how Enos rejoiced in the Lord. Brother Dennis spoke to us on one of the many fruits of the spirit, the fruit of joy. He said, "Joy comes in many forms but the joy that is in Christ is the best. God gives us so much to make us joyful, both naturally and spiritually. Enos went out into the woods to recount his joy in the Lord. When we live a life on His word and principles, He will bless us with much joy."

Recently, Brother George and Sister Stella Benyola visited Lake

Worth. In his sermon, Brother George reminded us of the beauty of the Gospel. He emphasized that we must be part of the Gospel for salvation and eternal life with Him. Brother George read concerning Lehi and how God used him to warn the people of pending destruction. Because of Lehi's faithfulness and obeying the instructions of the Lord, he and his entire family made a successful journey to the Promised Land. Lehi did all that God asked of him and commanded him, because of his desire to serve and please the Lord.

Brother Tony Picciuto and his wife, Sister Lydia, visited our branch recently and we were blessed to have them with us. Brother Tony read from III Nephi, 28th chapter. We were asked the question, "What did we desire of God to give unto us?" Brother Tony encouraged us to be witnesses for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We were further encouraged to be missionaries for the Lord and bring people to the knowledge of the Restored Gospel.

On Sunday of the same week, we were privileged to have Brother Tony Picciuto, along with his wife, Sister Lydia, plus Brother Lou Vitto and his wife, Sister Shirley. It was a wonderful Sabbath Day.

Brother Tony opened our service and recounted to us the four C's, and one I. The four C's are, Conviction, Conversion, Commitment and Compensation (the gift of eternal life). The one I is being Involved. Brother Tony instructed us to walk the walk and to talk the talk in the ways of God. Brother Lou followed the identical theme. He encouraged us to be obedient to the word of God, to love Him with all of our hearts. Brother Lou reminded the congregation of the Parable of the Prodigal Son and his return home. "We can only find rest in the Gospel, and in the presence of the Lord. Nothing should separate us from the love of God. It is time to be concerned about our children, the time is far spent and there is little remaining."

We welcomed Brother David Checchi from Ft. Pierce, Florida, along with his family. Brother David's sermon was based on the Gospel of Matthew, the 14th chapter and the 22nd verse. This was the event and miracle

of Jesus walking on the water. The disciples were fearful, but Jesus comforted them by saying, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." With Jesus on our side, what have we to fear? With Jesus on our side, we should not be afraid of anything. We are in His safety and protection. Brother David encouraged us to hold fast to the end.

Our most recent visit was by Brother George and Sister Jill Kovacic from the Miami, Florida Mission.

Brother George spoke on Nephi and Nephi's preaching on the plainness of the Doctrine of Jesus Christ. We must feast on the words of Christ. When we fast, we can still feast on the words of Christ, which will sustain us through all things. The words of Christ allow us to be spiritually filled. Without spiritual food, we cannot be sustained in this life. Our desire should be to be concerned about the welfare of our souls and to keep our souls in good spiritual health! When we are alive spiritually, we can be a benefit to others and to ourselves.

Remember us in Lake Worth. God bless you all is our humble prayer.

Soul Converted in Forest Hills, FL

By Brother Dan Risola

May 17, 2000, was an MBA service in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. During the service, Lilian Hernandez asked to have hands laid on for spiritual strength. Lilian, who is from Colombia, met The Church of Jesus Christ through Sister Colleena Eutsey. They work together. Lilian Hernandez has been attending the branch as often as possible and portrays a loving, kind spirit. Lilian has expressed her love for God and for each and every one of us and wanted prayer that her husband's heart may also be changed. While the brothers were praying for her, the gift of tongues was given with the interpretation, "So do I create them and so do I love them, thus saith the Lord." Surely, we knew God was working in her life.

The following Sunday, May 21, we saw many visitors at the branch including Lilian. We began the meeting by listening to Sisters Mandy Griffith and Pam Benyola sing, *When You Let Him in Your Life*. Then Sister Debbie Gonzalez sang, *If That Isn't Love*.

Brother Lou Pietrangelo opened our meeting. He spoke about peace, the peace that our Saviour has given, using the text found in John 14:1-31 and Matthew 10:34-39.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., continued by speaking on how things have progressed in our society. We need to stay focused on the Lord who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

During the testimony meeting, Lilian asked for her baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Colleena Eutsey and Gelsa Zinzi stated that as soon as they sat down in their chair after bearing their testimonies, they felt that Lilian would ask for her baptism today. Praise God!

Many gathered at the water's edge on May 28 to witness Lilian baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr., then explained why we believe in the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Jim Speck, Sr., offered a prayer that the Lord would direct a brother to lay hands on Sister Lilian Hernandez for her confirmation. Brother John Griffith then stepped forward and laid hands on Sister Lilian for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Ron Giovannone, visiting from the Liberty, Ohio Branch opened by stating how important the calling of God is in our lives. He read from Malachi and related many experiences of brothers and sisters who lived good lives in the Lord. Brother Chuck Kogler, visiting from Monongahela, Pennsylvania, continued by telling the congregation how he came into the Church. He said that on the Wednesday prior, he kept hearing the song, *I'm a Child of the King*, not being privy to Sister Lilian's baptism. He read from II Nephi. Brother Miguel Bicelis, from the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission followed by reading Mosiah 5:7-12, speaking of the commitment we take on in the Church. Brother John Catone, visiting from Hollywood, continued by speaking on Daniel's calling. The

spirit is what differentiated Daniel from the others. Brother John D'Orazio from Ft. Pierce stated how no one comes to this Church but through God. Brother Lou Pietrangelo then read about Moroni and the Standard of Liberty.

During the testimony meeting, Sister Lilian asked to have hands laid on her because she was upset that her husband did not witness this wonderful event. After she sat down in the chair, Brother Miguel Bicelis came off of the pulpit with the Spirit of God, and offered a prayer on Sister Lilian's behalf in her native Spanish language. During the prayer, Sister Lilian saw a white bird come down and take her sadness and fly away.

Continue to remember Sister Lilian Hernandez in your prayers that she may grow in the Church and that her husband may one day find the joy that she has found.

Ordination in South Bend, IN

By Sister Meredieth M. Martin

September 3, 2000, brothers and sisters from Ohio, New Jersey, South Carolina, Michigan, Florida as well as a friend from Malawi, Africa, met together to witness and participate in the ordination of Brother Alphonso Hopkins into the Holy Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese sealed Brother Alphonso's instructions as he read from the Minister's Manual his duties and responsibilities as a servant and one being called and ordained into the Royal Priesthood, that is without beginning or end. Brother Joe instructed him to be filled with love and compassion at all times in performing his duties before God.

So sweetly and humbly did Brother Russell Martorana wash Brother Alphonso's feet. The prayer before God, opened the heavens and tears of reverence dropped as many of the saints were caught up in this sweet,

(Continued on Page 10)

Ordination in South Bend, IN

Continued from Page 9

sweet spirit as Brother Alphonso was set apart.

Brother Mitchell Edwards stepped forward as the power of God fell upon him. He laid hands upon Brother Alphonso, and presented him before Almighty God by the power of the Holy Ghost, sealing the holy calling as an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. A blanket of love overshadowed the Priesthood, binding them together. This love was witnessed and acknowledged, especially by our beautiful friend from Malawi.

The preaching of the Ministry, the singing and testimonies of the saints, God touched it all. The saints went away rejoicing in the work of the Lord.

The Lamb's Book of Life

Continued from Page 2

them and spared the city.

Dear friends, please pray that God will give you and the whole world the keen interest to make the necessary preparation for the everlasting dwelling place on high.

(This article by the late Evangelist Matthew T. Miller is taken from the Book of Sermons published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.)

My Testimony

Continued from Page 3

coming to pass. He asked me, through the translator, if I could accept going to dine out with him. I accepted the invitation since I was completely sure that he was the one that would be my husband—the one God had for me. While we ate, he asked me many things about my life, with the help of a dictionary. He made me to understand, through his sign language, that he wanted to marry me. He asked me if I

wanted to marry him. I answered him, yes!

"He returned to the United States. We spent the four months of our engagement over the phone and writing to each other. We got married on March 22, 1997, at a Christian church in Bogota, Colombia. Although it seemed a fairytale to me, it was all made real by God. Salvatore, my husband's name, returned to the United States and I returned to my mother's house in Bogota until my documents would be ready for me to go live in the United States with him. Salvatore returned to visit in July 1997 and I finally joined my husband in Michigan on November 5, 1997.

"The first time that Salvatore took me to the church he belongs to, The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan, I felt the presence of God there and the pure love of God through many brothers and sisters.

"That was very different than any church I had visited before. It caused me great joy to see how the brothers and sisters honor and love God, as well as love each other as the Word of God indicates. The Church of Jesus Christ is the only church that fulfills everything the Scriptures require.

"The servant of God told me that God would bless me, and that, through my husband, would come such blessing. That was so. Through Brother Salvatore Conte, I met The Church of Jesus Christ and by the grace of God, today I am a member of the Kingdom of God and His Church.

"Before I met the Lord, I felt like the most unhappy person in the world, without course, without vision, and not knowing what to do.

"But now, through His mercy, God has given me genuine happiness—a happiness that I had never experienced and today I have. I have seen that God does not delay the fulfillment of His promises.

"God has done it all and I could not have done anything by myself. God provided me with a wonderful husband, whom he revealed to me before it would happen. God gave me a beautiful daughter after the doctors told me that I could no longer have children nor nourish them naturally.

My body still functions well, despite all the surgeries I underwent and reduction of some of my organs, etc. I give glory to God for the realization of His word in my life.

"I give testimony that the Lord is coming soon and that everything that I have written in my dreams and visions is true. I also testify that the Lord has blessed me. I also testify that many of the things He showed me have already commenced to occur, just as the servant of God showed me.

"Today I am found with my husband and with my children in The Church of Jesus Christ that God gave me. By the will of the Lord, I am baptized and a faithful believer of the Living God, True and Almighty. My prayer is that God's will, will allow us to have a mission in Colombia, to glorify the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Please note that Sister Rocio, her husband, Brother Salvatore Conte and their youngest daughter just recently returned from a trip to her homeland. They were accompanied by Brothers Paul Liberto, Isaac Smith, Alan Metzler, Miguel Bicelis and Sister Melissa Bicelis.

The purpose of the journey was to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Colombia. The Lord certainly blessed them for their efforts. We now have eight new members in Bogota, Colombia, including Sister Rocio's mother, brother, sister-in-law, and sister. Please pray for them, as they will be working to establish The Church of Jesus Christ in Colombia.

(The above article is the testimony and two dreams of Sister Rocio Conte, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Branch #2, Detroit, Michigan. Her life is a clear example of the tender mercies of God and of great personal faith—Editor's note.)

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
to all our readers.**

Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

It is difficult to imagine living a life without God and His Son, Jesus Christ. We would be spiritually destitute. There would be no joy, no hope, no charity and above all, absolutely no salvation. Without God, without Jesus Christ, there is no hope. There is no salvation.

We must remember that God sent His Son to overcome the sin and degradation of the world. God sent His Son that we may feast with Him all the time. The table is set. The feast is prepared. We have to attend the feast. In order to attend the feast, we must be properly attired. When you read more of this parable, you will note that one tried to attend who did not have on a wedding garment. Because his garment was not white, acceptable, the king had his servants remove the intruder and cast him into outer darkness. We must have the proper garment to attend the feast of the Lord. We must be holy, pure, in essence, the temple of God. This comes through obedience to His commandments, faith, repentance, baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost.

The Lord said, "I am the Bread of Life." What better feast than taking from a meal prepared by Jesus Christ. Are you hungry? Come and dine. Jesus Christ has prepared a royal marriage feast for you, for all.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I wish to express my thanks to all of you for your support during my tenure as the Editor for The Gospel News. Your cards, letters, phone calls and prayers will always be remembered. It was a spiritually rewarding experience. May God bless and reward you all for everything you do for Him.

Love in Christ,
Brother Don Ross

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Announcement

For November, 2000, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.25%
2 years	6.30%
3 years	6.35%
4 years	6.40%
5 years	6.45%

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

Obituaries

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

FRANCES DiNARDO

Sister Frances DiNardo, a member of the Hollywood, Florida Branch, passed on to her heavenly reward on June 17, 2000. Sister Fran is survived by four children, Brother Paul DiNardo, Sisters Angie Stone and Nancy Smith, and Anthony DiNardo; two sisters, Sisters Viola Catone and Rosemarie Ali, and seven grandchildren.

HARRY ALBERT MARSHALL

Brother Harry Albert Marshall, a member of the Bell, California Branch, passed on to his heavenly reward on August 13, 2000. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Harry is survived by one brother and one sister.

Children Blessed

Julian Michael Campitelle, son of Norman and Sue Campitelle, was blessed in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan on July 30, 2000.

Jourdan Adrian La Feir, daughter of Joseph and Jenny La Feir, was blessed in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan on August 27, 2000.

Charles Wayne Roberts, Jr., son of Charles and Michele Girimonte Roberts was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on July 30, 2000.

Thomas James Roberts, son of Danny and Lisa Cullen Roberts was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on July 9, 2000.

Baptisms

Sister Belinda DeLaCruz was baptized on July 9, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti. She was confirmed by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Sister Tammi Martinez was baptized on July 9, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch by Brother Tom D'Orazio. She was confirmed by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri.

Brother Tommy Casillas was baptized on July 9, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch by Brother Joseph Ignagni. He was confirmed by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti.

Brother Doyle Bryant was baptized on July 30, 2000 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch by Brother Tom D'Orazio. He was confirmed by Brother Joseph Ignagni.

Sister Heather Renee Everett was baptized on August 13, 2000 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan by Brother Thomas Everett. She was confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

Brother Thomas George Komjathy was baptized on July 23, 2000 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan by

Brother Michael LaSala. He was confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Lisa Azzinaro was baptized on January 23, 2000 in the Simi Valley, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Edmund Buccellato and confirmed by Brother Tony DeCaro.

Kristan Elzby was baptized on August 13, 2000 in the Bell, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Vincent Scalise and confirmed by Brother Rudy Meo.

Lilian Hernandez was baptized on May 28, 2000 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr., and confirmed by Brother John Griffith.

Fiftieth Anniversaries

We wish to express our congratulations to those celebrating these significant milestones in their lives. May God bless you.

Sister Nancy DiFede of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Josie Jasmin of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Betty D'Orazio of the Edison, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Jennie Schmitt of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Edith Blazer of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Mary Jane Cervone of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Joan Longuillo of the Edison, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Rose Stransky of the Atlanta, Georgia Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Marie Cihomsky of the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Susan Arcuri of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Sister Mary Perri of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

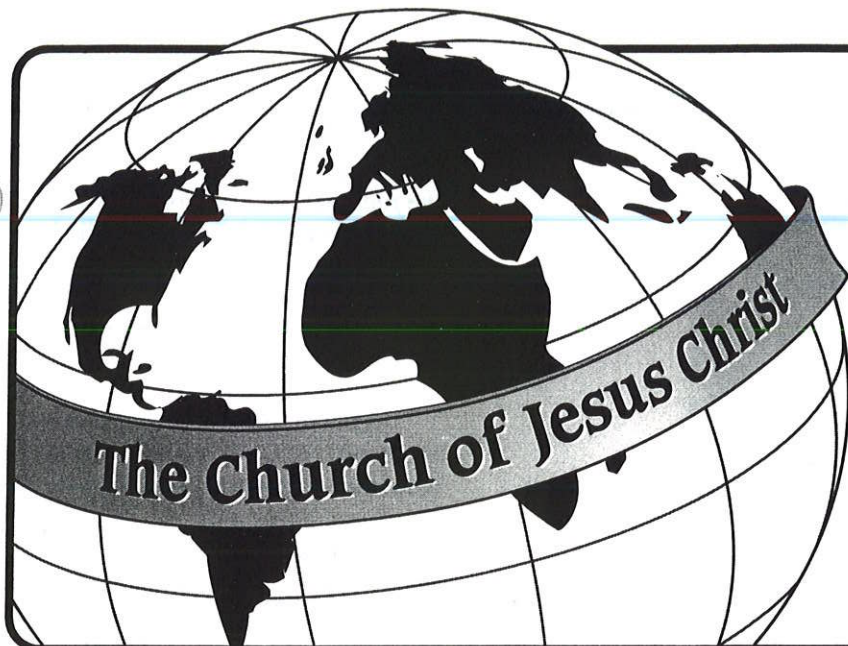
Brother Joseph Perri of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 2000.

Address Change

Name _____

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Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

December, 2000

Volume 56, No. 12

GMBA Camp August 5-11, 2000

"Are Ye Able"

By Sister Mandy Griffith

"Believe ye that I am ABLE . . . ?" The saints of God were reassured this week that the Lord is able to do all things. We may have weaknesses and stumbling blocks, but our God is able to help us step up to the challenges of life, to overcome our adversary, to change the world by shining our lights, and to maintain the momentum we need to take this Gospel forward. We were inspired, strengthened, and tremendously blessed throughout the week as many souls rendered obedience to the Lord, and He showed us once again that He is in control: He is our strength, our hope, our salvation. He is able to save our souls.

Camp Director, Brother Chris Scolaro, was directed to choose the theme, "Are Ye Able," with four sub-themes for each day: Are Ye Able to Step Up Now; To Overcome; To Change the World; To Keep the Momentum. Each day we focused on a specific theme and found that through Christ, we are able to accomplish all things expedient unto Him.

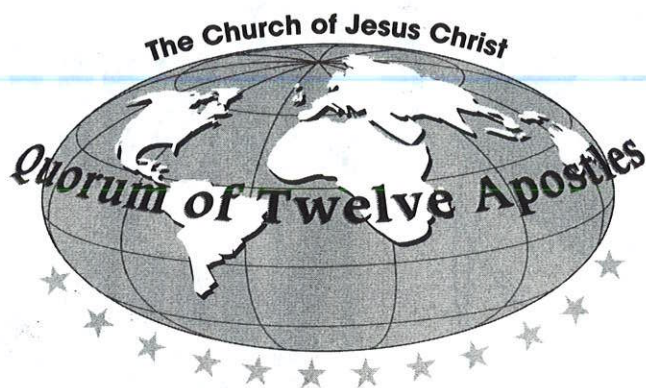
Over four hundred brothers,

sisters, and friends were in attendance for this year's camp, and the blessings began as soon as we arrived. Sunday morning, Apostle Isaac Smith, opened our meeting, speaking of "The Way." Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life . . . there is only one way, one path to follow and Christ has set the example. In these last days, the Lord is building the highway to Zion. It is not a toll road; He already paid the price for us. There is only one way into the Kingdom of Heaven: it begins with repentance and baptism. Brother Jim Sgro followed, saying, "Jesus is the keeper of the gate. We must enter through Him." We can't spend our time wandering down other paths. Jesus Christ is our direct path to salvation. If we are not found on that path, we need to change direction, repent and begin again on the right road. Through Christ we can conquer our sin. Brother John Griffith continued by saying, "We are able to stay on the straight and narrow road with the Lord on our side." Without Him, we are lost and wandering around, on the outside looking in. Our maps, the Bible and Book of Mormon, are before us and can direct us through life. Later, we had a communion service Sunday night and felt the Spirit of God. Brother Tom D'Orazio addressed the important message of sanctification. "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the

Lord your God." We must sanctify ourselves if we want to feast with the Lord. Brother Tom Everett followed, saying, "The Lord has made us able ministers of the Gospel, dispensers of His Spirit." And the blessings continued . . .

Monday: Are Ye Able to Step Up Now? Brother Ken Lombardo opened chapel and introduced the day's theme by sharing an experience in which he stepped to the challenge of sharing his testimony with a friend. We must be ready to step up to the opportunities that come our way and be ready to tell of Jesus. With this thought, everyone broke into seminars and furthered the theme. That evening, Brother Ken Staley began by speaking of stepping up to the call of the Lord. We are all called to work for Him. Brother David Catalano followed with the invitation of baptism. What keeps us from stepping up and answering the call of Christ? As we felt the spirit of repentance in the meeting, Apostle Peter Scolaro spoke and advised us to not resist the Spirit of God. What have we accomplished by saying no to the Lord? What have we gained? We must step up and say, "Here am I" if we want to be used by God. Following the service that same spirit tugged at the hearts of our young people, and after special prayers eight young

(Continued on Page 7)



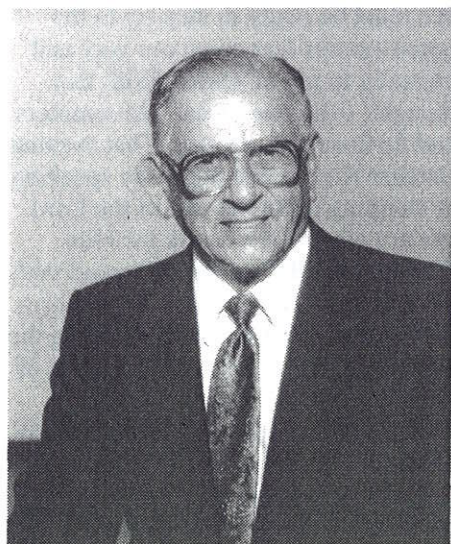
“Witnesses” Prove the Book of Mormon is True

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

Webster’s dictionary describes witness as follows: *One who personally sees or observes anything; that which furnishes evidence or proof; attestation of a fact or event; testimony; a person who gives testimony or evidence in a judicial proceeding; one that sees the execution of an instrument and subscribes to it for confirmation of its authenticity, etc.*

1. Instrument – Bible

The Bible proves or furnishes evidence with many scriptures that the Book of Mormon is true.



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

- a. Ezekiel 37:15-17 speaks of “The Stick of Judah and the Stick of Joseph being one in God’s hand.

- b. Psalms 85:10,13 and Isaiah 45:8 speaks of “Truth shall spring out of the earth.”
- c. Isaiah 11:12 speaks of “Setting up an ensign for the nations.”
- d. Isaiah 29:11-18 speaks of “The vision of all is become unto you as a book that is sealed.”
- e. Genesis 49:22-26 speaks of “Joseph is a fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over the wall.”

There are many more *Bible* references that witness or show *evidence* and give *testimony* of the truth of the Book of Mormon.

2. Attestation – Fact – Event

- a. Revelations 14:6,7 speaks of “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel.”

On September 23, 1827, this angel came to earth and delivered the plates or records of the Book of Mormon to Joseph Smith. See the brief account Joseph Smith’s experiences and the rise of The Church of Jesus Christ. This account can be found in the front pages of The Book of Mormon published by The Church of Jesus Christ, Sixth and Lincoln Streets, Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Soon after Joseph Smith received these records, God supplied more witnesses. He knew that it would be necessary to “Prove all things”

(I Thessalonians 5:21) or to *attest* to the *fact* that the *event* of fulfilling (Revelations 14:6,7) was fulfilled. Also see II Corinthians 13:1.

3. One Who Personally Sees and Observes

As mentioned above, it was necessary for God to supply more witnesses to the great event that transpired September 23, 1827. Following is “The Testimony of Three Witnesses.” Their testimony is also found on the front pages of The Book of Mormon (referred to above). On the same pages, there is a testimony also of eight more witnesses, however, I will focus only upon the three witnesses: (1) Oliver Cowdery, (2) David Whitmer and (3) Martin Harris.

“Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates, which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken. And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for His voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore, we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify *that we have seen the engravings* which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, *that an angel of God came down from Heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon;* and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true. And it is marvelous in our eyes. *Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it;* wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that if we are faithful in

Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment seat of Christ and shall dwell with Him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God."

I will now give you more evidence and proof on the lives of the Three Witnesses. Most of the following is quoted from "Zion's Warning." This was a paper printed by Barney R. Fuller.

"Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris and David Whitmer lived to be old men. They died renewing their testimony of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. A study of the psychology of the deathbed reveals that when men realize their time has come, they are moved with an urge to set themselves right to meet their Creator. This is a time when frauds and hypocrisies are dropped and even self-styled. Atheists call upon God to forgive them.

"If these three men had entered into a plot with Joseph Smith to bear false testimony about the Book of Mormon, it seems utterly *inconceivable* that all three of them would have renewed such testimony on their deathbeds.

"It is a significant fact of great importance that all three of these men later became disassociated from the church, for many years, with feelings of bitterness towards it and its leaders, and yet they clung tenaciously to their testimony about the Book of Mormon. Therefore, one of the *strongest evidences* of the validity of the testimony of the three witnesses is the fact that, although one of them never again affiliated himself with the church, while the other two came back to it just prior to their deaths, *yet, at no time throughout the entire course of their lives did any of them deny their testimony regarding the plates and the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon.*

"If the testimony of the three witnesses were not valid, if they along with Joseph Smith had not had the experience that they claimed to have had, Joseph Smith as president of the

church, would never have allowed them to be excommunicated. He would have been afraid that they would accuse him of instigating a fraud and enticing them to enter into a collusion to deceive the world. But each of these four men knew that they had seen an angel and had heard the voice of the Lord, and they dared not deny that which they had experienced, lest they lose their salvation.

"For ten years after being excommunicated from the church in 1838, Oliver Cowdery practiced law in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The following incident is indicative of Cowdery's attitude while he was affiliated with the church. During the course of a murder trial, the attorney for the defendant arose and, with taunting sarcasm, challenged Oliver Cowdery in the following words: 'May it please the court and gentlemen of the jury, I see Oliver Cowdery is going to reply to my argument. I wish he would tell us something about that golden Bible that Joe Smith dug out of the hill; something about the great fraud he perpetrated upon the American people, whereby, he gained thousands of dollars. Now he seems to know so much about this poor prisoner, I wonder if he has forgotten all about Joe Smith and his connection with him.'

"Finally, it came Oliver Cowdery's turn to reply. He arose and was as calm as a summer morning. There was no hesitation, fear, or anger, in his voice. He replied: "May it please the court and gentlemen of the jury, my brother attorney on the other side has charged me with connection with Joseph Smith and the golden Bible. The responsibility has been placed upon me, and I cannot escape reply. Before God and man, I dare not deny what I have said, and what my testimony contains as written and printed on the front pages of The Book of Mormon. May it please your honor and gentlemen of the jury, this I say, *I saw an angel and heard his voice* – how can I deny it? It happened in the daytime when the sun was shining bright in the firmament; not at night when I was asleep. That glorious messenger from heaven,

dressed in white, standing above the ground, in a glory I have never seen anything to compare with – the sun insignificant in comparison – told us if we denied that testimony there is no forgiveness in this life nor in the world to come. Now how can I deny it? I dare not; I will not!" This statement is found in The Witness of the Book of Mormon, Preston Nibley, page 45.

The following is from the record of W. H. Homer's interview of Martin Harris.

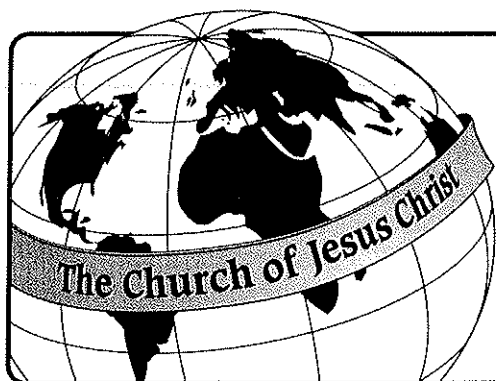
"Young man," answered Martin Harris with an impressiveness, "Do I believe it? Do I see the sun shining? Just as surely as the sun is shining on us and gives us light, and the moon and the stars give us light by night, just as surely as the breath of life sustains us, so surely do I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God, chosen of God to open the last dispensation of the fullness of times; so surely do I know that the Book of Mormon was divinely translated. I saw the plates. I saw the angel. I heard the voice of God. I know that the Book of Mormon is true, and that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. I might as well doubt my own existence as to doubt the divine authenticity of The Book of Mormon or the divine calling of Joseph Smith." (Ibid., p. 117-118)

David Whitmer interviewed in 1886 declared: "As sure as the sun shines and I live, just so sure did the angel appear unto me and Joseph Smith, and I heard his voice and *did see the angel standing before us, and on a table were the plates, the sword of Laban, and the ball or compass.* (Ibid., p. 99)

"It is recorded in the *American Encyclopedia* and *Encyclopedia Britannica* that I, David Whitmer, have denied my testimony as one of the three witnesses of The Book of Mormon, and that the other two witnesses, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris, denied their testimony to that book.

"I will say once more to all mankind that I have never at any time

(Continued on Page 11)



A message from the Seventy

Message from the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

Working Together to Evangelize the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*By Evangelist John Griffith
Quorum of Seventy Evangelists President*

We are brought together for a purpose. We have been chosen to know and serve Him. Ephesians 4:10-12, *"And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*

Before His departure, Jesus Christ established the Kingdom of God when He put His Church structure in place as noted above. Its boundaries include the fellowship of all sincere believers who accept His plan and live the life of discipleship, following each and every point of His doctrine as taught through His Church. It is essential that we be of one spirit and one purpose. God Almighty is the author of our faith and the provider of our salvation. Within our fellowship, we strive to please our Lord.

Unity is a key element in the preservation and success of our Church operation. The unity that Brother William H. Cadman, past General Church President, sought even during his final days here on earth was not one of dress apparel or meal preference but was for the unity based upon our individual connection with Christ. He is our "bread of life." By believing in His death and resurrection and devoting ourselves to living to meet His requirements, we become more and more dependent upon the working of

His Holy Spirit to teach and guide us. By praying for the advancement of His Kingdom here on earth, by not thinking and/or expressing negative thoughts about others, by being positive in our thinking process and building each other up, and by being united individually with Christ, we are united and enjoy the pleasing favor of the Lord.

How can we all be involved in evangelism? In Matthew 9:37, it is stated that *"the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few . . ."* Throughout the scriptures, each of His disciples is encouraged not to put the light of understanding Christ under a basket, but to let it shine so that others may see.

Jesus looked into the crowd to find those willing to accept this commitment to obey and serve. Thank God He saw us. As God gave His Son authority to establish His kingdom, so did Christ transfer that authority to His Church ministry in order to seek out new disciples. Each member of this Kingdom carries a responsibility to help others find Christ.

Prepare yourselves to be used. Study His word so that you can distinguish it from unsound doctrine. Know His teachings. Practice what you'll preach. Fellowship with the saints on a regular basis. Allow yourself the opportunity to support the Church's missionary efforts either at home or abroad. We are taking the

good news of Christ to all peoples: every kindred, tongue and nation.

We are commissioned a high priority restoration responsibility to take His message of hope and eternal life to the Native Americans or the Seed of Joseph. There is a place for you in the building of His kingdom. Are you preparing for it? Are you seeking your place?

Spiritual preparation is an act of faith. During the eating of the Pass-over meal, the Hebrews were dressed for travel. This was their sign of preparedness (Exodus 12:1-30). We, too, must be prepared for the fulfillment of God's promises. One is that the Gospel will be heard by His entire creation and all will be given the opportunity to know Him as Lord and Savior. By your being prepared, you display an act of obedience, making yourselves a living sacrifice. This preparedness reminds us of our dependence upon our God; and because of it, we are more apt to share our faith with others. Gently and respectfully we bear our testimony. We witness of God's goodness toward us. As they listen, they see our hope in Christ. Through our lifestyle, they see our commitment to Him.

Ten trips by Church missionaries were scheduled between October and December, 2000. As the Lord blesses you, support the Church. Pray for continued development of His kingdom at home and abroad and among the Seed of Joseph. Remember our brothers and sisters as they travel to many nations. Many more are being planned. Don't forget that trip to next door!

I am humbled that God would use a sinner such as I. Once I was lost, but now am I found. God bless all who seek to bring forth His Zion!

**Merry Christmas
To All Our Readers**



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (St. Luke 2: 10-11).

Once again, it is that time of year when people throughout the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This year, let us consider the many spiritual births and new beginnings we have witnessed and will witness in the future. First of all, nothing can match the impact that Jesus has made in our lives by His coming into the world. Without His birth, we would only have death to look forward to. But when was Jesus really born? Many scholars of the Bible have argued this point for many years. There is an answer to this question. He was born the day you opened your heart and let Him inside. No one can remember what it was like before they were born. It is the same way spiritually. God does not remember anything that happened before the day you accepted Jesus Christ and went down into the waters of baptism, and received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands. That day is your personal "Christmas." It is the day that Jesus Christ was born in your heart.

Another birth to consider is God's refreshing mercy and forgiveness. In one portion of scripture, Paul said that he dies daily. Once Jesus has been born within us, we have the opportunity to repent of our daily mistakes, with a sincere desire to never make those mistakes again. God quickly sends His amazing grace and we feel reborn. This is what is truly meant by God creating us that we might have "joy," as the Book of Mormon points out. In this sense, every day is like "Christmas" in our lives, as every day brings a new beginning.

The birth of The Church of Jesus Christ occurred when Jesus came to earth and established it with all the ordinances, power, authority, and all of the positions of responsibility. However, it needed to be "reborn" or "restored" in order to survive, just like our daily repentance is so necessary for our personal spiritual survival. Like the joyful feeling we get when we are forgiven, there is a joyful feeling in knowing that The Church of Jesus Christ is upon the earth once again, having been restored.

At the recent General Church Conference, there was much spoken about the birth of the Church throughout the world in places it had never been before. In Colombia, there were eight baptisms recently. This year, Christmas for those eight people occurred the day they went into the waters of regeneration. God is opening doors everywhere for the Church to get a foothold. As was prophesied, the Church in the last days would be small, and the congregations of saints would be few, but they would be everywhere.

This leads us to consider a future birth. *"And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem" (III Nephi 21:23).* Many Christmas cards today say "Peace on Earth." True peace on Earth cannot happen until the Peaceful Reign is established and the New Jerusalem is built. This is the day that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is a day we long for, the ultimate refreshing of our spirit. The words of the song *Good Morning God* describe this future birth perfectly. *"For day is here at last, let all the earth rejoice. Wake the smallest creatures up to hear my father's voice. Good morning, world! This day I made for thee, a day of joy so great, a day of jubilee."*

There are many wonderful things to consider this season regarding birth. Let us cherish them all and thank God most of all for His wonderful gift of birth.

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 that helps balance the entire body. Another person is like an ear that 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 that 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

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talking mean or critically about them. You can think about yourself 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 out [gets rid of] 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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A Thought

God made the world
round so we would
never be able to see too
far down the road.



Back to School 2000

By Sister Karen Progar

While waiting for his vice-president and chaplain to arrive for a meeting, an overpowering desire came upon the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA President, Brother Larry Ali. That driving desire to do something special for the children and young people of our area culminated in a Back to School 2000 seminar.

The topic for the August 26, 2000, all day seminar was chosen by Apostle Paul Palmieri, who felt inspired to make sure our children know how important "Making the Right Choice" is. Brother Paul began the afternoon by stating how excited he was that this event was taking place and mentioned how enlightened he became when he received the list of numerous schoolteachers and administrators in the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area. He also stated that he feels that this type of an activity is necessary and hopes to see it repeated in subsequent years.

Brother Paul Ciotti, who had assisted Brother Palmieri in organizing the seminars, addressed the children, prior to their seminars. Using the first chapter of Daniel, he explained to them how Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were taken from their homes to a strange land. Even though they had left their comfort zone, they never forgot the teaching of their parents, likening this to how today's young people should remember their Church teachings. When confronted with a difficult choice, these four did not do the easy thing and accept the food given them. They asked for food, which their custom allowed them to eat, and trusted that God would let those in authority see that He had taken care of them. As the scripture reveals, "... their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the

children which did eat the portion of the king's meat." Brother Paul concluded, reminding the children not to give in to peer pressure and not to fear being different. If we behave the way we should, God will make us shine.

Using our Area's educators as instructors for the seminars, the students broke into a number of classes in which they discussed the whole armor of God and how it helps us in making those right choices. Following the wonderful afternoon session, a dinner was served and enjoyed by everyone who participated in the day. The Imperial Ensemble played wonderful hymns during the meal.

Our evening service, open to the entire Area, was begun by Brother Rich Scaglione who is our acting Area Chaplain. Brother Rich spoke from II Nephi 2:25-30. In the 27th verse, the scripture states, "Wherefore men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great meditation of all men..." We are free to make our choices, he stated. The students were encouraged to make the right choice, by choosing eternal life, according to the will of His Holy Spirit. Brother Rich stressed the following portion of the 30th verse, "I have spoken these few words unto you all, my sons, in the last days of my probation; and I have chosen the good part, according to the words of the prophet..." He concluded by stating that we should give God the benefit of directing our choices, referencing Alma 37:37, "Council with the Lord in all thy doings, and He will direct thee for good."

GMBA President, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, instructed the children to follow God's plan. Brother Paul related a recent experience of a young brother who realized that by not keeping in touch with his friends from Church, he was being influenced by his friends at school to the detriment of his soul. Fortunately, the young man's grandfather noticed what was going on and encouraged him to get back into the circle of his friends from Church. Brother Paul noted that young people would want to get reacquainted with

their school friends next week. While we should continue to speak to our school friends, he stated that we must make sure that they are made aware of our values. Young people should feel free to speak regarding the differences in their lives, even inviting their friends to Church. Brother Paul concluded, stating that in his young life, he knew whom his friends would always be and together they all would be serving the Lord.

Brothers Patrick and Jason Monaghan, along with Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., sang a lovely acapella version of *It's My Desire*. Apostle Paul Palmieri offered a special prayer for the children, prior to their return to school. Sister Karen Progar sang, *Give of Your Best to the Master*. Brothers Jordan Giannetti, Joshua Nicklow and Jonathan Nath sang, *Jesus Use Me*, after which Brother Joshua Nicklow closed our meeting in prayer. It was a good day. The Lord blessed us and we are truly grateful.

GMBA Camp 2000

Continued from Page 1

people asked for baptism. Praise God. It was their time to step up and be counted as a child of God.

Tuesday: Are Ye Able to Overcome? Brother Bob Batson opened the chapel service with examples of men in the scriptures who overcame adversity. Naman, who had leprosy, was told to go to the River Jordan and wash seven times, and he would be healed. Because of his doubt and resistance, he almost stopped a miracle from happening. Likewise, Gideon was told by God to lead an army into battle. He was afraid and needed reassurance that God would help him accomplish the task. He laid the fleece before the Lord and overcame his fear. Many times, our own will, our fear, our unbelief stands between us and the power of God. We can't limit the Lord. There is freedom in serving God: freedom from fear, freedom from our personal struggles,

(Continued on Page 10)



Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Atlanta, GA

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

On Sunday, September 17, 2000, saints from Mid-Georgia and Atlanta, Georgia gathered in Atlanta to witness another soul render obedience to the Gospel. It was a cool, beautiful morning when John Anthony Flores was taken into the waters of regeneration by Brother Ken Staley.

After returning to the church, Brother Mark Kovacic, Presiding Elder, opened the meeting. Present were many of our new brother's family members. Brother Ron Morle was asked to explain laying on of hands and why we do this. Our new brother was then confirmed by Brother Tom Jones. Sister Ruth Morris from Mid-Georgia stated that while Brother John was being confirmed, she saw a white dove fly towards heaven carrying a banner upon which John's name had been engraved. Brother Ken then related a short experience that he had at the water's edge. Air temperatures were chilly that morning and the water was cold but after coming out of the water, Brother Ken said that places he was wet felt very warm and he never did feel cold. This was God's way of letting Brother Ken know that He was with us and He was pleased.

Brother John Flores then expressed himself, thanking God for all of His loving care and how he now felt "it is time to give something back." Brother John's mother then thanked God for all of His goodness and stated she was very happy for her son. He had always been a wonderful son and a great blessing to her. Sister Melanie, our new brother's wife, thanked God for calling her husband into the Gospel that they might serve the Lord together. After a few remarks from Brother Mark Kovacic and a reminder, "While I was still a sinner, Jesus died for me, how can I not serve Him?", the meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Sam Kunkel.

Unfortunately, we had only a short time to fellowship and have lunch, before we had to vacate the building. This only added to our incentive that we have a building of our own here in Atlanta so that we may enjoy all of the blessings the Lord sends us.

Baptism in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On the morning of September 24, 2000, we gathered at the river shore to witness the baptism of Bill Guerrero, the nephew of Brother Jesse and Sister Maryann Guerrero. Brother Jess and Bill walked into the water together and at the moment that Brother Jess raised his arm to baptize Bill, stating, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you," both of them had an experience in which the water surrounding them that was cold before, suddenly became warm and comfortable. Bill's friend who had never attended our Church was standing on the shore, videotaping the event, and was overcome by the spirit, and weeping. The friend later explained to Bill that he had seen a white light shining down upon Brother Jess and Bill at the moment when Brother Jess raised his arm! This was such a powerful confirmation of the authority of The Church of Jesus Christ! We thank God for this experience.

When we returned to the Church, Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened our meeting, explaining that our new Brother Bill has taken the first steps of faith, repentance and baptism in beginning his new life in Christ. Faith was the first prerequisite. The Apostle Paul makes our duty clear. Once we begin to understand Christ's Gospel, a Godly sorrow brings repentance. Christ preached to His disciples faith, repentance and baptism. Brother Leonard explained that a conversion takes place, and we begin to change by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. The last step after conviction and conversion is commitment. A transition happens as we begin our new life in Christ.

Brother Leonard told Brother Bill that this Ministry has the power and authority to confer upon him the gift of the Holy Ghost. And once it is bestowed upon you, it will be with you forever. One day, we will all face God, and He will tell us, "I gave you a gift, the Holy Ghost which my Son, Jesus Christ died for." Do we realize that we are responsible for allowing this beautiful gift to work in our lives, and that we will be accountable to God one day for the way in which we responded to it? The gift of the Holy Ghost will bring peace in our lives; it will direct and guide us in our choices. The Comforter within us makes intercession for you and I. Our hearts filled with joy at this thought. We don't ever have to go it alone in our lives. We live by hope, hope in our salvation.

Brother Leonard encouraged us to have the patience to hope, serving God in spirit and in truth. If we allow the Spirit of God to work, the transformation in our lives will be complete.

Brother Bill Guerrero was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. Brother Bill gave a beautiful testimony of his love for this spiritual family. After a beautiful season of testimony, we all gathered together for lunch and an afternoon of fellowship. May God bless you all is our humble prayer.

An Old Gospel Meeting in Lorain, OH

By Sister Rose Palacios

In a fast and prayer meeting, these words were spoken, "I will shake the heavens for my people and my power shall fill this building!"

Truly these words became real when four ordinations took place in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on May 14, 2000. The glory of God was in our midst and He bestowed His blessings upon us.

Many saints gathered from Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to witness the ordinations of Brothers Sam Altomare and Nephi DeMercurio, Jr., as Teachers, and Sisters Mary Nardozzi and Aileen Calabrese as Deaconesses.

Brother Tony Calabrese began the meeting by telling the brothers and sisters that Sister Iva Davis had seen the late Brother Frank Altomare, Brother Sam's father, in the room where our Elders meet before the Sunday Service meetings begin. This confirmed Brother Sam's experience of his father being there for his ordination.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., opened our service with prayer. He asked God that His Spirit would be in our midst. The Word of the Lord came forth by Sister Rose Palacios, saying, *"I will pour my blessings upon you this day, saith the Lord!"*

Brother Mark Naro spoke in regards to mothers, as this was Mother's Day, and the importance mothers have played in the lives of all in attendance, both spiritually and naturally.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. opened the meeting and read from Ecclesiastes 9th chapter, verse ten. He made a few remarks regarding mothers and told an experience of a brother who had not gone to Church in a while. One Sunday, this brother was at home and he heard a voice call him by name and said, *"Brother, go to Church. Don't you know that God is your Father and the Church is your Mother?"* He made his way to Church and was faithful until the day the Lord called him home. It was very encouraging to hear of God's love and mercy. Truly, where could we go? He has the words of eternal life.

Brother Paul then read the 10th verse, *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."*

As he spoke, he said, we look forward to these ordinations. It is not so much you in the offices; it is the office in you, striving to bring forth the work of God. The purpose of these offices is to bring this message to the world. He asked, *"Does the world know that you have been called the sons and daughters of God?"* Like in the days of old when God called Samuel three times and Eli told him to answer with the words, *"Here I am Lord speak."* So everyone in Israel

and Bathsheba knew that Samuel was a prophet of God. He ended his discourse by saying, *"Let us be able to make a blessing to someone today, that we may know where we are going that our eyes may be fixed on the work of the latter day glory, when the Lord shall bring Zion again."*

Brother Bill Colangelo followed by reading from Isaiah, Chapter 1, verse 18, *"Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* He spoke of his late beloved wife, Sister Chris. I believe we all felt his loss and how much he loved her, as he loves his mother, the Church.

We then sang, *To the Work*. Brother Joseph Calabrese was our next speaker. Before he read, he commented on how the Lorain Branch has held fast and prayer meetings for over twenty-five years and he attributes the answered prayers and callings to the many years of prayer meetings. He then read the duties for the office of Teacher and Deaconess.

We sang, *Where He Leads Me*, as the candidates came forward to have their feet washed. Brother Frank Palacios embraced Brother Sam Altomare before washing his feet and spoke the Word of the Lord, *"These are my callings, saith the Lord. I have called them. I have called them, saith the Lord."*

Brother Sam's feet were washed by Brother Frank Palacios. Brother Nephi's feet were washed by Brother Joseph Cotellesse from Michigan. After these feet washings, the Elders formed a circle around our two candidates. Brother Paul Joseph Ciotti prayed for the brothers who were to be ordained Teachers.

Brother Joseph Calabrese ordained Brother Sam Altomare into the office of Teacher. In his prayer, he mentioned how the late Brother Frank Altomare was smiling down on his son and that Brother Sam might follow in his father's footsteps and encouraged him to be faithful to his calling.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., ordained his son, Brother Nephi Jr., into the office of a Teacher. As he

prayed, he remarked how his son has grown and the Lord has been with him that he would be able to sow love and have the ability to communicate. It sounded very beautiful to hear a father saying these words over his son, *"Having authority given to me of Jesus Christ, I ordain you a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ."*

Our two Deaconess candidates came forward to have their feet washed. Sister Mary's feet were washed by her daughter, Sister Leona Buffa. Sister Aileen's feet were washed by Sister Carla King.

After these feet washings, the Elders again formed a circle around our sisters. Brother Tony Calabrese prayed for our sisters who were to be ordained Deaconesses.

Brother John Buffa ordained his mother-in-law; Sister Mary, and Brother Mark Naro ordained Sister Aileen into the office of Deaconess.

As Brother Paul Ciotti embraced Sister Mary, he spoke in the gift of tongues. Sister Kristy Johnson was given the interpretation to be, *"If you call me, I will answer. If you pray, I will hear."*

Our four candidates were given the opportunity to testify and they each told of the experiences they had in regards to their callings. The Elders and other members of the congregation also testified of experiences relating to these callings. Sister Rose Palacios testified that she had a dream where she saw two sisters on one side of the sacrament table and two brothers on the other side of the table. She then saw two white doves fly up from where the sisters were sitting and two other white doves flew up to where the brothers were sitting and then all four doves met at the top of the ceiling. This is exactly how the ordinations took place.

Another blessing we felt occurred as Brother Nephi Sr., was anointing Brother Tony Calabrese and the gift of tongues were spoken.

The Spirit of God was surely in our midst this day. Brother Paul Ciotti closed our meeting with prayer and we continued our fellowship over lunch. We thank God for the outpouring of His blessings.

Notice

Print House gift certificates make great gifts for Christmas. They can be used to purchase Brother V. J. Lovalvo's autobiography, *I Can Hear My Savior Calling, My Autobiography* due for release December 8, 2000.

The following other publications would also make great gifts:

1. *A Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ*
2. *Missionary Endeavors at Home and Abroad - An Autobiography and Personal Experiences of Apostle Joseph Calabrese*
3. *Book of Mormon Reflections*
4. *It Is Written, Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*
5. Bibles
6. Subscriptions to the *Gospel News*
7. Many pamphlets about The Church of Jesus Christ

To order or request a literature list, contact the Print House at:

8282 Boettner Rd.
P.O. Box 30
Bridgewater, MI 48115
734-429-5080

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank God for His Son Jesus Christ and for all He has done for me. In the last five months, I have been very afflicted due to a light stroke and heart condition. Though not completely well yet, I am doing much better. I am contributing my progress to the many prayers, telephone calls, and cards that I have received from all over the Church, both domestic and foreign. You have proved many times, over and over, the great love you have

for me. May God bless each and every one of you with His richest blessings always! What a wonderful Church, The Church of Jesus Christ!

Sister Vicki Calabrese
Lorain, Ohio Branch

* * * * *

My wife and I would like to thank all our brothers, sisters, and friends who have been praying for our daughter Bonnie and us through this long ordeal of cancer. She went home to our God on September 30, 2000. She never seemed to be in pain, never took the doctors prescription in these many months of battling this disease. We had some beautiful experiences during this period of time to give us strength. We want to thank you all who have been praying for us, also for the many cards and flowers. We never felt alone with all your support.

God bless you all,
Brother Doug and Sister Pat McLellan
Denver, Colorado Mission

GMBA Campout 2000

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and freedom from the evil one. The Lord is able to help us overcome ourselves and submit to His will. Throughout the day we pondered this theme, and in the afternoon, we went to the waters to witness the young souls of those who were able to overcome and choose Christ. Tuesday evening, the ministry confirmed the new converts, and the word of the Lord was spoken, saying, "*My Son paid a great price for this gift to be given tonight.*" Thank God for this great price paid, enabling us to be partakers of the Kingdom of God. After testimonies from the new converts, Brother Phil Jackson spoke on the armor of God. Each of us received an armor to wear the day we were baptized. With this armor, we can overcome anything. We are fully protected by the Lord, and if we can just open our eyes to see the armor that we are wearing everyday,

we will feel empowered, knowing that we can overcome any adversity that comes our way. Brother Paul Ciotti continued, advising us to drink from the well of Jesus Christ. We can overcome the enemy and cross the lines of evil by following Jesus' example and walking in His path. Jesus crossed the line by coming to earth. He overcame the world. He is able to help us do the same.

Wednesday: Are Ye Able to Change the World? Brother Rick Scaglione began today's chapel with the story of Ammon and King Lamoni. Through the Spirit of God, Ammon was able to change the heart of King Lamoni. Through his words and his love, a soul was changed. We can have an affect on the lives of mankind. One by one, every soul counts. We can shine our lights to the world and allow Jesus Christ to touch the hearts and minds of the people in this world. As we went into seminars, we talked about the changes we can make in ourselves to better our world around us. If everyone took up the challenge to improve his or her individual life, the world would be a very different place. Like the hymn in the Songs of Zion, *Checking on Me*, we need to look in the mirror each day and ask the Lord to help us be the servant He wants us to be. That evening, Apostle Paul Palmieri encouraged us to maintain our righteousness. "Learn all about the Church, know it backwards and forwards." We represent the Church to the world. We must walk in Christ's path to be favorable examples for our Lord. If we can accomplish this, the world will see the change in us. Later that evening, more of our young people decided to make that change and ask for baptism. The Lord continued to call His children.

Thursday: Are Ye Able to Keep the Momentum? Brother Bob McDonnell opened the morning meeting, asking us to look through our mind's eye. "Jesus has the feast table spread with spiritual food. This is awaiting us if we keep going and serve Him to the end. There is no other reason for your existence except to serve God." The momentum continued on throughout the day as we again

went to the waters of baptism. There were still some that had been putting off the call of repentance, and the word of the Lord came forth again saying, "My Son went into the water, why can't you?" The spirit was strong and many more souls were touched and struggles were ended as the children of God answered His calling. That evening, the Adult and Children's Choirs sang praises to the Lord. The new converts received confirmation of the Holy Ghost, and we heard from the three GMBA officers of how blessed they have been in serving the Lord through the avenue of the GMBA. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, and Brother Isaac J. Smith thanked the Lord for the opportunity to serve and for the great outpouring of His Spirit throughout the week. A wonderful total of twenty-eight souls requested baptism throughout the week, and instead of naming them day-by-day for fear of forgetting one, here are all the names of the new converts:

Jameson Staley, Daniel Arcuri, Christine Maddox, Jeannette McMilan, Patrick Giannetti, Amanda Straccia, Adam Kimbro, Jordan Giannetti, Andrew Jackson, Aaron McMilan, Jonathan Suska, Angie Clark, Rick Scaglione, Brian Smith, Jamie Nicklow, Alison Turley, Ryan Huttenberger, Keith Eutsey, Rilla Palmieri, Ivana Scravaglieri, Alyson Genaro, Sarah Vitto, Jenny Vargo, Melanie Capone, Mary Vucinich, Heather Everett, Felicia Cross and Juliette Smith.

Words cannot sufficiently relate to you the spirit we felt at this camp. The Lord's power was so strong, and many beautiful individual experiences were had that space does not permit us to share. Angels ministered unto us, Jesus Christ was present, and lives were enriched and changed. We are so thankful, truly thankful and grateful, to be a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. What a privilege! What a heritage! What a mighty God we serve! He is able to do all things! We are able to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven through the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.

"Witnesses"

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denied that testimony or any part thereof. I also testify to the world that neither Oliver Cowdery nor Martin Harris even at anytime denied their testimony. They both died reaffirming the truth of the divine authenticity of The Book of Mormon." *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, p. 8 (1887)

In another interview with David Whitmer, September 5, 1881, Elder W. H. Reilly and G. A. Blakeslee (RLDS) visited David Whitmer at his home, Richmond, Ray County, Missouri.

"After breakfast, we called on David Whitmer, Sr., meeting him just outside of his residence, and introducing ourselves. He invited us into the house and directed us into a small room, presumably his own resting and sleeping apartment. He is now upwards of seventy-six years of age, having been born January 7, 1805. He talks with ease and seemed at home with every subject suggested; and without an effort, seemingly, went on to amplify upon it, so that we had nothing to do but question, suggest, and listen. His intellect is far more vigorous and retentive than we expected to find. He is careful in his speech, for he studies to express himself in such a way as not to be misunderstood; and it hurts him to be misrepresented. A reporter called to see him some time ago, asked a few questions and went off and published that he had denied his testimony concerning the truth of The Book of Mormon. This hurt him so, that he is very careful now, to have some known friends present when strangers call to see him. This accounts for the presence of others when we were there. Speaking of Joseph Smith the seer, he said (and this is very nearly his wording): 'It makes no difference what others say, I know Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and he translated The Book of Mormon by the inspiration of God from the plates of the Nephites. Some people think if they can only make it appear that Joseph's life and character were not perfect, and that he

had human weaknesses, that it would prove that he was not a prophet; yet the same persons will believe that Moses, who killed the Egyptian, and David, who took a multitude of wives, and Solomon, who was a polygamist and idolater, and Peter, who lied and cursed etc., were all prophets, and should be honored and respected. What the individual life of Joseph Smith was after he translated The Book of Mormon, had nothing to do with the question as to whether he was, or was not inspired to bring that book forth.' "

This interview with the above elders continued. They asked many more questions of David Whitmer, concerning Joseph Smith's life and character, also his vision they had of the angel with the plates, etc. The remainder of the interview can be found in the Church History, RLDS, pages 369-371, vol. IV. There have been many other individual testimonies we can relate, space and time does not permit to do so. However, I would like to give vent to my own personal experience as a testimony of the truth of The Book of Mormon and The Church of Jesus Christ. I can say as Christ said to the Apostle Peter, when he asked him, "who do men say that I, the Son of God, am?" Peter responded, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of God . . ." It was then Jesus said, "Blessed art thou . . . for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 16:13-17). I can attest to the same. More than once, God has given me revelation concerning the above truth. A book I have personally written, *Missionary Endeavors at Home and Abroad - An Autobiography and Personal Experiences of Apostle Joseph Calabrese*. This book can also be purchased, along with other literature, from The Church of Jesus Christ Print House, 8282 Boettner Road, P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030. Finally, one last comment. The Church of Jesus Christ is a separate and distinct organization. We have no affiliation with any other group having the same name or similar name. Our headquarters are at Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

*** WEDDING ***

Jamie Paternoster and Lisa Azzinaro were united in holy matrimony in the Simi Valley, California Branch on August 19, 2000.

Birth Announcement

Amira Denise Hopkins was born on September 7, 2000. She is the daughter of Sister Consuella and Brother Alphonso Hopkins of the South Bend, Indiana Mission.

Ordinations

Brother Sam Altomare of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 7, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Frank Palacios and he was ordained by Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

Sister Aileen Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 7, 2000. Her feet were washed by Sister Carla King and she was ordained by Brother Mark Naro.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Jr., of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 7, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Joseph Cotellessee and he was ordained by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr.

Sister Mary Nardoizzi of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 7, 2000. Her feet were washed by Sister Leona Buffa and she was ordained by Brother John Buffa.

Brother Frank Palacios, Sr., of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on August 20, 2000. His feet were washed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese and he was ordained by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

Baptisms and Reinstatement

Cristina Lindley Churchill was baptized in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch on July 9, 2000. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Ignagni, and she was confirmed by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri.

Saladine Foy was baptized on September 24, 2000, in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn, and he was confirmed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

Bill Guerreo was baptized on September 24, 2000 in the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jesse Guerrero, and he was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

John Anthony Flores was baptized on September 17, 2000 in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Staley and confirmed by Brother Tom Jones.

Karen Watford was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ through the laying on of hands by Brother Mark Kovacic on October 9, 2000.

Obituaries

PAUL MULLA

Paul Mulla of the Detroit, Michigan area passed away to his eternal reward on February 19, 2000. Left to mourn are his wife, Elleanor (Bianci) Mulla; two sons, James Mulla and Daniel Mulla; one sister, Catherine Petrie; two granddaughters and several nieces and a nephew.

FRANCES C. CAPONE

Sister Frances C. Capone, a member of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed away to her heavenly reward on July 25, 2000. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Frances was preceded in death by her late husband, Brother Peter H. Capone. Left to mourn are two daughters, Sister Vanessa Watson and Valerie Capone; three sons, Brothers Timothy, Michael and Peter Capone; three sisters, Sisters Antionette Pontillo, Almerinda Kaczmarek and Olivia Parravano; four brothers, John Ausilio, Brother David Ausilio, Daniel Ausilio and Brother Anthony Ausilio, eight grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

MICHAEL F. COCCO

Brother Michael F. Cocco, a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his heavenly reward on March 9, 2000. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Left to mourn are his wife, Sister Katherine (Maselli) Cocco, two daughters, Deborah Cocco and Dawn (Cocco) Dice; one son, Joseph Cocco; one brother Anthony Cocco, and eight grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____