

# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

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Volume 57, No. 1

## A New Nation Receives the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto*

The great commission, given by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28, has rung out through the ages. "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." Thank

God! The Gospel has been taken to another nation in South America, Colombia, and the Church is now established there.

One can only marvel at how God draws men and women to Him through Jesus Christ and then uses them to draw others. The work in Colombia is a wonderful example of this drawing power. God began to

work in the life of Sister Rocio Conte, of Detroit, Michigan, in the year 1992. Sister Rocio was miraculously spared from death after being shot twice in the back by an assailant. In October, 1996 she was given a marvelous dream wherein she was forgiven of her sins and was shown a man whom God promised would be her husband before the end of the year. She was told that the man chosen for her was a child of God, and that he would lead her to the right ways of the Lord. Later, she was given another dream in which she saw a great church established in Colombia.

In November, 1996, Brother Salvatore Conte felt directed to travel to Colombia with the hope of meeting a woman to marry. He met Sister Rocio, and immediately recognized him as the man in her dream. They eventually married and Sister Rocio was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan. She recognized that The Church of Jesus Christ is the only church that fulfills everything the scriptures require. From the moment she met the Church, she had a desire to see the Gospel go to her native country of Colombia. She began to tell her family about the Church and



The Church of Jesus Christ in Colombia.

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## Church in Colombia

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eventually they visited with her in Detroit. They expressed an interest in having the Church in Colombia and vowed that they would prepare a place for the Church to meet.

At the same time God was working with Sister Rocio, He was also directing the brothers of the Americas Missionary Operating Committee to visit the country of Colombia. The New Works subcommittee had already established missions in Venezuela and Peru and was desirous to visit other countries in South America. Colombia was not their first choice because of great dangers involved in traveling to that country. After much fasting and prayer, however, God made it plain to all that it was time to go there.

Plans were coordinated with Brother Salvatore and Sister Rocio to visit their family in Bogata, Colombia from August 26 to September 4, 2000. Sister Rocio reported that the family had been working hard to prepare a place to meet and was ready to accommodate all who would come. It was decided that Apostle Issac D. Smith, Evangelist Paul Liberto, and Brother Alan Metzler would travel to Bogata with the Conte's. Later in the week, they would also be joined by Brother Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis. Brother Salvatore would serve as language translator until the arrival of Brother Miguel.

All of the travelers believed that God would protect them and be with them throughout their missionary journey. They knew that God was coordinating their efforts and that He would take care of everything. However, none of them were prepared for the graciousness of their hosts, the care they would be given, or the desire of the people to welcome the Church to their country.

The group was met at the airport by Sister Rocio's family. After a joyous welcome, they were directed to a small rented bus and given a police motorcycle escort (one of Sister Rocio's brothers is a policeman) to the Torres home. When the bus

arrived, Brother Salvatore and Sister Rocio were stunned to see that the home had been completely transformed. The ground floor was completely remodeled, a second story was added, and a small chapel had been built on the roof – all in preparation for The Church of Jesus Christ! It was very touching to see that the preparations were made with great faith that the Church would come. When the brothers stepped into the chapel, with the name of the Church already on the wall, a beautiful lectern in place, and chairs waiting to be filled, they were touched by the efforts and love of the Torres family. When the brothers learned the family is not wealthy, and they borrowed a lot of money to accommodate emissaries



**Bro. Isaac Smith speaking in tongues as he greets newly baptized Bro. Juan Carlos Torres.**

from the Church, they were blessed to an even greater extent. Even though it was late, a meal was served and the brothers spent several hours fellowshiping with family and friends.

The first service in the country of Colombia was conducted on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 26 adults in attendance. Each of the brothers expressed themselves giving an overview of the Church and expressing their delight in being there. They anointed 17 people for physical and spiritual needs. God's spirit was evident during the service. The congregation was moved to tears and Apostle Isaac spoke in the gift of tongues while a young woman was being anointed for spiritual strength.

Throughout their stay in Colombia, the brothers met together in

prayer in the morning and visited families and anointed the sick in the afternoon. Services were conducted every night.

On Monday evening, the brothers gave a presentation on the "Holy Ghost." There were 18 adults in attendance.

On Tuesday evening, they talked about "Why the Bible and Book of Mormon must be used together." There were 22 adults present and three people were anointed. After the service, the brothers were privileged to witness a reconciliation of the Torres family. Sister Rocio's mother and her three sisters had been estranged from each other for some time. The family felt that, with the Church present, it would be a good time to discuss their differences and try to get together. The Spirit of God was evident during the meeting as the entire family embraced each other and cried tears of joy as they reconciled. The family felt that the reconciliation could not have taken place without the support of the Church. That evening, Apostle Isaac woke up in the middle of the night with the song, *I Surrender All*, going through his mind. He could not sleep for several hours as he continued to hear the words of the song. The next morning, as Brother Alan was discussing the Church with one of the family, Sister Rocio's mother, Maria Sol Torres, was sitting nearby silently listening. She began to cry and then interrupted the conversation, telling Brother Alan that she desired to "surrender all" and be baptized!

Prior to the service on Wednesday evening, there were over 50 in attendance for a "fiesta" prepared by the Torres family. Afterwards, 32 adults and several children remained for the service. The congregation was in anticipation of the arrival of Brother Miguel Bicelis later in the service. The brothers had struggled all week to teach the congregation songs in Spanish and promised "better singing" when Brother Miguel arrived. After a short sermon was delivered on the "peace that only Jesus can give," Brother Miguel arrived. The congregation then sang joyfully as Brother Miguel taught them several new

songs. Preaching and singing continued until 10:30 pm. During fellowship after the service, Sister Rocio's sister, Johanna Elena Pedraza Torres, declared her desire to be baptized. Several others also said they were interested but did not commit at that time.

On Thursday morning, the brothers visited a government office to investigate requirements for registering the Church in Colombia. They were advised that the government is supportive of all religions and that over 700 different churches were already registered. The brothers were given instructions on how to proceed and the process did not appear to be difficult or expensive. When necessary requirements can be fulfilled, such as having a resident minister, they will proceed with the registration.

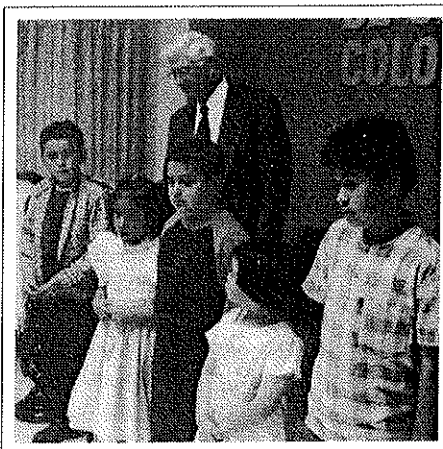
During a counseling session regarding baptism on Thursday afternoon, one of Sister Maria Sol's sisters requested prayer for physical affliction. There was a powerful spirit evidenced during the anointing and many were weeping. Afterwards, the woman said she felt at peace and her head no longer ached. At the conclusion of the counseling session, another woman requested baptism. There were 18 in attendance for the evening service. The brothers gave a brief overview of the Faith and Doctrine of the Church. There were several testimonies given and 11 people asked the ministry to pray for them. After the service, three others expressed a desire to be baptized.

On Friday, the brothers set out to find a suitable baptismal site. They traveled 2 ½ hours into the country to a beautiful lake. Their minds went immediately to the Book of Mormon account of the Waters of Mormon as they meditated about the baptisms which would take place the next day. There were 12 adults and children at the evening service. The brothers preached about the drawing power of Christ and explained the significance of the Restored Gospel.

Sister Melissa Bicelis arrived in Colombia on Saturday morning. Her desire to support the work in Colombia was very much appreciated. She

was a blessing to the mission, as she bonded with the women and children there. It is also important to note what a great blessing it was to have the support of Sister Rocio and Brother Salvatore. Without their desire to see the Church established, the efforts they made to be there, and their hard work in caring for the brothers, the trip would have been very difficult.

As the group of nearly 30 people boarded the bus to go to the baptisms, the brothers were not certain how many would be baptized. There were 11 or 12 who said they were interested but not all had committed. Four of Sister Johanna's teenaged girl friends were touched and wanted to be baptized but were worried they would have to give up their worldly plea-



**Apostle Isaac Smith with the children of Colombia, the Church of tomorrow!**

tures. Three of the four decided not to be baptized. The fourth girl would have gone along with them except that God gave her a beautiful experience to let her know it was her time. She testified that on Friday after school her classmates invited her to go dancing with them. At first she said, "No," knowing she wanted to be baptized. However, they persisted and she finally relented. When they arrived at the discotheque, all of her friends were admitted; but when they came to her, the usher said she was too young to get in. She thought it was a sign from God that she should not go in; but her friends pleaded with

the usher, and he let her in. She proceeded to sit at a table with her friends but could not sit down. She said she could not stay and began to walk away. One of her friends followed and asked what was wrong. She replied that she was ill but her friend looked into her eyes and said "No, you are not ill. There is something different about you!" She then left and declared her intention to be baptized shortly before the group departed for the waters.

At that point, there were six candidates and two more made their commitment at the water shore: Sister Rocio's brother, Juan Carlos Torres, and his wife, Sandra Yadira Gonzalez. Words cannot express the blessings experienced at that beautiful site. The brothers felt very privileged to be instruments of God's hands in establishing the Gospel in Colombia. It was late evening when the group returned home and it was decided to confirm the new converts at the Sunday service. Following is a list of those baptized and those who officiated:

Maria Sol Torres – baptized by Alan Metzler and confirmed by Miguel Bicelis.

Johanna Elena Pedraza Torres – baptized by Alan Metzler and confirmed by Isaac Smith.

Laura Elena Alvarez – baptized by Alan Metzler and confirmed by Alan Metzler.

Maria Rosa Elvira Bernal – baptized by Alan Metzler and confirmed by Paul Liberto.

Yalile Ramirez Bernal – baptized by Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Isaac Smith.

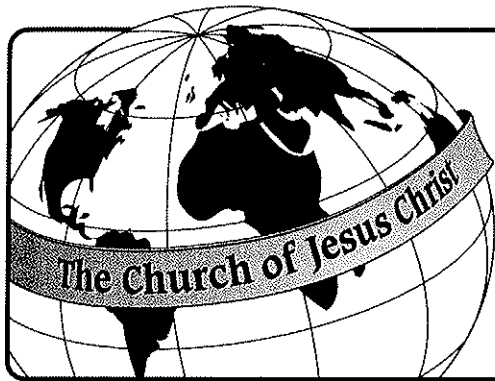
Sandra Yadira Gonzalez Gomez – baptized by Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Paul Liberto.

Juan Carlos Torres – baptized by Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Miguel Bicelis.

Diana Marcela Higuera – baptized by Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Alan Metzler.

There were 40 adults and six

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## A message from the Seventy

### Growth Being Experienced As The Lord Touches More Hearts

*By Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino*

As readers of the *Gospel News* have noted, the missionary activities of The Church of Jesus Christ have increased as the Lord has touched more hearts in many lands. The added numbers have come from different parts of the world, so the outreach activities now span many diverse miles.

The quickening of the pace has made it incumbent on both seasoned workers and new volunteers to venture out. First-time participants are coming forth in many instances with the anticipation of becoming more fully involved in the future. Others, it is hoped, will also join as time progresses. Teams have been formed to go into the fields. Besides ministerial personnel, members of the laity have come forth and are participating as needed. The expansion has come about after many prayers.

#### TEN TRIPS

The growth can best be illustrated by the number of trips planned for between the October 2000 General Church Conference and the end of the year. They were made to existing fields, as well as to a new one in the Philippines. Five of the trips were made under the auspices of the American Missions Operating Committee and five under the Foreign Missions Operating Committee. The AMOC is comprised of the work in North,

Central and South America, and the FMOC is responsible for the labors in other parts of the world.

After a new work has been initiated, it is essential to follow-up and remain in constant touch with the field. The new members there value the visits of the missionaries and want to learn more about the Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ, and the role they now must undertake. The shepherds who are designated to lead the flock must then make certain they are fulfilling these desires. Although many miles may be involved, their constant trips and communication with the fields must be maintained.

Evangelist Paul Liberto, Chairman of the AMOC, reported to the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists at their October Conference meeting about their goals and objectives. He said, the Lord's direction in these matters is humbly sought, as he talked about the recent start of the church in Colombia and new undertakings being planned.

Evangelist Joel Gehly, Chairman of the FMOC talked about the care required on behalf of new members. In projection, he, like leaders in all areas, reiterated the need for more committed, active missionaries. He said that each day a missionary trip is underway, members of the committee are fasting and praying for that particular field. Happily, many other members of the Church have now joined the fasting and praying ranks.

#### ADVANCEMENTS

Advancements in travel now make it possible to go to places faster and more frequently. Air travel and communication electronically can now, in some instances, be used to be in almost continuous touch with people abroad. Many times, more frequent trips mean less costs because of the reduction in accommodations and related expenses which may be required in lengthy stays.

Interestingly and thankfully, much of the costs are being paid by the missionaries themselves, which lighten the financial burden on the Church. God's providence is thus being shared willingly.

Budgetary needs for missionary work, of course, are still present, and the General Church Finance Committee has been diligent in indicating the requirements specified by the AMOC and the FMOC and in disbursing the authorized funds, which have been approved by the General Church Ministry at the annual General Church Business Conference.

Besides budgetary receipts, the Missionary Foundation Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ has been very successful in accumulating additional funds to maintain in the foundation for which the interest is given directly to the missionary work. Pass-through donations are also administered as specified by contributors.

The auxiliary units; the General Ladies' Uplift Circle and her units, the General Missionary Benevolent Association and its local groups, and the Sunday Schools of branches and missions have also extended their support.

#### WHERE NEXT?

The increase in activity has brought excitement and anticipation of where the Lord is preparing hearts of sincere souls and will be making opportunities available in the immediate and intermediate future. As the new year is beginning, there is determina-

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And it came to pass that the wind did never cease to blow towards the promised land while they were upon the waters; and thus they were driven forth before the wind" (Ether 6:8).*

This verse is in reference to the Jaredites, who crossed the sea several thousand years ago to reach the "promised land," or the land we know today as America. Please note that the wind *never* ceased to push them towards the promised land.

We are now well under way into the new century. It's hard to believe that the year 2001 has already begun. Time waits for no one. By the time you finish reading this editorial, more time will have passed by, never to return. Just as the wind never ceased to blow the Jaredites to their destination, time never ceases to push us closer to our destination. God had a purpose for the Jaredites venturing out upon the waters. He had a destination in mind; a better land for them and for their descendents. Psalm 37:23 says, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."* Once we have taken hold of the Gospel plough, there is no turning back. Every step we take has been ordered or directed by the Lord. Nothing can stand in our way, and we'll never walk in the wrong direction (unless we choose to). God has a better land for us, and has set us out on the sea of life so that the wind can blow us to our final resting place. Isn't it beautiful to know that God will be the one pushing us in the direction we need to go to get there? In the days of the Jaredites, there wasn't radar or special equipment to direct them. God was their radar; He was their captain and guide, and they needed to do nothing except trust Him.

It says that many times the Jaredites were buried deep in the ocean because of the mammoth waves that crashed over them. But no water could enter into their vessels, because their vessels were tight like the ark of Noah. When they cried unto the Lord He brought them up on top of the water. In our spiritual lives, we may find ourselves buried in the depths of the sea many times, but we will never drown, being in the ark of safety. When we cry out to the Lord, He brings us up out of the water every time. It says that no monster of the sea or whale could harm them and they had light continually because of the lighted stones that God provided for their vessels. We too cannot be harmed by Satan's attacks if we trust in our Saviour. We too will have the light of Jesus Christ within us even when we are surrounded by darkness. The Jaredites sang praises to God day and night. We too should lift our voices in praise to Him continually for His mercy and love. He is an awesome God and deserves our continual praise!

The Church has a destination. Someday the church will be set free and Satan will be bound. Peace will reign like a queen upon this promised land, and everywhere you go you'll meet a brother and a friend. Make no mistake, the wind will never cease to blow us to Zion. There will be times the Church will go through persecution and travail, but it will never drown, and it will always have the light of Jesus Christ, even in a dark world.

When the Jaredites reached their destination, it says that they bowed themselves in humble gratitude upon the promised land, and shed tears of joy for the multitude of His tender mercies. What will it be like when we reach our spiritual destination? Like the Jaredites, I'm sure we will fall upon our faces and shed endless tears of joy. No more pain; no more sorrow, no more hurting or suffering. What will it be like to run into the arms of Jesus? Imagine His embrace of everlasting love!

What a precious gift to have Jesus directing our every step. On the sea of life, isn't it comforting to know that the land we see on the horizon will only get closer and closer as the wind of His Spirit pushes us steadily there.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## The One True God

Dear Boys and Girls,

The good thing about serving God is how easy it is. The Bible and Book of Mormon tell us how to believe and what to do when we are afraid or have done wrong. It is easier than starting a new school or moving into a new place or job, where you don't know the rules or way to act so that things work out.

In the Bible, in the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments tell us ten rules of living that bring peace to people's lives and families. Then after Jesus came, he taught us two great commandments that include everything. They are found in the book of Mark, Chapter 12, verses 29-31. Jesus said, "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, oh Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

This means that there IS only one God. We don't believe in lucky numbers, crystals, ougic boards, horoscopes, psychics or fortune tellers. God is a jealous God. We belong to Him. He does NOT want us to pay any attention to any power other than His power. Those powers belong to Satan and we are NOT supposed to play around with them at all. Otherwise we give Satan a way into our lives to scare and confuse us. And we all know that Satan has no love for



mankind. He wants us all to feel as miserable and far away from God as he does.

But the Bible shows us how God and His son, Jesus, are stronger than the old devil. We see how Jesus resisted the devil who tried to get Him to listen to him. Jesus also promised us, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." So, when your friends try to tempt you to play around with things of the devil, be strong. Tell them that God does not want you being involved with those things. Resist them. Pray in your heart and ask God to give you the right words to say the the courage to say them.

Then, think about the second commandment which tells us to love our neighbor like ourselves. This means if we all did this, nobody would push ahead of others in lines to get the best of something. Everyone would help each other and really care whether others were getting their fair share and doing well too. Cars in traffic would watch and let others go as they needed. Nobody would be left out of any party or gathering. Everyone would share their wonderful toys and food. We'd share so that everyone would have the same blessings that we enjoy. A sense of peace and helpfulness would exist everywhere.

Try this. For one day, without telling anyone what you are trying to do, practice doing this second commandment. Quietly be loving to others. Whatever you wish you had, be sure someone else has it too. If you would like someone to listen to you, then listen to them. If you eat something tasty, share it. Say only kind and fair things about others since you

wouldn't want others to talk badly about you. Take turns and don't be sneaky about getting your own way. See what happens and how you feel. Say you are sorry when you are wrong.

God has also promised us that if we give to others, he will be pleased and reward us by giving good things back to us. So watch and see what happens. You will develop new friendships. People will start to trust you and want you to be around. You will start to grow inside and will not be so lonely as you were before.

God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His rules on how to live a joyful and rich life have not changed. We do not serve a tricky God who judges us unfairly. But we serve a living God who really loves and cares for each one of us. Enjoy His commandments and see how wonderful it feels to reach out to others and love them too. The one, true God is watching over you. We can trust in Him.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

MARK	SOUL
TWELVE	MIND
LOVE	STRENGTH
GOD	LOVE
LORD	NEIGHBOR
GOD	AS
ALL	THYSELF
YOUR	

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



## Club KFC

By Sister Linda Zane

Another summer has come and gone, and so has another season of *Club KFC*! What is *Club KFC* you ask? *Club KFC* (Kids For Christ) is an outreach of the MBA of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania branch. Each *Club KFC* class is held at the same time as our mid-week church service, so that the children are being spiritually enriched along with their parents.

This exciting program was established in 1996, when members of our local MBA wanted to give the children a chance to learn and grow

spiritually during the mid-week service. Thus far, it has been limited to the summer, when children have less school-work and activities during the week.

Every year, the *Club KFC* classes focus on a specific theme. The themes that have been covered in the past four years are as follows: *Getting To Know God and Jesus*, *Verses Reflecting the Love of God and Jesus*, *The Names of Jesus*, and *The Family of God*. Each week a different aspect of the theme is explored in a way that allows for active participation among all of the children.

This past summer, our classes discussed the various "members" of the family of God, as well as the many areas around the world where our family of God is located. Many thanks to the brothers and sisters of our branch, who were invited each week to share their missionary experiences with our *Club KFC* class. This summer, we truly got a chance to broaden our scope

past McKees Rocks, and learn that the family of God extends to the four corners of the earth!

It is our heartfelt desire to not only teach our children about the things of God, but also to get them enthused about going to church! Hopefully, *Club KFC* can be used by the Lord to make King David's words, recorded in Psalm 122:1 come alive to the children: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

## Notice

The Southeast Area MBA is conducting a Marriage Enrichment Weekend. It is scheduled for January 26-28, 2001 in Port St. Lucie, Florida. For more information, please contact Brother Jim Draskovich, phone (954) 596-1001.



## Ordination in Lorain, OH

By Sister Rose Palacios

On August 20, 2000, saints from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and California gathered in Lorain, OH to witness the ordination of Brother Frank Palacios as an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. We were blessed to have 17 Elders and four Apostles in our midst to support Brother Frank. It was such an encouragement to the family to see the love of the saints as they traveled from afar to share in this day.

As the sacrament table was being set, Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine sang a selection. Brother Peter Scolaro opened in prayer. Brother Flip Palacios opened the meeting with the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Joshua which speaks about building a memorial with two stones. He spoke that when people or our children ask what

is meant by these stones or experiences, we can tell them why it means so much to us in our lives. Apostle Peter Scolaro and Brother Ron Genaro followed with words of encouragement and support for Brother Frank. Apostle Paul Palmieri spoke about the stones also, and encouraged Brother Frank in his calling. He told Brother Frank that it is not going to be easy, and many times he will cry for the saints and feel their pain, but God will be with him. Brother Mark Naro spoke about his father, Brother Chuck Naro, and how Brother Chuck and Brother Frank had worked together in one accord as Teachers in the branch. Apostle Joseph Calabrese spoke about the angel and the authority of Jesus Christ in this priesthood. He then read the duties of a minister in the church.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese washed Brother Frank's feet to set him apart and as they embraced, the Spirit spoke through Brother Frank saying, "My calling, saith the Lord." The Elders formed a circle around Brother Frank as Brother Wayne Martorana offered prayer before the ordination. Apostle Peter Scolaro then ordained him, and

closed with the following words: "Brother Frank Palacios, I confirm the authority of Jesus Christ upon you and ordain you an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ." Glory and honor to God!

As the Elders took their seats, Brother Frank came forward to embrace his whole family. Brother Larry Champine sang *Make Me an Instrument of Thy Love*. Brother Frank then spoke a few words thanking God for all the saints who came and most of all for his calling and that he would do his best to prove himself. He also told some experiences surrounding his calling. In one experience, he dreamed he was given a police uniform. In another experience, when Brother Frank was afflicted, as he was anointed, the Word of the Lord came forth saying, "I will extend your life because I still have work for you to do." Sister Rose Palacios told an experience of Brother Frank's calling in which a scripture was given for Brother Frank from John Chapter 16; "You have not called me but I have called you and ordained you to go forth and bring forth fruit."

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## Ordination in Lorain, OH

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Brother Frank's family was then given the opportunity to bear their testimonies. Brother Dan Palacios testified about how when he was young, the Lorain saints opened their hearts and took the family in, even when they had nothing. The spirit then spoke saying, "I put this love in their hearts."

Apostle Dominic Thomas spoke and gave encouragement to Brother Frank and his family and said how Brother Frank's family reminded him of his own family. He related the words of a brother in Lorain who would often say, "Those who have time don't wait for time."

Jesus was seen in our midst as well which we thank God for. He truly allowed us to go to the fountain of living waters. Brother Fred Olexa then closed our meeting in prayer.

## Penn-Mid Atlantic Regional Conference

By Sister Leah Nath

We ended September and started October on a spiritual high at the Penn-Mid Atlantic Regional Conference in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Sunday morning started off with singing praises to the Lord. Brother Chuck Jumper opened the morning meeting in prayer, followed by Brother Dick Lawson asking a few questions such as: "How many were rushed this morning? How many have anchored their souls in the haven of rest, and how many would like to? In Jesus, we're safe evermore." He reminded us that sometimes we think as soon as we're baptized we won't have any more problems. "They will come, but it is how we deal with them. God made us a promise, that when trials come, He'll be there. If we have a problem, look at it as an opportunity—maybe He wants us to grow closer to Him. Many look at things and pity themselves. Take advantage of your sorrows, because God wants us to come to

Him. God looks for us to serve Him with every ounce of energy we have. Are we willing to give our best? There should be no doubt or fear that He'll be there."

Brother English Webb read the first three powerful verses of Romans, Chapter 12. Brother Bob Buffington followed saying, "God leads His dear children along. He sees you and me today, He sees us through the fire and the flood and all our great sorrows. We are the only scripture some people will ever read; we are the light and salt of the world, so we should make someone thirsty."

The young people then sang *We're Marching to Zion* and *For Those Tears* and gave thanks to the Lord through testimony. Communion was then passed to the congregation.

Brother Bob Nicklow Jr. challenged us to share Jesus with someone else. "We owe Him, He owes us nothing. Is there a reason not to serve our God? Give Him at least ten percent and He'll bless you."

We closed with singing *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*, followed by the closing prayer.

The Region would like to thank the Monongahela Branch and all those who attended the spiritual uplift Conference. Thank God most of all for the blessings we received throughout the weekend.

## The Turn of Wandering Feet

By Sister Merideth Martin

"While the world is racked and distracted, while millions are groping as the blind for the wall, and while all men are resting upon uncertainty," the meek, humble followers of the Lamb, met once more before the angels of heaven. A lowly band of God's people made their way down to the water's edge. Another soul enlisted into the army of the Lord, fully repented and prepared to take upon him the name of Jesus Christ through baptism.

T'was a beautiful Sabbath morn.

The sun was high, beaming down upon the waters, witnessing this act of obedience. The ducks silently and reverently flowed with the tide and stopped as if they were in tune with the sweet, sincere, humble prayer offered by Brother John DiBattista. All of a sudden the sublime, majestic, awesome peace that only descends from the portals of glory surrounded the area as we the saints of the most high God, were encompassed about by love. Who would not rejoice to be in the presence of angels as we watched our Elder Brother Alphonso Hopkins, a servant of God, declare the authority given him by God, filled with the power and glory of God, called the name, Agapito Escobedo and baptized him in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Yes, we did indeed rejoice with the angels of heaven, this Sabbath morning, October 29, 2000.

Our new Brother Agapito received confirmation of the Holy Ghost so eloquently requested in prayer and the laying of hands by our beloved Brother Mitchell Edwards.

It is our sincere prayer, as God has turned the wandering feet of our new brother, that He will bless his way, "till worlds shall fade and faith shall greet, the dawn of endless day."

## Gathering of the Saints at Omaha-Bedford Mission

By Sisters Dorothy Miller and Joyce Mahl

We serve an awesome God who is able to do all things according to his will and pleasure. Under God's inspiration, the brothers and sisters of the Omaha-Bedford Mission held their annual mini-conference, a gathering of the saints, the weekend of August 19-20, 2000. God inspired the gathering from beginning to end. The ministry was inspired to set the date, and one of our sisters was inspired to send handwritten invitations in such a way that the entire Church was invited. At each juncture of our planning we received signs of encouragement as we pro-

ceeded in unity with God's Spirit.

Among those attending were Brother English Webb from Clairton, Pennsylvania; Brother Dan and Sister Olivia Parravano and their granddaughter from Detroit, Michigan; Sister Cindy Parravano from the Denver, Colorado Mission; Brother Randy and Sister Jill Ciccatti and their children from St. Cloud, Minnesota; Sister Shirley Gray from the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission; and we received a special blessing by having our own Sister Emma Grooms from Alabama with us. Remember Sister Emma in your prayers as she makes plans to move back to the Omaha area.

God inspired us to gather at the home of Brother Clifton and Sister Valerie Wells on Friday evening before the conference for a teaching session which was led by Brother English Webb. He used 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi, 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter to introduce the God inspired theme for the weekend, which was "Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding being the Revelation of God's love for His people in these last days."

A fellowship brunch was served at the church on Saturday morning. After this, we sang *The Songs of Zion* and other hymns, which lifted our souls and prepared us for what God had in store for us. Our presiding Elder, Brother Clifton Wells, opened our conference welcoming all the visiting saints, thanking them for their efforts to be with us. He introduced the format of the conference emphasizing that the Spirit of God was in charge. After praying, Brother English completed the study of 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi, 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter. He then called our attention to the blueprint of times to come using the Psalms as a reference point. He shared his testimony of 47 years in the Church highlighting some of the experiences God had given him. He spoke of the symbolic language in the tabernacle and of the tame and wild olive tree. This inspired a question and answer session that carried a beautiful spirit, was informative and enjoyed by all present.

Before the opening of our Saturday evening service, many came forward to be anointed for afflictions and strength. In the opening prayer, the

evening meeting was dedicated to the preaching of the Word. By inspiration, Brother Randy Ciccatti opened with a question: "Are you alive in Christ or are you like a bear in hibernation?" He used Romans Chapter 6:10-11 as the scripture. He warned us not to be complacent in our service to God and exhorted us to exercise our faith and cry unto God over all things in our lives that they would not become stumbling blocks, but would become helps in building up the Church. We then sang *It is Well With my Soul* and Brother Dan Parravano was inspired with the words, "... that Christ has regarded my helpless estate ..." in the hymn. He took our thoughts back to the Garden of Eden and man's creation. Sin brought on man's helpless estate but the love of God became the shed blood that redeemed us, making it possible for us to be possessed with that love at the last day. Like a trumpet sounding, Brother Clifton arose calling us to our service to a Living God who is able to do all things according to His will and purpose. The ministry felt to serve sacrament and a beautiful spirit prevailed as we supped in remembrance of our Redeemer.

We gathered for our Sunday service with much anticipation. The preaching continued as Brother English opened concerning the covenant God made with us using Mt. Sinai as an example of God promising to never leave us alone; the seven candlesticks being God with us in all dispensations of time even down to our day with the address of Joseph's work in the latter day. He spoke of the mystery of Godliness in the midst of us doing the work. Brother Clifton followed, preaching that we should come to our Mt. Sinai with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and because of the shed blood, we receive not the broken law, but the law of the Spirit which He puts in our hearts to lead and guide us in all things. Jesus said, "learn of me," so we move from the water's edge using the Word of God to instruct us to be what He would have us to be. Brother Dan spoke from 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:5-8 saying that we should walk upright with all our might because God is pruning His vineyard for the last time. Brother

Randy exhorted us to let the Chief Shepherd do the driving and the directing for the best is yet to come.

After a season of testimony, Brother Clifton closed the meeting speaking the following words: "Fire; we have received the oracles of life which were given to the children of Israel. Don't let the fire of God burn out in you ... be in the will of God in all things ... the Spirit of God like a fire is burning."

As we said before, we truly serve an awesome God. He gave us the theme for the weekend: "Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding is the revelation of God's love." By his grace, He inspired our visiting Elders to preach with power and inspiration.

In closing we want to thank the many saints across the Church who have kept our Mission in their prayers. We hope that God will put it upon your hearts to not only continue to pray for us, but also to visit our Mission whenever possible.

## Visitors in Lockport, NY

*By Sister Antoinette Giansante*

On March 19, 2000, many came from the east, west, north and south to the Lockport, NY Mission. Brother Lenny Benyola organized this gathering that included a visit from the President of the Church, Apostle Dominic Thomas and his wife. We had visitors from Michigan, New Jersey, California, Ohio, Florida, and Canada.

When our Sister Deaconess came into the meeting with the Sacrament basket to set the table, Brother Mike Nuzzi had a vision of three personages following her. Two sisters from Ohio sang a duet. Brother Sal and Sister Sharon Azzinaro from California also sang a duet.

Brother Dominic opened the meeting speaking of his younger days in the Church when he was the youngest Apostle, and he worked closely with Brother Paul D'Amico in this

(Continued on Page 10)

## Visitors in Lockport, NY

Continued from Page 9

area. Brother Dominic used as his text the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Most of the priesthood mentioned Brother Paul D'Amico, Brother Perry Simone, and Brother Henry Berardi, our three Elders who have gone on to their reward. Then a group sang two hymns in Italian. Brother Lenny Benyola and Brother Andrew Locci passed sacrament. After the meeting, a luncheon was served, and all had a joyful time. We invite all of our brothers and sisters to visit our small Mission in Lockport, NY.

## Blessings and Visitors in Erie, PA

*By Sister Phyllis Kovacic*

There is a purpose for Christ saying these words: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in their midst." This article is written for those who have small numbers not to be discouraged.

The Erie, Pennsylvania Branch is a small group of humble servants praising God, and many times we are just two, three, six, or eight in number. But the Spirit of the Lord is always in our midst.

On Sunday, February 26th, 2000, we had in our meeting a young couple, Kevin and Kristen McQueeney, and their two children. Frustrated by their experiences in another church, they were searching, and our prayer was that the Lord would touch their hearts with the knowledge that they were in the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joel Gehly was inspired to speak about the House of Israel, the twelve tribes of Israel, the dispersion of the ten tribes, and the two tribes we know of today (Judah, recorded in the Bible, and Joseph, recorded in the Book of Mormon). Our brother said that in the time of the New Testament, Jerusalem was filled primarily with the tribe of Judah. He further expounded that the Lord brought the seed of Joseph to the Americas. As of now, we

do not know where the other tribes are, but someday, in God's time, we will know. Brother Joel spoke on the Choice Seer who will convince the seed of Joseph of their heritage. Just as Joseph of Egypt saved his brothers from famine, the Choice Seer will save his people spiritually. This Choice Seer will be a humble servant of God. We, the Gentile Church, will be grafted into the House of Israel and will assist in building the New Jerusalem, and Christ will make his appearance. Our Church is looking forward to that time. Oh, how glorious it will be!

Much to our delight, Kevin was baptized at the April 2000 General Church Conference held in Greensburg. We thank God for answering our prayers and revealing the truth to the McQueeney's. We welcome this new family into our mission with open arms and pray that we will all continue to grow strong in our faith. We also pray for all those in branches and missions where only two or three are gathered. May you remain ever faithful and trust in the Lord. "Blest be the tie that binds!"

On March 19, 2000, the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch was happily surprised by the visit of Brother Brian Martorano of the Niles, Ohio Branch, who was traveling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to take his afflicted daughter for treatment. With the prayers of the saints, his daughter Johanna has been doing well. We call Brother Brian our missionary to Erie because of his frequent visits. He is a blessing to us.

With the opening of our service, Brother Brian spoke on our hopes that are built in Jesus Christ, and that in this life, we will be tried and tested. He read from Revelations 3:7-11. He expounded that God knows all our thoughts. We may be able to fool people, but we cannot fool God, because he knows everything. He created us that we may follow a path. Jesus said He goes to prepare a place for us if we do His will and obey His commandments. God has an open door that leads us to salvation. God has restored his Gospel and Jesus stands at the door. We need to be clay in the

potter's hand, so that God can mold us for others, that they too, might find salvation. We represent the Church of Philadelphia and the Church of Alma. This glorious Church will be set on the mountain tops someday.

On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch was excited to have Brother Stephen Osaka from Kenya, East Africa visiting us. We had a special meeting in the evening, and it was wonderful to hear him give his testimony, and speak about Ruth and Naomi in the scriptures. He noted how Ruth made a decision to go with Naomi and accept her belief in the one true God. Brother Stephen said that in our lives, we also have to make decisions and sometimes those decisions are difficult. But if we, like Ruth, make the right decision and follow God, we will be remembered by Him, even as Ruth is remembered today. Her sister-in-law is not remembered however (do you know her name?). Brother Stephen also shared the blessings of God in Kenya and his love for Christ. A time of fellowship followed the service, and all had an opportunity to ask Brother Stephen about his homeland, and the saints in Kenya.

On Sunday, we also had Brother Mark Kovacic visiting from Atlanta, Georgia. For him, it was like a homecoming. Although visiting Evangelist Ralph Bernadino made the trip from Youngstown, Ohio according to schedule, he requested that Brother Mark open the service. Brother Mark opened by reading Mormon 9:9-11 and spoke on how we imagine God. "What kind of God have we imagined?" He noted that the people in the days of Noah were destroyed for using their imagination for evil continually, but people like Abraham imagined a God who can do all things, and others like Moses, the prophets and Apostles imagined a powerful, omnipotent God. This is the God we have and believe in today and who we trust and love. "The world has imagined to themselves a much different God. So today, we proclaim our God, so that the world can have hope in these latter days."



## HAPPY NEW YEAR To All Our Readers

### Church in Colombia

Continued from Page 3

children present for the Sunday service. The brothers preached to them about their heritage as the Seed of Joseph and about the promises made to them regarding the latter days. The new converts were confirmed, seven children were blessed and there was a beautiful season of testimony. A newly baptized sister, Laura Alvarez, noted that she had been anointed earlier in the week for problems with her feet. She said she had not been able to wear regular shoes for quite some time. She praised God that she was now wearing shoes because she was healed. Another woman testified that she was not yet baptized but hoped to be in the future. She said she knew that Colombia does not have a good reputation because of the crime and violence there and sincerely thanked the Church for coming to preach the Gospel in spite of those things. The brothers were truly touched to hear such appreciation. Apostle Smith was asked to administer communion. It was a blessing to realize that it was a representative of the Quorum of Twelve that would be administering communion in the country of Colombia for the very first time.

As the brothers gave their farewell comments, they noted that they would be leaving a part of themselves behind. They were thankful for the wonderful privilege of being used by God to take the Gospel to Colombia. It was not easy to say goodbye and each one shared their desire to return again.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been established in Colombia because of the drawing power of Jesus Christ. The magnificent Church that Sister Rocio saw in her dream has now begun

and in God's time will reach out to other nations. The words of Christ still ring out: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." May we continue to wait upon God as He directs the times and the seasons for each new work.

### Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

tion to follow through as direction is received.

Evangelist John Griffith, President of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, who succeeded outgoing Evangelist Leonard Lovalvo in that capacity, wrote recently in this column about what lies ahead. He analyzed the needs for everyone's prayers and support for the increased work that is now part of the Church. He emphasized how important it is for everyone to seek his or her place and work together to further evangelize the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thus receive the blessings which are ahead. His summation clearly indicated what is required!

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Azzinaro, Betty  
5649 Daisy Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Miller, Bert, Ina  
941-379-7834

Searcy, Arthur  
#9 Pine Glen Dr.  
Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
856-374-2464

### Ordination

Brother Eugene Kline of the Perry, Ohio Branch was ordained a Teacher on April 2, 2000. His feet were washed by Brother Bob Quinn and he was ordained by Brother Jim Hufnagle.

### Baptisms

Sister Rilla Palmieri was baptized on August 13, 2000 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr.

Sister Colleen Lynn Kroth-Heathman was baptized on August 27, 2000 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile.

Sister Jennie Vargo was baptized on September 3, 2000 in the Detroit, Michigan Branch #2. She was baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile.

Sister Alison Turley was baptized on September 16, 2000 at Pennsylvania Area Campout. She was baptized by Brother Don Ross, and confirmed by Brother Paul A. Palmieri.

Sister Alison Cotellesse was baptized on September 24, 2000 in the Detroit, Michigan Branch #2. She was baptized by Brother Jim Cotellesse and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Brother William Booth was baptized on August 13, 2000 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother John Ali.

Brother Kevin McQueeney was baptized at April General Church Conference. He was baptized by Brother Joel Gehly and confirmed by Brother Harold Burge.

Sister Gina Marie Italiano was baptized on March 19, 2000 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mike Italiano, and confirmed by Brother Henry Cardillo.

Brother Lloyd Richard Thomas was baptized on October 8, 2000 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Phil Jackson, and confirmed by Brother Howard Jackson.

Sister Sara Anita Hufnagle was baptized on April 2, 2000 in the Perry, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by her father, Brother Jim Hufnagle, and confirmed by her grandfather, Brother Bill Hufnagle.

**\* WEDDING \***

Jessica Ann Wells and Duane Joseph Gardner were united in holy matrimony by Brother Howard Jackson in the Kinsman, Ohio Mission on June 17, 2000.

**Children Blessed**

Suzanna Nikohl Mehalcik, daughter of Jason Mehalcik and Carrie Naylor, was blessed in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch on July 23, 2000.

Siena Elizabeth Intrieri, daughter of Mark and Michele Intrieri, was blessed in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch on October 8, 2000.

Amira Denise Hopkins, daughter of Brother Alphonso and Consuella Hopkins, was blessed in the South Bend, Indiana Mission on October 29, 2000.

Kristian Richard Santilli, son of Brother Richard and Sister Teresa Santilli, was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on January 9, 2000.

Dominique Danielle Costerella, daughter of Brother Adam and Sister Christina Costerella, was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on May 14, 2000.

Mya Jo Harris, daughter of Joseph and Sister Sherri Harris, was blessed in the Omaha-Bedford Mission on March 19, 2000.

Clara Ina Sawall, daughter of David and Julie Sawall, was blessed in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on August 6, 2000.

Noah David Marsh, son of Matthew Marsh and Sister Bobbie Jo Gensburg-Marsh, was blessed in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on August 6, 2000.

Joshua Glenn McQueeney, son of Brother Kevin and Kristen McQueeney, was blessed in Erie, Pennsylvania on April 16, 2000.

Elizabeth Leighanne McQueeney, son of Brother Kevin and Kristen McQueeney, was blessed in Erie, Pennsylvania on April 16, 2000.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Obituaries**

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

**HILDA M. SGATTONE**

Sister Hilda Sgattone, a member of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward on May 3, 2000. Sister Hilda is survived by two sisters, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband.

**LOUIS PANDONE**

Brother Louis Pandone, a member of the Liberty, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward on October 31, 2000. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Lou is survived by his wife, Sister Libby Pandone; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brother Donald and Sister Theresa Pandone, and Brother Dick and Sister Wanda Pandone; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**REBECCA "BETTY" GRIFFITH**

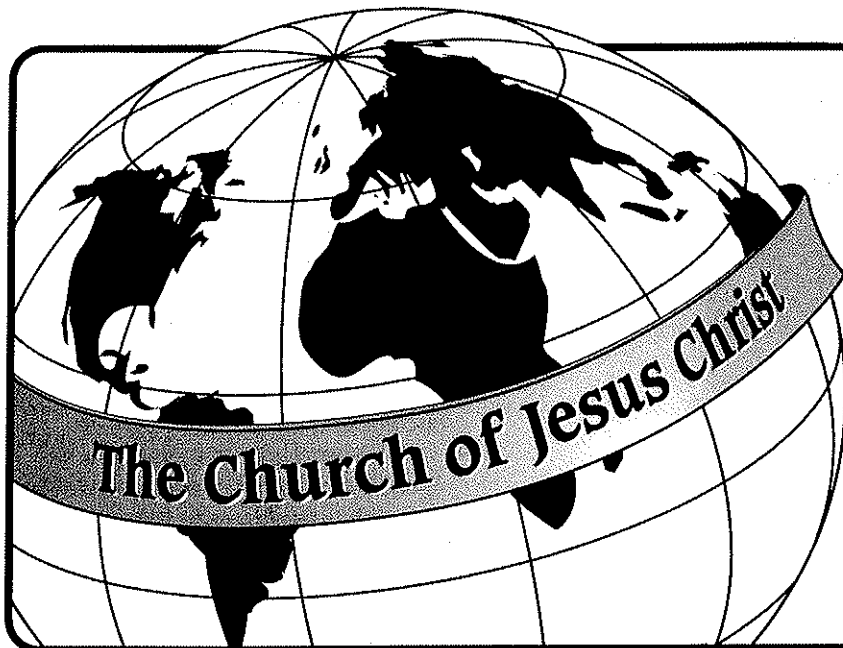
Sister Rebecca "Betty" Griffith, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward Monday, October 16, 2000. She was the daughter of the late Brother Clarence Griffith and Sister Pearl Behanna Griffith and step-daughter of the late Sister Minnie B. Griffith. Sister Rebecca is survived by three brothers, Clinton, William and Brother Joseph Griffith; and two sisters, Shirley Christopher and June Myers. She was preceded in death by four brothers, Brother Meredith, Kenneth, Duane, and Dale Griffith.

**ANN CIAROLLA**

Sister Ann Ciarolla, a member of the Liberty, Ohio Branch, passed on to her reward July 16, 2000. Sister Ann is survived by five children, Brother Joseph, Brother Dick, Mrs. Dora Gregg, Mrs. Margarite Knowles, and Mrs. Virginia Muniz; along with 18 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

**BOB CIARROCHI**

Brother Bob Ciarrochi, a member of the Liberty, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward August 29, 2000. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Bob is survived by his wife, Sister Millie; his daughter and son-in-law, Sister Lorie and Brother Dan Prokup; two grandchildren, Alyse and Nicholas.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 2001

Volume 57, No. 2

## The Church of Jesus Christ Established in the Philippines

*By Evangelist Philip Jackson, MOC Chairman*

In 1998, the General Ladies' Uplift Circle gave the Missionary Operating Committee, under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, a large sum of money to be used to help establish new missionary works around the world. The sisters wanted

the Church to be able to have funds to go to where the Gospel call had come from. Last October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000, with the use of some funds, The Church of Jesus Christ was able to take the Gospel to the Philippines.

A gentleman by the name of Mr.

Malaquias Galing wrote to the Church in 1998, wanting to know about the Restored Gospel. After many exchanges of letters and phone calls, a trip was planned by Apostles Paul Palmieri and Thomas Liberto, Evangelists Phil Jackson and Sal Azzinaro to the Philippines.

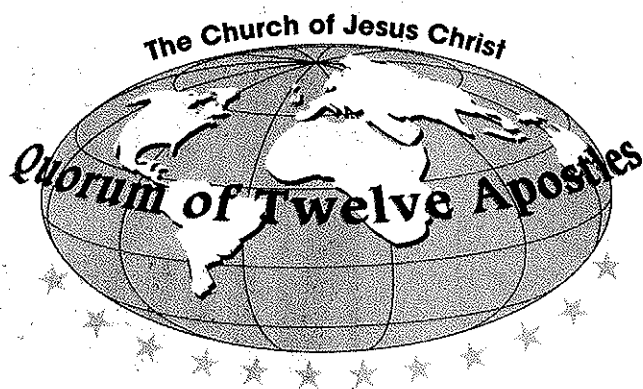
The four of us met in Tokyo and traveled together to Manila where we spent the night, then by plane the next day to Davao City on the island of Mindanao, the largest island in the Philippines.

### WARM GREETINGS

Upon arriving in Davao City and proceeding to the baggage claim area, we saw a large banner (3 feet by 8 feet) that said, "WELCOME THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST," with our names listed below. What an exciting experience it was to see all the ones who had come to greet and be introduced to us. Everyone then journeyed by van to the city of Tagum, an hour away.

After checking into a hotel, we were happy to meet with the group and began to tell them about the Restored Gospel. Also taught were the establishment of Christ's church, the Apostasy and Restoration, and how Joseph Smith was used as an instrument by



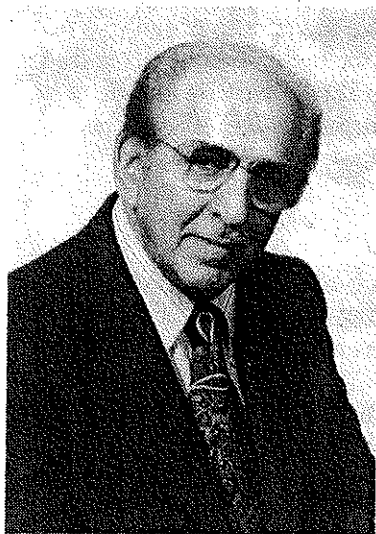


## Being Equally Yoked

By Apostle V.J. Lovalvo

*"Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"*  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14, 15).

I am going to apply the above Scripture to premarital and post



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

nuptial situations. I have received letters from some young people (and from older ones too) asking advice on not only postnuptial questions but on premarital ones as well. Some of the questions are: "What are some reasons which cause disruptions in a marriage?" and "What can I do to find a good mate?"

Firstly, no one can enumerate all the reasons why marriages become troubled and some end up in the divorce courts. Some of the basic reasons of marriage ills and dissolutions are: lack of communication with each other, disrespect for each other's feelings, negligence, thoughtlessness, lack of romance, and above everything else, loss of the first love.

When two people are courting, there is always a great amount of affection and tender loving care. There is a biological as well as an emotional attraction to each other. The man is very solicitous toward the girl he wishes to make his wife. The girl, at the same time, is always careful of her appearance and her manners toward the man. The thrill of the coming marriage is very marked in their lives, preceded by the gentle holding of the hands, the shy look of love, and the deep respect for each other's feelings. Then the wedding caps those wonderful days of courtship; and the vows to be true to each other "until death us do part" are spoken with reverence and sincerity. Why then, do all the problems arise after marriage?

If couples would analyze their lives when problems come about and do some deep soul-searching, the probabilities are that one or the other (or both) parties involved have forgotten the gentle ways they used to act toward each other during the courtship days.

The probability is also there that the Evil One puts in the mind negative thoughts that "maybe we are not compatible to each other, maybe we are not equally yoked." Or, the devil may put thoughts in the mind such as,

"We were just physically attracted, and now it's worn off." Rather than listen to these insidious encroachments of evil, speak to one another with an open communication, not aggressively but with the same love that was displayed during the courtship days; being ready and willing to submit to one another when faults develop.

If one thinks that he or she is unequally yoked, let him/her fast and pray individually—and together—asking Christ to heal whatever ailment has raised its ugly head causing the rifts. Remember this: Marriage is like a diamond; before the stone reveals its perfection, facets are created and it is polished until the brilliance and beauty comes through. So it is with marriage; it takes a willingness to communicate, to listen to each other, to anticipate each other's needs, to understand each other, to yield one to another, and to always let the first love come through. This is like polishing the diamond.

As these things are put into effect, the brilliance of a perfect marriage will emerge. Perfection does not mean that there is never a misunderstanding or a problem that arises. But a perfect marriage is one where, when problems do arise, they are met head on with open, frank communication and tender loving care, which results in a beautiful reconciliation. Following are some suggestions that may help:

1. Never air your problems in front of your children, friends, or relatives. Air them to God in fasting and prayer. If you need advice, seek a brother minister whom you feel is adept at counseling. To the women I suggest that you contact a sister deaconess who has a strong, solid marriage in whom you can confide and ask advice. She can help you fast and pray, and together you can reach the throne of God and cause His arm to be stretched out in your behalf. It is written that *"where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in their midst"* (Matthew 18:20). My wife, a deaconess in the Church, has had occasion to counsel sisters who came to her for marital advice. And very often, by fasting and pray-

ing, either by herself, or with the sister involved, the results have been very beneficial, thanks to the Lord. I would encourage you to first approach God in the matter, and afterwards seek a competent counselor among our brother ministers.

2. Do not find fault with each other in public. For that matter, try not to find fault in private either.

3. Spend your vacations together; never separately.

4. Spend a lot of time with your children (if you have any). They will always remember this.

5. Compliment each other often; this helps to develop greater affection.

6. Be kind one to another; this develops more love.

7. Never go to bed if you have any differences against each other. Reconcile first, and then let the slumber of peace rest upon you.

8. Pray together daily, and if you have children, pray together as a family.

9. Be active in Church affairs.

Be a witness for Christ everywhere. Also, give your testimony in church whenever the occasion arises; this develops more spirituality.

10. Remember your courtship days, and let the same attraction hold full sway in your lives.

I could go on and on, but I leave you who are married to work out your problems amicably and in the love of God.

*(Editor's Note: This article was first printed in the May, 1985 issue of the Gospel News).*

## Church Established in Philippines

Continued from Page 1

God. Other matters presented were the authority of The Church of Jesus Christ and how the Church has been blessed with His gifts and power. It was easy to understand quickly that these people were very well versed in the scriptures, and had very good knowledge of the teachings of Christ.

Mr. Galing said he believed in the Restored Gospel and that he and his wife wanted to be baptized. It was agreed to meet the next morning at their home for a church service.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE SERVICE

About 30 people were in attendance at the meeting, and the room was completely filled. After greeting everyone in the love of Christ and teaching a few hymns, a powerful preaching service followed, and many asked for prayer. After prayer, nine people requested their baptism.

That afternoon, the candidates were taken into the ocean many miles away and became the first members baptized in the Philippines. What a wonderful sight to behold, as The Church of Jesus Christ comes to another nation. Our return to Tagum City was very late and it was dark, so

it was decided to bestow the Holy Ghost the next morning.

At the Galing home for the service the following morning were another 30 people who had traveled from Pantukan, a mountain village. Altogether, there were about 55 people in attendance. Some squeezed together inside the small home, while many had to stand outside listening at the doors and windows. The morning was spent in teaching about the Holy

Ghost, and then hands were laid upon the nine newly baptized members for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

The following day was spent in teaching about the Lord's Supper, and then it was administered for the first time to our Philippine brothers and sisters. The spirit of God was so strong during the service that another 13 people requested to be baptized.

(Continued on Page 4)



Sacrament being served for the first time in the Philippines.



## Church Established in Philippines

Continued from Page 3

After lunch, it was back to the ocean for the baptisms and then the return to the meeting place for the confirmations. Again the power of God was poured out upon us in the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, with the inspiration of blessing the converts with many gifts of the Spirit.

The following day was spent in traveling to Pantukan where the 13 newest members lived. This is a mountainous area, an hour's drive from Tagum City. A service was held outside in a grove of coconut trees, with about 30 people in attendance. After preaching, the Lord's Supper was administered. Again, there was much more interest in the Church. The chief of the tribe informed us he had read the Book of Mormon and wanted to watch us to see what kind of people we were. We then returned to Tagum City after a long and exhausting day.

### REGISTERED THE CHURCH

Registering The Church of Jesus Christ in the Philippines in Davao City was on the next day's agenda. Again, the Lord led us to find the ones who

could help to accomplish this task. Afterwards, utensils for feet washing and other items for the Church were purchased.

Later that day, we were privileged to visit the man who owns the land where the Galings' home is located and prayed for him. He had injured his back many years before. He is an older man who is a strong believer in Christ. He said that, if we were willing to build a church building, he would donate the land.

Feet washing was performed the next day. Instruction was given on this ordinance after which the new members participated.

Later that day, we began to tutor those whom God had called into different offices of His Church. This training continued for the next two days.

### LAST SUNDAY

On the last Sunday, there were about 75 people in attendance. They were from Davao City, Tagum City, Pantukan, and Panabo. A presentation of songs from the different areas was made. It was then our honor to preach about the calling of Elders, Teachers, Deacons, and Deaconesses, emphasizing that God calls the workers to labor in His kingdom. Thereafter, Brother

Galing was ordained into the office of an Elder, along with four Teachers, and two Deaconesses.

During the meeting, seven more



**Apostle Paul Palmieri baptizing in the Philippines for the first time.**

souls felt the touch of God's spirit and requested to be baptized. At the ocean, the last seven candidates were baptized, with the help of our newly ordained Elder, Brother Galing. Upon returning to the meeting place, hands were laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It was surely a spirit-filled day. The Philippine membership now totals 29.

The next day on the way to the airport for our departure, we stopped at Panabo to meet the family of one of our Teachers. He also had talked to a number of people concerning the Church, and they had shown great interest. Our time was limited, so we could not meet with all of them. We established a visitation schedule for our Elders and Teachers so all the saints could be serviced until the next visit.

Our thanks go to God that another flag was planted, this time in the Philippines, for The Church of Jesus Christ. The brothers and sisters there send their love and regards to all the saints around the world.



### Notice

The AMOC will hold its annual conference on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25 at Branch #1, Chesterfield, MI





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . . .

*"... and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile" (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 26:33).*

Prejudice and discrimination are tools the devil has used from the beginning of time to divide and separate people. Nephi, in his day, made a point in this scripture, that God does not discriminate, but that He invites all to come and partake of His goodness. Isn't it a beautiful thought that no matter what race we may be, what our ethnic background is, what gender we are, or any other physical differences we may have, that God only sees us as a soul that needs to be saved. This is so different from the world we live in, where we are constantly judged by who we are, how we look or dress, or where we come from. Man sees the outside, but God sees the inside.

Acts 17:26 states: *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."* No matter who we are, if we cut ourselves, our blood is red. Out of this one blood, God created all humankind. There isn't any human being that was not created by God, and He decided when and where we would live. We are all His creation. In addition, there isn't a human being alive that had a choice in who they are, or even that they are alive. Who we are is a precious gift from God. When you look out on a field of flowers and see the many different colors and types of flowers, isn't it beautiful? It is the same way with us. God created a beautiful bouquet of flowers called humankind.

The Church of Jesus Christ today has people from all walks of life; from many races, nations, both male and female, and even Jew and Gentile. In the Church, God sees us each as equally important to Him, because He created us all. Most good parents will say that they love all their children equally. Imagine how God, who is the perfect parent, loves us equally!

With Jesus Christ, it doesn't matter how much money we have, or how famous or successful we are. We can live in a tent and be a beggar, but if we have the Spirit of God, we have everything. Jesus demonstrated this by how He came into the world. He had to be born in a dirty stable, to a poor family, and spent His life helping the poor, the sick, and the helpless. Then He died a cruel shameful death so that all humankind could live forever. He was not a respecter of persons. Even the adulterous woman, He forgave because of her heart; something those who wanted to stone her could not see.

The only time God instructs us to be separate from one another is when it is a matter of our righteousness being entangled with unrighteousness. One example is found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? . . ."*

A beautiful vision we can share is a condition where there is love and equality for all those who are righteous. It is what God intended for His people. Remember the words in 4<sup>th</sup> Nephi, *"... neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of -ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God."*

Thank God for His unconditional love, that no matter who we are, we can all say that we have the same loving Father, who is God, the Eternal Father of all humankind.

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## "Peter's Big Mistake"

Luke 22:54

Dear friends,

Have you ever been so scared that you would get into trouble or that someone would hurt you that you lied about who you are? Has there ever been a time when you pretended you didn't know someone that you really did know and love very well because you were embarrassed what people would say about them?

This is called being afraid of what the "world" thinks of us. The "world" means those people who don't love and serve Jesus as we do.

Jesus told us that the "world" would know us by the love we show. His apostle, Peter, said we would be known as a "peculiar" people. Peculiar means different and even strange, a special kind of people.

Peculiar is what people will call us when we forgive others who hurt us. Peculiar is what we are when we return good for evil, and when we pray to God instead of getting revenge or even talking mean.

It's hard sometimes to follow Jesus' example. Our "flesh," human side of us wants to fight. We want to win. We want to see bad people get punished. We also want others in the world to like us, and to be on our side. We are often weak.

The night before the soldiers arrested Him, Jesus told His disciple Peter that He knew Peter would soon pretend he didn't know Jesus. Peter was shocked. He said, "Lord, I will lay down my life for you."



Jesus answered him saying, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truthfully I say unto you that before the rooster crows [with sunrise] you will deny [knowing me] three times."

And later that night, the traitor, Judas brought the soldiers to take Jesus for trial. Peter followed behind them and waited in a crowd to see what was happening to Jesus. A servant woman recognized him and asked, "Aren't you one of His disciples?"

He said, "I am not." And he went by the fire outside to be warmed. Another person noticed him and also asked if he was Jesus' disciple. Peter said, "no" and swore.

Then a third person asked him "Didn't I see you in the garden with Him [Jesus]?" Again Peter said it was not so. Immediately the rooster crowed.

"And Jesus turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me three times." And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Jesus had known His friend would do this. Jesus had known Peter's fears would cause him to make a terrible mistake. Jesus loved him anyway. Jesus also forgave him for being human, for making a terrible mistake and for being afraid.

This is the same Jesus we serve today. One that knows our every weakness but loves us anyway. He is a Lord that helps people change. Later Peter changed. He led the new Church; he brought hundreds and hundreds of souls to know Jesus.

Let Jesus change you. Tell Him your fears, your anxieties. Tell Him

when you're scared and angry. He cares for you. He understands.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

JESUS	AT
CARES	HIM
FOR	HE
YOU	WEPT
PETER	BITTERLY
DENIED	WHEN
BEING	COCK
HIS	CROWED
DISCIPLE	HE
THREE	HAD
TIMES	FELT
THE	SCARED
LORD	WAS
LOOKED	FORGIVEN

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

Sorrow looks back,  
Worry looks around,  
Faith looks up.



## Atlantic Coast Regional Campout 2000

On the weekend of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at the rustic Camp Mason in Blairstown, New Jersey, a large representation of the Atlantic Coast Region gathered for our annual Area MBA Campout. Brother Michael Zaino, our Area MBA Vice President and Camp Director prayed much for a theme for the weekend. The answer to his prayer was to use the hymn, *Is Your All On the Altar?* as our Camp theme. It was an inspiration for our entire Campout. Sister Lori Schmitt was the Assistant Camp Director and was Brother Michael's right arm and accomplished many things seen and unseen.

During our Saturday morning chapel service, Brother Jonathan

Olexa, our Area MBA President, encouraged us to participate in the weekend's events so that it would be a success. We found that the gifts and presence of God surrounded us. It was at this time Sister Angela Reyes had a vision in which she saw sentinels surrounding the camp for our protection. This experience was a direct answer to a prayer offered in our early morning prayer service.

Putting your all on the altar is attainable because it is doing something in the service of each other, and ultimately in the service of our Lord. The efforts that were put forth into the planning of our seminars, sports activities and crafts were done for the spiritual and natural enjoyment of the saints. That loving, caring touch is what made these activities so special.

We saw smiling faces, hearty welcomes, and much excitement because the family of God withdrew from the world, and were spending this special time together. We felt blessed to see that Sister Cathy Onorato brought a group of young people all the way from Maine.

Throughout the weekend, our brothers in the Ministry were inspired to preach and encourage the congregation to improve upon our service to God. They spoke of the power that is in The Church of Jesus Christ. Now, more than ever, we need to stand up for the Restored Gospel, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Through our testimonies, we had the blessing of knowing that God is working with the brothers and sisters throughout the Region.

Lastly, Apostle Paul Benyola reminded us that there is a world beyond our camp that needs to hear of Jesus and His Gospel. There are brothers and sisters going to foreign countries to spread the Word, but can we do something within our own branches and missions? In closing, we ask, "Is your all on the altar?" This is something we need to ask ourselves. Can it be? Our ancient Brother Paul would say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." It is possible through our desire and through our reasonable service to God. Let's look for opportunities. They are endless!



## Circle Prepares to Get "Near to the Heart of God"

By Sister Karen L. Progar,  
General Circle Editor

At our recent General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference, much discussion took place regarding our upcoming fellowship weekend planned for July 19-22, 2001 in Ontario, California. The Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle is making arrangements for the event that will be held at the Country Suites by Ayres. Sisters Lynette Huttenberger and Diane

McDonnell shared the theme, "Near to the Heart of God," along with many details of the preparations being made by the Pacific Coast to host this event. We would love to have a large representation of sisters in attendance for the weekend. Make plans to attend.

The Greensburg Chapel was the location of our October 14<sup>th</sup> Conference at which, in addition to hearing about plans for our fellowship weekend, we were also blessed discussing our items of business and sharing a time of testimony.

Vice President, Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio, opened our meeting using scripture from John and remarking on what a blessing it is to be Jesus' friend. Sis. Arline Whitton, President, stated that she was thrilled to see everyone as she began our business meeting.

At our last conference, it was suggested that an introductory pamphlet should be developed so that interested parties and those coming to

the Church for the first time could be given information in regard to the activities of the Circle. That pamphlet has now been completed, approved and will be printed in the near future.

It was, as usual good to hear the numerous donations made by the various Circles and donated by the organization to the General Church missions. Our upcoming Special Project collection will go toward financial assistance to build a new church in India.

The theme for our devotions was, "Standing on the Promises." The sisters who participated sang, *I Love Him Too Much to Fail Him Now*, which brought a blessed spirit to our afternoon service. We were fortunate to have time to hear the testimonies of a number of sisters.

There will be no conference in April of 2001, so we encourage you to join us in July, as we endeavor to get, "Near to the Heart of God"!!!!



## Branch and Mission News

### Southeast Regional Spiritual Conference

By Sister Bea Hopkins

On Saturday, August 19, 2000, the saints gathered in the Quincy, Florida Mission for our first ever Southeast Regional Spiritual Conference. Visiting was Apostle Isaac Smith and Apostle Paul Benyola, along with approximately 21 visiting Elders.

Saturday's evening meeting was a time of thanksgiving and praise. Brother Isaac J. Smith, Jr. said "The hope of the Church is to see the Gospel go to all nations." People throughout the world are requesting to hear about the Gospel. Brother Isaac summarized the events and experiences that took place at the GMBA Campout, including the number of young people that asked for their baptism. While the congregation was singing, Apostle Smith stood up and said, "It is a time of repentance!" Immediately, a young man stood and began to cry to God. Later, Brother Jameson Staley shared his testimony of his calling at Campout. Truly, the manifestation of God's spirit was present.

Sunday, August 20, 2000, the saints gathered with great anticipation of God's blessings and to hear the words from the ministry. Apostle Paul Benyola opened the meeting by reading Matthew 4:18. He asked the question, "Have you ever heard the voice of Jesus? When you hear it, you must put down everything and follow Him. Jesus is the only one who can turn your whole life around and bring you into happiness. Baptism is the first necessary step. It is the beginning of a beautiful walk with Jesus. God has not promised us we would have a problem free life, but He promised us that He would provide our needs." Apostle Benyola exhorted us to seek out spiritual gifts. "The body has many members and when one is not working correctly, the whole body feels it." He

asked the question, "What part of the body are you? We are one body, but many members, for by one spirit we are all baptized in one body and have been made to drink from one spirit." The saints were then left with this question, "How far have you come from the water's edge?"

Apostle Isaac Smith was the second speaker. He opened with the hymn, *Jesus My Wonderful Friend*. "Jesus is our friend whom we must follow. It is important that we know the direction we are going because following someone can be difficult. The saddest thing in life is to not get to your destination because you got lost along the way. It is easy to get mixed up in life and go in the wrong direction. We should seek signs to verify that we are headed in the right direction. Getting too close to the edge of the path is a dangerous thing. We should try to stay in the middle of the path, because Satan will try to get us off the path if we are not prayerful." Apostle Smith exhorted us to be lively stones in the building of the kingdom. "The foundation has been laid. We need to build upon it. God has a work for each of us, so let us work together to help build Christ's kingdom on earth."

The saints in Quincy would like to thank all of the brothers and sisters for visiting our Mission.

### Great Lakes Regional Spiritual Conference

On Sunday October 29th, 2000, the Great Lakes Region gathered together at Dearborn High School in Dearborn Michigan for their Regional Conference. The brothers and sisters came with great anticipation of receiving a portion of God's Spirit, and they were not to be disappointed.

Our Regional President, Brother Lyle Criscuolo welcomed us, updated us on many of the blessings at the recent spiritual conferences, and informed us of many of the sick in our region and throughout the Church. After singing many hymns to the honor and glory of God, Brother Leonard

Lovalvo opened our meeting in prayer, asking God to bless us with His Spirit.

The first speaker was Brother Alex Gentile. Brother Alex began by asking us to remember 10 important words found in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." He went on to read a similar statement found in the Book of Mormon in Alma, "In His strength I can do all things." He continued by saying, "Listen and apply this in your daily lives. Model yourselves around this. Become enthusiastic about serving Jesus Christ."

Brother Gentile got us involved in his sermon by using the theme of our modern day game show. He told us to envision that our seats contained two buttons, one for yes and one for no. He then asked us, "Do you believe the words 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?'" He next asked us "How many of us apply this in our daily lives? Press the button." Throughout the remainder of his sermon, he asked us questions that required similar interaction.

"You must not only believe these words but apply them. The scriptures are full of people that God blessed because of their belief and application of it in their lives. There are three keys to getting the power to believe; you must want it, ask for it, and believe that you have received it. If you don't believe that you have it, the first two don't count. When we pray, we must believe that God will answer us.

"We need strength. In Isaiah 40:31 it says, 'But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.' What power we have in our hands if we ask for it. Can you imagine what power we have as a group to be able to send our prayers to God and get Him to move His hand?"

Brother Alex concluded his message by saying "We must be excited. Enthusiasm is contagious. Tell someone of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and HE will confess your name unto the Father. Create a fire and everyone will run to see what is burning. Believe the words, 'I can do all things through

Christ who strengthens me.' ”

Brother Larry Champine continued our meeting by adding the word “courage” to the word “belief” that Brother Alex spoke on. He spoke of Ammon, one of the four sons of Mosiah. He told us that after Ammon was converted, King Limoni asked him if he was sent of God. Ammon answered that he had a portion of God’s Spirit. Brother Larry continued, “We have that portion of the Spirit as well, and it gives us knowledge and power. We are not empty-handed. Do we believe that we truly can ‘Do all things?’ It takes courage to move forward and face what is before us. God took small numbers and worked with them so do not ever be discouraged about The Church of Jesus Christ being smaller than other churches. This should be an encouragement that God is interested in you as a person and is willing to use you. Do it in the name of Jesus Christ and step out on faith.”

Apostle Peter Sclaro addressed the congregation next. He encouraged us, telling us that we are the body of Christ and that working together, we can do marvelous works. “This is for believers like Ammon. Remember the things of God and stir up the gift of God that is given by the laying on of hands as stated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. Do you believe that when you came into the Church and the brothers laid hands on you that the promise that you would receive the Holy Spirit is a true one? Here you have the enlightened; the people who know that Jesus Christ came and that His Gospel was established and it was polluted and taken away and then it was restored, and that Jesus Christ lives at the right hand of God and that He is coming again. The evil one wants it to be kept a secret. He does not want the Ammons to step out and say ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ ”

Apostle Peter concluded by saying, “We need to trust the Lord and trust each other that this is THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. Do you believe it right now? If so, push the button.”

When Apostle Peter concluded, a brother stood up and shared with us that he had seen a personage he

believed to be the Lord while Brother Peter was speaking.

The Lord blessed the brothers who addressed us that day with a wonderful message of belief, strength and courage, and helped them to deliver it in such a way that we would not soon forget.

After several annointings and announcements, the meeting was dismissed. The brothers, sisters and friends stayed to enjoy lunch and fellowship with each other. This conference was a true example of a great and spiritually uplifting day.

## Baptism in Lake Worth, FL

By Sister Josie Jasmin

What a glorious day for the spirit to be made manifest! The sun was shining outside our place of worship. Jesus was in our midst this day, for certain. Brother Eugene Perri opened our service and was inspired to praise the Lord in singing. Sister Nancy DiFede sang *Pass It On*. The words were beautiful, and they pierced the heart and soul. We then sang *Take the Name of Jesus With You*, inspiring each to take the precious name of Jesus everywhere through life. As a brother’s quintet sang *Shall We Gather at the River*, the inspiration was given to one sister that we would surely be gathering at the river that day. Then a group of sisters sang *Mansion Over the Hilltop* and continued with *There is Power in the Blood* followed by a quartet singing *Love Lifted Me*.

The spirit was flowing very freely as Brother Perri read some scripture telling us about the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Repentance is the first step to becoming a Saint of God. No matter how much a sinner one may be, with repentance and full commitment, we are forgiven completely. God is love and is full of forgiveness. If the spirit abides within us and we ask for forgiveness, we then stay on the side of grace. We were reminded about Job; of all the trials that he had to endure. He

remained faithful, determined, and put his trust in the Lord.

The meeting was then opened for testimony after we sang *Just as I Am*. The spirit was very evident. During testimony, a sister called the hymn *Calling the Prodigal* and Cindy Davis rose to ask for her baptism. She said that when we were singing that hymn, she felt like she was being pushed up out of the pew. Praise God for this blessing that we have prayed so long for in our branch.

We broke for a bite to eat and then went to the water’s edge as Sister Cindy was baptized by Brother Perri. We then came back to the building for the confirmation of our new sister and to partake of sacrament. After the congregation knelt in prayer, Sister Cindy was confirmed by Brother Mike Radd.

It was a beautiful ending to a beautiful, spirit-filled day, filling our cups to overflowing. God is so good.

## Blessings in Miami-Dade, FL Mission

By Sister Betty Gennaro

Sunday, November 5, 2000, was a blessed day for us, as we welcomed our missionaries, Brother Dick and Sister Pat Christman back from Peru. They brought us good news of another convert there. Elder Juan Mestas baptized his brother. As we looked at the photos, we saw the rough water and the high waves, but the Lord protected them.

God’s Holy Spirit was strong as Brother Christman read from Isaiah 43. The Lord created us; He knows all things and doesn’t force the human mind. We are freewill agents, but He created us, and we have been formed of God to do His will. Brother Christman also read from Ephesians 2, regarding our growth and maturity in the Gospel. He wants us to prove it to others by showing our light. Thank God that we have this treasure.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Blessings in Miami-Dade, FL

Continued from Page 9

Brother Miguel Bicelis continued by stating that we have given up our will when we came to The Church of Jesus Christ. We have given our lives to God and now must seek to do His will. God created us for the purpose of serving Him. It is no longer our will, but His will be done. It is an adventure to serve God; never boring, full of excitement as we see Him work through us.

Brother Justin Severson encouraged us to read and study His Word, in order to nourish and sustain our lives. People need to see this in us. If we are in the will of God, we will have the peace that only God can give us. This is our life of probation.

Brother George Kovacic read from Ephesians 2:10, about the process clay goes through when it is fired. Spiritually, we are put through the fire and able to come through it by fasting, prayer, and studying. This is how God works with us and makes us of great value to Him. The Lord wants us to be involved in His spiritual Kingdom. It is important that we meet together to share blessings and teachings that will strengthen us. The beauty of our life in Christ is what happens to us each and every day.

## Joint Meeting of Greensburg and Vanderbilt, PA

*By Brother Andrew Gehly*

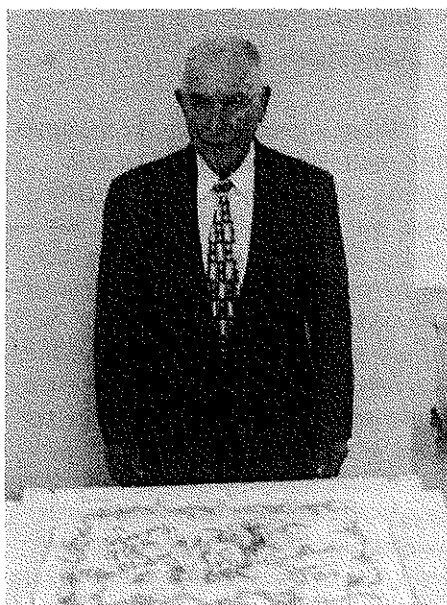
### HONORING APOSTLE JOSEPH BITTINGER'S 98<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

On Sunday August 20, 2000, members of the Greensburg and Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania branches had the privilege of celebrating the 98<sup>th</sup> birthday of Apostle Joe Bittinger in a joint meeting.

In the joined meeting of the two branches, the Elders spoke on the strengths that we need to succeed and endure in the service of God as Apostle Joe has done.

Brother Lawrence King spoke first about how God will use His people, both individually and as a Church, if our hearts are truly in the right place. Brother King focused on those such as Moses, who although he couldn't speak well, was used for great things because he had such a strong relationship with God.

Brother George Timms likened our relationship with, and job to do for God, with our natural employment. As employees, we must always show up on the job ready to work. Likewise, workers for the Lord must always be ready to fill their position. Brother Richard Lowther explained that the best way to be prepared for our spiritual work is to re-dedicate ourselves daily.



**Apostle Joseph Bittinger**

Following the meeting, a lunch and cake were provided in celebration of the 98 years that Apostle Bittinger has been given and those that are yet to come. Apostle Bittinger told those in attendance that 78 of his years have been spent in the service of the Lord, having been baptized ten days before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Less than one year after his baptism, he was ordained an Elder.

Apostle Bittinger is a living testimony of the goodness of God. His cheerful spirit and undying dedication to the Gospel after so many years are a blessing to us all.

## The gathering of the ducks and geese

"The heavens, God's preachers in the sky, declare the glory of God . . . Day unto day utter speech." As the saints of God drove up to the Waters of Mormon, the gathering had already begun. Many ducks had gathered, all lined up in a unique ceremonial expression, quietly and reverently waiting to witness a grand and glorious event. In the heavens above were the geese silently in formation flying overhead outlining the dimensions that were set aside for this majestic occasion. It was awesome. These were truly very tender moments as the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ so humbly began to perform the labor of their calling. Silence overshadowed the area as the heavenly Spirit took full control, expressing the tranquility that supercedes anything in this present world. Yes, it is the holy work of God being performed in the world, but not of the world. This is what the saints of God were experiencing as we stood at the ice-formed waters edge. Can one describe in earthly language the condescension of God's glory as Brother Alphonso Hopkins raised his hand toward heaven declaring God's divine authority to perform this labor? There, Ronald Griffin Jr. was placed in the waters of regeneration. Thus through the power of obedience, he became a new creature in Christ Jesus. How beautiful indeed the saints rejoiced as within the heart, the presence of holiness was among us. Then a vision appeared; two angels standing above the water, one on each side of the baptism.

The same spirit prevailed as the Ministry, Brothers Mitchell Edwards, John DiBattista, and Alphonso Hopkins knelt before the Lord for continued guidance of His will. Brother Mitchell Edwards then moved with tenderness and compassion as he laid hands upon our new brother in prayer to receive the Holy Spirit that would be Brother Ronald Griffin's guide and director the remaining days of his life.

Surely, the saints of God sit in holy places.



## Because God Is Everywhere I Can Stop Looking

A cold winter morning  
Pierces through my bones.

As I stop out of the shade  
And into the pale glow of sunrise  
I begin to solicit its warmth.  
It satisfies me only a little  
And so I try to covet it again.  
Still I'm left chilled.

Then I become voracious in my desires.  
Suddenly an ominous cloud shrouds  
My daystar.  
I'm left raw.

Then a thought shakes me  
And I reach out my hand.  
Before I knew it  
I was basking in blazing warmth—  
Warmth I never thought possible.

Because God is everywhere  
I can stop looking.  
All I have to do is reach out my hand.

### *Note of Thanks*

I would like to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends and my brother and sister-in-law, Brother John Ali and Sister Rosemarie Ali, who fed and took care of my wife and I during my recent by-pass surgery.

The Lord blessed me with the gift of life again, and it was only through the prayers of the saints and friends. I also want to thank you all for your cards, visits, and gifts we received. I want to thank the branches, MBA, Ladies' Circle, and Sunday School who also sent cards and prayers on my behalf. I am on the road to recovery. Praise God!

Thank you and God bless you,  
Brother Joe Catone, Sr.  
Hollywood, Florida Branch

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Allen, was blessed in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch on October 8, 2000.

Julia Alexandra D'Orazio, daughter of John A. and Sarah D'Orazio, was blessed in Boston, Massachusetts on October 21, 2000.

Lauren Frances Smith, daughter of Sister Nancy and Robert Smith, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on November 5, 2000.

Daniel John Gibson, son of Brother David and Sister Dana Gibson, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on August 20, 2000.

Brittany Kimbro, daughter of Brother Adam Kimbro and Stacie Burns Kimbro, was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on August 13, 2000.

Reanna Michelle More, daughter of Mike and Jennifer More, was blessed on August 27, 2000.

## OBITUARIES

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

### WILLIAM GAWRONSKI

Brother William Gawronski, a member of the Cape Coral, Florida Mission, passed on to his reward on September 4, 2000. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother William is survived by his wife, Sister Geri Gawronski, and their two sons, Lawrence and Bradley.

### JOSEPHINE CAMPAGNA

Sister Josephine Campagna passed on to her reward on October 7, 2000. She was preceded in death by her husband James and her son Richard. Sister Josephine is survived by her brother, daughter, two sons, 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

## Children Blessed

Daniel James Carradi, son of James P. (Jimmy) and Jennifer Carradi, was blessed in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch on February 6, 2000.

Rachel Linn Checchi, daughter of Brother David and Sister Lori Checchi, was blessed in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch on June 18, 2000.

Jacob Lee Allen, son of Brother Gordon and Sister Christina Allen, was blessed in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch on October 8, 2000.

Matthew Irwin Allen, son of Brother Gordon and Sister Christina

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Gordon Allen, Jr. and Christina E. Creech were united in holy matrimony in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch on September 5, 2000.

Brother Robert Stanley Davis and Cindy Lee Swain were united in holy matrimony in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on September 16, 2000.

Sister Carol Racz and Michael Greene were united in holy matrimony in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on November 4, 2000.

Brother Brandon Miller and Sister Christina Pizzaia were united in holy matrimony in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on November 25, 2000.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Christina Allen was baptized on October 8, 2000 in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Checchi and confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola.

Brother Gordon Allen was baptized on October 8, 2000 in the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Checchi and confirmed by Brother Ron Carradi.

Brother 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.

Sister Rosalba Torres was baptized on August 20, 2000 in the Cape Coral, Florida Mission. She was baptized by Brother Alvin Swanson and confirmed by Brother Miquel Bicelis.

Sister Karen Watford was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 8, 2000 in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. She was reinstated by Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sister Kristin McQueeney was baptized on November 19, 2000 in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Joel Gehly.

Sister Michelle Eugenia Lima Soliz was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Luis Marroquin.

Sister Charisse Bethany Marroquin Anderson was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Luis Marroquin.

Sister Blanca Isabel Subuyuj Vidal was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

Brother Jared Joseph Ciotti Marroquin Anderson was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Luis Marroquin.

Brother Willy Alexander Subuyuj Vidal was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

Sister Rosaura Tuche Subuyuj was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Luis Marroquin.

Sister Jessica Yanet Subuyuj Vidal was baptized on November 19, 2000 in Guatemala. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

Sister Teri Alisa Gibson was baptized on December 11, 2000 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti Sr. and confirmed by Brother Jim Gibson.

Brother Michael Bloom was baptized on December 17, 2000 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri, and confirmed by Brother David W. DeLuca.

Sister Maria Angela Bloom was baptized on December 17, 2000 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Palmieri, and confirmed by Brother Joseph Ross.

Sister Josephine Loffredo McKinnon was baptized on November 12, 2000 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Richard Loffredo.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

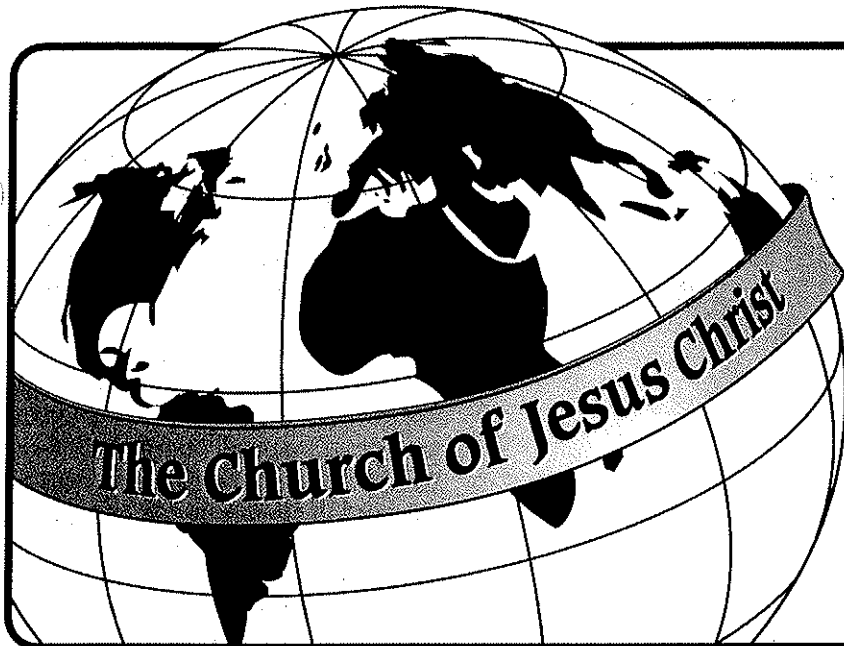
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Shirley Eutsey of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 5, 2000.

Sister Pearl Zinzi of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch celebrated her sixty-second anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 13, 2000.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 2001

Volume 57, No. 3

## Testimony of William Bickerton

William Bickerton was a member of the Methodist Church, until he heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached in the year of our Lord 1845. He says: I was convinced of the doctrines of Christ, viz., Faith, Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit and its effects are in accord with Paul's writings. There is but one Holy Spirit, and whether Jews or Gentiles, bond or free, we have been all made to drink of the same spirit, for to one is given the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge, by the same spirit, and so forth and Jesus says: "Signs shall follow them that believe, in my name they shall 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." I was never taught such a gospel; so I left them as a member in good standing, and was baptized into Christ and put Him on. I received the gift of the Holy Spirit at the laying on of hands, and the signs have followed me. I have spoken with new tongues, and have had the interpretations, and I have seen the sick healed, and I have been healed myself, so that I know that the

Gospel is the power of God. I entered the Church under Elder Rigdon's organization. I was called by the Holy Spirit to be an Elder. I received ordination and the power of God came down and sealed that office upon me. I went forward preaching to all that would hear. I was afterwards called into the quorum of seventies. I received ordination the second time, but the Church became disorganized. Here I was left to myself. I paused to know what course to pursue. I knew my calling was from Heaven, and I also knew that a man cannot build up the Church of Christ without divine commandment from the Lord, for it would only be sectarianism, and man's authority.

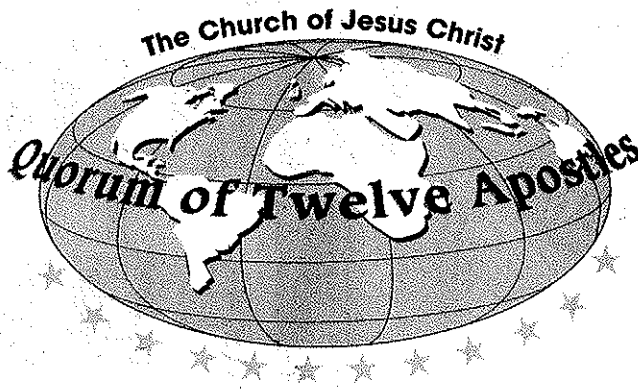
But the Lord did not leave me, no, He showed me a vision, and in the vision I was on the highest mountain on the earth: and He told me that if I did not preach the Gospel I would fall into the dreadful chasm below. The sight thereof was awful. I moved with fear, having the Holy Spirit with me. Here I was, none to assist me, and without learning, popular opinion against me, and the Salt Lake Mormons stood in the way. I could not turn back unto Methodism again. No, I knew they had not the gospel. I stood in contemplation. The chasm was before me, no other alternative but to

do my duty to God and man. I went ahead preaching repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some believed my testimony and were baptized, and we met together. The Lord met with us, and we could many times sing with the poet, "The Spirit of God, like a fire is burning, the latter-day glory begins to come forth. The visions and blessings of old are returning. The angels are coming to visit the earth."

We had not as yet partaken of the Lord's Supper, when the Lord appeared in vision, and told me to administer it. We met together from time to time, and I felt it to be the will of God to call and ordain other Elders. I did so and they assisted me in helping forward the good work of God. We also met together in council, and the Lord revealed Himself unto us in divers ways.

One evening after I had baptized three, I retired to rest, and a glorious vision appeared unto me. I saw a beautiful table spread over with everything that is desirable of the rich bounties of Heaven, and the saints feasting themselves; there was no end to it, as far as I could see. I saw myself sitting at the head of it; and while in the vision the glory of God filled the room. No mortal man can tell what I felt on that occasion, while a cloud of

(Continued on Page 3)



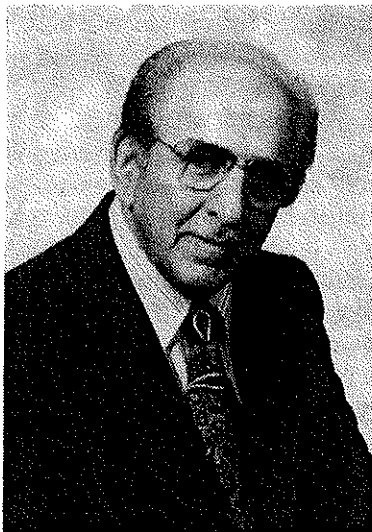
## Being Equally Yoked

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

(continued from last month)

I received a letter from a young unmarried man recently, which I will quote in part: "I especially enjoyed listening to your counsel on 'Love and Marriage.' I am not married yet, but I sure do want to be; It's tough being alone. But the Lord knows all things."

In the heart and mind of this young man – as in the hearts of all



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

young people – there is a desire to find a good mate; one that will be "until death us do part." First, of course, there must be a lot of sincere prayers sent to the Lord, asking Him for guidance, and that He will provide a suitable mate. Next, one must take inventory of himself (or herself) and ask, "Am I ready for marriage?" Will

I make a good husband (or wife)? Will I be able to give love as well as receive it? Will I be willing to adapt to my mate? Will I be able to concede a little, to yield a little?

Some of the above questions may sound hypothetical but are relevant nonetheless. Principally though, the most important thing is: Is God in the matter? Read how Abraham sent his servant to the house of his kindred to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham told his servant that the Lord had revealed to him to send his servant to his family for his son's wife. When the servant reached the city of Nahor he prayed by the well:

"O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water; And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I shall give thy camels drink also; let the same be she that Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that Thou hast shown kindness unto my master."

The story goes on to relate how that Rebekah came to the well and fulfilled the prayer of the servant to the very words he had desired of God. Rebekah, of course became the wife of Isaac. I believe very much that those who are seeking a mate can also have direction from God. Marriage is the most important step to take in one's life. Therefore, it is indeed necessary that one seek divine revelation from the Lord when looking for a

wife (or a husband). Don't let physical attraction alone be the criterion upon which you base your selection (although this too, is an important part), but rather seek to know God's will. Some people spend more time today in selecting an outfit of clothing than taking great pains and care in selecting a spouse. When husband and wife are "equally yoked" together by the will of God, they can go together to the Lord in mighty prayer and fasting when problems arise and plead with Him, saying, "Lord, You have brought us together in marriage, we need You now, please help us." I can assure you that God will hear your prayers. From time to time, pray and fast that the Lord will bless your union and your children.

I distinctly remember that prior to our marriage, my fiancée (now my wife) and I fasted often and prayed that God would bless our union. We went a step further; we asked the Lord to witness our marriage by showing someone on our wedding day that He was pleased with us. Later on, we were told by the late Sister Helen Campitelle that while the minister was performing our wedding ceremony, she saw two lights approaching him and us, and when he pronounced us husband and wife, the two lights became one large light, and a voice from heaven spoke and said, "This day, these two shall be united in My name."

When I fell in love with my wife (Brother Sam and Sister Fara Randazzo's daughter) I did not let her know of my intentions until after she was baptized. I firmly believed that if God was pleased that we should be husband and wife, He would touch her heart without my letting her know of my hopes and prayers. To this day, God has blessed us immensely.

I would suggest also, that young men and women who are contemplating marriage seek counsel with one of our competent ministers prior to the wedding day. Much good will come out of this counseling, I can assure you.

The "bottom line," however, is still this: Make sure that the Lord is in the matter. I counsel all and everyone to remain pure and chaste, and bring

this purity and chastity to your nuptial night. Let no one defraud themselves before marriage, thinking perhaps, "As long as we are going to be married, we can have an affair; it is no sin." Don't delude yourselves by this kind of thinking, for this kind of an affair before marriage is **adultery** in the sight of God even if you are going to be married.

There is a grossly mistaken conception in the world concerning the word fornication as meaning an "affair" only between unmarried people. This is the definition of the world, not God's. In the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God, there is one that says, "Thou shalt not commit **adultery**." To show that fornication is also **adultery**, I quote the words of Jesus Christ, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, except for **fornication** and marrieth another committeth **adultery**; and whoso marrieth her that is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). Please note this scripture carefully. "Whosoever putteth away his wife" refers to a married man and a married woman. He can divorce her for committing fornication. She is a married woman, not unmarried. So, remember this, an "affair" between unmarried persons is not only fornication, but adultery.

In conclusion, let me say further, seek God in the selection of the "right" mate and you will be "equally yoked together." If people do not seek the will of God in their selection of a mate and plunge into a marriage where there is no spiritual compatibility, and subsequently, arguments and misunderstandings arise, they cannot blame the Lord for their "unequally yoked" marriage. I encourage everyone to pray to the Lord for His divine help in not only the selection of a mate, but that He also will be sought in fasting and prayer to adjust whatever differences may arise so your marriage will not end up in a divorce. God is gracious; He will lend His ear to your supplication. Thus IT IS WRITTEN.

*(Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Gospel News in June, 1985.)*

## Testimony of William Bickerton

Continued from Page 1

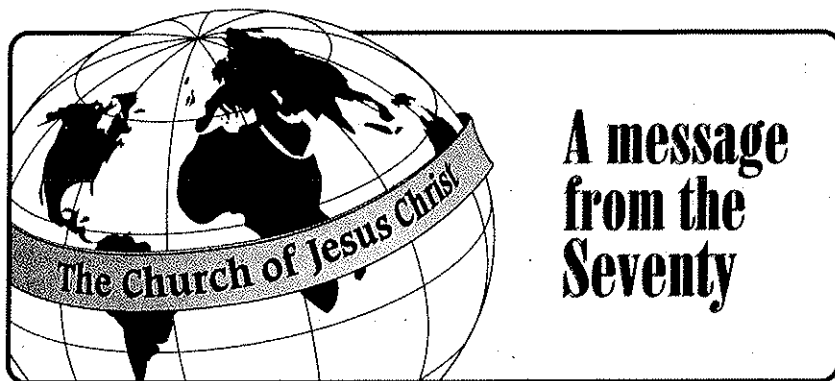
divine glory rested upon me. To the world this might appear to be imagination, but to me a reality, a divine reality, that years cannot erase from my memory. I might fill up pages of what we received, but we give our testimony to the world, that we know that there is a God, in heaven, and He changes not, and that He does reveal himself in this our day and generation, as He did in days of old. Yes, blessed be His High and Holy name forever, and His unchangeableness; for as our Saviour said, while here on earth, if any man will do His will, He shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or I speak of myself. And again, the prophet Joel says, speaking of the last days, "and it shall come to pass afterwards, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions, and also upon the serpents and upon the hand-maids in those days will I pour out my spirit, and I will show wonders in the Heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." And while waiting before the Lord in a sacrament meeting, the word of the Lord came unto me saying, "I accept of you this day as my Church to whom my servant John was commanded to write, while in the spirit, on the Lord's day, and to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: these things saith he that is Holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth, and no man openeth: I know thy works, behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it, for thou hast a little strength, and has kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie, Behold I will make them to come and worship before thy feet: and to know that I have loved thee,

because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold I come quickly: hold fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the Churches." Again shortly after, while we were assembled together, the word of the Lord came unto me again saying, "The Lord I am God, the Lord I am God, therefore you are of them that will not turn aside, therefore I will bless you."

We then began to increase in numbers, and formed ourselves into Conferences. Elders were called and ordained, and the Lord being with us, the signs followed the believers, the gifts of the Spirit being made manifest in tongues and interpretations of tongues, prophecy, wisdom, knowledge, visions, dreams, faith, discerning of spirits, and the sick healed, and pains removed, so that we began to grow up into the knowledge of the Son of God, and the Lord our God made a Covenant with us, that He would lay a ground work by us to perform a great work: and we are the stem, and every party that splits from us shall come to nothing.

We now copy from the records of this Church the revelations and commandments that the Lord has given unto us as far as is requisite for this history, and leave it to the reader. While waiting in Conference before the Lord, the word of the Lord came unto us saying, "Try me and prove me, and see if I will not open unto the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing, so that there shall not be room enough to contain it." And on the following Sabbath while we continued to wait before the Lord, the

(Continued on Page 10)



## Ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ Key to Guatemala's first Vacation Bible School

*By Evangelist Paul J. Ciotti and Sister Karen Progar*

At the conclusion of Guatemala's first Vacation Bible School on the evening of November 3, 2000, Evangelist Paul J. Ciotti asked me a simple, yet profoundly powerful question. He inquired, in essence, whether I ever expected the desire the Lord placed upon my heart at the World Missionary Conference would conclude in such a blessed evening? My answer was that in no way could I ever have imagined that the desire would manifest itself in this marvelous experience.

The Lord prepared the foundation for this event by giving me and several other sisters the desire to do something for the children. Space is insufficient to provide all the experiences that led to the preparation for this work. Sister Linda Ali was given the experience that her talents were needed in Guatemala. As GMBA Youth Director, everyone agreed that Sister Linda's love for children would be an asset. Sister Judy Salerno, a long-time member to the Guatemala Sub-Committee

and a seasoned traveler in Guatemala, quickly agreed to be a member of the team, and our preparation began in earnest.

The thought would go through my mind that we never forget what we learn as children. Therefore, when the Lord allowed me to know that the Vacation Bible School lesson theme should be the Ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ, I knew why it was important to teach it to the children of Guatemala. We were not sure whether these children or their parents would attend our church after this week, but I know they would remember the things they were taught—how the Lord would have us worship and serve Him. The lessons quickly fell into order. In fact, many offered to assist us as we prepared our lessons and crafts. Because of the Lord's kindness toward us, only a little assistance was required to get our plans and crafts ready.

### MISSIONARY FAMILY'S PREPARATIONS

It was also a great blessing that our missionary family in Guatemala, the Marroquins, lovingly labored to make this VBS a success. They prepared and delivered invitations to schools in the neighborhood, obtained the signatures of 80 participants for the week's program, developed the Friday evening program, including writing parts that would adhere to the theme, and acted as our interpreters throughout the week.

The week proved to be a great success, not because of our efforts, but because the Lord was the author and director of everything that was done. On Tuesday, as the children enjoyed their daily snacks, we all commented how the peace of God was felt like a tangible element in the room.

On Wednesday evening, we had a wonderful opportunity to visit a number of the children's parents. The blessings of the Lord were so great that night as Brother Luis Marroquin was given liberty to address the group of over 30. His words were so powerful that we know God was present, even



(Continued on Page 10)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . . .

*"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).*

It is such a beautiful thing to serve the Lord. There is an added blessing when we decide to serve God in our youth. By doing so, we bypass many sorrows in life. Today, in The Church of Jesus Christ, there is a large presence of young people, willing and eager to give their lives to Jesus Christ. Like never before, we are hearing of young people at very young ages, wanting to be baptized and serve the Lord. What is happening in the Church is directly opposite to what is happening in the world. In the world today, young people are committing crimes that were unimaginable just a few years back. In the world today, young people are joining hate groups and cults more than ever. It has become commonplace for young people to commit fornication, use drugs and alcohol, steal, lie, carry guns, have abortions, and the list goes on and on. But in The Church of Jesus Christ, young people are saying "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" Young people are saying "no" to sin, and taking a stand for truth, honesty, and purity. Many are being persecuted because of the stand they are taking. But there is strength in numbers! Peer pressure is the main cause of young people giving in to sin. But with a large support group of young people in the Church, "good" peer pressure can far outweigh "bad" peer pressure experienced at school or work.

In Psalm 103:2 it says, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."* What are the benefits of serving God in our youth? If you read further in this Psalm, it says that God forgives our iniquities, heals our diseases, saves us from destruction, provides all that we need naturally and spiritually and is merciful beyond our understanding. As a young person today, we are faced with so many temptations that lead only to hurt, sorrow, disease, pain, shame, and loneliness. By serving God in our youth, He helps us to be successful in school, find the right job, find the right mate, and make all the right decisions. Recently someone from the world said to me *"It seems like everything you touch turns to gold!"* What this person meant was, "You are successful at everything you do." Little does that person know, that it definitely is neither by might nor by power or even knowledge. But it is by God's spirit and love for all those that would love and serve Him. By serving God in our youth, we build many more years of triumphs and successes. We experience joy and can sleep soundly every night because of a clear conscience. We develop confidence because we know God will order every step we take. In the world today, many young people have no confidence at all. Many are extremely dysfunctional and therefore resort to sinful acts, seeking something they'll never find. *"Search the mountains it's not there, streams it's not there, countries abroad it's not there, it's not there. Trying silver and gold it's not there, - Outside the fold, nothing there, empty there. If from emptiness you would be free, - Then Jesus said 'Come unto me' " (#56 The Songs of Zion).*

For those of us who are parents, we must remember that we live in a very different world than when we grew up. As Satan becomes more persuasive and direct (because he knows his time is short), we too, must speak with our children in a more persuasive and direct way, utilizing the spirit and love of God. We must keep them involved in Church activities and be very aware of our actions. Young people learn more from what we do than what we say.

In conclusion, serve God in your youth. You will lose nothing and gain everything. As time marches speedily on, we never know what tomorrow may bring, but we do know that if we are walking with the Lord, we need not fear anything, and can rejoice in His protection and direction.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock



## Peace Because Jesus Cares

Dear Boys and Girls,

You know how it feels to be happy and busy working on something. You know how it is when you feel safe, unafraid, and there is someone in the next room who loves you, but isn't bothering you.

That beautiful feeling is called peace. Not only children, but grown-ups like that feeling too. When your thoughts and feelings are calm, when you are able to concentrate and work on something with interest, you have peace. When you don't fear the future, you have peace.

So, how much peace is in your life today? What do you do when things are going wrong in your life? What if your family has a terrible problem or you have one and are afraid to tell anyone? What can you do? What if your parents are fighting or your grandma or someone you love is very sick? What if someone at school is hateful to you? Where do you get your peace then?

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 9:6 that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. That means He has control of peace. He is always in the next room keeping you safe. He is always there ready to listen to your heartache. Jesus can give you great ideas on how to solve problems.

In my job, I teach over five hundred kids a week how to write and use computers. Some of my older teenagers are really hateful to each

other. Every day I have to pray because I really hate the way three or four of them act, and I feel upset at how mean and sneaky they are.

When they rush in the door, my peace rushes out. So what can I do? I pray. I ask God for wisdom to help these mean kids. The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

And I get firm with my emotions and decide how to protect the nice kids from the mean ones. Then I pray more and ask God to work it out for me. I know He will. I've had really hard jobs before and He helped me.

But then I have to listen after I pray. I have to try and change my personality to let God help me. Usually He shows me something good about that person. Other times He takes them away.

But I am not alone. Jesus gives me extra gifts. They are gifts all of us who serve God have. They are called the fruits of the Holy Spirit (that means they grow when we have the Holy Spirit). Those gifts include peace, love, joy, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness (ability to learn) and temperance.

You can have this help too. Even in the most horrible times, you can believe God loves you. Believe He will work things out for you. Pray for peace through your doubts. Ask others to pray for you. Beg Jesus to help you. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

TRY	AND
JESUS	GIVE
IS	US
THE	ALL
PRINCE	GUIDANCE
OF	CRY
PEACE	TO
HE	HIM
WILL	IN
PROTECT	PRAYER
ME	

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

## Note of Thanks

I would like to express to each of my brothers, sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ my thanks for the numerous cards sent, phone calls received, baskets of flowers and fruit sent to me during my recent surgery and recovery. They were certainly an encouragement, allowing me to understand the love we experience being a part of God's wonderful family.

God heard each of your prayers and they were answered in my behalf. With God's help I am improving each passing day.

God bless you all.  
Love in Christ,  
Sister Mary Perri



## The Touch of the Master's Hand

### Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA Campout 2000

By Brother Joseph Bogle

Even before camp started the blessings of the Lord were already evident as many were treated to the sight of a beautiful rainbow arching across the sky as we proceeded toward Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Surely this was a sign of what was to come, as only God could fashion such a vision, reminding us that He is the Master! No doubt, His touch would be felt!

The spirit of fellowship with which we greeted one another upon our arrival carried over into the orientation meeting on Friday evening. We began the meeting with singing led by Brother Patrick Monaghan. Our opening hymn was *In the Upper Room*. The opening prayer was offered by Brother Don Ross, who petitioned the Lord for His blessings upon the weekend. The congregation followed by singing *Pass Me Not*. MBA President Brother Larry Ali, who announced that we were anticipating the largest area campout ever, numbering over 300 people, offered greetings. Brother Larry stated, "We want to follow the 'plan', which we began at the August campout." He then quoted from James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."

Brother Rich Scaglione, Area Chaplain, recounted the story of the brother of Jared, as found in the book of Ether. The Lord had commanded the brother of Jared to build barges to cross the waters. The brother of Jared did as the Lord wished, in the manner as instructed, but cried unto the Lord, "... behold there is no light in them." The Lord asked the brother of Jared, "What will ye that I should do that ye

may have light in your vessels?" The brother of Jared had such great faith that the Lord asked him what he wanted done. He in turn presented to the Lord 16 small stones and asked the Lord to "... touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness." The Lord prepared the stones and "they did give light unto the vessels." Brother Scaglione related that we come to the Lord in darkness, the darkness of our sins, but through the Lord, in baptism, we shine and give off our light.

Sister Jackie King, Camp Director, related how they came up with the theme. She related that she had prayed about it for about two years and came across a poem entitled "The Touch of the Masters Hand." The poem concerned an old violin that was being auctioned off. It was thought to be nearly worthless and the bidding was low, until a gray-haired man came forward, and after making adjustments on the instrument, "played a melody pure and sweet as a caroling angel sings." When the music ceased, the bidding began again increasing into the thousands of dollars. The touch of the master's hand had changed its worth, much as the touch from the Lord can increase ours. Sister Jackie related that upon reading her E-mail one day, she came across one in which under the heading it read "The Master's Touch." She understood this to be confirmation of the theme.

After the meeting ended, fellowship continued as we gathered and enjoyed Indian tacos, prepared for us by Brother Chris and Sister Joyce George of Muncey, Ontario.

The cold, wet weather of Saturday morning could not dampen the spirits of those gathered at Mirror Lake to witness the baptism of Alison Turley. Brother Paul A. Palmieri offered prayer as Alison was led into the water. A sweet spirit was felt as Brother Don Ross baptized Alison "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." As our newest sister emerged from the water, the congregation sang, *A New Name in Glory*. We returned to the camp, hopeful that others would follow.

Brother Chuck Maddox, who reminded us that God has promised to be with us whenever we gather, opened the morning chapel meeting. Brother Chuck recounted how he had followed the baptisms after August campout and felt that we were bringing the momentum from that campout to this area camp. Brother Chuck spoke from John, Chapter 5 in which Jesus healed the afflicted man at the pool called Bethesda. Brother Chuck reminded us that if you look to Jesus, He would never let you down.

Brother Rich Scaglione went on to expound upon the theme cited by Brother Chuck, and admonished us to rise from our infirmities and walk that narrow path. Rely on the Lord to guide you through.

The touch of the Master was surely felt in the seminars this day. It was in one of the seminar groups that Alison Cotellesse asked to be anointed by Brother Don Ross because she felt that she wanted to be baptized. Sister Chastity King related that the words of the song *A New Name in Glory* came to her while Alison was being prayed for. The seminars dwelt on the touch of the Master and the ways it is felt and how His touch can be natural or spiritual. The three main points of discussion were that Jesus Christ touches the natural body to heal, that He touches the spirit (heart) of man for a spiritual healing (salvation), and that Jesus Christ will use us as instruments in His hand.

As more people arrived throughout the day on Saturday, the auditorium was even more full at the Saturday evening meeting. The opening hymn was *Higher Ground*, and Evangelist Paul Ciotti offered the opening prayer.

Brother Bob Pizzaia opened the meeting, relating to us the difficulties that he encountered in preparing to come to camp, including falling ten feet while on a building scaffolding. He reminded us that the enemy is constantly trying to work against us, and he encouraged us to remain faithful in order to reach the shores of heaven, teaching us that we're here to seek out

(Continued on Page 8)

## Touch of the Master's Hand

Continued from Page 7

our soul's salvation. Brother Bob said, "The greatest thing a human can do today is get himself to the Lord."

Brother Bob Batson followed and spoke on our potential as members of the body. He told us that God sees things in us that we don't see ourselves, and many times we feel unworthy. God sees something He is able to use. Brother Batson related to us the story of David from the Old Testament. David didn't start out as a king. He achieved that position after being used by God. Brother Batson's words touched us as he reminded us that we all have potential, which God sees and knows. God uses us as His instruments. We must allow God to open doors. We possess a spirit of love and joy, which will attract the world if we will let it.

Following Brother Batson, Brother P.J. Ciotti offered a bit of his testimony. He related how he first ignored the call, but the Lord continued to knock at his heart and he finally answered the call. Brother P.J. reminded us that God continues to knock today, and we must not let Him pass us by.

The congregation continued the theme by singing, *Pass me not*. Following that, members of the Youth in Action group sang, *It Is Well With My Soul*, then offered their testimonies. They concluded by singing *Because He Lives*. The congregation also sang *Do You Know My Jesus?*

The meeting continued with the anointing of a sister in pain by Apostle Paul Palmieri. We also learned that Alison Cotellesse from Michigan asked for her baptism. Once again someone stood to answer the call! Several members then offered their testimonies.

Following that Apostle Joe Bittinger recounted how the Lord drew him to the Church, and how he made up his mind to serve God to the best of his ability. He recalled how he put things on the line in order to serve God, not the least of which was his job. Apostle Bittinger recounted how he was put to work almost from the time he first came into the Church. Apostle

Bittinger then spoke to the young people saying, "No place else in life will you find as much happiness and joy as in serving the Lord." He admonished them and all of us to be careful of the company that we keep, because Satan will use others to lead us astray. In conclusion the congregation sang *Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown*.

Following the evening meeting, we were treated to a talent show orchestrated by Sisters Joyce and Carol Jumper. The performances ran the gamut from the silly to the sublime. Together with the pizza and chicken wings, it made for a fun and relaxed gathering.

Sunday morning began much like the previous morning, as members of the congregation gathered at the water's edge to witness the baptism of Ryan Swanger. Brother Rick Scaglione Jr. baptized Ryan. Once again the angels in heaven rejoiced!

Following the baptism we then congregated for our final worship meeting of the weekend. The opening prayer was offered by Brother Pete Giannetti, and the opening hymn, *The Child of a King*, was sung by the Nath trio. We were also treated to Brother Patrick Monaghan's rendition of *The Touch of the Master*. Truly the Church is blessed with beautiful voices!

The Master's touch was felt again as Alison Turley was confirmed by Brother Paul A. Palmieri, and Ryan Swanger was confirmed by Brother Art Gehly. Brother Paul Lambert reported that while Alison was being confirmed, he saw two angels with their hands on her. Their hands were on fire, and as the prayer continued, Alison was covered in flames. Praise God for yet another blessing!

After communion, Brother Jerry Valenti opened by telling us that the important word is "why." Brother Jerry told us that at times in our lives we should question why we do certain things. There is a reason why we are where we are, and we do what we do. We should always ask what it is that God wants us to do. In asking why, we should examine our motives for our question. Brother Jerry also reminded us that what we don't do (in not

committing sin) is not enough. We must also "do." Take the time to go to church, visit the sick, sing, testify and fellowship. In short, do the things that God would want. Not only ask why, but also why not.

Brother Bob Nicklow addressed us and reminded us that the things of God are eternal. The things, which we do, can affect our eternity. He asked us how much we want to serve God. How much of a relationship we want with God is directly related to how much we are willing to give. Brother Bob challenged us to not set a limit on how much God can do with us. He stated that it is in our times of trial that God restores our soul. Serving God is about doing His will and how much we are willing to do.

Next, Brother Ricky Scaglione told us the importance of the questions why and how. He recounted how Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on water at the urging of Jesus. As Peter began to question what He was doing, he began to fall. Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and saved Peter. Brother Ricky said that now is the time to step out on faith, like Peter, and serve God. We must be confident that when we fall short, we will feel the touch of the Master's hand and He will lift us up.

Brother Chuck Kogler followed and stated that many times we are not asking the right people why. We need to go to the source. Brother Chuck encouraged us to let our light shine.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri also spoke and advised us to work for the Lord. Tell others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Offer our testimonies to those that are searching.

In closing, Brother Rich Scaglione spoke of the vision that was witnessed during the confirmation of Alison Turley.

Closing hymn, *For Those Tears I Died*, was then sung and Brother Doug Obradovich offered the closing prayer of the camp. Upon completion of the service, we all left camp with a renewed vigor to get on with the work of the Lord, for all had surely felt the touch of the Master's hand.



## Branch and Mission News

### A New Year's Eve To Remember

By Sister Leah Nath

History was made on December 31, 2000, when the young men from the Monongahela Branch had to break ice in the Monongahela River for an early morning baptism. Brother Don Ross baptized Brother Robert Leonard Cross and Brother Alex Cherry confirmed him at the branch.

Brother Karl Kirschner opened in prayer and Brother Michael McGuire sang, *For Those Tears I Died* for the opening hymn that brought a tear to every eye. Brother Bob Niclow Jr. opened by repeating a phrase in the song, "Why me?" He talked about who holds our choice. Magazines tell that you have power to choose, but scriptures say different. You can change many things in this world, but you could never have the ability to change your nature contrary to God, you have to believe He can change you. Brother Bob then read I Corinthians 6:19-20; "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." He then added, "If you can believe you can achieve happiness on your own, the devil is already laughing."

Without God we react when something happens, we are not free to change our nature because we don't have the power, but we are free to change through God, and that's just the beginning. Brother Bob also read John 8:31, 36; "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." He then added, "When you know the truth, the truth shall make you free, free from the enemy of our soul, by remaining a disciple of Christ.

Only the Son shall make you free. Freedom is what the Lord gives us, if we live for Him, we will resurrect for Him. The Lord is our judge and our king; He will save us. He makes the difference in our lives today and every day. If you make a choice this year, recognize you have a greater need for the Lord in your life. If you want truth, reality and freedom, you need the Lord. Walking through life with Him all things are possible, without Him we're walking through captivity in our own natures. We need Jesus in our lives every day, minute and hour."

We had a wonderful spirit during the testimonies, and during communion. But the meeting had to come to an end.

The Monongahela Branch would like to wish everyone a happy New Year and may God bless us all.

### Ordinations and Baptism in Forest Hills

By Brother Dan Risola

September 3, 2000 was a day filled with an anticipation of God's spirit. Today, we would witness an ordination of an Elder and a Deaconess as well as a baptism. Many members visited from the Southeast Region as well as from Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

The day began early at the Gulf of Mexico shoreline as we witnessed Keith Eutsey's baptism. Brother Keith was lead into the water and baptized by his grandfather, Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr.

We then returned to the branch where, after a prayer from the ministry, Brother Keith was confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola, Sr. Then Brother Keith related a dream concerning his calling.

Another confirmation to Keith's baptism was experienced by his mom, Sister Collena. One night, before knowing the date of his baptism, Sister Collena prayed that it would be nice if Keith were baptized the same day as her ordination. The Lord answered her prayer. Many beautiful hymns were sung throughout the day with a message of service as it relates to both a

member and an ordained officer.

Brother Ron Genaro, visiting from Ohio, opened the meeting by stating that the ministry is a vehicle used by God to feed the flock. The Church of Jesus Christ relies on and serves God to the best of its ability. We are not a cafeteria type of church where you can pick and choose what you want to hear. Nor are we a market-oriented church where we serve the customer. Our service is to God. He read from Psalm 127:1.

Brother Jim Speck, Sr. followed by explaining the office of a Deaconess using Romans as his text.

Sister Collena Eutsey prepared for her ordination. Sister Hope Eutsey washed Sister Collena Eutsey's feet and she was ordained by Brother John Catone, visiting from the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Apostle Peter Scolaro, visiting from Michigan, continued using Ephesians to explain the calling of an Elder. Then Brother Scott Griffith came forth and his feet were washed by Brother Chuck Kogler, visiting from the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Scott was ordained by Brother Jim Speck, Sr.

Sister Mandy Griffith had an experience confirming Brother Scott Griffith's calling. In April of 1998 when they were first dating, she was visiting for the weekend. When she prayed at night, she had a dream. She saw a rostrum with many ministers, who she did not recognize. They were sitting in chairs filling the rostrum except for one empty chair to the left of the pulpit. Then an older brother stood up and extended his arm and said, "Brother Scott Griffith, please come up and join us in the ministry." Then, Brother Scott went up and sat in the chair and she woke up. The confirmation occurred that day after Brother Scott was ordained when Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., an older brother, stood up and extended his arm and invited Brother Scott to join the ministry on the rostrum. Sister Mandy noticed that Brother Scott was going to sit in the only empty chair to the left of the pulpit in the exact spot she saw in her dream.

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## Forest Hills

Continued from Page 9

Brother Dennis Moraco also had an experience when Brother Scott was president of the MBA visiting the Hollywood, Florida Branch. They asked him to speak and while he was speaking, Brother Dennis had a feeling that he would be ordained an Elder soon. After the meeting, Brother Joe Catone said to Brother Dennis Moraco that he felt Brother Scott would be ordained soon also.

We praise God for witnessing a beautiful day filled with His spirit.

### Notice

I would humbly request that all Editor's who write and compile articles for the *Gospel News*, please continue to do so. Articles regarding spirit-filled meetings, visitors, experiences, and anything which is uplifting to the soul, should be sent as soon as possible for printing in the *Gospel News*. May God bless you all for your efforts.

The *Gospel News* Editor

## William Bickerton's Testimony

Continued from Page 3

word of the Lord was fulfilled in our midst, for there were some completely overcome by the power of God; and at this Conference several of the brethren had visions, one of which we'll give. 'I saw in the vision the road that the Saints were traveling on: the foot of which road was in the waters, and ascended gradually up to heaven. It was a straight and narrow road, so narrow that there was not room to turn either to the right or to the left: and on each side of the road was all manner of different kinds of beautiful flowers to tempt the Saints to pluck them, but under the flowers lay a great depth of mud, and the prettier the flowers the deeper the mud, so that if anyone

stepped aside to pluck the flowers, they were sure to stick fast in the mud: also, the road itself was so firm that many cannonballs that were fired at the road, could not as much as make a mark upon it.' Therefore, we must exclaim with the poet:

"How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word:  
What more can He say, than to you he hath said,  
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled."

And

"Come see the road his hand has raised,  
And made the pathway plain,  
Nor need the travelers ever err,  
Nor ask the track in vain."

(Editor's Note: This article appeared in the January 1959 issue of the *Gospel News*.)

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

though we were unable to understand everything he said because he spoke in Spanish. Later, everyone in the room bore testimony to the glory and goodness of God, even the children. The love they expressed toward us was so humbling that I will never forget how I felt.

The week quickly drew to a conclusion, with the latter part of Friday's classes being dedicated to program practice. At the conclusion of the day's lessons, we hurriedly prepared for the evening's activities. Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Vice-Chairman of the Guatemala Sub-Committee arrived on Thursday evening so he had the opportunity to offer our chapel sermon, and observe Friday's classes and practice.

### FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAM

Friday afternoon, Brothers Paul A. Palmieri, GMBA President, and Isaac J. Smith, GMBA Chaplain,

arrived and attended the program in which every child participated with parts and singing, the same as our VBS Programs are conducted in the United States. At the conclusion of the program, the children were presented with a treat bag decorated by the children of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania's Sunday School and completion certificates painstakingly designed by Brother Jared Marroquin.

Saturday morning the brothers continued to meet with visitors and members. On Saturday afternoon, Brothers Ciotti and Marroquin presented a seminar on parenting, with 27 in attendance. At the same time, Brothers Palmieri and Smith met with the 33 children in the 9 through 18-year-old age group and discussed various topics concerning young people, including the iMBA, which will soon be established in Guatemala, and addressing any questions the teenagers had. In addition, Sister Darlene Marroquin had 17 children under the age of 8 in her class. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and a meal provided through the generosity of the brothers and sisters in the United States.

### SUNDAY MEETING

The Sunday morning service was opened by Brother Smith, dealing with the promises of God, followed by Brothers Palmieri and Ciotti. During the service, tongues came forth, the interpretation of which was, "These are My people, the people who will praise me forever."

A strong feeling came when the ministry asked that the young people should be prayed for. Seven young people between the ages of 13 and 18 requested their baptism. In addition, two members were reinstated. In the course of the prayers, the gift of tongues was again spoken, interpreted as, "The young people have a tender heart, I will start calling those who have a tender heart." And so He has.

Note: The baptisms took place on Sunday, November 19, 2000, with Brother Isidro Dominguez from the Anaheim, California Branch present to assist Brother Luis.



## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Fredonia Pennsylvania Branch  
c/o Russell Cadman  
235 St. Johns Rd.  
Fredonia, PA 16124

Miller, Bert V. and Ina M.  
3901 Bahia Vista St. Lot 126  
Sarasota, FL 34232-2434  
941-379-7834

Perri, Joseph and Mary  
89 Peppergrass Drive South  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
856-722-8958

Watson, Larry and Vanessa  
HCR 33, Box 34  
Gallup, NM 87301

## Spiritual Anniversary

Sister Katherine Vitto celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 17, 2000.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Robert Francis Boudi was baptized on November 19, 2000 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother John Ali.

Sister Sarah Katherine Vitto was baptized on August 13, 2000 in the Windsor, Ontario Branch. She was baptized by Brother Frank Vitto, and confirmed by Brother John Collison.

Sister Melanie Capone was baptized on August 20, 2000 in the Inner City Detroit, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Phil Jackson and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Brother Brandon Phillips was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 24, 2000, in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Sister Amanda Beth Straccia was baptized on August 10, 2000 in

Ligonier, Pennsylvania. She was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Sister Terri Lynk Everett was baptized on August 20, 2000 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

Sister Heather Lynn Thompson was baptized on October 8, 2000 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Brother Matthew Shayne Haley was baptized on October 8, 2000 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto.

Sister Jennifer Ashley McFall was baptized on December 17, 2000 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Salvatore DiFalco, and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

## Children Blessed

Matthew Miah Carson, son of Matthew and Elaine Carson was blessed in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on December 31, 2000.

Gianna Marie Intrieri, daughter of James and Kris Intrieri, was blessed in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch on December 17, 2000.

Abigail Marian Mazzocco, daughter of Rick and Lori Mazzocco was blessed in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch on December 24, 2000.

Jordon Rose Lemmo, daughter of Joe and Shantae Lemmo was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on December 24, 2000.

Joseph Townzen, grandson of Sister Fay Lovalvo was blessed in the Modesto, California Branch on December 24, 2000.

Carlee Faith Monaghan, daughter of Brother Patrick and Sister Tonia Monaghan was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on November 5, 2000.

Meghan Marie Jimerson, daughter of Edward Lee Jimerson, Jr. was

blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on November 19, 2000.

Jordan Lee Jimerson, son of Edward Lee Jimerson, Jr. was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on November 19, 2000.

Elijah David Ciotti, son of Brother David and Sister Angela Ciotti was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on January 7, 2001.

Sabrina Victoria Jordan, daughter of James and Rachel Jordan was blessed in the Windsor, Ontario Branch on June 18, 2000.

Livia Angelina Lobzun, daughter of Greg and Rosalea Lobzun was blessed in the Windsor, Ontario Branch on October 8, 2000.

Jackson Alexander Hamet, son of Brother Frank and Sister Shannon Hamet was blessed in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 on September 3, 2000.

Gage Michael DiFalco, son of Michael Kenneth and Brooke Danielle DiFalco was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on February 6, 2000.

Anthony Joseph DiFalco, son of Brother Anthony Fred and Tracy Renee DiFalco, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on February 27, 2000.

Tyler Joseph Thompson, son of Brother Gary and Sister Heather Thompson, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on May 3, 2000.

Noelle Annaliese Hynes, daughter of Russel and Sister Diane (Champine) Hynes, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on May 14, 2000.

Kailya Marie Morgan, daughter of Craig Orlando and Melissa Ann (Haley) Morgan, was blessed in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on September 24, 2000.

Carson Travis Sayavich, son of William and Sister Lori (Cardillo) Sayavich, was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on October 1, 2000.

Maya Elizabeth Littlejohn, daughter of Sister Rene Littlejohn, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch on December 31, 2000.

**\* WEDDING \***

Michael Norton and Mary June Michael were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on July 8, 2000.

**OBITUARIES**

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

**JOHN S. ABBOTT**

John S. Abbott passed on to his reward on December 24, 2000. John is survived by his wife, Sister Ella May Abbott; two sons, Brother James Abbott and John R. Abbott; one daughter, Sister Diane Boggs; two grandchildren, Scott and Janell Abbott; and one sister, Viola Lecat.

**HILDA DeVITO**

Sister Hilda DeVito, a member of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on July 24, 2000. Sister Hilda is survived by two sisters, Mary Trabasso and Madeline Kotlinski; and one brother, Samuel DeVito.

**AMELIA ADAMS**

Sister Amelia Adams, a member of the Inner City Detroit, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on November 5, 2000. Sister Amelia is survived by one sister, Alice Williams; six children, Brother Tony Adams, Sister Erika (Adams) Elikadi, David, Darryl, Santos and Alfredo; and ten grandchildren.

**BETTY EILEEN HEWITT**

Sister Betty Eileen Hewitt, a member of the Saugeen Mission in Ontario, Canada passed on to her reward on October 28, 2000. Sister Betty is survived by her husband, Herbert Hewitt; son, Brother James Mitchell; stepchildren, June Morre, Gary Hewitt, Bryan Hewitt, and Dan Hewitt; as well as several grandchildren.

**IDA JENIO**

Sister Ida Jenio, a member of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on March 5, 2000. Sister Ida is survived by her husband, Brother Joseph Jenio; two brothers, Brother John Salerno and his wife Sister Rosalie and Ramo Salerno; three children, Sister Rosemary Szufner and her husband Gene, Joseph Jenio, Jr. and his wife Joanne, and Gloria Rau and her husband Delbert; and five grandchildren.

**ANTHONY DiFALCO**

Brother Anthony DiFalco, Jr., a member of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to his reward on November 16, 2000. Brother Anthony was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife Sister Pierina; four brothers, Brother Salvatore (Sam) and his wife Sister Sarah, Dominic and his wife Mary, Patsy and his wife Maryanne, Rudy and his wife Beverly, James and his wife Lana; three sisters, Sister Helen Gianfermi and her husband Brother Frank, Sister Connie Leopoldo, and Sister Lorain Thomas and her husband Brother Richard; four children, Brother Anthony F. and his wife Tracy, David and his wife Marie, Michael and his wife Brooke, Susan and her husband Jeff; and eight grandchildren.

**NANCY CUSMANO**

Sister Nancy Cusmano, a member of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on August 11, 2000. Sister Nancy was preceded in death by her husband Brother James and is survived by her sisters, Josephine LoFrano and Rose DiAgostino; and brothers, Salvatore and John Pilato; one son, Joe and his wife Carol; and one grandchild.

**ROSE GERRY**

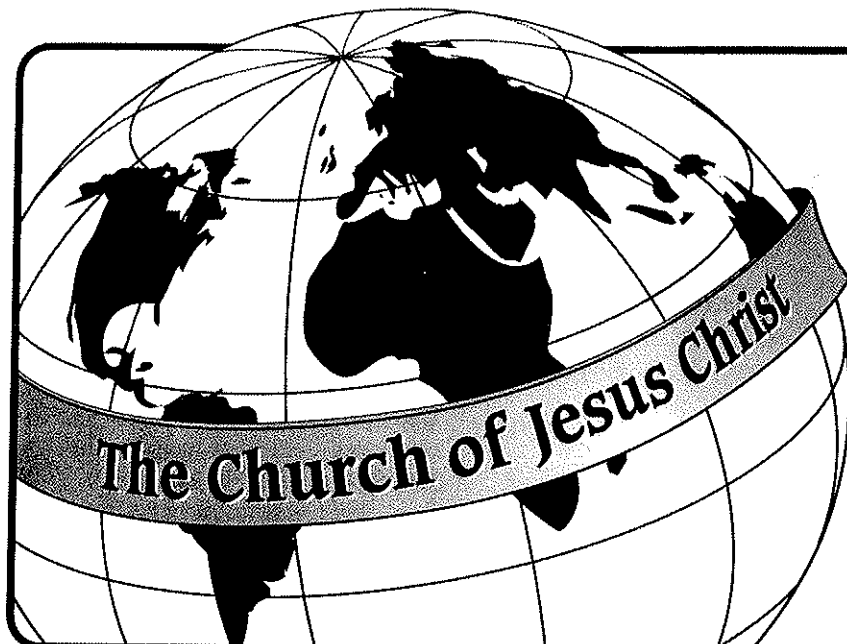
Sister Rose (Visconti) Gerry, a member of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on December 28, 2000. Sister Rose was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband Louis Visconti and is survived by her daughter, Antoinette Pietrangelo; son, Brother Louis Visconti, Jr. and his wife Sister Grace; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 2001

Volume 57, No. 4

## GMBA November 2000

*By Brother Jason Monaghan, GMBA Editor*

The GMBA of The Church of Jesus Christ met the weekend of November 11, 2000 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Our Saturday business session was very eventful as we discussed the many activities happening on the local and general MBA levels. Brother Isaac J. Smith, our GMBA Chaplain, opened the Saturday session by speaking from the Book of Mormon, 1st Nephi 13:24 and 37. He spoke of the word of God coming to the Gentiles, both the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and how it is our responsibility to spread the Gospel message contained in the pleasing word of God. Brother Isaac concluded with the 37th verse of the chapter, *"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be."* He stated that the GMBA Special Projects Fund would help to forward the Gospel all over the world. The GMBA Special Projects Fund is currently being used

to fund the printing of the Book of Mormon in foreign languages.

We proceeded with GMBA business hearing many reports from the various officers during the day on Saturday. Saturday evening we met for the night meeting and the installation of officers. Apostle Paul Palmieri asked the blessing on all of the officers of the GMBA. The children put on a wonderful play with a message that told of the importance of anointing with oil through the authority of the Church (James 5: 13-15).

Brother Frank Natoli opened our evening meeting by reading from the book of Matthew, 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, "Who are we?" He spoke of how Christ asked His disciples, *"But whom say ye that I am."* Brother Natoli asked us if we were able to stand for all that Christ lived and died for. Brother Frank concluded by answering his own question, "Who are we, we are the saints of God."

The young people went to the front and sang some selections for those in attendance, followed by some testimony. Evangelist Phil Jackson addressed the young people stating, "What are you doing for the Lord?"

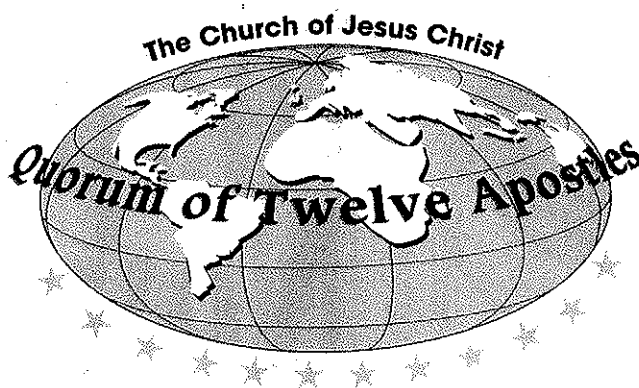
The officers of the GMBA opened the service on Sunday by

turning our attention to the many who were and are soon to be in the mission fields of the Church. Apostle Isaac Smith opened our service in prayer. After our Deaconesses set the table, Apostle Peter Scolaro addressed those in attendance. He turned our attention to the special event that was about to take place. He petitioned us to all be "one with each other and with God, this is why we use one cup." As the ministry was breaking the bread, a vision was had in which the Lord was seen at the sacrament table along with the brothers breaking bread. The Lord stretched forth His hands revealing the nail prints. The Lord spoke and said, "I did this for you." After we remembered the sacrifice of Christ through the administration of bread and wine, we heard a musical selection from Sister Rosanne Champine speaking of how our life is like a book.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri, our GMBA President opened the Word of God to all in attendance that day to John 10, *"I am the door of the sheep."* Brother Palmieri spoke of how our pasture as the sheep of God is in The Church of Jesus Christ; this is where we receive our nourishment. Brother Palmieri asked us how well we knew the voice of the Shepherd, and how well we know the Spirit of God.

We enjoyed a song sung by

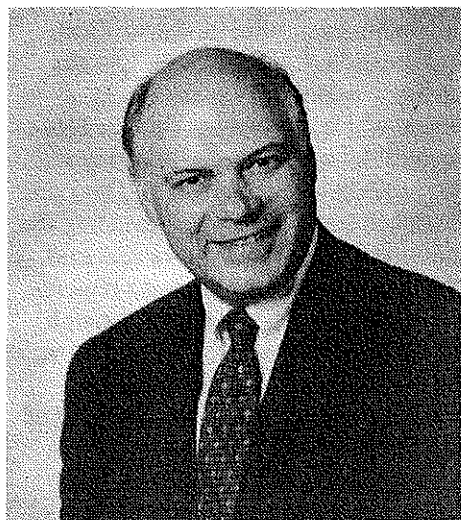
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## Are You Ready for the Promise?

By Apostle Peter Scolaro

Many of us, having grown up in The Church of Jesus Christ, have lived our entire lives in the expectation of God's latter day promises to the Church. These promises are part and parcel of God's plan for the righteous who serves Him. I can remember as a young child learning of a Peaceful Reign that would take place in the not too distant future. In those earliest years, I understood very simply,



Apostle Peter Scolaro

*America is a choice land, and when the time comes the Church will be privileged to experience God's wonderful kingdom here. Everything will be peaceful; there will be no harm or fears. Even to this day, I feel privileged and blessed to have grown up in The Church of Jesus Christ.*

Others, encountering the Church later in their lives also learned of

God's promises through the scriptural prophecies, some of which are straightforward, some mysterious and intriguing. Even to learned adults, these scriptures can be very challenging. While all members of the Church endorse the faith, not everyone is completely satisfied with having mastered the prophetic scriptures. Fortunately, that simple child's understanding can be a comfortable starting point for any age.

Nevertheless, even when we repent and are baptized and converted, mankind tends toward that fleshly nature that can stifle us spiritually. Visiting the Church of the first century (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3), we see that only 30 or 40 years after Christ's death and resurrection, the Apostle Peter was already concerned with people saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" Even at that time, he was admonishing the saints to live in the promise of Christ's imminent return. Peter reminded them of prophecy—the total destruction of the existing heavens, the earth, and all the works in them and the promise of a new heaven and earth that would be occupied only by the righteous. In this context he challenged them to consider: "What manner of persons ought ye to be?"

Peter's second epistle was not written to convert the unconverted, it was written to coach the saints, to encourage their spiritual success and to help them protect their eligibility for entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

His concern that they would fall short through carelessness in upholding the true Gospel prompted Peter's warning that: "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." In the first chapter, he urges them to be diligent building a persona comprised of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity in order to preserve the hope of God's promises.

Peter was addressing the saints of the Church. No doubt their faith and godliness did compare favorably to the publicans and the Pharisees of their day. Still, Peter could not rest with that and felt compelled to stir the saints to a higher spiritual urgency. In order to become confident in their readiness, he wanted them to live as though they expected Jesus' return at any moment! Such readiness would be evidenced by the Holy Spirit's dominance in the attitudes, the priorities, and the actions of the saints. He needed to observe spiritual growth among them, to see the love of God flourishing in their interactions. To Peter, the essence of knowing the prophecies was simply to be aware that only those who live the teachings of Christ will benefit from them.

Now please think about this for a moment. If living in the context of God's Promises and Jesus' impending return was an urgent matter for the Church in the first century, could it be any less so in the twenty-first? If standing unprepared to inherit God's Promises was a spiritual risk in those times, should we not check our preparedness today? Truly we must find among ourselves the same spirit and anticipation that Peter sought 20 centuries ago.

Appreciate God's promises to the Church simplistically:

- The Peaceful Reign is the complete establishment of God's kingdom on earth, the gathering of His people in the flesh before the end of the world and Jesus' return.
- Jesus' coming marks the First Resurrection reserved strictly for those who have died in His service and those who are alive in Christ at His coming.

- The First Resurrection introduces the Millennium; participants are blessed and holy; their salvation is complete.

Besides the sequence of these events, there is one important thing that ties them together—the cast are the same for each of them. These promises are strictly for the righteous saints of God. There will be no replays. No spiritually alert brother or sister can imagine a reason to miss out on these promises or default to a priority placed above being ready for them.

Of course, Jesus set the stage for fulfillment of these latter day promises while He was here in the flesh in the first place. His Gospel and the salvation that is offered to those who live it is the pathway for men and women to reconcile themselves with God and align themselves with all of His promises. A corollary is that the promises are an exciting part of Jesus' Gospel. As Jesus' original coming set the scene for the righteous, the righteous will set the scene for His return.

Readiness to inherit the promises, then, is readiness to fulfill the promises. Consider therefore, in this twenty-first century, what manner of people ought we to be? How will we reach a level of righteousness whereby Satan has no power to interfere with our inheritance (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 22:26)? The answer is through our *desire* to serve God, not only spoken desire but desire rooted deep within our souls and manifest in all of our thoughts and works, desire born out of a love for God that repels any temptation we encounter, desire born out of a love for one another that drives us to resolve every conflict and forgive every offense. Such desire is basis for God's opportunity to bless us with greater faith and increase the Holy Spirit within each of us (Alma 32).

When this desire bears fruit, it is manifest in our families, in our relationships, and in our choices. Peace that surpasses understanding becomes a buffer against the trials of this world. The hope of the Gospel becomes relevant and vividly shines through every situation. The tempo-

rary nature of everything earthly pales against the glory of God's eternal promises. Our individual and collective behaviors reflect Jesus Christ. The people we meet differentiate us from the secular people of the world and the religious world before even a word is spoken about the restored Gospel.

This is not about trying for some kind of extra credit or hypothetical ideal. This is about maintaining a level of righteousness that the scriptures declare will characterize those who inherit God's promises. True, sincere desire for the things of God, for the thriving of His Church, for the advent of His promises, even at the most basic level, will multiply itself and will increase our joy at the workings of God.

We have seen effort and dedication to the Lord's work in every corner of the Church. I would agree with everyone who has the opinion that more and more brothers and sisters are falling in love with this work and are striving to find their individual roles to be played in bringing forth Zion (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:37). I only hope to persuade anyone who needs persuasion to remain keenly aware of God's promises and their significance so that we all keep our faces continually toward the Lord, even moment-by-moment, and live continuously under His inspiration.

The promises to The Church of Jesus Christ are ours to fulfill.

## GMBA November 2000

Continued from Page 1

Evangelist Ken Staley and Brothers Cameron and Jameson Staley, *If That Isn't Love*.

Brother Jeff Giannetti, our GMBA Vice President followed with a few words. "The Lord knows His sheep and why would you want to escape His pasture?" He used 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:19, "*The Lord knoweth them that are His*." He spoke of how God called a man at the age of 73 into the Church named Doyle Bryant. Brother Bryant was known of God

and God called him by a simple flyer placed at his door. Brother Doyle was searching and little did he know that God came to his door inviting him into the door of the sheepfold, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Evangelist Ken Staley spoke to those in attendance to "blur the lines." Exhorting all to let the Church overflow into your occupation. People will see that you know the voice of the Shepherd and that will make the difference.

Brother Frank Giovannone spoke of how the GMBA was a stepping-stone in his life. He exhorted those in attendance that there is only one door. Brother Frank said that Noah went into the door of the ark a minority and came out the majority.

The young people sang *Stand Up for the Restoration*. We also enjoyed some testimonies of the young people. Apostle Paul Palmieri asked God's blessing and direction upon the young people. We truly were blessed to meet with the saints for the GMBA week-end and we look forward to many more such gatherings.

## GMBA DATES

GMBA Conference  
(Atlantic Coast Region)  
May 18, 2001

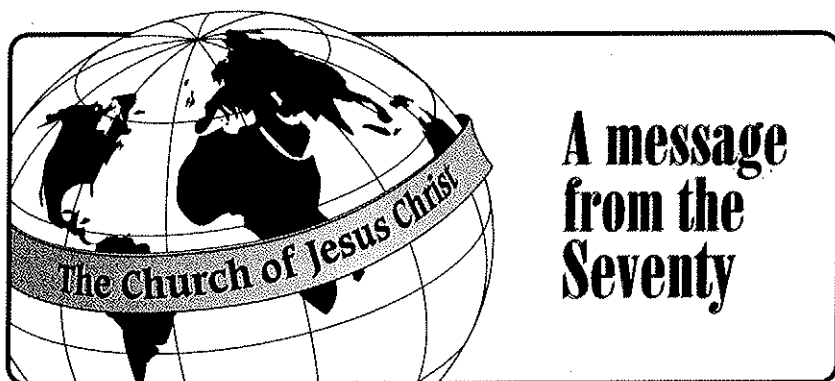
Location: Ramada Inn,  
North Brunswick, New Jersey

GMBA Campout  
(Denton, Texas)  
August 4 – August 10, 2001  
Camp theme: "STAND"

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## Trip to Oldest Missionary Field in Africa

*By Evangelist Joseph Perri*

*A trip was taken to the oldest missionary field in Africa—Nigeria, West Africa last November by Brothers Lyle Criscuolo, Malcolm Paxon, Mark Naro, and the writer, who was able to stay for the entire month. Brother Criscuolo was there for the first two weeks, and the night he left, Brothers Paxon and Naro arrived for the last two weeks. In addition, Evangelist Ford Boadu and Elder Emmanuel Bonige of Ghana, West Africa came to join the missionary endeavor.*

The Nigerian mission field, which presently has approximately 3,000 members, was started 46 years ago by Apostles William H. Cadman, the then General Church President, and Joseph Bittinger. With the exception of a few days in November 1999 to attend the funeral of Evangelist Edem Akpan Ebong, this visit was the first extended period there in six years because of difficulty within the country. The brothers were asked to come by Evangelist George Arthur, Nigerian Church Director, and the entire Church membership, for what was termed a "long overdue visit." We had prayed mightily that the Lord would make it possible for us to schedule this time there, and He worked it out.

### LOVE OVERWHELMING

The love we were shown and experienced in each of the eight districts and 38 branches visited was truly overwhelming. The brothers and

sisters have very little, but we were given gifts such as fruit, chicken and eggs to show their appreciation. They said it was their way of showing their love to us.

Our itinerary was exhausting because we wanted to accomplish as much as possible in the time frame there. Besides going to the districts and branches, the sisters of the National and the Otoro Ladies' Uplift Circle requested we meet with them. It was the first time the National Ladies' Uplift Circle had a general meeting with such a large number of sisters in attendance.

A desire we had to meet with the young people who are the children of the brothers and sisters was also realized. The purpose was to encour-

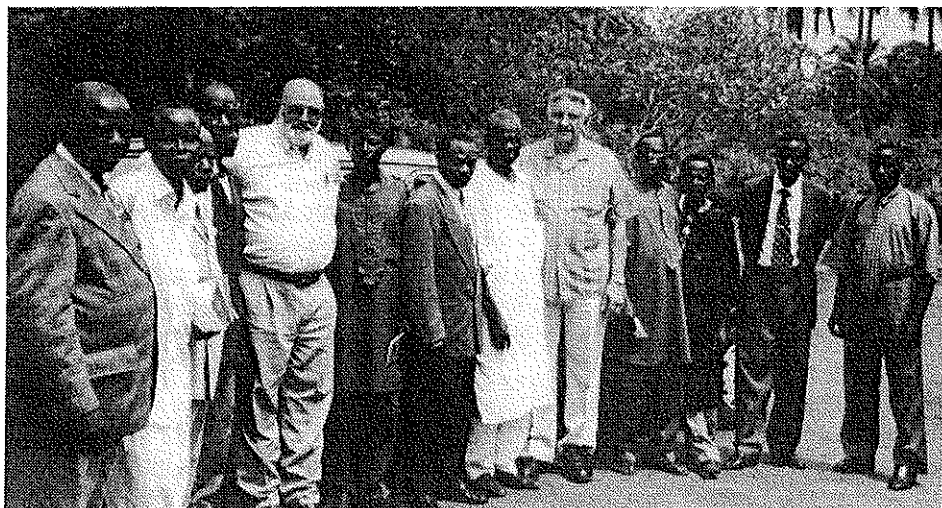
age them to exercise greater involvement in the Church. The excitement we experienced among the young gave us an opportunity to speak about the Missionary Benevolent Association and its functions and activities. Our testimonies of how we were active members of the MBA in our youth, which helped shape our future in the Church, were well received.

The young men showed a lot of enthusiasm in wanting to help the Gospel move forward and are desirous of learning more about the Faith and Doctrine of the Church and the valuable contents and promises in the Book of Mormon. They expressed a willingness to work for the Lord to bring the message of the Gospel to other villages, so other people could experience what they have in serving God. We were blessed to organize eight MBA locals, and many more branches have requested the MBA organization be brought to their locations.

### HARDSHIPS AND PERSECUTION

Unfortunately, the Church underwent severe persecution in Nigeria from 1995 to 1999. Brothers of the Ministry who stood firm and defended the Church were threatened by dissidents, had false accusations made against them, and imprisoned. They would not deny the faith and

(Continued on Page 11)



**Brothers Joseph Perri and Lyle Criscuolo with some of the Nigerian Church Priesthood.**





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Did you ever hold the door for someone, or give someone money at the store who was coming up short? How about stopping to help someone whose car broke down on the side of the road? These small acts of kindness yield giant blessings for you and I. For those of us who have followed through on helping others, we can certainly say that the little bit of help we offered to someone could not compare with the feeling of joy God immediately gave back to us.

*"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves"* (Romans 15:1). At one time or another, we all have found ourselves weak in spirit. Perhaps it was because of affliction, discouragement, loneliness, doubt, offense, or even our own acts of sin. Sometimes, when we are strong in spirit, we may wonder why others are weak. Sometimes, we may even pass judgment on them, or tell them to "shape up," forgetting the times when we were in their shoes (and will be again). For this reason, Paul wrote these words. Experience is one of our greatest teachers. As the years continue on, we may find ourselves in situations we never imagined we would face. In times past, we may have judged others for being in the very same situations that we now find ourselves in. It seems like this is God's way of teaching us to be more compassionate to each other, and leave the judging up to Him. When you find yourself weak in spirit for some reason, it is only those people who have been through the same things as you, who can really help you through it. As saints of God, we are instructed to bear the infirmities of the weak, unconditionally. This means if a brother or a sister is discouraged, we pick them up. On a battlefield, if a soldier is wounded, the other soldiers will pick him up, and drag him to safety. They do not step over him, or leave him there to die. How much more should we pick up those who have fallen spiritually? Those of us who have reached out to help those who have fallen, can certainly say that little bit of encouragement we offered them could not compare with the feeling of joy God immediately gave back to us, just like it does naturally. It seems as if human nature is such that it is just easier to pass judgment on those who are in these situations. It is harder, and requires more energy to be kind, gentle, meek, empathetic, and understanding, lending an ear to listen and a shoulder to cry on, for those who are weak.

*"For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me"* (Romans 15:3). Jesus could have easily pleased himself by passing judgment on everyone who wanted to crucify Him. He had the authority to judge them and prevent His crucifixion, yet He didn't. He humbly took upon Him the reproach of the whole world. Imagine how Jesus must have felt as He hung on the cross and bore all the infirmities of mankind!

Are we willing to bear the infirmities of the weak? Can we look beyond their faults and see their needs? Many who are newly baptized, young and old, like a child, will trip many times before they are able to walk. Can those of us who are able to walk more confidently lend a hand to those who are still learning? Not with condescending words or a harsh tone, but with love. Saying something like, "I've been in your shoes before, and I understand how you're feeling and what you're going through. Please let me help you in any way I can." What a blessing we will feel when we can be the source of someone's strength! When we are down and out, I'm sure we would want someone to be there for us in this way.

Acts of kindness, selflessness, compassion, forgiveness, encouragement, empathy, and genuine concern, are all the acts of a righteous man or woman. Let us practice these always, and hand-in-hand, help each other to reach that promised land that awaits us.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## Sing a Song of Praise

Dear Friends,

Tonight I woke up at 4:55 a.m. A song of beauty and praise was running through my mind. Music has great power. It was dark and cold outside, but I felt safe and joyful. And very close to God.

The Bible tells us that music is a perfect way to fight off evil thoughts, bad moods, and bad spirits. David the shepherd boy came from a tiny village in the country to a king's palace and to a king's throne. Playing his harp, he composed beautiful songs of praise to the Lord.

When he was just a young person, his family needed him to watch their flocks of sheep by himself, far from his neighborhood. In the night a bear came to kill sheep; a lion came another time. He killed both, with the help of God.

But can you imagine how terrifying it would be to be in the dark, with only campfire and candles as light, and hear those great beasts growling and crashing around in the rocks and bushes, sneaking in close to your sheep and you? Can you imagine the fear and bleating of the sheep as they smelled their enemies, bear and lion, and crowded around each other hunting for safety? There were no guns, and no help.

What did this boy, a singer and shepherd do? The Bible tells us he used his slingshot to kill the animals and save himself and the sheep. Then he rejoiced! He composed (made up) joyful, excited songs of beauty to praise God. And he praised God!

And when the great King Saul



disobeyed God and was troubled by evil, sad, wild spirits they called for David. David would sit in the room, play his harp and sing beautiful words of praise and thankfulness to God. His songs and love for God chased out the bad spirits.

They did that then and they can do that now. It is *very* important what kind of music you listen to. Music is a powerful tool to use against times of sadness, times of loneliness, times of sorrow and despair.

You can change your mood, force bad spirits away, and bring hope into your heart by praising God. Try it.

The next time you are upset, sing a *Song of Zion*. Listen to a tape of the songs of the Restoration. Listen to a tape of gorgeous, heart touching music.

## WORD SEARCH

SING	IT	DAVID
A	WILL	KILLED
SONG	GIVE	BEAR
OF	YOU	LION
PRAISE	FRESH	AND
AND	COURAGE	GIANT

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

Fall asleep listening to hymns, as I did this night. Then wait to see if you wake up with a song in your heart.

Life can be so hard. Use spiritual music as a tool to fight off the sad moods, the bad moods, the times when you are lonely and scared.

Don't listen to the bad music and remember, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Songs of praise are great tools and great resistors. Feelings pass and every day you have a fresh new beginning. Ask Jesus for help. Tell him all your fears, and put a song of praise in your mind and heart to give you hope and joy.

With care and love,  
Sister Jan



**Our Women Today**

## Ladies' Uplift Circle Organized in Miami, FL

By Sister Betty Gennaro

The Ladies' Uplift of The Church of Jesus Christ met in Hollywood, Florida on January 6, 2001, to organize the Circle in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. Region President, Sister Joann Romano and her officers conducted the meeting.

Our group is of mixed cultures and languages, with sisters from Venezuela, Colombia, and the United States. Their ages are from 30 to 90 and are all very active and anxious to study God's word.

Sister Jill Kovacic, local President, opened our first meeting on Friday, January 19, 2001, when three more members were added to the Circle. The lesson studied, "Women of the Bible and the Book of Mormon" proved to be spiritually enjoyable. We look forward to future meetings and additional sisters joining us.

## The Church of Jesus Christ Welfare/Relief Program

By Evangelist John Griffith, Quorum of Seventy President

*"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things*

*which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15-16).*

The Church of Jesus Christ's Welfare/Relief program has been developed for the sole purpose of pro-

viding the spiritual and natural needs of people throughout the world. This program provides members of the Church the means whereby they can financially contribute to these much-needed causes. There is no reason to turn to outside organizations to contribute to the welfare of others when the Church can provide this type of support through this relief program. By donating, you will be providing both naturally and spiritually for others, and there is no question where the money goes. It goes directly where it is most needed as determined by the Quorum of Seventy Missionary Operation Committee (MOC).

It is the intention of the program administrators to increase the principle of this fund each year and then use only the interest earned. This will allow an increased amount of money to be available each year even if annual donations remain the same.

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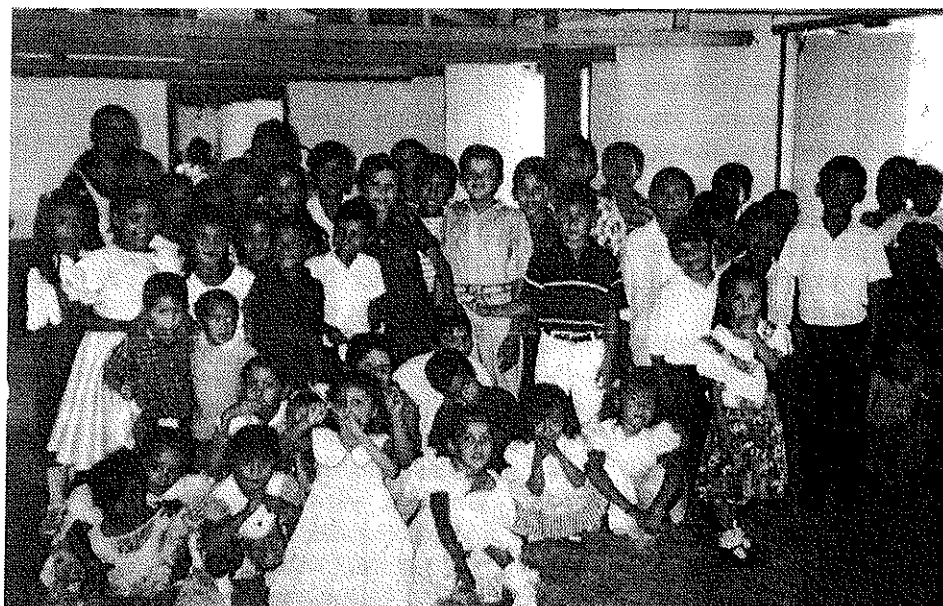
*"By donating, you will be providing both naturally and spiritually for others."*

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Therefore, a request is being made of branch and mission Sunday Schools to consider making a donation to this relief fund. The generosity of your Sunday School and branch will certainly not go unnoticed by the Lord. If you desire to donate in this way, have your Sunday School make checks payable to "The Church of Jesus Christ" and mail to the Quorum of 70 Treasurer:

Brother Jerry Valenti  
326 Kilburn Road  
Langhorne, PA 19047-1935

Included are some photos of various Sunday Schools in needy locations throughout the world. We are confident that with God's help, we can provide for as many brothers, sisters, and children as possible. May God bless you as you endeavor to further His kingdom here on earth.



Children of Ahome and San Isidro, Sinaloa, Mexico



Typical Sunday School in Arequipa, Peru.

(More Pictures on Page 10)



## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings and Joy

By Sister Sandy Murray

August 13, 2000 proved to be a glorious day for the Youngstown Branch. All week we were anticipating the coming ordination of Brother Ken Murray into the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. But when the call came that Sister Alyson Genaro was going to be baptized before the meeting, we felt overjoyed that God had chosen to bless us so richly!

The morning was so beautiful as Sister Alyson took her father's hand and with her last moments as a sinner, walked into the watery grave. When Brother Ron Genaro brought her up out of the water, Sister Alyson was more beautiful then ever, being a new creature of God, having her garment cleansed to pure white.

At the meeting, we had visitors from all over the vineyard; some from campout, and some who just wanted to be part of our joy. Everyone who attended the campout went up front and sang, *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*. Brother Jim Moore spoke of Brother Ken's baptism and how God revealed it to him. He said God uses the humble and the least likely. God looks on the inside and not the outside. He encouraged all of us to prepare for Church on Saturday... put away the things of the world and open the scriptures to prepare for Sunday. Brother Chuck Maddox spoke next and exhorted the young to come out of the world and into the Church.

When the Ministry circled Sister Alyson, Brother Mike Nuzzi heard the words "Brother Don will confirm Sister Alyson." And as the Spirit testified of it, Brother Don Pandone confirmed Sister Alyson. Brother Ron Genaro spoke a few words; saying what he had longed to say since his children were born, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Spirit in the room was so strong that Brother Joe Genaro spoke in the gift of

tongues and the interpretation was, "Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God!"

Brother Ron and Sister Cathy sang, *When I'm Humbled Down* and dedicated it to Brother Ken. Brother Russell Cadman spoke briefly and said this is the only Church restored by an Angel of God. He spoke of the origin of the Holy Priesthood, of Zion coming, and of the Priesthood of this Church. He said he was ordained an Elder 52 years ago! Brother Mike Italiano spoke on the duties of a Minister.

Brother Adam Costarella washed Brother Ken's feet, and Brother Ralph Berardino ordained him. Brother Ken spoke a little and said, "One who is too big to help the individual is too small to help the multitude." He spoke of how he was told to always bear his testimony and exhorted the newly baptized to do the same and to keep their garments clean. Brother David Haley spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was, "Thus saith the Lord, I choose you, I will take care of you, I will deliver you." Before the meeting ended, Brother Mike had the newly baptized from campout go up to the front and give their testimonies.

We of the Youngstown Branch are grateful for God's rich blessings and are looking forward to erecting a new building that we can dedicate to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the past couple of years we've had four baptisms: Brother Henry Jared Cardillo, his sister Sister Lori Jo Sayavich, Sister Gina Italiano, and Sister Alyson Genaro. We've also had four blessings (making way for the Church of tomorrow): Franchesca Deborah Cardillo, her brother Luciano Henry Cardillo, Parker William Sayavich, and his brother, Carson Travis Sayavich. Amen!

### The trumpets blew, the bells rang.

The peaceful, solemn waters prepared with the tranquility of heaven, was serene, waiting for the grand assembly to respond to the will of heaven. Yes, preparations had already been made for this great and glorious event that was about to take place. We

were about to behold the earth responding to the magnificent will of heaven, and heaven about to declare its glory.

The trumpets blew in Israel signifying a notable event about to take place. Today, the Sabbath, January 21, 2001, the bells of heaven rang declaring such an event was occurring in America, the Promised Land.

It was bitterly cold (7 degrees). Ice was on the water and covered the ground, but the hearts of the saints burned with love toward God as His great plan was being announced. The surge of a warm breeze descended upon the saints; another witness of the manifestation of God's will.

The moment Brother Alphonso Hopkins raised his right hand toward heaven, the connection was made. Heaven responded to the cry coming up from earth, and bells of heaven began to ring. Many of the brothers and sisters rejoiced, responding to the ringing of bells in heaven.

The trumpets blew in Israel; the bells rang in South Bend, Indiana. Why such a demonstration of God's glory? Kate Joyo Nyirenda, the first soul from the country of Malawi, Africa, was receiving baptism. A notable event taking place in America, the bells of heaven rang.

We returned to the Church building full of awe, discussing one with another the bells that rang and we joyfully sang, *Ring the Bells of Heaven*. The ministry knelt in prayer. A beautiful sight to see the brothers encircle our sister and hear our Brother John DiBattista pray for God's spirit to touch the one who should pray. God's love inflamed within our souls as the words flowed so humbly from our Brother Mitchell Edwards, pleading for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon our new sister.

There were two persons from Kenya, seven from Malawi and five from Tanzania present in the meeting. Six of these people came forward requesting prayer for spiritual guidance and strength. All the visitors expressed joy and wished to return again.

We attempt, but cannot write words to express the glory of God that surrounded us upon this special event sanctioned by the bells of heaven.

## How Great Thou Art Blessings from Yucaipa, California

By Sister Patty Kerby

We've had so much to be thankful for in our little branch of Yucaipa, California. There has been much prayer in behalf of our dear Sister Ortie Zamora. For years she has suffered much because of her failing liver. She was in desperate need of a liver transplant for quite some time. She had been on a long waiting list for a donor. We prayed and fasted mightily for God to answer our prayers on her behalf. Our dear sister always remained faithful and strong. Her wonderful family had much faith as well and knew God would always be with their mom.

I'll never forget what my dear sister said to me a few weeks before she received her new liver. I told her I was so sorry she had to suffer. She said that God had everything under control and she would accept whatever He had for her, and that she would never stop giving Him honor and glory.

Glory to God, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001, our dear sister received her new liver! The doctors were amazed how fast the liver began to work. She also woke up after the surgery sooner than the doctors expected and felt remarkably well. We continued to pray for her recovery. She had a setback about a week later because of an infection she had developed. But our awesome God once again was there to answer our prayers and came to the aid of our dear sister. Sister Ortie had a long hospital stay, and longed to be back again in church with the saints. She could not wait to give her testimony in praise to her God for all He had done.

Almost a month after her transplant, she walked into our little branch. I'll never forget as she walked through the doors, we were singing *How Great Thou Art*. How appropriate, God's spirit was there, even in the calling of that hymn. Everyone was so overwhelmed when they saw our sister come into our midst again.

The day was filled with much

song and testimony. The ministry decided not to have preaching on this day. The spirit directed them to allow everyone the opportunity to give praise to our God for this miracle. There were others in our midst this day who had many answered prayers as well.

Our little branch is always filled with much song and praise, but on this day, we had an extra blessing to praise God for.

Please remember our branch, as we will remember the Church throughout the land in our prayers. God bless you all.

## Baptism in Miami

By Sister Betty Gennaro

"The Morning Shone Bright When It Came, and Jesus Was There Praise His Name." Representing a mixture of cultures, Miami brothers and sisters from Venezuela, Colombia, and the United States gathered at the water on Sunday, February 11, 2001.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Miguel Bicelis welcomed everyone; "Buenos dias, good morning," and then in French, "Bon jour." We all smiled realizing God is calling men and women from many different nations.

With joy we witnessed the baptism of our new brother, Laurent Ligoneers, 30 years old, from the French island of Guadeloupe. Brother Geroge Kovacic baptized Brother Laurent. A dove was seen flying around us at the water, and then the Word of the Lord came forth: "Those that have heard my name, come unto me."

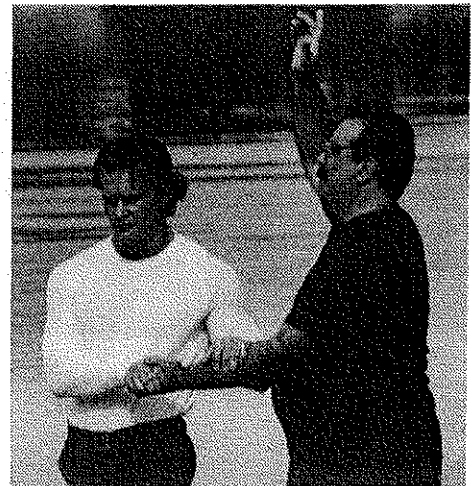
The little home of our Sister Victoria Lopez, overflowed as we gathered for the service. Brother Miguel Bicelis offered the confirmation prayer. In his prayer, he stated, "Make him a faithful man, make him a humble man. Men and women will come from all nations."

Our visiting Evangelist, Brother Carl Frammolino from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania then read from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:7, "the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the

outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Evangelist Dick Christman continued, "God looked upon his heart. He knew what King David was capable of. He made Israel a nation, and wrote what was in his heart." Today we have the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Brother George Kovacic said it was no coincidence that our brother opened the scriptures to the exact message they taught Brother Laurent on Saturday morning. "We have not doubt that God has called him, and he answered that call. May he be strengthened, and use the gift of the Holy Ghost daily. When the Gospel goes to another country, the flag of that country comes down and the flag of Zion goes up."



Brother Miguel followed, "God looks at the heart as the ultimate sacrifice; you don't own anything else in your life, only your 'will.' Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." All of us one day will face God and give an account of our life. God gives you work in His kingdom. Alma prayed, "Sanctify our hearts, we need people on the front lines, ready and convicted."

During the anointings, Sister Margarita Rubio came forth, and humbly asked for forgiveness, and was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord came forth: "I am the Father, the glory of the world is in me. Through my name, all things are possible."



## Ordination in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania

*By Sister Susanna R. King*

We met on February 4, 2001 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch in anticipation of the ordination of

Brother Clarence McCracken to become a Deacon. Our elders talked about "Are we our brother's keeper," based on the scripture found in Genesis 4: 9. They also blended into this topic the story of the Good Samaritan. The elders tied it into our day and time, and how we have the same responsibilities.

Brother Chester Nolfi testified

that he had been in the hospital for a whole week and the doctors couldn't and didn't do anything for him. They sent him home. But whenever the call for prayer went out to the saints, it was done. Brother Chester knew that the Lord had delivered him because of the fervent prayers that had been offered up in his behalf.

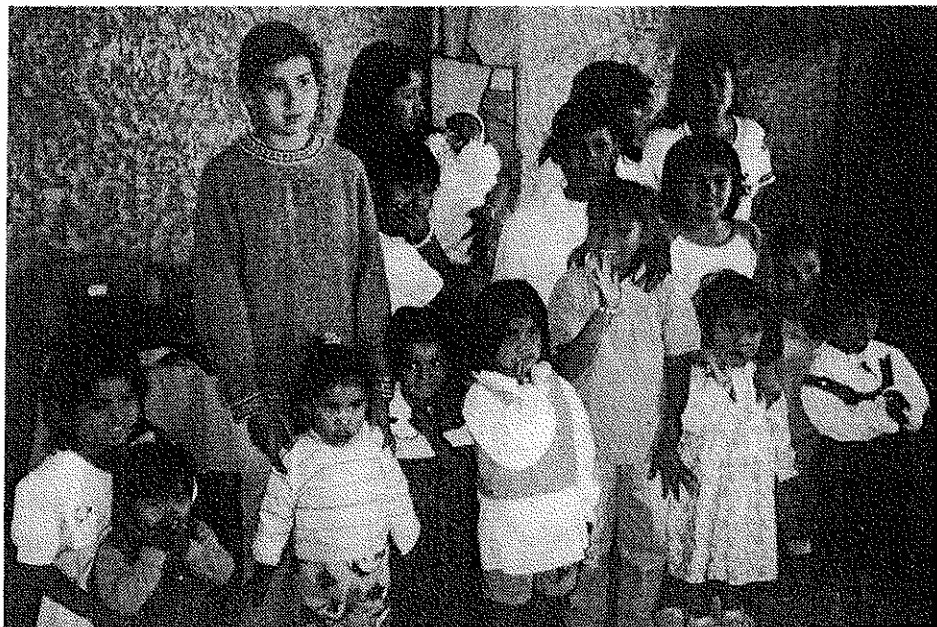
The presiding deacon, Brother Edward Stroko, read the duties of a deacon. Brother John Fleming then read the scripture found in Acts 6:1-8. Brother Norbert Darr humbly washed Brother Clarence's feet and Brother Chester Nolfi ordained him as a deacon. The deacons and elders each greeted Brother Clarence into this holy office.

After our service the sisters, to honor Brother Clarence, served a luncheon. God has greatly blessed us once again.

## Welfare/Relief Program Continued from Page 7



Typical Sunday School in Sinaloa, Mexico



Typical Sunday School in Arequipa, Peru

## Trip to Africa

Continued from Page 4

doctrine. In answer to their fervent prayers, they were released. This happened on several occasions; and even though they were threatened and mistreated, they said they would defend their faith in God and the Church they embraced to the death. Distractions during services were experienced, but because of their faithfulness to God and the Church, new converts have come into the Gospel.

Recently, several groups of people in another state wanted to know about the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. Several Elders journeyed there, 95 miles away, and spent some time with them, acquainting them with what they wanted to know. They were requested to make a return trip, which they did, and 19 people asked for their baptisms; and others were to follow. Their only request is they be administered to knowledgeably, so they can grow in the Gospel.

Every place we go, requests come to us to visit their village and preach to them. This is an open door to expand.

Our counsel to the Ministry in Nigeria was, and is, to evangelize the



Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they can. In meeting with them, emphasis was placed on the message of the love of God, which we delivered every place we went.

It was our privilege to attend the National Church Conference where the message of God's love was given and which is exemplified by the Saints. On another occasion, in meeting the National Church Director and his counselors, the ability and need to conduct ministerial seminars were discussed. Importantly, we purchased 650 Bibles with the proceeds from a private donor. Happily, we were also blessed to visit some of the homes of the brothers, sisters and friends of the Church.

Other places we visited were the secondary school, the medical clinic, and the orphanage where a well was dug. It was possible to purchase a deep well sump and a generator. We were able to supervise some necessary repairs on the mission house and property also.

#### PLAQUES PRESENTED

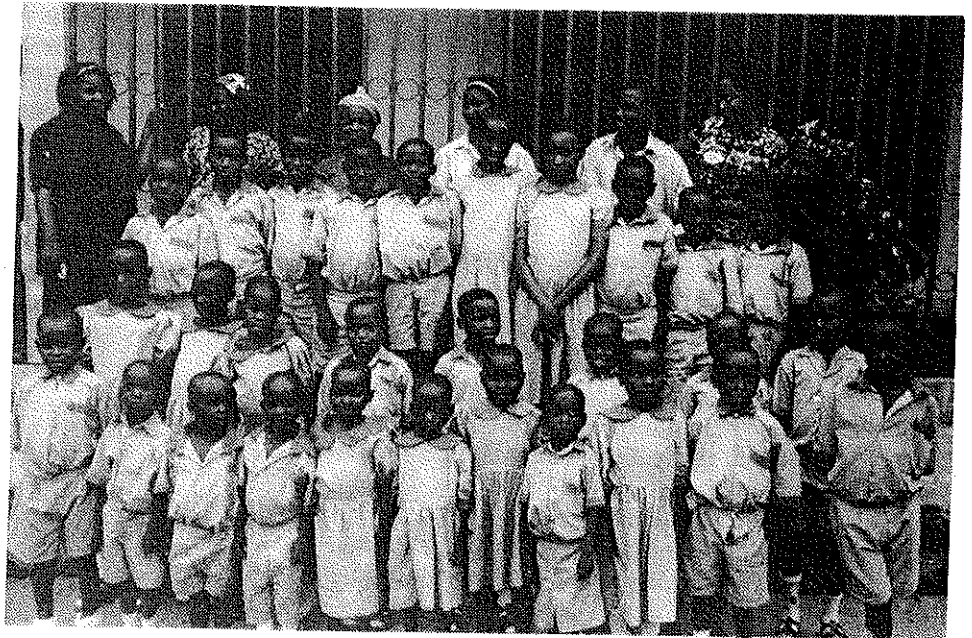
Two Evangelists of The Church of Jesus Christ who had served nobly were remembered on this trip. Evangelists Effong Udo Akpan Arthur, who was also the President of the Nigerian Church at the time of his death, having

served in that capacity for 18 years, and Edem Akpan Ebong, a very learned man in our Faith and Doctrine, the Apostasy and Restoration, and the Book of Mormon and had been an Evangelist for 23 years, were recognized. Plaques were given to the Arthur and Ebong families in memory of their husbands and fathers for their years of dedicated service and many labors in the Church.

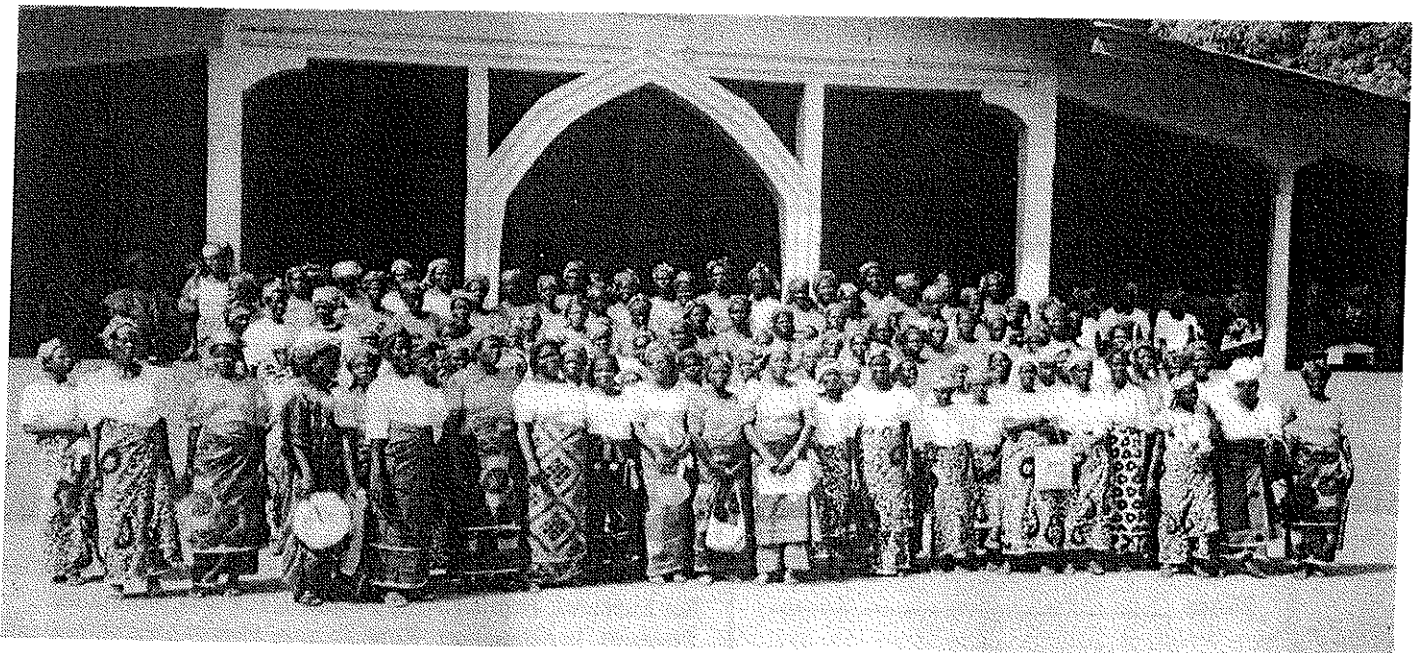
As the month sadly came to an

end, the saints in Nigeria asked for further such visits. Until then, the Lord's blessings and accompaniment were anticipated as they follow His direction. They send their love to all throughout the world.

*(Evangelist Editor's note: Before returning to the United States, Brother Perri traveled to Ghana, West Africa and joined Brothers Joseph Ross, Richard Lawson and Robert McDonnell during their tour in that nation).*



Group of Orphans from Nigeria



Nation Church Ladies' Uplift Circle

**\* WEDDING \***

John Ricco and Joan Freeman were united in holy matrimony in the Perry, Ohio Branch on September 3, 2000.

Brother Steve Kerby and Sister Lissette Toledo were united in holy matrimony in Guatemala City, Guatemala on September 9, 2000.

**Children Blessed**

Lixbeth Saldana, daughter of Ismael and Maria Perales Saldana was blessed in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission on January 7, 2001.

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Brother Carlos Martinez was baptized on June 4, 2000 in the Anaheim, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Isidro Dominguez, and confirmed by Brother George Heaps.

Sister Lisa Gray was baptized on July 30, 2000 in the Anaheim, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Robert McDonnell, and confirmed by Brother William Duvall.

Brother Ryan Huttenberger was baptized on August 20, 2000 in the Anaheim, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger, and confirmed by Brother Lou Ciccati.

Sister Cecilia Felix was baptized on November 26, 2000 in the Anaheim, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Otto Henderson, and confirmed by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

Brother Isaias Uribe was baptized on October 29, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Matt Picciuto, and confirmed by Brother Isidro Gonzalez.

Sister Rosa Uribe was baptized on October 29, 2000 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Flip Palacios, and confirmed by Brother Stacey Light.

Sister Irene Dulisse was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ in the San Diego, California Branch on October 29, 2000.

Sister Julie Surdock was baptized on February 11, 2001 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ken Surdock, and confirmed by Brother Bob Womack.

Brother Laurent Ligneers was baptized on February 11, 2001 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. He was baptized by Brother George Kovacic, and confirmed by Brother Miguel Bicelis.

Brother Esnel Alredo Calcureon was baptized on February 17, 2001 in Valle Guanape, Venezuela. He was baptized by Brother Don Ross and confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Brother Brandon Jay Roe was baptized on January 28, 2001 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr. and confirmed by Brother George Timms.

**Ordinations**

Sister Alicia Bicelis was ordained a Deaconess on February 18, 2001 in Valle Guanape, Venezuela. Her feet were washed by Sister Joyce Ross, and she was ordained by Brother Fred Olexa.

Brother Raul Bicelis was ordained a Teacher on February 18, 2001 in Valle Guanape, Venezuela. His feet were washed by Brother Fred Olexa, and he was ordained by Brother Don Ross.

**OBITUARIES**

**LILLIAN SALERNO**

Sister Lillian Salerno passed on to her reward on November 10, 2000. Sister Lillian was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Lillian is survived by her husband, Brother Joe Salerno; two sons, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**FILOMENA PRUDENTI**

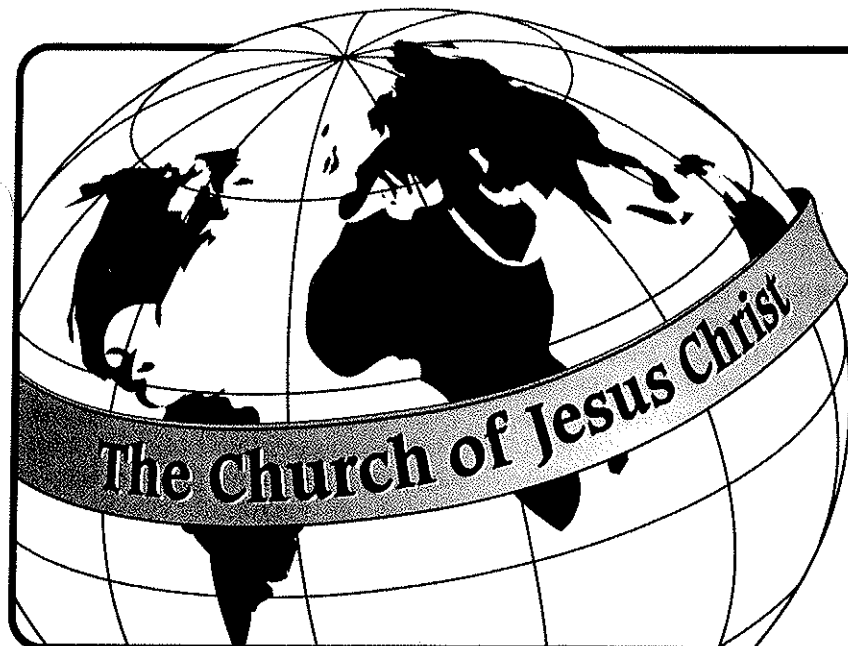
Sister Filomena (Fannie) Prudenti passed on to her reward on September 29, 2000. Sister Fannie is survived by her husband, Brother Alex Prudenti; her son, Dominick Prudenti; her daughter, Rose Amato; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 2001

Volume 57, No. 5

## Pacific Region Spiritual Conference

*By Sister Patty Henderson Rabe*

The Pacific Region held a spiritual conference in Anaheim, California on March 3rd and 4th, 2001. Our little building was filled to overflowing with our brothers and sisters, and with the spirit of God! Visitors came from all the California branches as well as Tijuana, Mexico; Phoenix, AZ; and as far away as Niles, OH and Aliquippa, PA.

On Saturday, we broke into groups and enjoyed terrific seminars. The theme was "Build Your Foundation on the Rock, Jesus Christ." The seminars were led by Sisters Kim Jordan, Lynette Huttenberger, Lucy DeCaro and Brothers Tony DeCaro, Lou Ciccati, Ken Surdock, Rudy Meo, and Ken Jones.

Saturday evening was a "fundraiser concert" organized by Brother Ken Jones and Sister Nancy Buck. The money raised from this concert went to support the building fund for the Yucaipa, California Branch. Musical selections were performed by "The Zioncer's," consisting of Brothers Ken Jones, Ken Buck, Bob Sullivan and Joe Nicosia. Brother Gerardo Felix, Sister Diane Surdock, Brother Tony, Sister Lucy, and Sister Andrea DeCaro, Sister Amy Buccelato, and

Brother Bill Duvall performed other songs. What a great group of talented people we have!

Sunday dawned a rather cold, gray day, but inside our church building, we were so blessed by the spirit of God! Brother Jim Scalise opened the meeting in prayer and was followed by Brother Russ Martorano, who spoke from Revelations 22:13-14, 16 and 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 2:22, reminding us of God's promise to bless us if we, his children, obey Him.

Brother Paul Liberto spoke to us giving us a missionary report from Colombia, the Philippines, Peru, and Dominica. Apostle Joe Lovalvo spoke of Israel's rejection of God, and how they were left alone and persecuted. He reminded us that we are no longer "Gentiles" and that the Restoration is HERE and Israel IS going to be restored along with the other tribes of Israel. Now is the time for the fulfillment of God's prophecies! Subsequently, the Church must be a role model to the entire world and Israel so that they may come to the knowledge of Christ.

Brother Matthew Picciuto spoke in tongues while Brother Lovalvo was speaking. Brother Martorano had the interpretation, which was, "I am

calling, I am calling." Sister Alicia Dominguez had a vision while Brother Martorano was speaking. She saw two persons in white at the front of the church, one with a shirt of many colors. She also related a dream she had last week. She dreamed she saw a large group of young people going to get on a ship. First they had to walk through a river of crystal water—some did not make the ship, but many did.

Sister Lucy DeCaro heard God's voice saying to fast and pray for the youth that the Lord would build a hedge of fire around them to protect them from the evils of the world.

Brother Sal Azzinaro thanked everyone for praying for him during his recent hospitalization, and then offered the closing prayer.

After the service, Brenda Dominguez, daughter of Sister Alicia and Brother Francisco Dominguez requested prayer, and then asked to be baptized. She had prayed to the Lord during the service that if it were her time to be baptized that tongues would be spoken . . . and they were. She prayed that if the interpretation was given, then she would surely know . . . the interpretation was given. She then prayed that someone would have a vision . . . a vision was given to her mother!

We left for our homes, thanking the Lord for blessing us once again. It was good to be in the house of the Lord!

## The Origin of The Church of Jesus Christ in Windsor, Ontario, Canada

This picture shows Brother Thurman Furnier, his wife, and Brother Gaetano Gerace. These are the three who started the work in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.



Brother Gerace was living in Windsor and said that he was looking for the true Church of Jesus Christ. He said that if there really is a God in heaven, then He must answer his prayer. He prayed for about six months and then one day as he was praying, he heard a voice saying, "If you want to find my church, The Church of Jesus Christ, go to Devine Street in Detroit, Michigan. There you will find My Church." He went home and told his wife, and she said to him, "It's just your imagination." He said, "It may be so." So he went to the Lord again in prayer and again he heard a voice say, "If you want to find my church, go to Devine Street in Detroit, Michigan." The following Sunday, he went to Detroit. He asked a streetcar conductor where Devine Street was. The man said, "Get in the car and when we get there I'll drop you off." When Brother Gerace was let off on a corner, he looked around to see where he was. A man ap-

proached him and asked him if he was looking for something. Brother Gerace said that he was looking for The Church of Jesus Christ. The man said, "You are very fortunate to have found The Church of Jesus Christ. I am a member of that church. Come with me." They walked for a short distance and the man pointed to a small building. He said to Brother Gerace, "Do you see that building over there? That's The Church of Jesus Christ." Brother Gerace looked to see where he was pointing. When he looked back to speak with the man, the man had disappeared. Brother Gerace went into the building and was astounded at what was happening. Brother Ishmael D'Amico was preaching in Italian. He was full of the spirit of God. Brother Gerace said, "This is what I am looking for!" He turned to the man who was sitting next to him and asked him what he had to do to join the church. The man said, "Stand up and say, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, I want to be baptized!'"

When the meeting was over, a sister that belonged to the branch approached Brother Gerace and said to him that she had a dream the night before. In the dream, she saw John the Divine bringing Brother Gerace to church.

When Brother Gerace went home, he told his family that he had found The Church of Jesus Christ, and was baptized in the Detroit River. They thought he had lost his mind. They had never heard of such a thing.

Shortly after this, Brother Gerace went to a real estate office to take care of some business. While sitting in the waiting room, he started to talk to the man sitting next to him. In the course of their conversation, he told this man of his experience in finding The Church of Jesus Christ. The man invited Brother Gerace to his home. This man was Brother Ross Collison. Brother Gerace told Brother Collison to go to God in prayer and ask Him if what he told him was true.

Brother Ross Collison went to the Lord in prayer and received a tremendous experience. He got in touch with Brother Gerace and said he wanted to get baptized. The following Sunday, Brother Gerace brought Brother Collison to Branch #1 on Devine Street, and he was baptized.

From that day on, they began to hold meetings in the home of Brother Collison. Brother Furnier and his family, and members of Branch #1 attended the meetings every Sunday. When Brother Furnier spoke, he spoke with the gift and power of the Holy Ghost and the blessings flowed like a river.

The Gerace family and the Collison family were like one family. The bond that was created was amazing, and the Windsor mission began to grow.

While this was happening, brothers from Detroit were taking trips to the Muncey Reservation in Canada to hold meetings. A customs official at the U.S.-Canadian border got suspicious. He wanted to know why our brothers were going to the Muncey Reservation every Sunday. He requested to go with them. This customs official became Brother Frank Ford. His friend that went with him became Brother Clifford Burgess.

During the testimony meeting, an old Indian sister rose to her feet and testified that she was blind for many years. After she walked out of the waters of baptism, she regained her sight. This was Sister Muscalange.

When Brother Ford and Brother Burgess returned home, they told their families that they never saw or heard anything like what they saw and heard that Sunday in Muncey. They said that the Baptist church they were attending had nothing like The Church of Jesus Christ.

They contacted Brother Ross Collison and joined in the meetings at his home. The families that attended were the Ford family, the Burgess family, the Henderson family, and the Watson family. Eventually, they were all baptized and became pillars in The Church of Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 9)

## Ordinations in Colombia

*By Brother Alan Metzler*

The third trip to Colombia, South America, was from February 10th through February 19th. Brothers Paul Liberto, Alan Metzler, and Frank Palacios were the missionaries on this trip. God blessed the Colombian people and us immensely. During this stay, there were two ordinations, two baptisms, two blessings, and a wedding.

Brother Juan Carlos Torres was ordained a Teacher, and his mother Sister Maria Sol Torres was ordained a Deaconess. There were numerous experiences in regards to both callings. Sisters Rose Palacios and Bonnie Metzler had experiences about Sister Maria Sol. Sister Metzler was able to travel to Colombia for the weekend to be used in washing Sister Maria Sol's feet.

We felt strongly that Brother Juan Carlos should be ordained a Teacher. We witnessed how God had been using him in leading the people in Wednesday and Sunday meetings. One of the brothers was given a verse in Deuteronomy 1:13 pertaining to selecting leaders to be placed over the people. Also, a Colombian woman, one who has a desire to be baptized, had a dream about Brother Juan Carlos.

During a visit last November by Brother Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis, four people asked to be baptized. It takes some time to arrange for traveling to the baptism site so they were advised to wait. At the first Sunday meeting, we asked who was ready to be baptized. The candidates made their desires known. Because of various circumstances, we were only able to baptize two of them on this trip. Others have expressed interest in being baptized in the future. Eight people were baptized on the first trip; so there are now 10 members in Colombia. We thank God for calling them into His Church.

Many children are attending services. We blessed two children this time. Seven had been blessed on the first trip. They are the future Church of Colombia.

This was Brother Palacios's first missionary trip into the foreign field since his ordination. There were many difficulties in obtaining his passport. It did not arrive until two days before departure. Then his plane ticket did not come until the following week. He had to go to the airport without a plane ticket. We all know that God had many blessings in store for Brother Frank since there had been so many obstacles placed in front of him. In fact, Brother Frank was blessed with the opportunity to perform two baptisms, one blessing, and the laying on of hands for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, an ordination of a Teacher and a wedding!

Sister Maria Sol and our newly baptized Brother Luis Felipe Pedraza were married Saturday evening. The wedding ceremony and reception afterwards provided another opportunity for us to meet more of their family and friends.

Sister Orletta Liberto provided the communion set and Brother and Sister Palacios purchased a basket. While in Colombia, we purchased feet-washing items and towels, and during the week we consecrated all of these. Also purchased were two bookcases for use in the church. Every morning, we had prayer in the church and every evening we held meetings. Throughout the week, we discussed the name of the Church, why we bless children instead of baptizing them, and the method of baptism. The hopes of the Church, the Choice Seer, and the work of the Three Nephites were also presented. On two other occasions, we preached about the love of God and the Sermon on the Mount. One evening, there was an open question and answer session.

We have made three trips now and we have found that, although there are problems in this country, with the help of God, the Gospel had been established in this blessed land. There are "giant" problems such as

## Evangelistic Meeting

RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA

*By Sister Bonnie Kunkel*

A special Evangelistic meeting was held in Russellville, Alabama on January 13 and 14, 2001. This special weekend was proposed by the AMOC and the Pacific Coast Region to reach out to a large group of Mexican people living in this area. Since most of the group in Russellville does not have a command of the English language, we had a Spanish-speaking brother and sister, Brother Saul and Sister Eva Betancourt from Tijuana, Mexico assist. Fellow Evangelists, Brothers Mark Kovacic, Ken Staley, John Griffith and his wife, Sister Carolyn were also in attendance.

Brother and Sister Betancourt were met at the airport in Birmingham by Brother Alfredo Mora and taken on to Russellville where they stayed with Brother Alfredo and his wife Sister Azar. The balance of Evangelists arrived by car and stayed at the hotel where the meetings were held. In addition, Brother Ram Baral from Mississippi and Brother Bob and Sister Norma Cross from Pennsylvania were in attendance.

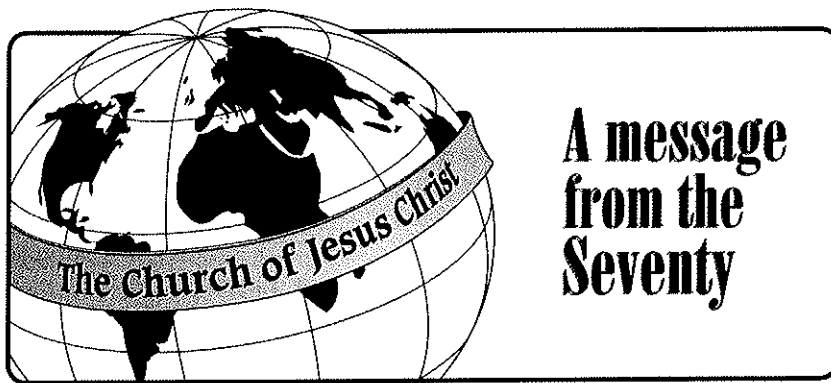
Saturday evening, the meeting began at 6:30 PM and had 15 adults and six children in attendance. We had many beautiful solos and duets, by Sister Eva and Brother Saul, and Brother Osvaldo Gonzalez. Brother Ken Staley sang a solo also, followed by the Russellville group.

Brother John Griffith spoke from Luke Chapter 6 and impressed the importance of building a sure foundation and doing the works of God, not just crying, "Lord, Lord." He related a few experiences from his Venezuela trip, then Brother Saul related how he had come to the Church and how we must all labor for the Lord. What a great spirit, and it seemed to truly touch our two young Mexican brothers from Russellville. We finished the evening with fellowship and a pizza snack.

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(Continued on Page 9)





## The Message of the Restoration in India

*By Evangelist Harold Littlejohn*

The message of the restoration is alive and well in India and HIS truth is marching on!

Brother John Straccia and I departed from the U.S. on October 31, 2000 and arrived in India on November 1, 2000. We received a joyful reception and enjoyed the sweet fellowship of the saints of God in the Madras airport. The love of God and the care given us by our brothers and sisters during our stay were beyond measure.

This missionary trip was a humbling experience for me as well as being a spiritual eye-opener to the work of the Holy Spirit in the mission fields. Our schedule and the trip objectives were anointed with the blessings of the spirit of God that directed us in our every effort.

### LABOR OF LOVE

Our labor of love as a servant on missionary work with our saints in the Madras area began with conferences of all the ordained members. These were interactive conferences for questions, testimony, and prayer. The main subjects presented at all three conferences were the duties, responsibilities, and the proper characteristics and behavior of ordained officers of the Church. In the Madras conference, we were directed by the spirit to have feet washing with the brothers.

We visited the village of Karunkalipet, a three-hour ride from Madras. About 80 to 90 children and

50 adults were in attendance. This village really captured my heart. Brother Jason, a blind teacher, takes care of this work. Brother Babu showed us a crippled man who had been using a crutch. He was anointed three years ago, was healed, and is walking under his own power. He also showed us a young girl of about age 20 who could not talk. She was prayed for and can now speak.

We left Madras to fly to Madurai and then traveled 3 ½ hours by car to Tenkasi. A woman there who had swollen legs and arms was anointed after our meeting. In the morning, she was healed and asked for her baptism.

### TWO BROTHERS ORDAINED DEACONS

It was then on to the village of Thirumullaivoyal where two brothers were ordained Deacons. On the way to the village, we learned Brother Stephen's son, Paul, and another young man named Jacob wanted to be baptized. Brother Straccia performed their baptisms.

That evening, the meeting was at Ambattur where there were about 100 in attendance. A sister testified that eight evil spirits once possessed her, but after our missionaries prayed for her on a previous trip, the evil spirits left her.

We also visited Navaloor and Ayalur and then traveled to the Erode area and had a conference with all the ordained officers. Again we witnessed the power and the work of the Holy Spirit in a mighty way. We witnessed the groundbreaking and laying of two cornerstones in the villages of Malachi Valasu and Pammipaliyam for two new church buildings and offered prayers of blessings for the construction of the structures. Truly, the Lord must be praised for the love of our brothers and sisters in America for supporting the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. In this area, meetings are conducted outdoors, on

(Continued on Page 9)



The saints in India.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In the last days, we understand from the word of God that Satan will go about as a roaring lion deceiving the very elect. We also read that Satan can appear as an angel of light, working through people who can convince us of their destructive opinions. Satan would love to work through the people of God in perpetuating his lies (which we call opinions), therefore we must be very watchful.

There is a story in the book of Jeremiah about a prophet named Hananiah. He tried to convince Israel that God had broken the yoke of the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar (to whom Israel was in bondage), and that Israel would be freed from him within two years. The true and living God then revealed to Jeremiah the prophet that Hananiah's prophecy was not true. *"Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah; The Lord hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth; this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the Lord. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month"* (Jeremiah 28: 15-17). Can you imagine being in the shoes of Hananiah? What an awful, eternally hopeless feeling of damnation he must have felt, because he listened to the father of lies who is Satan. In the Book of Mormon, there was a man named Zeezrom. He, too, tried to perpetuate his lies (opinions) by trying to confound the words of Amulek. It says, *"... Zeezrom was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil, that he might destroy that which was good..."* (Alma 11:21). Thankfully, Zeezrom's fate was different than Hananiah, the false prophet. Zeezrom was able to repent, healed of a deadly affliction, and was baptized into the truth.

Everyone has an opinion about something. Opinions may not always be evil, but may be formed from our own experiences in life. However, sometimes our opinions about spiritual things lead only to contentions with others. This is because Satan wants nothing more than to cause division among God's people. United we will stand, but divided we will fall. This is why God provided us with the Bible and the Book of Mormon, so there would be no need to discuss "opinions," but rather what is written. In one portion of scripture, Paul said he didn't want to know anything except Christ and Him crucified. In other words, Paul didn't want to sit around having unfruitful discussions with others about what they "thought." Rather, he wanted to discuss the pure, sound, factual word of God. Unfortunately, many opinions are carried down from one generation to the next. Some refer back to what their fathers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, or those who have passed on thought. Although some of these men and women may have been good people, and well-respected, even in the Church, you and I must remember that opinions that are not based on the word of God are sometimes lies, and are sources of contention.

Experiences, too, must demonstrate consistency with sound doctrine. Jeremiah 29:8 reads: *"For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye caused to be dreamed."* If we have had an experience that seems unclear, we should petition God in prayer to clarify it for us. Satan is the author of confusion, but God *"... giveth light unto the understanding; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 31:3).

Rather than trying to be like someone else who you think highly of because of the eloquent way they express their opinions, let us try to be like Jesus Christ. He will never lead you down the wrong path. He will never lie to you, confuse you, or cause contention. Let truth spring out of the earth, and let opinions stay buried forever.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## God's Big Plan for Joseph

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes when people have big disappointments in life, they decide God has forgotten them. They don't believe God has a big, long-range plan for them and there are more good things ahead for them. In their disappointment and rage, they turn their backs on God's plan for them. They give up before they know the whole plan.

One great man in the Bible, Joseph, never turned his back on God even when terrible things happened to him. He came from a huge family where his dad had three other wives and eleven other half brothers. But the dad, Jacob, loved Joseph the most. He even had a special coat made only for his favorite son. The other brothers were furious.

And when Joseph had a dream that his entire family was bowing down to him, the brothers hated him. One day he brought them food out in the fields. They grabbed him, ripped up his coat and threw him into a huge hole. He could hear them planning how to kill him and pretend an animal did it.

But one brother said, "Don't kill him. We'll sell him to the slave traders coming along the road!"

Joseph was tied up and dragged away. Can you imagine how he felt? His whole life was changed forever.

He was probably mixed in with



other slaves and forced to go in front of slave buyers. A rich man named Potiphar bought him and brought him home. Think of the house in the big city and the fancy clothes and strange smelling foods. Can you imagine how scary it would be to go from a village in tents where everyone cared and you were a slave?

Would you think God had forgotten you? Would you be hopeless when you couldn't understand the language or the work? How quickly would you learn Egyptian? How sick would the new spicy foods taste? How quietly could you cry at night so no one would hear you and be mean to you?

In those days there were no telephones or newspapers to send messages to your family. Joseph was a slave with no money, no toys, no belongings of his own. Everything he had belonged to his master, who could sell him, send him away or beat him if he wanted to. He never knew if he would ever see his family again.

Days passed. God never forgot Joseph during his loneliness and suffering. We don't know if Joseph wondered if he had been forgotten. But Joseph worked hard even in his sadness. Potiphar was impressed. Soon he began training Joseph to run his business and home.

Soon Joseph was dressing like an Egyptian, eating and working like an Egyptian, but he never forgot the one, true God. Things were looking perfect for a slave's life. Joseph had a lot of trust and freedom.

But then something bad happened; Potiphar's wife started liking Joseph. She tried to get Joseph to be with her.

When he refused, she lied and said he'd attacked her. Everyone believed her lies. Joseph was sent away to be in prison.

Do you think Joseph was bitter and angry? The second part of his life was over and he was sent to a dangerous place. Do you think he felt confused about why God was letting this happen? What about his boyhood dreams of being bowed down to by his family? Now he was going to prison and they all were living as free men with their flocks in a far away desert.

Would you have given up? Joseph did not. He worked and learned and God had many blessings ahead for him. We'll see next month how God kept caring for Joseph.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

COAT	JOSEPH
OF	HIM
MANY	DIE
COLORS	LOVED
JACOB	GOD
HAD	HE
FOUR	WENT
WIVES	FAR
HALF	ELEVEN
BROTHER	NO
HATED	HOME

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



## Our Women Today

### The Freedom To Do

*By Sister Joyce Ross*

It is interesting to note that women who served the Lord down through the centuries, have enjoyed a freedom the world finds difficult to understand—the freedom to be and to do that which the Lord intended. We are free to do good works, and many avenues are open through The Church of Jesus Christ.



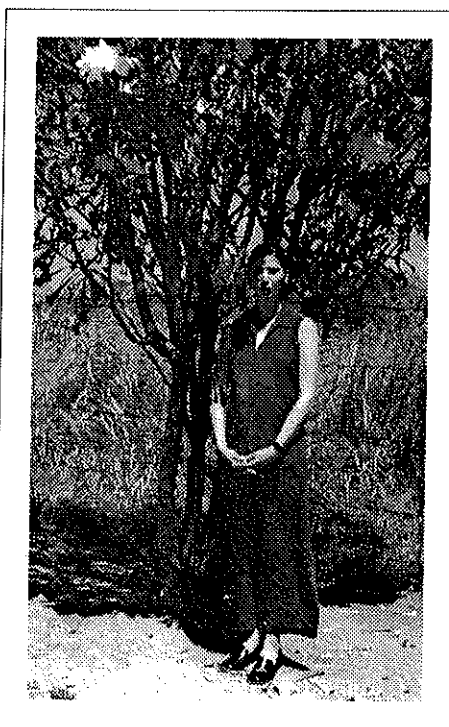
**Sister Joyce Ross washing the feet of Sister Alicia Bicelis.**

Recently, we were privileged to be an active participant in a missionary trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela where we met Sister Alicia Bicelis and her family. Our hearts were warmed by the gracious reception we received from our sister, her family and the people from Valle Guanape who gathered in her home. The love of God was felt and yet while not being able to communicate in language, it was obvious that communication was with the eyes; admiration, agreement, affection, the love of God.

Many years ago, the Lord put a desire in the heart of Sister Sadie B. Cadman to present to the Church yet another "freedom to do," through the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ. Because of this, an



**Sister Charlotte Olexa instructing Sister Alicia Bicelis on setting the Communion table.**



**Sister Heylen Griffith, our translator, during February trip to Venezuela.**

opportunity was given to us while in Valle Guanape to present to Sister Alicia a handmade baby quilt, sweater and hat, made as a labor of love by sisters of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. We

(Continued on Page 11)



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

### MBA Fundraiser Weekend

*By Sister Terri Benyola*

On Saturday, November 11, 2000 the MBA and their officers along with a nice group of young people met at the St. Lucie Lanes to kick off our fundraiser for the area with a bowl-a-thon. Following bowling, everyone met at Brother David and Sister Lori Checchi's house for a pizza social. Aside from the food, there were some interesting activities, in particular a game called "passing the present." The highlight of this game was the ministry singing and doing the hand motions to the song *This Little Light of Mine*. We are always thankful for the participation of all those who attend each function of the MBA.

Sunday, November 12, 2000, the same enthusiasm from the previous day spilled over to the service. There was a season of singing by the youth, ordained officers, and the ministry. Visiting were Brother George and Sister Pamela Benyola with their two sons. Charlene Clark, who has been a steady visitor to our branch, along with Jackie Carradi Goolsby, Jim and Jennifer Carradi, and Al Walcot.

Brother David Checchi opened our meeting on the topic of the sacrifice Jesus made for us so that we might have eternal life. Brother David quoted several scriptures from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He reminded the congregation to seek the Lord while He can yet be found. Brother John D'Orazio followed by saying how we should honor the veterans of our nation who have given their lives so that we can live in a free country. Brother John then asked us how much more should we therefore honor Jesus Christ for giving us eternal life? By being faithful to the promise we made to serve God

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## Branch and Mission News

### The Glory of God Prevails

Praises to the Lord God that reigneth forever and ever. Again the saints gathered at the beautiful water's edge to watch the performance of God's glory. Two souls prepared to receive the glory of God through obedience to the repentance call.

With frigid temperatures, rushing icy waters speaking quietly as the design of nature prevails, yes we gathered in the name of the Lord, receiving all that He had prepared for us at this time.

As we watched the servant of God, Brother Mitchell Edwards raise his hand toward the heavens above, suddenly so vividly the surroundings of nature joined in with harmony, participating in this grand and glorious event. The trees stood out, standing strong and tall, the snow glistened brilliantly, the ducks gliding silently along viewing the activity taking place. As the Elder brother called, Manuletha Anderson, the words echoed with the authority and the connection with the Master was outstanding and gratifying. Into the watery grave she was buried, and as quickly as she arose, glory was revealed in her. Praise the Lord!

The next soul, Mary Wanjiku from Kenya, Africa entered into the water so carefully and tenderly guided by Brother Mitchell. As she came up out of the water, the Word of the Lord spoke, "This is my child, I will take care of her." Brother Mitchell Edwards laid hands on Sister Manuletha and Brother Alphonso laid hands on Sister Mary for the reception of the Holy Ghost. The glory of God prevails.

### Lake Worth, Florida News

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

It is not hard for us to express the joy of serving the Lord. He brings us much contentment and makes us feel

good to be a part of the Restoration. Our branch is still striving to do the Lord's will every day, and doing our part to bring the Gospel to the world around us.

Brother Mike Radd opened our service on November 12, 2000 with the inspiration to read from 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, Chapter 16. Jesus said that He had other sheep to which He needed to go according to the commandment of the Father. Truly He did visit every tribe and nation to bring to them His Gospel. We can see through the missionary endeavors taking place in the Church today of how the Gospel is spreading to all nations as Jesus said it would. Everyone needs to know and have knowledge of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Everyone will hear His voice! Verse 7 reads, "Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them."

Brother Gene Perri followed on the same theme exhorting us to hold steadfast and to lift each other up. We, the Church, have a duty to bring the Gospel to the House of Israel, thus lifting them up out of darkness. They need to be brought to the knowledge of the Book of Mormon. When Israel comes, it will give a lift to the Church, and our spirits will be lifted in glory to the Father. Brother Gene exhorted us to be diligent to the work that we must undertake.

Brother Gene Perri opened our service on November 19, 2000 reading from Revelations Chapter 3 concerning the message given to the Church in Sardis. Brother Gene emphasized how they grew in wealth and became apathetic. They were a living, but dead church. We need to be involved in the Church and then we will be blessed. Our brother related how our people must serve the Lord in truth and in love.

We were very pleased to have Brother Scott Griffith and Brother David Checchi and their families visiting with us. Brother Scott and Sister Mandy Griffith beautifully sang *My Lord Can*, which touched everyone who was present. Brother Scott opened

the service using as his theme, "Jesus is always there." We need to have a consistent relationship with God to have a closer walk with Him. Brother Scott referred to Nephi, and how he remained consistent to the word of God. Nephi was told how the Lord would work in his life.

Brother David Checchi continued on the same subject reminding us not to grow weary. God would give us the strength as long as we do our part. He exhorted us to remain strong in our commitment to the Lord every day.

Brother Gene Perri followed with the message, "the Church is not made up of dead stones, but is made up of beating hearts. It is alive in Christ. This is a Church full of life, love, and peace."

On Wednesday, December 27, 2000, we met together for our mid-week service. This was the last week-day service of the year, and Brother Gene Perri opened it to the congregation to testify of God's goodness to us in the past year.

One of our sisters mentioned the promises of God to His people. The promise of everlasting life is found in John 6:40. The promise to the saints can be found in Psalms 37:28, 97:10, and 132:16 as well as Revelations 11:18. "For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off." The promise to the righteous is found in Matthew 13:43, Psalms 34:15 and 37:25, along with Isaiah 3:10. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father, who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

The beautiful testimonies of each were like a beautiful savor to the Lord. One thing that was similar in each testimony was that each thanked God for seeing them through the valleys and mountains they went through during the year. It was a wonderful evening to be able to hear all the glorious things that God has done for His saints and their families. We serve an awesome God!

On another Sunday, Brother Lenny and Sister Jeannie Benyola from Hopelawn, New Jersey were visiting. Brother Lenny opened our service and

used as his text, Revelations 12 and 14 concerning the apostasy and restoration. Each of us was called into the Church and His Spirit was given to us to envelop us in His love and to lead and direct us through life. Christ came and died for us so we may attain salvation. This Church was given the power and authority on earth to bring all people to Him. The devil is a mighty adversary in our lives, always ready to devour the Church and the saints. But the power of God is all mighty, ready to help us. He is our protector from the dangers that surround us.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Scaglione, Richard Jr., Jessie  
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Partlow, VA 22534

## Ordinations in Columbia

Continued from Page 3

the perpetual state of civil unrest. The unemployment rate is over 20% and those who are working only receive subsistent wages. In spite of the problems, the people are hard-working, friendly, and family oriented. Everyone is pulling together to make ends meet. The land is rich. We saw corn ten feet tall, and we drank juice every day from fruit the size of watermelons.

Pray for this land and her people that God will continue to bless them and will soon fulfill His promises made to them so many years ago.

## Origin of Church in Windsor

Continued from Page 2

The church became one big happy family, closer to each other than they were to their blood relatives. The

membership grew rapidly and the home of Brother Collison was not adequate for all the people who were attending. So, they rented a hall at the Moose temple, and later rented a storefront. There was a great need for a church building. This was during World War II and building material was scarce as was money. The membership went to the Lord in prayer. God directed them to where the lot should be, and provided a way to purchase the material to build the building that now stands on the corner of Irvine and Howard Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.

In those days, you often heard it said, "If you want a blessing, visit the Windsor, Ontario Branch." Praise the Lord. He works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.

## Evangelistic Meeting

Continued from Page 3

Sunday morning, we gathered at 9:00 am. in the banquet room. Brother Mark Kovacic outlined the morning for us. We had 16 adults and six children with us. Our first duty was the blessing of Brother Osvaldo and Lupe's daughter, Jessica. Our little answer to prayer was great. In preparation, Brother Mark spoke from Mark where the disciples tried to send the children away but this displeased Jesus. Think of His love for these little children! Brother Osvaldo and Lupe then brought their new baby forward and Brother Mark blessed her.

Brother Saul then followed referring to several different passages in the Bible relating to how The Church of Jesus Christ was established, organized, apostatized, and then was restored to us. Brother Saul spoke in Spanish so that the entire group from Russellville would hear and understand. It had been a long time since many of them had the opportunity to hear a sermon in Spanish.

Brother Ken Staley then spoke of our reliance on the Spirit of God and how we can accomplish all things using God's power. He then related some of his experiences in Guatemala.

Brother John Griffith followed on

the same theme while Brother Saul translated.

After Brother Mark served communion, Brother Ram Baral spoke of his love for the Church and his testimony of truth as well as the veracity of the Book of Mormon. He then related a beautiful experience he had that morning. Saturday evening, Sister Norma had given him a picture of Brother Bob Cross standing at the Monongahela River's edge awaiting his baptism by Brother Don Ross. Brother Ram said he went to bed Saturday evening thinking how wonderful it was to have another brother in Christ. When he awoke in the morning, he looked out of his window and had a vision. He saw Brother Don and Brother Bob standing at a beautiful pond of water, both were dressed in white garments. He also saw thousands of angels encircling them and singing. Then he saw a long line of people waiting to be baptized.

Brother Ram concluded by singing *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* in Napeli. After Brother Ram sat down, Brother Mark commented on the vision. "God is reminding us through this vision that there are millions awaiting the restored gospel. Let us share this gospel that the angels may sing. Is not this our commission before the Lord?" In closing, we formed a circle and Brother Ken offered prayer.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

rooftops, in front yards and anywhere the saints can meet.

SPIRIT OF THE LORD ALWAYS PRESENT

The spirit of the Lord was always present from one village to another. The eagerness and joy of the saints to attend a meeting any day of the week and at any time of the day were testimonies of their love for God and the Church. We were blessed to share in five baptisms as the sun was going

(Continued on Page 10)

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 9

down. Brother Vincent had baptized 20 converts the week before our trip.

It was our privilege to visit the villages of Ambeekar, Bommipalayam, Saravagowan Valasu and Mathakattupalayam. I praise God for the dedication and the hard work of our brothers of the ministry who have little or no money nor transportation; but they have a heart for the ministry.

Finally, we traveled to Brother Solomon's area of Tadepalligudem where the spirit of the Lord went before us and prepared the hearts and minds to receive His word. Our plan was to hold our conference at that time with the ordained officers, but over 100 were already gathered there, so we held the regular meeting first. This was one of those good old-fashioned spirit-filled meetings. After praying for many people both spiritually and physically in this service, we held our conference to encourage and uplift our co-workers in the Gospel.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we visited Jajulakunta where Brother Yohan baptized 10. We then went to a new village started two years ago called I.S.J. Puram. The village had no building, so we met under a tent. There were three baptisms by Brother Yohan. Next, we visited Ramanujapuram. It was a beautiful walk, singing along the way, over one mile to witness Brother Amos baptize converts. From there we went to Koyarajamundry for an outdoors meeting. Several were to be baptized here, but by the end of the service, darkness set in.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, we visited Gollagudem where there was good attendance. We then traveled to Satternagudem, where we met on a veranda with their small group; still with the same wonderful sweet blessings of the Holy Spirit.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, we visited Singarajapalem. This was a great day from the very beginning. There were many children present at the meeting.

SISTER ORDAINED DEACONESS

Next, it was on to Gogalapurem

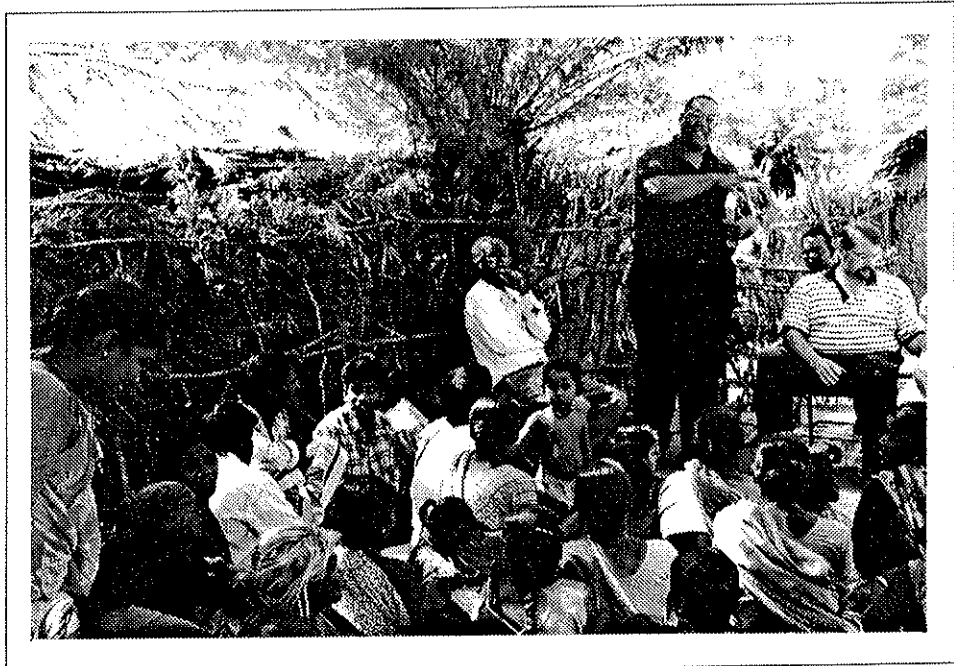
where four or five were to be baptized; but, at the water, ten were baptized.

Upon our return to the meeting, there were wonderful confirmations of the new converts. After a message on the duties of a Deaconess, Sister Rene's (Brother Solomon's wife) feet were washed by another sister Deaconess and she was ordained a Deaconess by Brother Pushparaj.

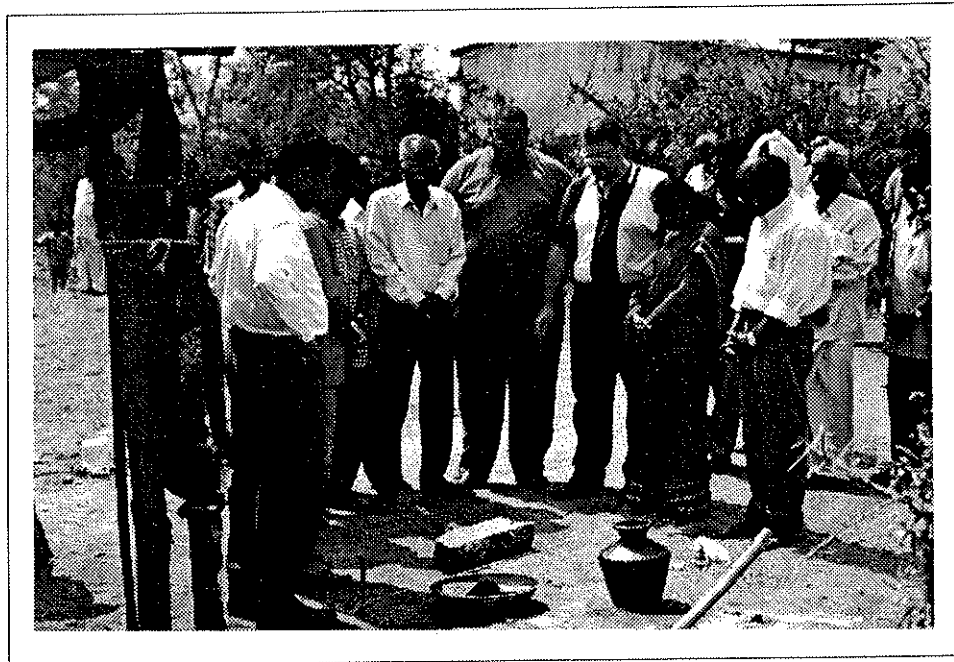
Our last and most cherished visit

was with the children at the "Saved Grace Orphanage." They were very responsive and shared with us in a beautiful children's church meeting filled with wonderful singing and expressions of future hopes and desires.

This was a lengthy three-week joy-filled tour. After our location visits, five additional baptisms were requested. The highlights of this trip



Brother Harold Littlejohn teaches the children.



Praying for a new plot to build the Church in India.



were witnessing 29 baptisms and two Deacons and one Deaconess ordination.

Please remember to have a place in your heart for the missionary work in India where the Gospel is flourishing and the message of the Restoration is being warmly received.

## Letter from India

*From A. Devanandam*

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We had a blessed Christmas and New Year service and had beautiful experiences during our watch service. When we knelt in prayer, praising God for His grace and mercy to see the blessed new year of 2001, suddenly the Church was filled with a bright light. We felt the presence of God in our midst, and all were filled with the spirit, praising God and glorifying His name for His presence and blessings. The Lord gave us the following scriptures to read in our meeting: Joel 2: 21; "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things." Deuteronomy 11:12; "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." 1 Peter 5:7; "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

## Note of Thanks

Sister Goldie Jones, a 90-year-old sister from the Bell, California Branch, recently hand stitched and donated a quilt for the Atlanta Branch building fund. Sister Goldie's daughter-in-law, Sister Tava Jones, organized a fundraiser revolving around the quilt. Donations were made for the quilt and the donator's names were compiled to a list. At the beginning of the year, Sister Diane McDonnell's name was chosen from the list by Sister Alyssa Morle (Sister Goldie's granddaughter) to receive the quilt.

Thank you, Sister Goldie, for your hard work and loving dedication to the family of God.

## Our Women Today

*Continued from Page 7*

explained to Sister Alicia about the Ladies' Circle, its aims, and the fellowship and love of the organization amongst one another and the Church. She was blessed to hear of this. She expressed how the Lord had put it in her heart to do something for the ladies of Valle Guanape.

The experience of being part of the first ordination of a Deaconess and Teacher, as well as the first baptism in Venezuela was a cherished moment to be held close in heart for all the years

to come.

The freedom to do good works is open to all in whatever manner the Lord would intend for you.

"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did" (Acts 9:36).

## MBA Highlights

*Continued from Page 7*

till the end of our days, we are blessed in every way possible.

Brother Frank Rogolino spoke regarding an experience he had while sharing the Gospel with a young man. He told us that God must take the blindness from a person's eyes before he can understand the plainness of the Gospel. It is our duty to tell others of Jesus Christ. Just remember to put Him first in all things.

Brother Rocco Benyola concluded the preaching service by speaking to those non-members in our presence. He read from Moroni 10:3-7. After a season of testimony, our meeting was dismissed in prayer.

We are thankful again for the wonderful participation of brothers, sisters and friends in our MBA activities, and in our branch in Fort Pierce, Florida. Please keep us in your prayers.

## Children Blessed

Alex Dominic Giovannone, son of Brother Ron and Sister Cindy Giovannone was blessed in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on February 25, 2001.

Megan Ann Whitney, daughter of Jason Troy and Stephanie Ann Whitney, was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on December 31, 2000.

Sarah Leslie Williams, daughter of Brother David and Sister Barbara Williams, was blessed in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on December 31, 2000.

Lixbeth Saldana, daughter of Ishmael and Maria Perales Saldana, was blessed in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission on January 7, 2001.

Jessica Gonzalez, daughter of Brother Osvaldo and Lupe Gonzalez, was blessed in the Russellville, Alabama Mission on January 14, 2001.

Jared Osuna III, son of Jared and Adi Osuna, was blessed in the Russellville, Alabama Mission on February 11, 2001.

Jamison Cipponeri, son of Brother Jim and Sister Nicole Cipponeri was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on September 24, 2000.

Devon Eddins, son of Sister Antoinette Magbrey was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on March 12, 2000.

## Ordination

Brother Sterling Tate was ordained a Deacon on March 11, 2001 in Lorain, Ohio. His feet were washed by Brother Troy Tate, and he was ordained by Brother Frank Palacios.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Martin Kalis and Hillary Scott were united in holy matrimony in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on December 16, 2000.

Kirt Darren Cisson and Carri Lynn Gehly were united in holy matrimony in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on September 9, 2000.

Derek Vaughn Brauner and Traci Ann Graff were united in holy matrimony in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on March 3, 2001.

Brother Jeremy Schroeder and Sister Lynette Buffa were united in holy matrimony in Saline, Michigan on January 6, 2001.

**Baptisms**

Sister Josephine Loffredo McKinnon was baptized on November 12, 2000 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Richard Loffredo.

Sister Antoinette Magbrey was baptized on March 12, 2000 in Detroit Branch #4. She was baptized by Brother Mark Coppa.

Sister Patty Grover was baptized on September 3, 2000 in Detroit Branch #4. She is now a member of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

**Spiritual Anniversary**

Sister Rose Nalevanko of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 1, 2001.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**OBITUARIES**

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

**JOHN "JACK" ONORATO**

Brother John ("Jack") Onorato passed onto his reward on October 24, 2000. Brother John is survived by his five children; Brother Richard Sr., Brother Robert, Brother Edward, Sister Dorothy Calabro and Sister Marie Perrello; along with 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great, great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Elizabeth Onorato.

**HOLLY LYNN KEELEY**

Holly Lynn Keeley passed onto her reward on January 25, 2001. Holly is survived by her parents, Sister Gloria and Kenny Keeley; her sister, Bliss; and her grandparents, Sister Mary and Dean Slick.

**HELEN G. PRESUTTO**

Sister Helen G. Presutto passed onto her reward on March 11, 2001. Sister Helen is survived by her husband, Brother Eugene Presutto; four children, Phillip, David, Samuel and Susan; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Priscilla.

**JOSEPHINE CAMPANGA**

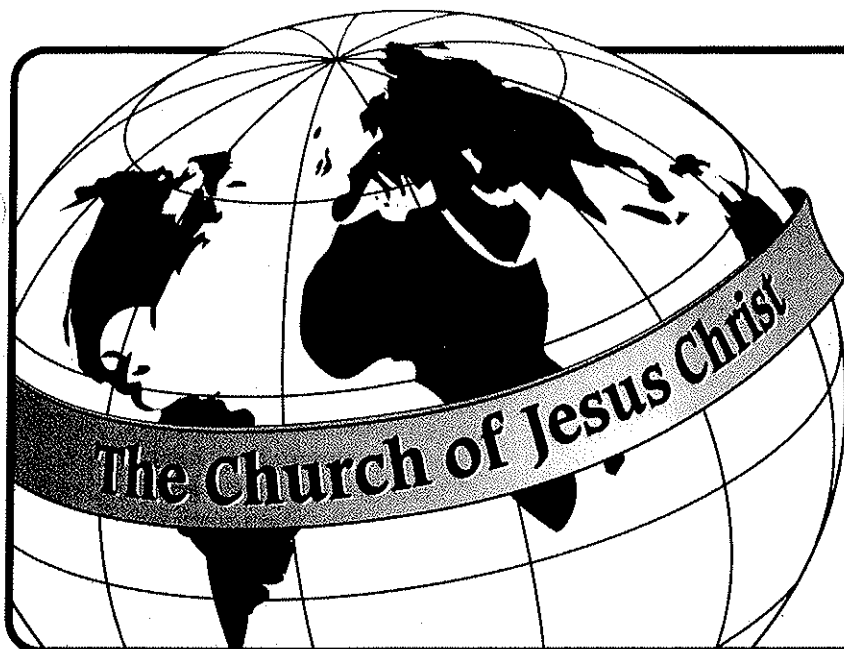
Sister Josephine Campanga passed onto her reward on October 7, 2000. Sister Josephine was preceded in death by her husband James and her son Richard. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah; son-in-law, Gary Nathan; sons, Joseph and James; daughter-in-law, Janis; brother, Roland; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**DAVID AUSILIO**

Brother David Ausilio passed onto his reward on January 1, 2001. Brother David was preceded in death by his sister, Sister Frances Capone. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary; son, David; sisters, Lena Pontillo, Almerinda Kaczmarek, and Olivia Parravano, along with their spouses; brothers, John and Daniel, and their spouses; brother, Anthony; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and one aunt.

**HELEN KOVACS**

Sister Helen Kovacs passed onto her reward on March 18, 2001. Sister Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Julius Kovacs. She is survived by one son, James Kovacs; one daughter, Ruth Arcuri-Kovacs; three sisters, Sister Ethel Banyacski, Sister Ann Creevy, and Elizabeth Panfile, as well as three grandsons.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

June, 2001

Volume 57, No. 6

## "Let it be recorded..." The Church of Jesus Christ Established in Dominica

*By Brother Paul A. Palmieri*

"Let it be recorded that on February 4, 2001, The Church of Jesus Christ, was established in the Island of Dominica." These words were spoken under the inspiration of the spirit of God by Evangelist Paul Ciotti Sr. in the afternoon meeting of The Church of Jesus Christ on the

Island of Dominica following the confirmations of the first members baptized on this Island under the authority of the Restoration.

On January 31st, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri and Evangelist Ciotti left from Pittsburgh, PA and joined Bro. Isaac Joseph Smith and Evange-

list Gene Perri in arriving on the Island of Dominica February 1st. The spirit of the Restoration was very much a part of our trip, as the Lord directed the plan that was followed. Evangelist Richard and Sister Annabelle Santilli started the work in Dominica several years ago as God inspired their hearts to bring His Gospel to the ancient, indigenous people who are descendants of Joseph, Son of Jacob.

### VERY RECEPTIVE

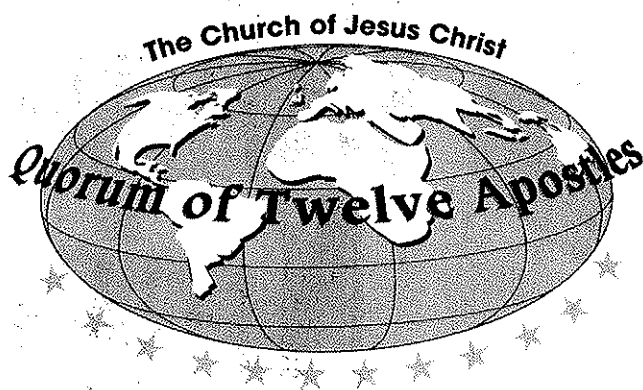
The people of Dominica have been very receptive, allowing us to tell the story of Jesus Christ and the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ every place we have visited. We have passed out over 75 Books of Mormon and have been accepted as friends of the people of Dominica. The people there have expressed a desire to know the Lord and The Church of Jesus Christ in a more personal way on each of our trips.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we toured the island and re-established many contacts and made some new acquaintances as well. We followed the direction of the spirit and ended up in the capital city of Roseau where we ran into some old friends in the city. Malcolm and Kathleen Jno-Lewis invited us to their home that evening. As we met with



Five converts in Dominica along with Brothers Paul A. Palmieri, Isaac J. Smith, and Evangelists Paul Ciotti Sr. and Eugene Perri.

(Continued on Page 3)



## The Choice Seer

By Brother James Curry

*(Editor's Note: Apostle Isaac Smith requested this article, which was written many years ago, be reprinted for the benefit of our brothers and sisters today).*

John Ruskin, an English sociologist of the past century wrote: "The more I think of it I find this conclusion more impressed upon me – that the greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something, and tell what it saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think; but thousands can think for one who can see. To see clearly is poetry, prophecy, and religion – all in one."

### GIFT OF PROPHECY

It is generally thought that, for sheer excellence, the gift of prophecy transcends all others. Among the Israelites the prophet was greater than the King. Men hung upon their words as upon the words of God. There were many major and minor prophets in Israel. I dare say that not one of them attained to the stature of Moses, the seer, who talked with God face to face.

We honor Joseph Smith as prophet, seer, and revelator. Like the great seers of Biblical history, he had the gift of sight. Like any other genius, the seer has the propensity to see things as they are. He views the world through eyes that are unclouded by the mists of greed, lust, or pride. "Genius," says Schopenhauer, "Is

simply the most complete objectivity . . . i.e., the objective tendency of the mind . . . genius is the power of leaving one's own interests, wishes and aims entirely out of sight, of entirely renouncing one's own personality for a time, so as to remain pure knowing subject, clear vision of the world."

Genius appears in various forms, musical, artistic, philosophical, literary, mechanical. Every genius has the gift of sight, that "clear vision" of his particular world. Every seer is a genius, but every genius is not a seer. The genius we write about is the seer who has that "CLEAR VISION" of God's purposes in the world.

It is written in the Book of Numbers: "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth." His propensity to see things as they were enabled him to see himself as he was. He saw, with remarkable clarity, how he related to God and his fellowmen. Seeing himself thusly, he could not help but be meek and lowly and of a quiet disposition. Like all humble men he knew that the whole is greater than the part. As a tiny segment of the whole, his only desire was to contribute to the well being of the whole body. This he did without fanfare, lust for power, or position. He cared nothing about status or status symbols. Envy and the love of material things were foreign to his nature. If he were here today, he would probably marvel at the attempts of base men to make their way to heaven through the blinding mists of materialism.

### MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS

Because the meek man is gentle,

kind, not easily provoked, inclined to yield rather than cause trouble, there are those who believe that meekness is weakness, that the meek man is tamely submissive and servile. Many have learned, to their sorrow, that the meek man, when goaded beyond the point of endurance, can be the most formidable of opponents. Do we not see why? As a new creature in Christ he has a healthy respect for who and what he is, and for those principles which he upholds. Was he not made a little lower than the angels and crowned with glory and honor? The supine, fawning, handwringing, self-effacing attitude is not for him.

### LATTER DAY MOSES

The Church of Jesus Christ has for many years anticipated the coming of a CHOICE SEER, to whom we sometimes refer as the latter day Moses. Paul speaks of his coming with these words: "And so shall all Israel be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

Except for the exact time, the Book of Mormon gives a complete account of his coming, and of the work that he shall do. The book clearly states that "he shall be great like unto Moses." As in Moses' case, God will not loose his tongue that he should be mighty in speaking, which will necessitate his having a spokesman. In liberating his people (American Indians) he "shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, to work mighty wonders, and do that which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel" (3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter).

Using the "One God" idea, Moses turned a race of slaves into a race of conquerors. Because his coming is yet future, we do not know by what techniques the Choice Seer will turn American Indian tribes into an invincible army. However, we are told in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter: "And my people who are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in

the midst of them as a lion among the flocks of sheep, who if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, all their enemies shall be cut off."

Why cut off?

Obviously because they stand in the way of the fulfillment of that iron-bound covenant which God made with the house of Israel many centuries ago.

#### FULFILLING THE COVENANT

We read in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Book of Nephi, 9<sup>th</sup> verse: "Therefore ye (Gentiles) need not suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, that He may not execute judgment UNTO the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the house of Israel." The word UNTO implies that God will smite the Gentiles again and again UNTIL the covenant has been fulfilled. He smote the Egyptians again and again UNTO Israel's deliverance from bondage.

The Choice Seer will be the leading figure in the great, wonderful, terrible latter-day drama. Seeing the needs of the Church as through God's own eyes, he shall step forth to rebuke and confound those who cling to the precepts of men, after which he shall be used instrumentally to heal, exalt and glorify the remnant that shall be left upon the land.

The contest between Moses and the Egyptians was like a ten round boxing bout. The first nine rounds were even. Moses won by a knockout in the tenth. In our day and time, while Satan is busily engaged in duplicating the nine gifts of the Spirit, the Choice Seer will enter the ring to demonstrate the knockout power of the gift of sight. It will be seen at that day that it is the greatest, the very greatest of the gifts of God's Spirit.

next step they needed to take in their lives. After a spirit-filled conversation, Malcolm became the first member to request baptism and as we glorified God for his calling, his wife, Kathleen asked for her remission of sins as well.

The following day was spent getting ready for the meeting, contacting new people, inviting many to the Sunday services, and talking with the

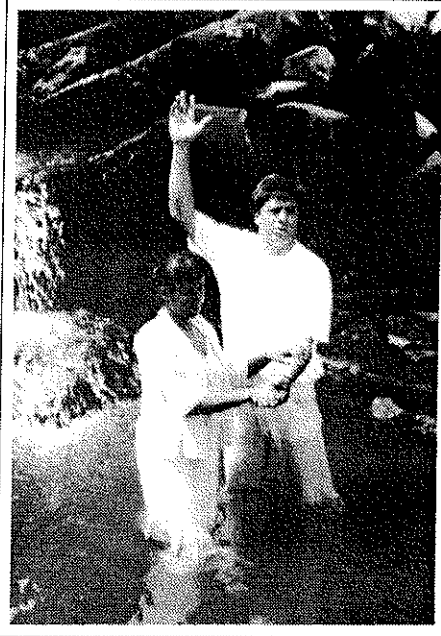
family of our soon to be members. Later that night as we went to visit with Raphael and Helena Auguiste, Helena expressed her desire to become a member of the Church.

#### GLORIOUS SERVICE, BAPTISMS

The Sunday morning service was glorious, as the Lord was evident in the speaking of our brothers, Evangelists Perri and Ciotti. As we opened the meeting up for testimony, Sister Helena expressed her desire to have her name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, upon which Brother Ciotti spoke in the Gift of Tongues with the interpretation being, "All those whom I have redeemed, I will gather, I will gather, saith the Lord." After this testimony, the first young person to obey the Gospel in Dominica, Terry Alph Raphael Auguiste, requested his baptism. At the site, 100 feet above the Atlantic Ocean in a glorious spot, Brothers Smith and Palmieri baptized our new candidates along with Raphael Auguiste, who requested baptism at the water's edge.

A new members review service was held on Sunday evening. The zeal of our new brothers and sisters is very evident in the questions asked, desires expressed, and the overall feeling of humility. The ministry instructed the members how to meet, what to study, and how to interact with one another, as they are the only members of the Church on the island. Now that we have members in Dominica, we will be able to proceed with the registration of the Church and we request your prayers in this endeavor. We also plan to visit the membership four to six times in 2001. Please pray for our new brothers and sisters who are a remnant of Israel on one of the islands of the sea.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, we reluctantly had to say goodbye to our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Please pray for the work in Dominica as well as throughout the Americas and the world. We thank each and every one of you for your prayers and donations to this work, as another nation has the flag of The Church of Jesus Christ now planted in its midst.



Brother Isaac J. Smith baptizing Sister Helena Auguiste.

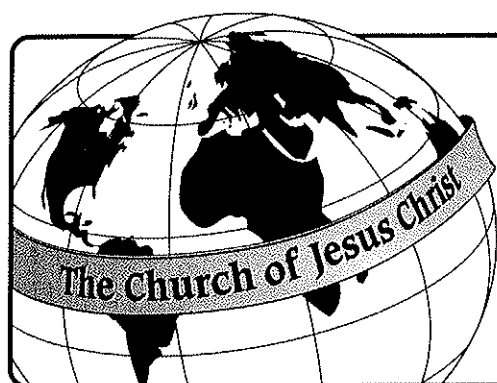


Brother Paul A. Palmieri baptizing Brother Terry Auguiste.

#### The Church in Dominica

Continued from Page 1

them later, it was very apparent that they were interested in discussing the



## A message from the Seventy

“... I remember those who are upon the  
isles of the sea...”

By Evangelist Joel Gehly, F.M.O.C. Chairman

*“Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?” (II Nephi 29:7).*

First, a little background on the Republic of the Philippines. The Philippine nation is made up of over 7100 islands that in total, constitutes a land mass roughly the size of Arizona. These islands stretch over 1,140 miles (north to south) and span over 690 miles at the widest. Over 70 million people call these islands home. The population is made up of over 110 different linguistic, cultural, and racial groups. The national language is Filipino (based upon Tagalog), and English.

### THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED

A few months ago, the *Gospel News* published a wonderful article describing the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of the Philippines. The blessings of God combined with the efforts of the saints in the Philippine mission necessitated a return trip that was made in February 2001. Evangelists Phil Jackson, John DiBattista, and I (Joel Gehly), had the unforgettable privilege

of being with our brothers and sisters in this tropical land. It was a glorious time with the saints in this nation and the facts at the conclusion of our visit include the following:

- After 6 months, the membership stands at 45, with four separate congregations.
- The Church has four Elders, one for each congregation. There is also one Teacher, one Deacon, and four Deaconesses, all of whom are humble and dedicated servants.
- The membership and visitors are

humble and hungry for the truth of the Restored Gospel.

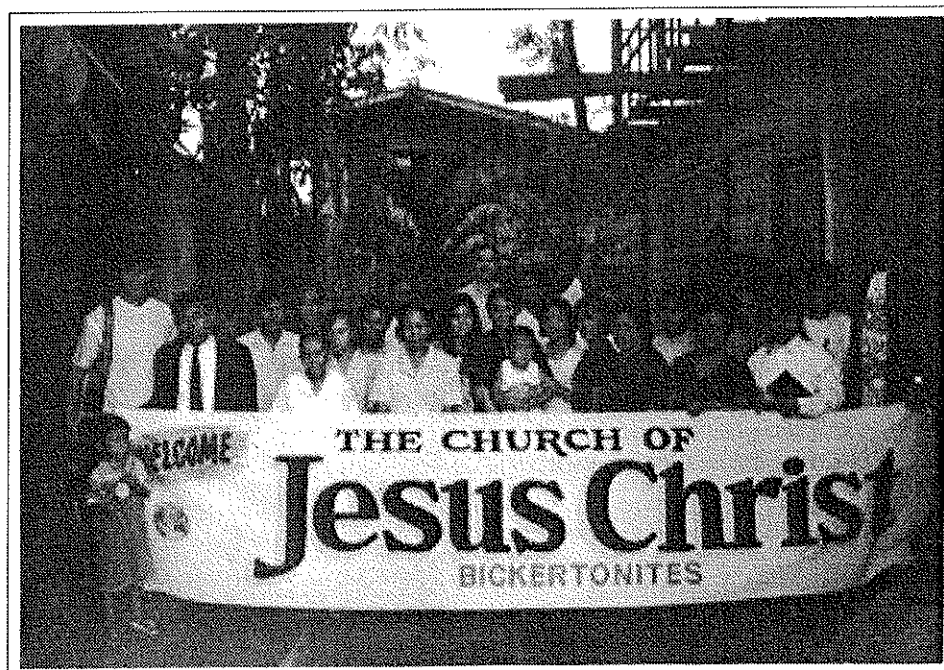
- The potential growth is unlimited.

### WHAT SHOULD I TELL?

Yes, those are some of the facts concerning the country, the people, and the new mission. But as I sat to write an article for the *Gospel News*, my mind was questioning what the important message was that the Lord wanted me to share with all the saints about this trip. Should I tell about the little 5-year-old girl we anointed late one evening after 50 or so people had crowded into a 12'x12' wooden home to hear the Gospel preached? She had suffered a stroke and was completely paralyzed on one side. We poured our hearts out to God that night for His miraculous touch. She is now running around and playing with all the other children as though nothing had ever happened.

Should I tell of the tongues that were spoken? During another meeting, an old man stood to bear his testimony and tell of the wondrous change that had come into his life since his baptism last October. As the tears began to stream down his face, his words and

(Continued on Page 10)



The Church in the Philippines.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans so?" (Matthew 5:44-46).*

There is a big difference between unconditional love (as Jesus describes in this scripture) and conditional love. In fact, so great is the difference, that conditional love is not really love at all, but the opposite of love. To understand the difference, let's look at situations that we all may have faced at one time or another, and compare a response of unconditional love versus conditional love:

1. Someone else offends us.

*Unconditional love response:* We tell them that we are offended and why, and then humbly reconcile with them. We usually develop a strong friendship and forget all about the offense afterwards.

*Conditional love response:* We hold a grudge against that person, gossip about what they've done to us, ignore them, and never reconcile the offense. We say, "I might forgive, but I'll NEVER forget!"

2. We offend someone else.

*Unconditional love response:* We quickly apologize once we recognize what we've done, and seek to reconcile the hurt we may have caused that person.

*Conditional love response:* We refuse to apologize, thinking that they "deserved it" and that they should not be offended so easily.

3. You recognize that someone is quite different than you, perhaps in personality, thoughts, financial status, race, ethnicity, age, abilities or level of understanding.

*Unconditional love response:* You treat them with the same level of love, respect, interest in their likes and dislikes, impartiality and genuine concern as you would your best friend. Even more so, you'll love them as you love yourself.

*Conditional love response:* You avoid them whenever possible, gossip about them, do not include them in your "circle of friends" and feel that you "love" them, but don't necessarily have to "like" them.

4. You recognize that someone is just like you, in every way. You agree on everything, and see everything in the same way.

*Unconditional love response:* You love and care for him or her just as you would anyone else; not any more or any less. Your love is not based on your similarities.

*Conditional love response:* You love and care for them because they see things in the same way as you, and agree with you on everything. (Cliques are formed in this way).

These are some general examples, but I'm sure you can think of others. Jesus taught a new way of loving that the people in His day never heard of. Under the Law of Moses, revenge was customary (an eye for an eye, etc.). But the love of Jesus Christ was so different, that most could not accept this "new" doctrine. In response, they crucified Him. Today, we shudder at the thought of crucifying Jesus. However, if we practice "conditional love," we are no different than those who crucified Jesus, not accepting his doctrine of love. Instead, let's continue in "unconditional love" for all people, especially those of the household of faith (as it is written). This is what will draw souls to the Gospel. Separating ourselves from one another will only separate us from God. Joining together one with another will join us together with our Heavenly Father for eternity.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## When You Are in the Prison House

Dear Friends,

You know, people sometimes go through really hard things. Day in and day out they wake up with a big heartache, pray, go all day, pray for God's help, and go to bed with a heartache and trouble.

Can you imagine Joseph, innocent and put in the prison house for eight years? Prisons are full of suffering, with screaming, crying, men hurting men, a dark, scary place. But Joseph had God in his heart, and so do we. God can pick us up and give us hope when fear sweeps through our bodies. Jesus will whisper to you, "Don't give up. I am here dear. Don't be so afraid." He will send you a friend who will care and help you when you wish you were dead or far away from a troubled place in your life.

So, how did Joseph get through the unfairness, the pain, the fearful days? Can you imagine how he felt when Potifer's lying wife accused him of trying to attack her? Can you imagine how scared he was at night, far from all friends and family, calling on God and wondering how it would all work out? He must have hoped the Egyptian judges would believe him. Do you think he was shocked when God let him be found guilty and go to prison? Joseph knew that God knew he was innocent. Do you think that Joseph cried to God and asked God why he was allowing this horror to happen to him? Imagine how terrifying it would be to be tied in chains and locked in a huge building where cruelty was everywhere.



Did Joseph have faith? We hope so. We know that he loved God. The Bible tells us that God never forgot Joseph; he touched the main man in charge of the jail and gave him favor (made him like Joseph). Soon Joseph was using the skills he'd learned while working for Potipher. He had become very trained and educated in the way to organize money and people. Helping the main jailer gave him power and safety in the prison too.

But Joseph was still locked up and imprisoned. And sometimes when terribly hard things go on in our lives, like parents fighting and divorcing, money problems, strange sicknesses, we feel we are in a prison of sorts. Sometimes, like Joseph, these bad things go on and on. So we must learn to trust God in our hearts. Trust him. Be patient. Later you can use all the pain you have felt to help others and to understand. Find joy and beauty in the world.

You can still enjoy music, marvelous clouds, sweet babies, loving pets, fresh air, the smell of lilacs in spring, and the sensation of being alive. Each of us has that special friend, Jesus, to help us look at our mistakes, to hear our hope, to stir up our joys. So, Don't be afraid when God has let you go to the prison house. Just don't let your heart, your hope, and your mind stay there. Praise Him, love one another and whisper to Jesus.

He had a plan for Joseph's suffering. He can have a plan for yours. Fear not. As Joseph was delivered from the prison house, so can you be.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

GOD PRISON AND  
LET HOUSE SUFFERING  
JOSEPH HE DO  
GO LEARNED TRUST  
TO THROUGH GOD  
THE PAIN

D	O	G	O	D	L	P
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## Notice

The Church of Jesus Christ General Board of Trustees is soliciting volunteers to be on the Audio/Visual Committee. Needed are ambitious individuals to learn the systems at the World Conference Center. To volunteer, please contact Brother Walter Laird, phone 412-264-2753, email: Wbjlaird@aol.com.

## Note of Thanks

We want to thank all the Brothers, Sisters and Friends who prayed for our recovery from the accidents we had late last year. The phone calls, individual cards as well as the cards from all the Ladies' Circle's and MBA's were very inspiring and up-lifting at a time of pain and discouragement.

While we are not completely healed, we can be involved in most of our normal activities. Knowing the army of God was praying for us kept up our spirits. Again, thank all of you.

Brother Paul and Sister Arline Whitton



## "Give Of Your Best To The Master"

### GMBA Singles Fellowship Weekend 2001

By Sister Linda Ali  
Singles Camp Director

Sixty singles ages 14 and up gathered the weekend of March 9-11 at the McKeever Environmental Learning Center for the 2001 GMBA Singles Fellowship Weekend. Words cannot describe the joy on everyone's face as they greeted each other for the first time after a long winter.

Bro. Jeff Giannetti kicked off the weekend using Ephesians 3:20, *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* Bro. Jeff stated that this scripture had been on his mind and during the opening prayer the Lord confirmed his thoughts. The words, *"Give us more than what we ask for,"* were spoken during the prayer. Praise God!!! Bro. Jeff continued stating that the Lord will provide abundantly above what we ask for. He encouraged us to not set our expectations too low, as we serve a God who spoke and the world was made.

Saturday's activities began at 7 a.m. when we joined the General Church in its day of prayer. It was awe-inspiring to witness so many in attendance and that they actively offered their petitions before the Lord. The Spirit of peace was truly felt and remained with us throughout the day.

It was a blessing to have Brothers John Genaro, Philip Jackson, Chuck Maddox and Don Ross along with Sis. Joyce with us for the day. Bro. Isaac J. Smith opened our Chapel service encouraging us to be a delightful people. Bro. Isaac referenced many scriptures throughout his inspiring sermon. There are many choices to be

made when you are young. He encouraged us to choose to be delightful and there is no reason why this cannot be accomplished. We should strive to allow others to see our delightful countenance.

Bro. Don Ross continued stating that God gave His best, His Son. When you give your best to the Master, He will delight in you. When you give God your best He will provide for you and bless you. He related an experience of an 85-year-old sister who had given her best and needed to have a hip replacement. The sister was anointed and HEALED. We need to love the Lord because He first loved us.

Bro. John Genaro, Seminar Leader, continued stating that there is no better time to give your best. We have the opportunity to see and do things that were only dreamt about in years past. It is reasonable to give your best. When you give your best it shows that you have confidence and are completely dedicated. He referenced Abraham and Solomon as men who were confident and dedicated to the service of the Lord.

The group was divided into three classes and our seminars were focused around the question, "Where are you in the will of God today?" It was pointed out the necessity for each of us to find our place in The Church of Jesus Christ.

During the afternoon everyone enjoyed fellowship with each other. We started with a game of "Singles Survivor" in which we had to meet various challenges set before us. Congratulations to Zack Dziak and Karen Henderson our Survivors. After the group game everyone went their own way. Some played basketball while the onlookers made a snowman.

Bro. Paul A. Palmieri, GMBA President, opened our evening meeting noting that the brothers felt a spirit of peace as they gathered for a season of prayer prior to the start of the meeting. What a blessing it was for them to have Brothers Timothy Mott and Jason Monaghan who were directed to attend the service. Bro. Paul continued with the story of David and Goliath. David was a delight to the Lord. The Lord

seeth not as a man seeth; the Lord delights in your heart. David won the battle against Goliath because of his delight in the Lord. God forgives your sins because He delights in mercy. He reminded us that we will receive great things if we only delight in the law of The Lord.

Brother Jeff Giannetti continued stating that our testimony of what God has done for us makes us a delight. We were sinners that the Lord came and washed clean, and that in itself makes us a delight. Again we heard the encouraging words to strive to give our best to the Master.

Brother Timothy Mott followed speaking of his calling into the office of a Teacher. Bro. Timothy was very concerned that he would not be able to teach. He was consistent in prayer and accepted the office. He reminded us that we needed to be consistent in all that we do.

Brother Jason Monaghan did not know the theme for the weekend and while driving his mind was focused on giving your best to the Master. Praise God for yet another confirmation. Brother Jason read from the 37<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Psalms and stated that if we are committed and consistent the Lord will bless us. The scripture reads, *"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass"*.

The meeting was opened to praise the Lord. It was then that Joshua Hanson rose to his feet and stated that he did not want to return home the same person as he came. Josh then asked for his baptism. The Lord allowed Sister Linda Ali to see that the Lord was loosing his chains during the morning prayer meeting. The Lord received praise from many this evening and we joined the ministry as they offered prayer for several in need.

The Kinsman, Ohio mission along with a few from Cincinnati, Ohio joined us for the Sunday service. Matthew 5:1 was the text Bro. Jeff Giannetti used to open the meeting. *"And seeing the multitude, he went up*

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### Called to Serve in Atlanta, Georgia

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

Brothers and sisters from many parts of the vineyard gathered in Atlanta, Georgia on February 25, 2001 to witness the ordinations of three brothers into the offices of Teacher and Deacon. Brother Sam Kunkel would be ordained a Teacher, and Brothers Chad Hood and Cameron Staley would be ordained Deacons.

Our morning began with the young people singing *Taste the Grass on the Summit*. After a few remarks by Presiding Elder Mark Kovacic, Brother Malcolm Paxon opened the meeting in prayer.

Sister Flo LaRosa from Gastonia, North Carolina then dedicated a beautiful song, *Now I Want to Live for Him*, to the three who were to be ordained. Brother Ron Morle then blessed some linens and goblets for use in sacrament.

Visiting Deaconess' Sister Janet Gibson from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and Sister Caryl DiBattista from Chicago, Illinois then set the sacrament table while the congregation sang *It's My Desire*.

Brother Mark then called Brothers Chad and Cameron forward, while Brother Ken Staley read the duties of a Deacon. Brother Ken quoted from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy and the Book of Acts. Brother Justin Paxon, visiting Deacon from the Bell, California Branch, washed Brother Chad's feet and Brother Ryan Lesperance, visiting Deacon from Detroit, Michigan washed Brother Cameron's feet. Both Brothers Ryan and Justin served as deacons when they lived in Atlanta. The elders then formed a circle and were led in prayer by Brother John DiBattista. Brother Ron Morle then anointed our Brother Cameron and Brother Mark Kovacic anointed

Brother Chad.

Brother Mark then spoke of Brother Sam Kunkel's desire, as a young man, to become a math teacher. This was a desire that never came to fruition, however now he can be a "teacher for God." After Brother Sam had taken his seat in the front, Brother Malcolm read the duties of a teacher. He read from 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy and Ephesians. Brother Art Campbell, visiting teacher from Mid-Georgia then washed Brother Sam's feet. As his feet were being washed, it was given to one of our sisters that Brother Tom Jones would anoint Brother Sam. When the time came, Brother Tom came forward without hesitation to anoint Brother Sam. As the elders greeted our new workers, the congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother John DiBattista spoke briefly about our lives, and how a plan to serve God must be included. Brother Justin then blessed us with a song. Brother Doug Obradovich from LaGrange, Kentucky followed Brother John's thoughts – in order for our life plan to work, it must be God's plan first.

Sacrament was then served and we heard from our three new laborers. Each of them thanked God first, then their families and all of the brothers and sisters for their prayers, love, and support. Brother Sam related how he had prayed that if this calling was truly from God, that Brother Tom would anoint him. When Brother Tom came forward, this confirmed Brother Sam's request of God.

### Blessed Weekend at Forest Hills, Florida Branch

By Sister Lorraine Rose

The Lord truly blesses His flock and we see His love shine all the time. We are thankful the Lord uplifts our souls.

The members of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch shared a joyous weekend that flowed from Saturday through Sunday, March 10th and 11th,

2001. It was extra special because the children of our branch had a part in the blessings we received. The children are the future of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We began Saturday morning by joining the Church worldwide in fast and prayer. We were filled with God's love as our prayers were offered to Him. We have many illnesses, trials, and tribulations in these times and we need to look to our Savior for comfort and mercy.

We continued the day with our Sunday School picnic, planned to introduce our children to a motivational program that will inspire them to continue attending. We have 21 children ranging in ages from one to sixteen. God's blessings surrounded us as we enjoyed fun, games, and fellowship. Our little Erika Rooney, who has been fighting a battle with illness and has undergone several chemotherapy treatments, was able to attend the picnic with God's strength and love. Also, our dear Brother Frank Rosati, diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, was able to enjoy the fellowship as well. It was wonderful to see all the children interacting with each other and with the adults. The spiritual nourishment our children get now are stepping stones to their future in the Gospel.

Sunday morning began with 19 of our 21 children attending Sunday School. It was wonderful to see the anticipation for the events that would take place. We continue to pray for our children that they will seek these teachings each week.

The adult Sunday School was also enriched as we continued our lesson of Hebrews Chapter 10. We are reminded of the supreme sacrifice of our Savior for our salvation. We must remain faithful to receive the promise God has made to us.

This Sunday was also dedicated as a feet washing service. After opening our meeting, Sister Debbie Gonzalez beautifully sang *Face to Face*. The love and emotion in her singing touched us all. This is the desire we all have to see our Savior, face to face.

We had visitors from other branches that added to the love we felt.

Brother Jason Genaro and Jaime from Ohio, Brother Matthew Kurowsky from Pennsylvania, Sister Cindy Palestra from Tampa, Florida, and a community neighbor, Mike Kretchmer, who was recently married at our branch. He and his wife are looking for a church to attend. We welcome all to serve the Lord.

Brother Scott Griffith led our service referring to Alma 22 where Aaron and his brethren were led by the Spirit to the land of Nephi and the house of the king to minister to him. Hearing the word, the king wanted to give up everything to receive great joy of eternal life. We are taught by the word of God that diligence in our faith shall reap great rewards.

Brother Sam Risola and Brother John Griffith followed continuing on the same subject of true faith. We are not always shown in tangible ways, answers to our prayers, but through our faith, we can recognize the power and mercy of our Lord.

We broke for lunch only to continue with our spiritual nourishment. Brother Dwayne Eutsey read from Matthew concerning the Last Supper, reminding us of the meaning of the bread and wine and the supreme sacrifice of our Lord for our salvation. We then proceeded to receive communion.

Our next ordinance of feet washing was led by Brother Matthew Kurowsky who read from John, explaining how the Lord set the example of humility through this ordinance. After completing feet washing, we opened for testimony. The spirit of God's love was so engulfing that there was no hesitation to stand and thank God. Brother Milford Eutsey, II who just had kidney stones removed asked to be anointed so that the Lord would be with him in the next few days. Brother Matthew Kurowsky and Brother Jason Genaro both testified of the love God gives them and asked for prayers for God's guidance in continuing their studies, as they decide their future. They both need God's direction to follow the path that will include the Lord's work in their lives.

After testimony, the ministry called Brother Matthew and Brother

Jason forward for a special prayer on their behalf. The Elders formed a circle around both brothers. Brother Scott Griffith was inspired to pray and confirmation of the Lord's spirit and guidance was evident by interpretation of tongues spoken by Brother John Griffith saying, "I walk with you, I will walk beside you because I love you, thus saith the Lord."

We concluded our meeting by singing *How Great Thou Art* followed by prayer dismissing us. Our souls were truly filled with showers of blessings upon us all. Our cups continue to overflow with the Lord's love. There are great things in store for us who love and serve our Savior if we remain faithful. We must continue to strive in faith so our lights will never dull.

## A Child Returns Blessings in Roscoe, Pennsylvania

By Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky

The day had a beautiful beginning, as we looked upon the smiling faces of our visitors, Brother Rick and Sister Darlene Markazene from the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch and their daughter, Shelley Markazene visiting from Simi Valley, California Branch. Shelley sang for our opening hymn, *How Great Thou Art*. Brother James Abbott spoke on how we should use our talents, remembering many years ago how he would not sing out because he was embarrassed, as he never felt he was able to sing. He related an experience in which he was visiting an elderly sister from the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch with a group of brothers and sisters. He said this elderly sister, though up in age, sang a solo for them. He said the Lord spoke to him at the time and said, "See, she is singing praises to me from her heart and you should sing this way also." He understood that the Lord was pleased when we put forth an effort, and wasn't interested so much in the voice, but the praise that comes from

the heart. He said from that time on, he has never held back from singing whenever given the opportunity to praise God. Brother James spoke from the 11th Chapter of Matthew verses 28-30; "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." He told us several experiences of God's blessings in his life and in the lives of those who serve Him, encouraging all to take upon them the yoke of Christ.

During our afternoon meeting, Brother Raymond Ambrose Sr. was quick to rise and express his desire to be reinstated into fellowship. After Brother Ray was reinstated by the laying on of hands by the priesthood, each brother and sister went up and greeted him, welcoming him back to the fold. Brother Ray gave a beautiful testimony of how he first came into the Church and how God has worked in his life, and how he felt to be back in fellowship. After sacrament was served, there were several testimonies of praise and thanksgiving. The day had a beautiful beginning and ending. It was good to be in the House of the Lord. Praise God, "How Great Thou Art!"

## Fort Pierce, Florida Happenings

By Sister Terri Benyola

On Thursday, September 21, 2000, the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch invited our friends from the Seminole Tribe on the Brighton Indian Reservation to visit and worship with us. We were so excited to see a good number join us and participate in this evening's meeting.

Brother John D'Orazio felt a desire to speak this evening and the spirit of God was evident in our brother's words. Brother John said, "I am going to tell you why we love you

(Continued on Page 10)

## Fort Pierce, FL

Continued from Page 9

so much” and proceeded with great love and humility to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. There were several beautiful experiences that took place in this meeting.

Brother Frank Rogolino then asked our friends if they would like to sing for us, and they proudly came forward and sang in their native language. How beautiful it was to hear them express their love for the Lord. Several of our friends told us about the many saints throughout the region they have met over the years. It was a night of reminiscing.

Following our meeting, refreshments were served and we enjoyed more time with our friends. It was and still is the desire of the Fort Pierce Branch that we meet together from time to time with our friends on the reservation, and share God’s love for all mankind. Remember to pray for us.

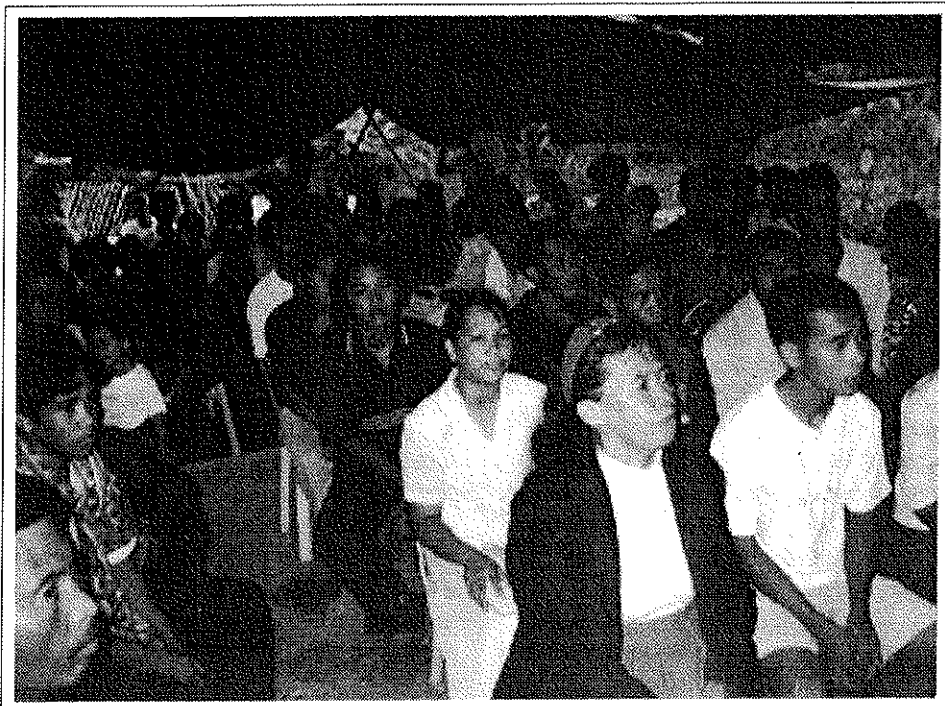
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 Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

the inflection in his voice changed. Even though we could not understand his native language, or the different words he spoke, we understood that the Lord had done something special. After his testimony ended, everyone was amazed that he had spoken in an unknown language.

Did the Lord want me to reveal to all the readers how God was working with the new Elders? A young energetic 25-year-old man had been given many dreams and experiences since his baptism. In one dream the Lord showed him a beautiful stream of water with many different colored fishes swimming. He was handed a large net by an Elder from America and the dream ended. He questioned, what could this mean? The dream continued for three consecutive nights. Finally, the Lord gave him understanding that he was being called to work for the Lord to be a fisher of men. Was that the message for the saints in America?



A Church service in the Philippines.

As I sat, wrote, pondered, and prayed, the Lord opened my mind to something that was in the recesses of my thoughts during the entire trip and ever since we have returned home. It was the scripture and message of II Nephi 29:7, as quoted above.

## REVELATION RECALLED

As the FMOC (Foreign Mission Operating Committee) had begun the correspondence and investigation of this new mission field, one of the initial tasks was to research and review any experiences or revelations that God had given concerning this country. Doing this research brought to my mind our late Apostle Paul D’Amico. Brother Paul had a dream concerning this land (recorded by the Church in July 1946). In this experience, Brother Paul asked, “When will the Gospel go to the Philippines?” The answer was the following; “After the main switchboard is completed and after our base has been established in the United States we will then make connections elsewhere.” Additionally, the experience continued, “The time is going to come when connections will be made not only in the United States but, TO

EVERY KINDRED, TONGUE, AND NATION.”

The scripture listed at the beginning of this article asks two questions. First, “Know ye not that there are more nations than one?” I believe that the Church in my lifetime has come to a more complete understanding of this question and the answer then at any point in our short history. Of course we know that the scripture promises that the knowledge of the Gospel will some day cover the earth. However, it is really a promise that, although we believe, is very hard to conceive in our minds. We, the Church, are so few and so scattered, how will it ever come to pass? Hence, the second question.

“Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, *and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; . . . ?*”\* I was reminded on this past missionary trip of this scripture and its importance to all of the future events we believe in as a Church. To me, the Lord is showing – yes, reminding – us that He has all things of the Restoration in His hands. He knows all His creation and ALL His promises will be fulfilled as the scriptures claim. We have not seen in the most recent past multitudes come,



congregations started, Elders and officers called, miracles and blessings witnessed in such a short time.

The Lord is reminding us that the connections are being made today. The Lord will never forget His people or His promises. We must know, believe, and work with a zeal and determination that is greater than we have ever done before. The Lord is ready to make the connections. Are we?

\* Italics by the writer.

## Americas Missionary Operating Committee Report

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto, Chairman*

God has truly blessed our Americas Missionary Operating Committee (AMOC) in recent months and I would like to thank the entire Church for supporting all of the missionary efforts in progress. Without your donations we could not reach out to the Seed of Joseph! Each time you give to your branch, a portion of what you give goes to the General Church. In turn, a large portion of the donations received by the General Church goes to support our missionary efforts. May God bless each of you as you continue to make it possible for the work to go forward!

I am writing this article to provide an overview of our committee's efforts to reach the Seed of Joseph. The Church has been given a Divine Commission to preach the Restored Gospel to the seed of Joseph (Joseph) whom we understand are one of the twelve tribes of Israel as chronicled in the Holy Bible and Book of Mormon. The AMOC was established by the Quorum of Seventy and has been given the responsibility to take the Gospel message to Joseph in North, Central and South America. The AMOC is comprised of the following subcommittees:

### Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC)

The NAOC works closely with the

Quorum of Seventy's domestic committees in the United States and Canada to coordinate efforts with Native Americans on Indian Reservations and in urban areas. Missionary efforts are currently ongoing at Indian reservations in Arizona, New Mexico and Canada. The Church is also working with Indian peoples in major urban Indian centers, such as in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and with smaller groups throughout the United States and Canada.

### New Works Committee (NWC)

The NWC investigates and coordinates new missionary opportunities outside the United States. Missionary efforts are currently ongoing on the island of Dominica and the country of Colombia.

### Guatemala Missionary Operating Committee (GMOC)

The GMOC coordinates missionary opportunities in the country of Guatemala. There is currently a mission in Guatemala City.

### Mexico Missionary Operating Committee (MMOC)

The MMOC coordinates missionary opportunities in the country of Mexico. There are currently missions in Baja, California, Sinaloa, Michoacan, Chihuahua, Durango and Mexico City.

### Peru Missionary Operating Committee (PMOC)

The PMOC coordinates missionary opportunities in the country of Peru. There is currently a mission in the city of Arequipa.

### Venezuela Missionary Operating Committee (VMOC)

The VMOC coordinates missionary opportunities in the country of Venezuela. There is currently a mission in Valle Guanape.

Hopefully, this overview of the scope of the AMOC has given you a desire to learn more about each individual work. Each of these subcommittees will periodically provide progress reports to the *Gospel News* so you will understand how God is working with the Seed of Joseph. Their

reports will detail recent baptisms, ordinations, and opportunities that are opening up to the Church. If your heart has been stirred with a desire to be a part of this wonderful work, please let us know. The words of Christ are still true: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38).

May God bless us all with higher levels of commitment and support.

## Singles Fellowship Weekend

*Continued from Page 7*

*into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:" Are you set for life? If you don't know Jesus Christ you are not set for life. If you follow the Sermon on the Mount you will be set for life. We must repent, receive the Holy Spirit, endure and follow the Lord. If you want to give your best the only way to do so is to follow the example of Jesus.*

Bro. Philip Jackson stated that to be set, you must be prepared for what you have to do. It is imperative that we take some time to prepare through fasting and prayer. He continued stating that very few prayers are answered instantly, that we must be consistent in our petitions to the Lord.

Bro. Isaac Smith asked "Where do you set yourself at the end of the day?" He stated that we must set ourselves beside our beds.

The spirit of peace and unity were present as communion was served and our weekend was brought to an end.

Thanks be to the Lord for all that he provided and taught us this weekend. The writer of this article thanks the many whose efforts made this weekend possible and a success.

May we all take a moment and ponder what we can do to Give Our Best To The Master and be a delight to those we come in contact with.

## Birth

Olivia Marie Siebert, daughter of Randy and Sister Robin Siebert of the Liberty, Ohio Branch, was born on March 6, 2001.

## Child Blessed

Trevor Lawrence King, son of Thomas and Sister Jacqui King was blessed in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on February 18, 2001.

## Baptisms

Sister Maria Saldana was baptized on March 18, 2001 in the Miami Dade, Florida Mission. She was baptized by Brother Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Brother George Kovacic.

Brother Ricardo Nava was baptized on April 1, 2001 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Isidro Gonzalez and confirmed by Brother Stacy Light.

Sister Candace Picciuto was baptized on April 1, 2001 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Matt Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Flip Palacios.

Sister Ester Delgado was baptized on April 1, 2001 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Ciccatti and confirmed by Brother Ken Surdock.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Nicholas Ritz of the Miami Dade, Florida Mission celebrated his 80th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 1, 2001, and Sister Pauline Ritz of the Miami Dade, Florida Mission celebrated her 78th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 23, 2001.

## OBITUARIES

### JAN PAINTER

Sister Jan Painter passed onto her reward on August 26, 2000. Sister Jan is survived by her daughter, Sister Jessica Painter.

### MARY JANE CERVONE

Sister Mary Jane Cervone passed onto her reward on December 29, 2000. Sister Mary Jane is survived by her husband, Brother Frank; two children, Sister Cheryl and Tim; and three brothers, Brothers Gerry, Ray and Dennis Benyola.

### JOSEPHINE KISH

Sister Josephine Kish passed onto her reward on March 23, 2001. Sister Josephine is survived by her husband, Richard Attenberger; her son, Gary; three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

### LOUISE BRUNO

Sister Louise Bruno passed onto her reward on March 5, 2001. Sister Louise is survived by her husband, Brother Kenny Bruno; her mother, Mary Spink; sons Dennis and Ronny; and two grandsons Kenneth and Michael.

### JOSEPH FURITANO

Joseph Furitano passed onto his reward on February 23, 2001. Joseph is survived by his wife, Beth; two daughters, Lisa Furitano and Christina Czerny; a son, John; his mother, Grace; three sisters, Sisters Rose Mary Ausillo, Josephine McLennan, and Kathleen Furitano; three grandchildren and a large extended family.

### ANTHONY ARCURI

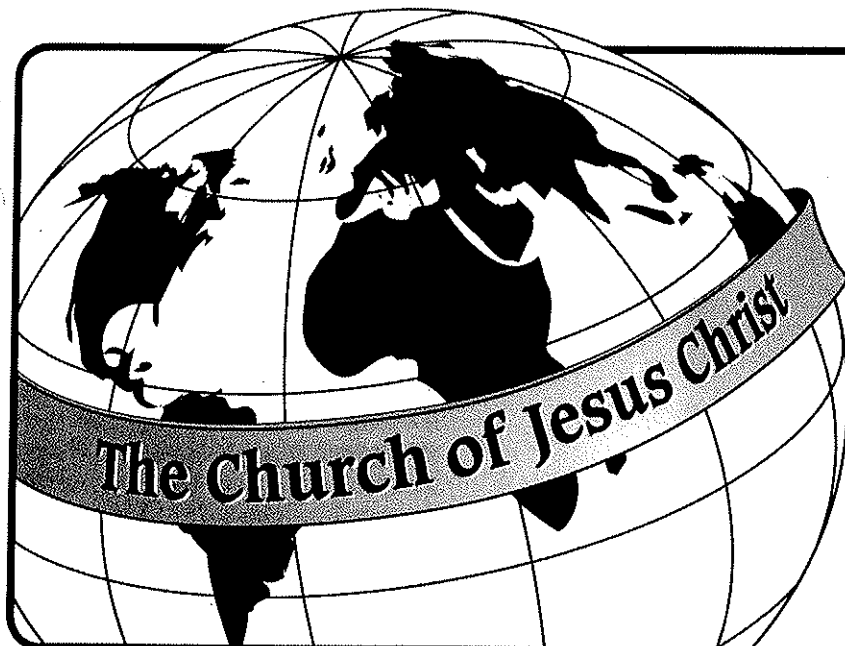
Brother Anthony Arcuri passed onto his reward on February 9, 2001. Brother Anthony is survived by his wife, Sister Josephine, six children, 26 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, two brothers, and four sisters. Two daughters preceded him in death.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 2001

Volume 57, No. 7

## Three More Baptized in Peru

*By Evangelist Richard Christman*

On our most recent trip to Peru, we had the opportunity to see the fruits of the Gospel, as three young people made their decision to serve God and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Brother Vicente Gongora and his wife, Sister Maria, had been praying and requesting prayer for the past two years. They recently had their first child blessed and he was a witness to their baptisms. Our prayer is that God will prosper them, both spiritually and naturally.

Brother Jose Cardenas was also desirous of baptism for about two years. At age 15, he is now our youngest member. His mother has been a faithful member of the Church. His father, also a member, had not been active recently and was struggling with discouragement because of a lack of employment and a difficult problem that was hard to overcome.

### VERY PLEASED

When Brother Jose requested his baptism, his mother was very pleased. We were unable to contact his father immediately. After several

attempts, we were able to speak to him and he gave us permission to baptize his son the following morning. He was told everyone would have to meet at the hotel at 8:00 a.m. sharp, as it is a 45-minute ride by auto to the baptismal site, a good portion of which is unpaved mountain road. We cautioned him that if he wanted to be at his son's baptism, he would have to be on time. Humorously, it was mentioned to him that if he missed the vehicle's departure, that he would have to ride his bicycle.

The following morning, Brother Elar was not there at 8:00 a.m. and we departed about 8:15 a.m. for the baptism, as the majority of our members had to be at work at 10:00 a.m. There was a very nice baptismal service, with Brother Juan Mestas baptizing Brother and Sister Gongora, and I had the honor of baptizing Brother Jose Cardenas.

As we were concluding the baptisms and confirmations at the river, Brother Elar arrived on his bicycle, having pedaled all the way, including up the rough mountain road. We were very pleased to see him make such an effort and were able to share the baptisms with him on videotape.

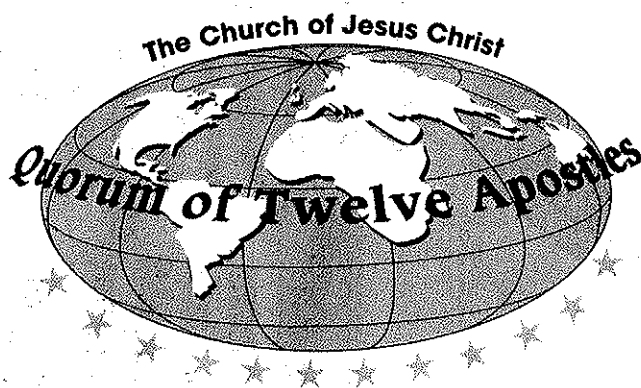
The following morning, which was Sunday, Brother Elar asked for forgiveness and asked to be renewed into the Church. There was a wonderful spirit amid the great blessing to see God's mercy extended to Brother Elar. Please pray for him that he might find steady employment and remain strong in spite of the personal matter he must face.

### CONTINUED DIFFICULTY

There is continued difficulty in renting a suitable meeting place, so everyone is looking forward to the time when a permanent church building of our own becomes a reality. Also, there is much opposition by other religious groups who are trying to discourage our people. Prayer is also being requested for all our members in Peru that God will bring forth further evidences of His Church with the spirit and gifts of the Gospel.

Peru has been going through a very difficult political situation that has greatly harmed the economy. As a result, many are suffering for lack of employment or reduced employment. The brothers and sisters are very grateful for the support of the saints and particularly the General Ladies' Uplift Circle and some of the Regional Circles who have donated to their building fund.

(Continued on Page 3)



## The Mandate of Forgiveness

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the July, 1995 issue of the Gospel News.)

We must understand that forgiveness was not a 20<sup>th</sup> century revelation, but rather its origin goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. It is quite evident that God gave Adam and Eve only one law, that being the forbidding of them from partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It is also evident that this one law encompassed all the laws that were given to them.



Apostle Robert A. Watson

The sin committed by Adam and Eve in breaking the law of God is outlined by Lehi to his son Jacob. Wherein he says in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 2:25-26, "Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the full-

ness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall, they have become free forever knowing good from evil, to act for themselves and not to be acted upon." King Benjamin further enlightens us in the year B.C. 124 that the introduction of sin to the human family through the fall of Adam and Eve would be forgiven through the atoning blood of Christ. After conveying this revelation to the multitude in Mosiah 4:2 they replied, "O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified; for we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth."

We can then readily see that forgiveness became the keystone of God's love and relationship with man and He fully expected that our love and forgiveness for our fellow man would also be the keystone to following the precepts of Jesus. The concept of forgiveness was taught by Jesus in Matthew 6:14-15 wherein He says, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

It appears that Jesus is identifying forgiveness in the form of a mandate. The meaning of a mandate being "to authorize as by the enactment of a law."

We must then conclude that if we are to follow the dictates of Christ, we must possess a forgiving spirit. To forgive our fellow man then is to keep

the law of God intact, and if we refuse to forgive our fellow man, it is paramount to breaking the law of forgiveness. It is then very important to know the Hebrew word that signifies forgiveness—the word being "Nasa" which gives us the idea of lifting up and removing sin. The removing of sin is verified in the New Testament stating that forgiveness comes through the atoning blood of the Lamb of God. As stated in John 1:29, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

We must believe that the Biblical answer to forgiveness is through the atoning blood of Jesus, and if we do not offer forgiveness to those who sin when they sincerely repent and ask forgiveness, we are saying in essence that the blood of Christ does not cover all sin. This in my judgment is to advocate a very defective and dangerous theology.

Forgiveness is an action verb and it doesn't mean that we should sit around waiting for the other person to repent. To forgive means to give up or give away if someone violates your rights; forgiveness means you give up your rights of reaction, and to get even no matter how much you may feel revenge is justified. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:19, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Yes, forgiveness of ourselves and those who hurt us is an imperative, and if we fail to comply with this, we could be setting a higher standard than God.

We often hear this statement made, "I forgive you now but if you ever do it again, you could be suspended." This is not true forgiveness. It is rather forgiveness with intimidation. We use forgiveness as a bargaining chip telling the other person I will cash it in when it is convenient. We use this type of forgiveness as a strong method of controlling the situation and our relationship with the other person. This in essence gives us power. It is a form of terrorist activity. We virtually hold others in the prison of our unforgiveness. We do not realize that this kind of spirit also imprisons us. We must then set others free and in

turn it will set us free. We also find some members saying, "I am not offended, rather I am hurt." This is many times a play on words or a covering of feelings. I also hear this kind of apology, "If I have offended you, please forgive me." When you say IF, it indicates that you may not be convinced that you have hurt the other party, and, therefore, perhaps it may not be a true apology. This is only a true statement if the offender truly believes he or she truly committed an offense. This in essence retains a level of control in the hands of the apologizer.

Forgiveness has been said to be the oil of relationships. If you know a person is unforgiving, you can never be truly open and vulnerable to him or her. Friendship without forgiveness will not last. We need to know that even when we have failed miserably, it will not change our relationship.

It is also very important that we fully understand that forgiveness is not governed by selectivity or chronology. We should not have different standards of forgives for pre-baptism and post-baptism. We should also not place excessive burdens on those who are baptized—especially the young. We must remember that baptism does not give us total perfection. We must

also realize that the Church represents the last refuge for many people. We must not deny them the right to survive within the Church.

The Apostle John speaks to this issue as he refers to the Church calling them *"My little children..."* in 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1. *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* John also says to the Church in 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:8-9, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

As we have heard the words of John, let us now go to Christ the greatest authority of all on forgiveness. In Matthew 18:21, Jesus outlines the law governing offenses, and the Apostle Peter was concerned about how many times should he forgive his brother who sinned against him. Peter asked the question, Should I forgive him seven times? Jesus saith unto him, *"I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."* It is quite apparent that Peter

was referring to those within the Church as when he refers to a brother who sinned against him and the answer that Jesus gave placed forgiveness beyond numerical scale.

As we conclude this topic, may we imprint the words of Paul in our minds and Spirit as he speaks to the Church in Ephesians 4:30-32, *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Paul also addresses the Church members on spiritual behavior in Colossians 3: 12-13, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*

I trust that the scriptural evidence as stated in this article will bring a greater understanding on what forgiveness is as taught by Christ, and that we may have the courage to implement this mandate in our lives.

## Baptisms in Peru

Continued from Page 1

Brother Miguel Bicelis and Sister Pat Christman were the others who made this trip. It was very uplifting to see that Brother Juan Mestas, the resident minister, and the congregation are continuing to bring visitors and are zealous to spread the Gospel. Recently, the Arequipa area has had severe rainfall, which has caused many of the adobe homes to collapse, and resulted in a number of mudslides. Obviously, your prayers and support are desired, particularly on behalf of those who have lost their homes and those who are in dire financial need.

As the people of Peru turn to the

Gospel of Jesus Christ, God will bless the land and eventually restore it to a condition of spiritual and natural prosperity, as He intended His children to have. Thank God we have such a sure hope and a bright future!

## Note of Thanks

We wish to thank our brothers, sisters, and friends for the many cards, phone calls, and prayers during the recent passing of our mother, Sister Josephine Ross. Your love and support will never be forgotten. May God bless every one of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

The family of Sister Josephine Ross

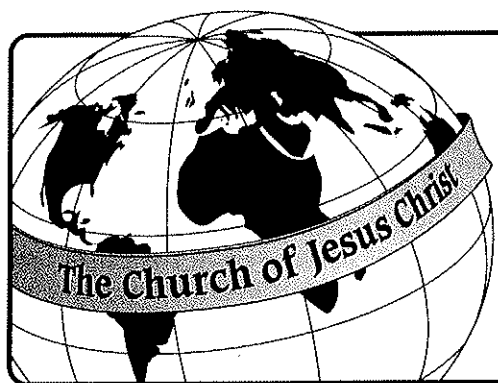
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## A message from the Seventy

### Apostle Visits Kenya

*By Evangelist Mark Kovacic*

The saints in Kenya were well prepared, both naturally and spiritually, to receive the first visit of an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ, as witnessed by the blessings that emerged. Apostle Paul Palmieri traveled to Kenya, East Africa with Evangelists Wayne Martorana and Mark Kovacic thus becoming the first Apostle to visit that country. In each village where we visited, the saints warmly greeted him and gladly received his messages. Throughout the trip, we could see that the hand of God was upon us. It was wonderful to fellowship with Brother Stephen Osaka, his father and mother, Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka, and all of the saints.

Although we encountered unusual weather (rain and fog), difficult driving conditions (rocky and muddy roads), and various vehicle problems, God blessed us with good health and the ability to fulfill all that we planned to perform.

Our journey started on March 3, 2001 and concluded with our arrival back in the USA on March 16, 2001. The following describes some of what we saw, heard and experienced.

While visiting the village of Omosasa, a very heavy rain fell on the metal roof shelter. With no barrier or insulation between the metal roof and us, the noise from the rain was deafening, requiring us to shout to be heard. Brother Mark introduced Brother Paul to the saints and Brother Paul began to speak to them about his personal life

and conversion. He then asked that the words of Christ from Luke 10:21-23 be read in Swahili (about the disciples returning after their first missionary trip). Brother Stephen started reading the words of Christ and immediately the rains stopped and it got perfectly silent outside and inside. What a blessing to know that Jesus Christ still controls the weather in this day and age.

With almost five hundred members in Kenya in ten villages, the four ministers were spread quite thinly. We were excited when God called two more laborers to assist in the work. During our Sunday services in the village of Kenyanya, we performed the ordination of Brothers Nyangaresi Semba and Tom Obure as ministers.

We met in the church sponsored technical school and the little, rented meeting room was packed with about

80 people. After some singing, led by Brother Elizaphan Osaka (the first member and first Elder from the nation of Kenya) Brother Paul read the duties and responsibilities of an Elder. Then the brothers had their feet washed. Brother Paul washed Brother Nyangaresi's feet and Brother Andrew

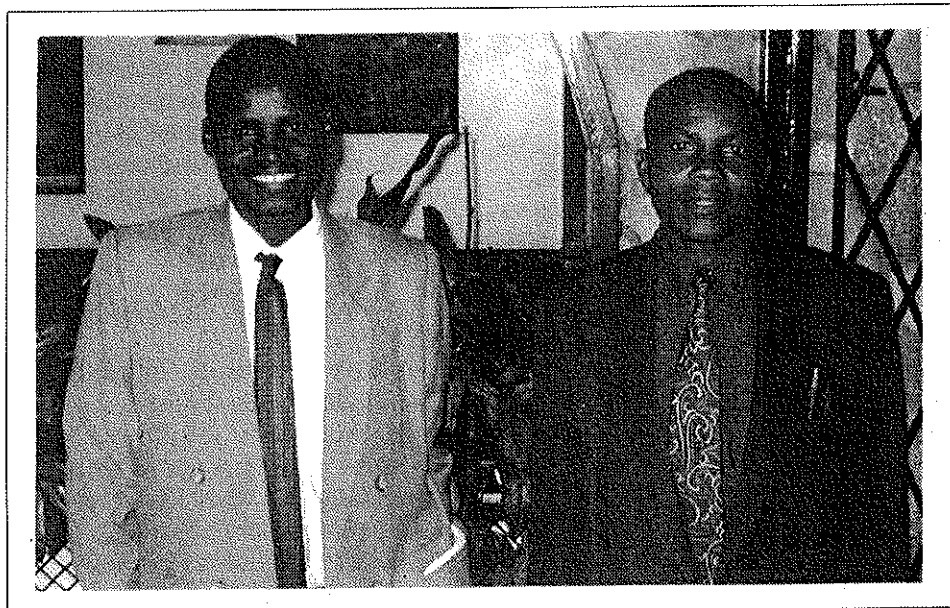


**Apostle Paul Palmieri with Elder Andrew Ontomwa**

Ontomwa washed Brother Tom's feet. Brother Stephen then offered prayer and Brother Mark ordained Brother Tom and Brother Wayne ordained Brother Nyangaresi.

Near the conclusion of the Sunday service two events occurred. First, Brother Paul and Brother Wayne

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**Our two new elders: Left, Tom Obure; Right, Nyangaresi Semba.**





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Independence Day is a time this nation reflects on the liberty and freedom that we enjoy because of the determination of our forefathers to live under such conditions. If you read history, the main goal of our forefathers was to obtain religious freedom in order to worship and serve God in truth and righteousness. Several years back at a General Church Conference, Apostle Joseph Bittering made a profound statement that this nation has redefined this wonderful freedom FROM sin into meaning freedom TO sin. Today, this freedom has been used as a defense for committing any type of sinful behavior imaginable. At the same time, religious expression is becoming more and more frowned upon because of how it will "offend" someone else. Satan has done a remarkable job in ensuring that this nation becomes progressively evil. We in The Church of Jesus Christ can cite many examples in scripture that are types and shadows of the condition we live in today. One example is in the time of Noah, before the flood. Many disregarded the spiritual warnings until it was too late. Sodom and Gomorrah is another example of how the minds of people were fixed on evil desires continually, until they were destroyed. Even more specifically, The Book of Mormon points to God's decree concerning this land of America. *"And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity"* (Ether 2:9). In The Book of Mormon, the Jaredite nation was swept off the land because of sin, as well as the Nephite nation. Today, this Gentile nation is in a very precarious position before God. Sin is running rampant, as is religious indifference. Things that are good are being called evil and things that are evil are being called good (as the scripture predicted). It would be easy for us to bury our heads in the sand and say it isn't happening, and that "all is well in Zion," but the truth is, God's sword of justice hangs over this nation.

As saints of God, there is no need for us to fear what is happening around us. The only time we should fear is if we displease God. But if we are retaining a remission of our sins each day, and serving God sincerely, He will protect us from His wrath. *"... Wherefore the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire"* (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 22:17). The Independence Day we look forward to is "Independence From Sin Day." This will be a time when *"... Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 30:18). It will be a day that many of the *Songs of Zion* speak so joyfully about. A day of peace upon this promised land. Imagine not having to lock your doors at night! Imagine not hearing about murder, rape, wars, prejudice, pride, anger, or any of the fruits that sin will bear. Imagine having all things in common, no rich or poor! Imagine seeing the scales fall off the eyes of Israel, and a highway taking spiritually weary travelers to this land! They will say, *"... Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"* (Isaiah 2:3). Oh, brothers, sisters and friends, doesn't your heart leap with the very thought of this?! Let us live with this beautiful vision each day. The scripture says that without vision, the people will perish. But with vision comes hope, and with hope comes joy unspeakable.

How do we prepare for this great event? We can ponder on it, speak about it, encourage others about it, demonstrate that spirit of peace in our homes, our branches or missions, and with our friends. True independence means independence from sin. On this Independence Day, let's wave that flag of Zion from the rooftop, and celebrate the true Independence Day that awaits us.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## God Tells Joseph No

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever pray hard for something and not get it? Did you ever wonder if maybe God just wasn't listening, or maybe He didn't like you? What if He was listening, but His answer to you was No! Have you thought about that?

Joseph of old was seventeen years of age. He had a father named Jacob who loved him over his eleven brothers. He had a beautiful coat of many colors and eleven jealous brothers. Some of them hated him.

Joseph's dreams made him feel even more special. He dreamed that each of his brothers was a bundle of wheat and each bundle bowed in front of his bundle. He dreamed his parents were the sun and moon and they bowed in front of him too.

"Oh, here comes the dreamer who thinks he is so important!" his brothers said when he came out to the fields to check on them.

"Let's kill him now!" one shouted.

"No, don't kill him—just put him in this big hole," suggested another. "We'll soak his coat in animal blood so our father will think a wild beast killed him."

How Joseph must have begged and cried when his older brothers shoved him into the ground. The next day when his brothers pulled him out and sold him to some traders, you know he must have been calling to God to let him go.

Joseph suffered many many days before he arrived in faraway Egypt. How lonely a dusty shepherd boy must



have felt in a huge city of foreigners! Don't you think he wondered if God was hearing him when a rich man named Potiphar bought him and took him home?

Years passed and Joseph, the slave, worked hard and learned to run his master's businesses. One day Potiphar's wife told her husband terrible lies about Joseph and he was dragged away to prison. No one believed Joseph when he told them she was lying.

Can you imagine how disappointed and scared Joseph must have felt when he walked through the prison doors? Do you think he ever wondered in his heart, even for one minute, if God was listening to his cries?

Several years passed and Joseph learned much about hard prisoners and prison life. The keeper of the prison eventually gave Joseph total charge there. The Lord was with Joseph and everything he did turned out right.

When a servant of the Pharaoh was imprisoned, he dreamed a dream that worried him. Joseph was given power by God to tell him the true meaning. Two years passed and the servant finally mentioned Joseph to the Pharaoh because he, too, was troubled by a dream.

Joseph told Pharaoh the truth. He said, "It's not me that tells you your dream; God will give you the answer." Then Joseph explained to Pharaoh that his dreams meant seven years of good crops would be followed by seven years of no crops. Pharaoh trusted Joseph and released him from prison. Joseph was made second in charge of the whole kingdom.

For seven years he organized a way to store grain. When the hard times came, there was food to buy in

Egypt. Finally even shepherds from far away, Joseph's family, came to Egypt to buy food. At first they never recognized their younger brother, who was living like a king in Egypt. They bowed to him (like in his boyhood dreams) and begged to buy corn. Everyone in that part of the world suffered from starvation. If God hadn't spoken through Joseph, there would have been no food saved anywhere.

Now, years later, we can see why God answered Joseph's prayers by saying, No. Being sold led him to Egypt. Serving Potiphar he learned Egyptian ways and how to manage many responsibilities. Losing his comfortable life and landing in prison taught him much about ruling all sorts

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

PHARAOHS	NO
DREAMS	YOU
CAME	MUST
TRUE	WAIT
JOSEPH	I
WAS	HAVE
BOSS	A
SOMETIMES	BIGGER
GOD	BETTER
SAYS	PLAN

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



**The Church of Jesus Christ**

**GMBA CAMPOUT 2001**

**AUGUST 4-10**

**Texas Womens University**

**Denton, Texas**

**STAND**

Ephesians 6:13



**Branch and  
Mission News**

## **Blessings in Modesto, California**

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

On October 22, 2000, we enjoyed the visit of one of the Pacific area officers, Brother Jim Huttenberger, to our branch. Brother Jim opened our service with 2nd Timothy Chapter 4, which refers to the Apostle Paul's letter in which he states that he has fought a good fight and kept the faith. Brother Jim reminded each of us that we sometimes must do battle with the enemy of our souls, and we must finish our course. We each need to work out our salvation with God. He told us that, if there was no other motivator for us, then let it be this crown of

righteousness the Lord has promised to those who keep His commandments and endure to the end. All of the trials and afflictions of this life will seem so miniscule, like a dream, when compared to the crown of righteousness He will place upon our heads. Brother Jim compared our course to being in a spiritual Olympics. There is an enemy of our souls who desires to defeat us. But God is on our side! If we finish the course there is only a gold medal awaiting us—a gold crown to be placed upon our heads. Brother Jim gave us several Biblical examples of those who had seemingly insurmountable odds against them, but through the power of God, they were victorious. God knows the trouble and temptations we are encountering. Our brother encouraged us that God has a plan for our lives, and at the end of this race, He looks forward to placing this crown of salvation upon us. Continuing in with the Olympics analogy, competitors train from childhood to be prepared for the event. Spiritually speaking, we cannot go up against the

enemy of our souls without training. We need to go to church, study, fast and pray to learn how to deal with these obstacles that come before us in life. God has given us a gift. Brother Jim asked us, "How many of you know and use the gift God has given you?" He also asked us, "Which event in the Church are you going to become expert in? How trained are you in the event?"

The afflictions in our lives are minor compared with what awaits us in the latter days. Brother Jim encouraged us not to quit; we know Jesus will see us through until that day.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo followed. In his sermon, he exhorted us that our fight is to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth. We are only a few, and there are some odds against us that we are encountering; however, if we are on the Lord's side, we are winners and conquerors. Today, our fight is against the power of evil, which is trying to destroy our soul. The goal is to finish what we set out to do. Our

(Continued on Page 8)

## Blessings in Modesto, CA

Continued from Page 7

brothers admonished us, "Don't let anything distort your thinking. You may have physical loss, or monetary loss, but don't lose your soul!" Brother Leonard encouraged us to cry out to God for spiritual sight if we feel blind at times, and to think about spiritually fighting the good fight. The words of our brothers were edifying to us, and we carried the determination for victory with us as we closed our service for the day. May God bless us all as we strive to reach the goal of salvation He has promised to those who finish the course.

### RECOGNIZING A MISSIONARY

On April 29, 2001, we celebrated Brother Joseph Ciarolla's 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual



Brother Joe Ciarolla and his wife, Sister Jean.

birthday in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joseph was baptized on April 22, 1951 in the Niles, Ohio Branch. He was ordained a deacon, then teacher and then ordained into the ministry for 28 years. Brother Joe felt a calling upon his heart to minister to the seed of Joseph in Mexico, traveling from Modesto since 1957, when he began assisting Brother and Sister Perdue in the establishment of Mexican missions.

Brother Joe takes four trips each year to visit the various missions in Mexico, taking the Gospel of Jesus

Christ, meeting our people's spiritual needs as well as bringing donated suitcases full of clothing, money for groceries, and medicine to meet their natural needs. Over the years, Brother Joe has shared with us many miracles, healings and experiences that he has witnessed in the mission fields of Mexico.

The Modesto Branch presented Brother Joe with a clock and pen desk set and held a luncheon in his honor after our church service. We are very proud of Brother Joe's service and wish him many more years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Blessings in Lorain, Ohio

*By Sister Rose Palacios*

### YE WHO ARE CALLED TO LABOR

Brother Stirling Tate was ordained a deacon in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on March 11, 2001. This has been a blessing to the brothers and sisters of Lorain because he filled the shoes of our late Brother Mike Cocco who passed away last year. Brother Stirling is a very humble brother and is ready to do what is asked of him and does it for the Lord.

In this special meeting, Brother Tony Calabrese spoke about the duties of a deacon and encouraged our brother deacons also. Brother Troy Tate washed his uncle's feet and Brother Frank Palacios confirmed Brother Stirling as a deacon in the Church (this was Brother Frank's first confirmation since becoming an elder).

Brother Stirling asked for us to remember him in prayer because he wanted to do God's will. He told of an experience he had in which he was with Brother Mike Cocco, which we felt, was a confirmation to his calling. Other brothers and sisters related experiences regarding his calling and who would wash his feet. Another had an experience that Brother Frank would confirm him and a light was seen over them as this was being done.

A luncheon was held in the church

basement after the meeting to continue fellowshiping.

As we were all gathered together, a phone call was received from LaGrange, Kentucky that Brother Dan Palacios' wife, Tina asked for her baptism, along with Tracey, the daughter of Gary and Sister Carla Naro-King. Two other visitors to LaGrange had requested their baptism and these four were baptized on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The day before these baptisms, Tracey's husband, Brian, asked for his baptism. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, there were five baptisms in LaGrange, praise God!

### THE JOSHUA ERA CONTINUES TO MOVE ON!

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001, many young people from Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio traveled to Lorain, Ohio to witness the baptism of Brother Zachary Dziak (Sister Carla King's son). The morning began with a Sunday School lesson on the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Alma. The remainder of the morning was spent in song while we awaited the arrival of our out of town visitors.

Last week while in LaGrange, Kentucky, Brother Zack asked to have hands laid upon him for strength as he felt God's spirit working with him. We know God smiled down on him, as he listened to God's call and asked to be baptized! We would like to add that five others had been baptized that day in LaGrange and we thank Him for that also!

Brother Frank Palacios opened our meeting with 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, 4<sup>th</sup> chapter where Elijah's spirit touched a woman's dead son who came back to life, and likened that to how God's spirit touches us all to come to His Church, some young and some later in life. Brother Mark Naro followed on the same theme. We then left to go to the baptism site. Although the weather was cold, it was a beautiful day to see a young soul come to rest in the bosom of Jesus!

At the church after the baptism, Sister Kathy Vinsick told us that she saw a light under the water. As Brother Mark Naro raised his hand to baptize

our brother, the light was still there. After the baptism, the light disappeared. It was truly a blessing. For another confirmation of Zack's calling, Brother Mark told us that on Tuesday night before the baptism, Brother Zack was having second thoughts about his decision. Brother Mark reminded Zack how his late grandfather, Brother Chuck Naro has appeared to Brother Mark and encouraged him. God would encourage and help Zack as well. The following evening, Zack was anointed for strength. That night, Sister Rose Palacios had a dream in which it seemed as if Zack was a little boy, and she saw Brother Chuck take Zack by the hand and they began walking to the baptism site. By the time they arrived, Brother Zack had grown into a young man. We thank God and give Him the glory for the love He has for us in revealing and confirming His will. Blessed be His name!

God has protected Brother Zack's life many times. One particular experience took place when he was a toddler. He was sick and Sister Carla had given him some medicine before coming to a Wednesday night meeting so he could be anointed. During the course of the meeting, Zack had fallen asleep. At the end of the meeting when it came time for anointings, Sister Carla could not wake Zack up at all. The ministry came to the back pew where he was and anointed him. As they stood over him, Brother Frank Altamore spoke under the spirit saying, "Zack! Awaken! Awaken! Saith the Lord!" He immediately opened his eyes. Praise His name! How merciful and good God is to us all. May we continue to have faith in God for all His people.

#### YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS (JOEL 2:28)

Brother Greg Davis was at a fast and prayer meeting in January, 2001. The pew directly in front of where the deacons (Brother Greg) sit, has a light attached to the back of the pew that goes on when the church doors open (this lets the deacons know when someone enters the church building). The light went on and he went to the back to see who was coming in. He had

an amazing vision. He saw Peter, Alma, Nephi and others from the Bible and Book of Mormon (it was given to him to know who they each were).

It was a blessing for us in Lorain to hear him testify of his experience. Our desire is for all people, young and old, throughout the Church to fast and prayer for the gifts that God has to offer. Glory to God for His love!

### Visitors in Wagoner, Oklahoma

On Saturday, February 3, 2001, Brother Thomas D'Orazio, Brother John and Sister Linda D'Orazio left Dallas, Texas to visit Sister Pearl (June) Perkins and her family in Wagoner, Oklahoma. They were well received and welcomed in the love of God. Sister June is a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch and has been living in Oklahoma for about 16 years.

After a lunch graciously prepared by our sister and friends, they had a season of testimony, sharing experiences, singing and speaking of the love of God.

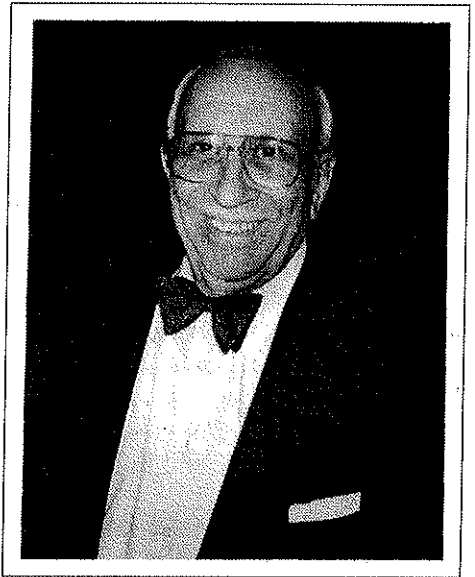
Brother John then blessed James David Sawyer, great-grandson of Sister June, and Brother Thomas blessed Amanda Lynn Chavez, great-granddaughter of Sister June. They are the children of Sister June's granddaughter Carrie and her husband Richard.

### Atlantic Coast Regional Gathering

On Wednesday evening, May 30, 2001, the brothers and sisters of the Atlantic Coast Region gathered in Hopelawn, New Jersey to bid a fond farewell to Evangelist Dominick Rose. A member of the Brooklyn, New York Branch since his baptism in 1932, Brother Rose is moving to Texas to live with his daughter, Sister Virginia Freberg.

Members from the Edison,

Freehold, Hopelawn, Metuchen and New Brunswick, New Jersey branches as well as Levittown, Pennsylvania, Bronx, New York, and Brooklyn, New York assembled in the Hopelawn Branch for a time of fellowship and reminiscing. A beautiful spirit of singing prevailed as the service began. After the opening prayer by Brother Jim Sgro, Regional President Brother Jerry Valenti invited a number of brothers who have known Brother Dominick over the years and worked



Evangelist Dominick Rose

with him in the Gospel to say a few words.

We heard from Evangelist Matthew Rogolino, who served with Brother Dominick in the ministry of the Brooklyn Branch – truly a unique branch of the church. Evangelist Salvatore (Sam) Sgro, who has made many monthly trips to Dedham, Massachusetts with Brother Dominick, followed, relating some of the manifestations of God's power experienced while on these missionary trips. Apostle Paul Benyola spoke of knowing Brother Rose when he was young and then later serving with him in the ministry and Quorum of Seventy. Members of the Brooklyn Branch paid a tribute to Brother Dominick, and related on a very personal level their memories of him and how he had

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## Atlantic Coast Regional Gathering

Continued from Page 9

ministered to them in various ways over the years.

Finally, Brother Dominick got up to speak. He humbly stated, "We did not come here to praise Brother Dominick. We came here to praise the Lord!" He then proceeded to give God all the honor, glory and thanks for the wonderful things Brother Dominick has experienced in his years in the Church. At age 81, Brother Dominick is one of our oldest members of the ministry in the Atlantic Coast, and is still very active. He stated that he is not excited about the prospect of leaving the wonderful family of God he had the privilege of knowing all these years; however, he knows that once he gets involved with the work of the Lord in Texas, he will be excited about being there. Several years ago, while Brother Dominick was hospitalized after a severe loss of blood, the Lord made it clear that He still has a work for him to do.

The region then presented Brother Dominick with a parting gift – or at least a facsimile thereof: a personalized copy of the new edition of The Book of Mormon, to be published by the Church later this year. All the members of the priesthood in attendance then came forward and we closed the meeting by singing *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Apostle Paul Benyola dismissed us in prayer, after which we enjoyed a blessed season of fellowship together.

## Hill Cumorah 2000

By Sister Lisa DiBattista

It was a brisk morning on July 8, 2000 when 49 souls gathered in the parking lot of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 bound for a journey to Hill Cumorah for the Pageant, along with a visit to the Rochester, New York Mission on Sunday.

Each of us boarded the bus

carrying a surprise bag containing our individual favorite hymn, scripture and candy bar because as we all know, functions are not complete without food. Brother Karl Moelke offered prayer asking the Lord to watch over us during our trip and provide for safe passage along the way.

The group met up with some brothers and sisters from the area who joined us for the weekend. A small group went to the Hill, while the rest visited Joseph Smith's home, the family farm, and the sacred grove. The grove was peaceful and serene just as it must have been when the Lord visited Joseph Smith. The Pageant

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*"Liberty isn't always physical. You can cause yourself to be chained to anything. . . . Be different and stand fast in the Lord, this is victory. Christ offers freedom and victory."*

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began around 9:15 p.m. We all know that we had seen a truly magnificent part of history and a second witness of Jesus Christ. From the raging seas, Nephi and his family survived, to the engulfing volcano, which came during the destruction, each act recreated an event accurate to the Book of Mormon and its contents.

We visited the Rochester, New York Mission on Sunday. Brother Andrew Locci opened the meeting grateful for the Lord's blessings and a visit from the saints of Branch #1. Sister Donna Amormino sang, *He Has Sent My Spirit Peace*. Brother Anthony Scolaro began with *The Standard of Liberty*, and spoke of Moroni's great dedication to liberty. He discussed the concept of liberty and how through the trials of Paul, he became very effective from his prison cell. Christ had made him free.

Brother Larry Champine followed by asking, "Do you feel like a Nephite? Our bondage was the sin of the world, falling past the mark of perfection

without Christ. We now have a message of hope that entered into our hearts, bondage has been let go—we're set free."

Brother Frank Natoli began with *Victory in Jesus*, asking, "Where are we today? Our spiritual blessings strengthen us; start today and stand fast, for we can't change yesterday. Can we stand fast today?" In Galatians 5:1, Apostle Paul told them not to go back into bondage. "It's easy to stand fast in Church; can we stand fast in life, in the world? It's hard to be different in the world. Victory in Christ helps us through the tough times."

Apostle Peter Scolaro followed with Acts 16, "Paul and Silas were preaching, the people turned against them, and threw them in prison. Did they have liberty? Liberty isn't always physical. You can cause yourself to be chained to anything. You can get to the point of not singing praises, and then the evil one is happy. Be different and stand fast in the Lord, this is victory. Christ offers freedom and victory. Paul and Silas were bound in jail but they were still free of bondage." Our brother then asked everyone to join in a circle and sing *My God Is Real*. All felt a powerful spirit. After sharing beautiful testimonies, Sisters Kathy Natoli and Rosanne Champine sang, *From the Innermost Prison*. All felt a beautiful spirit, and then the meeting was closed.

After the service, we enjoyed a beautiful lunch prepared by the brothers and sisters of Rochester. It was then time to say goodbye. Special thanks to all those who gave their time and effort to make this trip a most spirited event! We look forward to sharing in the Lord's blessings at our next planned event.

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## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

served the Lord's supper (after Brother Stephen explained our closed communion law). As usual, the saints and non-members were very solemn and



reverent during this holy ordinance. Then came the time for collections. The Kenyan brothers placed three boxes on the front table. The far right was for "free will" or their regular weekly donations (like a Sunday School collection). The middle box was for "tithing" or their regular monthly collection (like our free will percentage donations). The far left was for "relief." Today's relief was for a sister who had just become a widow. As the congregation sang, the members began to bring their donations forward and placed some in each box. Besides coins and currency, some brought bags of beans and corn and a large bunch of bananas (bringing the first fruits of their land to the House of the Lord). It was a beautiful sight to behold.

A major purpose of this trip was to train and encourage the ordained officers. We spent two days reviewing prepared seminar material with the ordained officers, answering their questions, and fellowshiping with them. What a blessing to see their enthusiasm and interest in better understanding the Church and the word of God. But to show how the Restoration has taken hold, we want to share the following incident. Last year during the visit to Kenya, Brother Mark gave an assignment to the members of the Kiogosi village. "Find a reference in the Book of Mormon where Isaiah 52:7 ('how beautiful upon the mountain...') is quoted three times. This year, Sister Joyce Abuga, a Deaconess and officer of the Ladies' Uplift Circle came to Brother Mark and asked, "Do you remember the assignment?" I found the references. I read the entire Book of Mormon to do so." She then stated the references correctly. Do you know them? Keep in mind; English is a third language for her. Her tribal tongue is Kisii, then the national tongue is Swahili and finally English. What a determination and desire to know and understand the Word of God!

In all nations there are habits and addictions that need to be fought and conquered. Kenya is no different. On Saturday afternoon while we were visiting the village of Itibo, a drunkard attempted to come into the meeting. The deacons dutifully shooed him

away, thinking he was a nuisance and would eventually disturb the meeting. But the man persisted. When he came back a second time, Brother Stephen told the brothers to allow him to come into the meeting and sit down. Brother Stephen then felt to pray for the man. Brother Paul immediately stood up and stated that he felt the same spirit and had a desire to see the man anointed. They walked over to him and together anointed him. Prayer was offered, asking God to rebuke and destroy the spirit that causes the man to drink. We felt the power of God in the anointing and prayer, and the man sat quietly and attentively through the rest of the service.

Throughout the trip we heard many wonderful testimonies—the following are just a few of them. One sister said, "I was a very bad person, but now I found salvation with my family." Sister Helen Nyabuto noted "how God healed me of sickness this very morning." Moses Asugo, the man who took Brother Stephen to Bible School many years ago, stood and testified that he was now attending The Church of Jesus Christ and was learning from his brothers. He wants his whole family to come and hear the Restored Gospel. A young brother stood up and said, "My family was (another denomination), but there I did not know what God wanted of me. I left there and once on the road I met Brother Stephen, who told me that God had something good for me. I came to Kenyenia (where the church meets) and I saw the Spirit moving and God was working with this people. I was converted and since then I have been here." Another young brother said, "I used to be a child of the devil, I used to drink and smoke and take drugs. Beer was my tea in the morning and I used to awake and not know where my shoes were. But since meeting Christ, I came to the Church and now those who knew me know there is a big change and I am a different man." A brother testified that he thanked the Church for coming to his village and that he is "still in the way" of Christ.

We finished the trip by spending two days in Nairobi training the two new Elders, with help from Brother

Stephen and Brother Dismas Abuga (one of the other ministers). Additionally, we were able to minister to Brother Josphat Mugambi, who resides in Nairobi. One of our new Elders read to him from the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 3:16). "Let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord." Is this scripture not meant for us at all?

One of our hopes was to have a dedicatory meeting on the land the Church was seeking to purchase in the village of Ogembo. It would be the first piece of land to which the Church would actually have title. Unfortunately, the bank did not clear our funds in time, but since returning we received word from the brothers in Kenya that the land has been purchased. Soon we will seek to construct a facility to move the technical school the Church sponsors from its rented building to our own land and building, if sufficient funds can be raised.

We left the land of Kenya saying goodbye to the saints and trusting that God would continue to watch over them and bless them. We praise God for a wonderful and successful journey (in Swahili, "safari") and for the many blessings he bestowed upon us. Continue to pray for the work of the Lord in the land of Kenya, where the saints are striving to serve God each and every day. In closing, we want to share one of the continued messages we heard from the saints in Kenya, "Please tell the saints in America we love them!"

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

of good and evil men. Running the prison taught him how to organize a huge food storage system and financial payment program. Selling stored food to foreigners meant he could save his family from starvation!

Sometimes we don't know why painful things happen to us. Sometimes we don't find out for years and years. But getting a "No" from God doesn't mean that He doesn't hear you.

## Children Blessed

Preston Lee Bromagen, son of Timothy Bromagen and Melissa Jarrett was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 29, 2001.

Tiffany Lee Taddio, daughter of Rick and Cindy Taddio was blessed in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch on April 15, 2001.

Ethan Chance, son of Joshua Huff and Christy Ramik was blessed in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 on April 29, 2001.

William Christopher Brooks, son of William Brooks and Christina Stefani was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on May 27, 2001.

## Correction

Jamison Cipponeri, son of Brother Jim and Sister Nicole Cipponeri was blessed in Detroit, Michigan Branch #4 (not Saline, Michigan) on September 24, 2000.

Devon Eddins, son of Sister Antoinette Magrey was blessed in Detroit, Michigan Branch #4 (not Saline, Michigan) on March 12, 2000.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Kelly Ryan Pigman-Calabrese was baptized on April 29, 2001 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Tony Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Frank Palacios.

Brother Zachary Louis Dziak was baptized on March 25, 2001 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Frank Palacios.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Betty Alessio of the Lorain, Ohio Branch celebrated her 50th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 22, 2001.

Brother Frank Nardozi of the Lorain, Ohio Branch celebrated his 50th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 15, 2001.

Sister Phyllis (Dolly Bucci) Kovacic celebrated her 50th anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 18, 2001.

## OBITUARIES

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

### DOMINICK PERSICO, SR.

Brother Dominick (Nick) Persico, Sr., passed onto his reward on April 12, 2001. Brother Dominick is survived by Sister Mary Persico, his daughters Sister Deborah Coyne and Sister Barbara Williams, and son Nick Persico, Jr.; and four grandchildren, Samantha, Sarena, David and Sarah.

### CATHERINE VIRGINIA ROBERTS

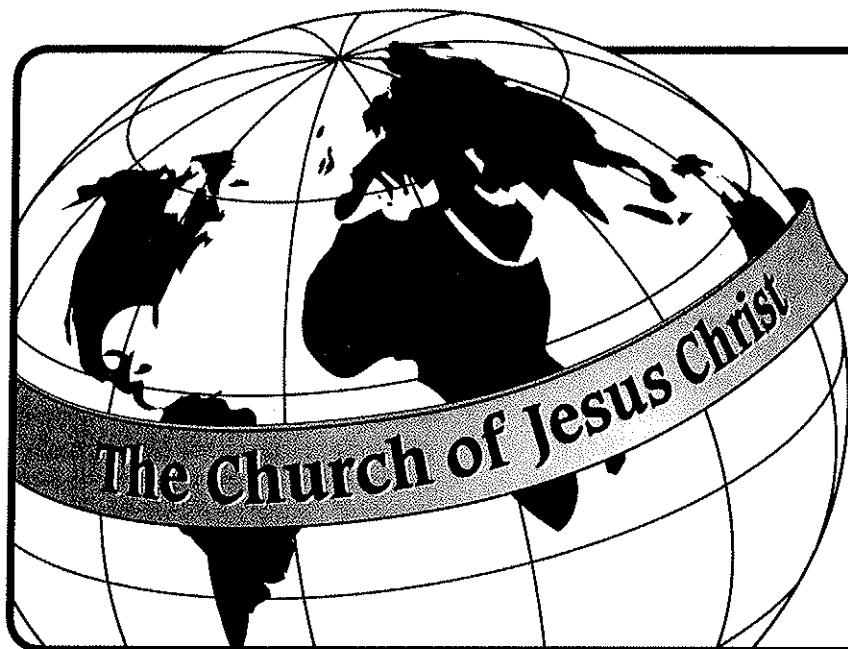
Sister Catherine Virginia Roberts passed onto her reward on April 9, 2001. Sister Catherine is survived by one daughter, Patricia Roberts, one son, Danny Roberts; five grandchildren; two brothers, Brother John Kendall Sr. and Brother Don Kendall; two sister, Sister Juanita Stanko and Sister Gladys Stanish.

### CARMEL GENARO

Sister Carmel Genaro passed onto her reward on March 27, 2001. Sister Carmel was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her husband, Brother Joe Genaro; son Brother Ron Genaro; daughter Ruth Bastson; and six grandchildren.

### DELBERT LOCKWOOD

Brother Delbert Lockwood passed onto his reward on May 17, 2001. Brother Delbert was an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife Rachel Rogerson Lockwood; two daughters, Sheryl Bukoski, and Trudy Lockwood; sisters Erma Noble, Beatrice Robertson, Bernice Burge; and three grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monticello, N.Y., U.S.A.

August, 2001

Volume 57, No. 8

## IMBA

### MEXICO VISIT

In November of 1999, the GMBA established the International Missionary Benevolent Association (IMBA), a committee dedicated to serving the young people located internationally among the active works where The Church of Jesus Christ is located. The IMBA was designed to serve by establishing and supporting local MBA's all over the globe.

On the morning of February 16, 2001, members of the ministry left their homes in Dallas, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona; LaGrange, Kentucky; and San Diego, California. Each of them had one meeting place in mind — Los Mochas, Mexico. In just hours, the brothers would be establishing two MBA's (through the IMBA) for the first time in Ahome and San Isidro, Mexico.

After hours of traveling (and arriving at different times), Brothers Jeff Giannetti (GMBA), Pete Giannetti, Jr. (Coordinator for work in Mexico), Doug Obradovich (IMBA), Tom Liberto (IMBA) and Matt Piccuto (Coordinator for work in Mexico) met for their first evening together. They sat around a table, enjoying coffee, desserts and the

blessings of God. The brothers took turns testifying and revisiting all God had done for them and their families. At the end of the evening, the brothers agreed that God was working among them "in spite of" themselves. Thus, the brothers established their theme for the weekend that God's work would be accomplished, "in spite of me."

Upon waking the next morning, the brothers went to the small village of Ahome to the home of Brother Hector Gastelum, the resident Evangelist (and their interpreter). Brothers Hector and Joe Ciarolla (Modesto, California) were waiting and ready to

work. The day began as the brothers walked the streets of Ahome, visiting the saints and friends of the Church. On one of these stops, a woman who had yet to visit the Church asked for prayer. She said she had listened to Brothers Joe and Hector for many years as they spoke to her neighbors and she acknowledged them as "men of God" (much like Acts 4:13). She told the brothers her family was in a crisis and she needed God's help. Following a powerful prayer, she promised to come to church the next day. The next day, she was true to her word.

(Continued on Page 2)



Young people's seminar in Guatemala

## IMBA

Continued from Page 1

After a full day of visiting, the brothers then headed to San Isidro, where the MBA was established for both the Ahome and San Isidro branches. Brother Jeff, GMBA Vice President, took the lead in this meeting and soon, the local MBA's were established. What an exciting moment in the history of the GMBA as 50 plus members stood upon their feet and joined their respective local MBA's. Following the Organization Meeting, Brother Jeff opened the service for testimony. After many beautiful testimonies, Brother Eliud Cardenas Ruiz, the newly elected Secretario for the Ahome local MBA, asked for his baptism.

Sunday began as Brother Jeff baptized Brother Eliud. The Sunday service was filled with God's spirit, as evidenced in the confirmation of our new brother, preaching, testimonies, singing and the witness of the gifts of God (ex: the gift of tongues confirmed a powerful experience being told). Sunday afternoon, Brothers Jeff, Doug and Tom held a second meeting, teaching these newest GMBA members about conducting meetings and all the different ways they could anticipate their local MBA's enhancing their branches. There was a wonderful (and often humorous) exchange of questions and answers between our brothers and these young people. The day ended with a neighborhood meeting held outdoors with speakers set up to serve the surrounding homes. What a joy to hear Brother Matt speaking in Spanish to many who were hearing the message of the Gospel for the first time (in their own tongue).

As the brothers returned to Dallas, LaGrange, Phoenix, and San Diego, they seemed to take back much more than they had brought with them. The experiences gained in ministering on Saturday, the joy in seeing a new soul come to the Lord, the witnessing of God's power in the gifts and the new friendships established were much more than any of

them foresaw as they left their homes just days before. In fact, this was probably more than any of the saints at the GMBA Conference envisioned when the IMBA was first established. Each of the brothers confessed that all of these wonderful experiences occurred "in spite of me."

## GUATEMALA VISIT

The IMBA Committee headed out for their second tour in just four weeks, on March 23, 2001. Brothers Paul A. Palmieri and Isaac Smith, representing the GMBA joined Brothers Chuck Maddox and Doug Obradovich who were representing the IMBA. This venture took the brothers even further south, arriving in Guatemala City. The brothers soon met up with Brother Luis Marroquin, the local presiding elder.

The brothers debriefed with Brother Luis and his wife, Sister Darlene, reviewing the details of establishing their local MBA (which included review of their proposed officers and other needed details). The brothers then held a meeting on Saturday evening with all of the proposed new officers. The purpose of this meeting was to give direction and field questions from these enthusiastic young people. Once this was accomplished, the meeting quickly turned spiritual. Soon, the brothers were praying for many young people, including a couple struggling with their decision to commit to the Lord. All agreed that this was a wonderful way to kick off the establishment of their local MBA.

Sunday morning began with a very stirring message of Christ raising Lazarus up from the dead. Each of the brothers spoke a few minutes, with Brother Luis interpreting for them. The same couple that had wrestled with the Lord the evening before continued in this struggle. Following the service, the branch prepared lunch, highlighted by Brother Luis' grilled hamburgers. The young people, though, seemed to especially enjoy their favorite treat, "crazy corn," which is corn on the cob covered in mayonnaise, ketchup,

mustard, sugar, and any other condiment within reach. It should be noted that none of the visiting brothers were courageous enough to try "crazy corn."

After lunch, the young people gathered upstairs on the third floor and met with the brothers for a young people's seminar. After arranging the chairs in a large circle, through a few different interpreters, the young people began to express themselves. They told of their needs, their experiences in the Church and their desires concerning the Lord and His Church. Quickly it was evident that in any language, the wants and needs of our young people are the same. It was very fitting that the officers of the GMBA were given this precious opportunity to interact with these beautiful young people.

The entire branch then reconvened for the Organization Meeting, which Brother Paul A. chaired. The same excitement that was experienced in Mexico just four weeks prior was again enjoyed as the brothers and sisters filled the chairs of membership and offices of responsibility. Soon the MBA was established in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

As the brothers boarded their plane the following day to leave Guatemala City, they agreed the trip had been very successful. They reflected upon the different experiences, which included seminars, meetings, prayer, singing, testimonies and God's many blessings. There seemed to be just one unfinished item left.

One week later, a wonderful message came from Brother Dennis Moraco (Coordinator for the work in Guatemala). He had traveled to Guatemala the week following the IMBA's visit, witnessing the first MBA meeting, to follow-up with any unfinished business. The most important unfinished business was completed; the couple that had struggled just a week earlier made their commitment to the Lord and was baptized. Brothers Paul, Ike, Doug and Chuck joined Brother Dennis and the saints in Guatemala, "and they cried, Ah, we knew the day would come."

## LaGrange, Kentucky

Prior to March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, LaGrange, Kentucky was just a "stop-over" for people traveling from Cincinnati to Louisville. But March 18<sup>th</sup> changed LaGrange forever. Eight years prior (almost to the day), one family (two members of the Church and their children) moved to LaGrange. In the years following, other families were moved into the area (many being transferred as Ford Motors employees). These same families were gathering for this special celebration on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The small congregation had been meeting together for months, often huddled in each other's basements to study the scriptures and glorify God. Each Wednesday evening and many Sunday mornings were spent together. The group began to grow, both in number and attendees and in spirituality. The group also grew closer together and more importantly, grew closer to God. The Lord was beginning to call each individual into His Church.

Thankfully, as each heard the call, they heeded the voice of the Lord. Sister Beth Karroll was the first to answer the Lord's calling and on February 15<sup>th</sup>, she requested her baptism. Three weeks later on March 8<sup>th</sup>, her daughter, Sister Nancee Bringle also answered her calling. Both had called Brother Doug Obradovich (the resident Elder) to request their baptisms. It was decided that March 18<sup>th</sup> would be the ideal day, as the membership from the Cincinnati, Ohio Branch would be joining in on this event. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, during the Sunday service, Sisters Tina Palacios and Tracy Younce both stood up in the testimony meeting and asked for their baptisms. As Brother Doug was working at the baptismal site the next Saturday, he received a phone call. This time, Brian Younce asked to be baptized, expressing that God was calling him and he had a strong desire to be baptized with his wife.

Each of the original families in LaGrange was represented at the

water on Sunday, with the five new converts. All of the brothers in the ministry played an important role in these five baptisms. Brothers Bob Batson and Chuck Maddox took the lead in questioning the new converts prior to their baptisms. They then walked the converts to the water, handing them off to the brothers baptizing them. Brother Brian was handed off to Brother Doug, followed by Brother Mark Naro (visiting from Lorain, Ohio) baptizing his niece, Sister Tracy. Sister Tina was then baptized by her father-in-law, Brother Frank Palacios (also from Lorain). Lastly, Sisters Nancy and Beth were baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich.

The saints returned to the building to enjoy the confirmations. Everyone felt especially blessed as Brother Brian was confirmed by Brother Chuck, Sister Tracy by Brother Doug, Sister Tina by Brother Mark, Sister Nancy by Brother Chuck and Sister Beth by Brother Frank.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001 was certainly an important day in LaGrange. God confirmed this the night prior to the baptisms, as the saints were circled in

prayer. Sister Candace Obradovich heard the Lord speak to her twice saying, "Thus saith the Lord, My work has begun." On Sunday, all agreed with one of our visitors, who, attending the Church for the first time, stated during the testimony meeting, "I have never felt the spirit of God like this." Certainly, LaGrange, Kentucky is no longer a "stop-over" between Cincinnati and Louisville. On March 18<sup>th</sup> it clearly became a "stay-over." So which of you reading this would like to "come on down" and "stay-over" for a while?

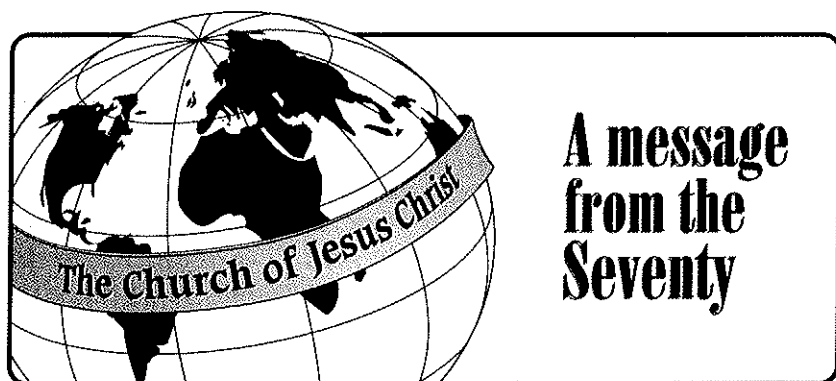
On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the LaGrange group enjoyed a glorious day of celebration. LaGrange now had eight members (the two original members, Sister Courtney Obradovich, who had been baptized a few months prior and the five newly baptized members).

Just a week or so prior to this day, Brother Dan Palacios had made his wishes known that he desired to come back into fellowship with the saints. Brother Dan had hands laid on him, reinstating him back into the

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From left to right: Sisters Tina Palacios, Nancee Bringle, Beth Karroll, Tracy Younce, and Brian Younce.



## Baptisms, Blessings and Conference Evangelist Tour in Italy

*By Brother Carl Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Baptisms, blessings and the first Italian Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ took place in mid-March, and the spirit of God was manifested, according to reports from attendees. Evangelist Russell Martorana and his wife, Sister Lena, two months later, made a follow-up trip. These events have been a source of encouragement and joy to the Italian saints.

Two young people, Sabrina Scravaglieri and Pietro Romano, were baptized during the three-day gathering held against the Swiss Alps in the town

praying were described as highly uplifting. Afterwards, a request was made that another conference be held in the future at another location.

In attendance were 18 brothers, sisters, family members and friends from across Italy and 12 brothers and sisters from the United States, who came after hearing about the proposed conference and said they wanted to come at their own expense. They stated they were truly blessed and felt the pure love of God. The welcome, hospitality, and fellowship made this a memorable time together. The experiences shared, even though through interpreters, enabled them to understand more about God's goodness found wherever the saints of God are located.

The accounts of how God has worked with His people in different parts of the world brought a bonding that will always be remembered and cherished. Changes in the lives of members through Christ revealed there is wonderful commonality found in the workings of the Lord. The spirit of God and subsequent unity that was felt overcame cultural and language barriers.

In traveling to the Italian church gathering, as has been true in other parts of the world, the people of God are reaching out and making trips to meet new acquaintances and help in spreading the Gospel. Evangelist Russell Martorana and his wife, Sister Lena, were in Italy May 9<sup>th</sup> through

June 7<sup>th</sup>. The follow-up to the March conference offered continuity to the overall work. This is the second such tour that the Martoranas have served in Italy. The other period was last year from the end of May through the first part of June. Following is a summary of this trip, as supplied by Brother Russell.

They went to Cala Gonone where on the first Saturday night lessons were taught on "Faith" and "Keeping the Commandments." Brother Martorana used Hebrews 11 and Alma 38 as the basis for the subjects.

The next day, the text was taken from Mosiah 2:17: "...when ye are in

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## Notice



The New Works Committee of the Quorum of Seventy feels directed by the Spirit of the Lord to bring the Gospel to the country of Romania. There have been experiences about the Gospel going to the country of Romania. The committee asks for the prayers of all the brothers, sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ concerning this potential New Work. Also, does anyone have family or personal friends in Romania that might be available to help introduce the Restored Gospel in Romania? If so, please contact either Brother John Griffith, President of the Quorum of Seventy, phone 727-842-1525 or Brother Phil Jackson, Chairman, Missionary Operating Committee, phone 330-876-1013. Help The Church of Jesus Christ reach the people of Romania.

*"Changes in the lives of members through Christ revealed there is wonderful commonality found in the workings of the Lord. The Spirit of God . . . overcame cultural and language barriers."*

of Lecco, located about one hour north of Milan. Other visitors also indicated a desire to serve God, and prayers are being requested that they too will soon come into the fold. The beautiful location reflected the glory that was felt during the gathering. The teaching, preaching, testifying, singing and





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

I recently had the awesome experience to witness the birth of our son. It was amazing to me how perfect he was. What a miracle of God! As my wife was travailing, there was a point when she wanted to give up. A consoling nurse told her it was too late to give up; that she had no other choice now but to birth this child. There was no other way... she *had* to do it. Suddenly, my wife became a different person. An unbelievable look of determination and a strong second wind took her over. Within minutes our son was born as the song *He Has Sent My Spirit Peace* was playing in the background. Seeing all this happen was the most overwhelming experience I ever had. Then I thought about the Church.

*"Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the Lord shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies"* (Micah 4:10).

The Church of Jesus Christ is in labor today, just as a woman experiences the severe pain of labor to bring forth a child. The Church is laboring to bring forth God's kingdom on earth where Israel will be gathered from all the places they have been scattered, and all the sincere in heart will be able to know the truth. In order to bring about this kingdom, where everyone will know the Lord, the Church will experience much travail. There will be much opposition by the adversary. The scripture says the adversary desires to "sift us as wheat." He will attempt to cause us much discouragement, hurt, doubt, confusion (note that the scripture above refers to Babylon, which means confusion) pain and sorrow. There may even be a point when we would want to give up, just as a travailing mother would do. But just like the consoling but firm voice of the nurse, the Lord speaks to us, and says, "Don't give up." Once we have taken hold of the Gospel plough, we cannot turn back... it's too late for that. Lot's wife turned back to see the burning city of sin she left behind and turned into a pillar of salt. Giving up now could be disastrous for you and I. Turning back to our life of sin will destroy us. But yet, the above scripture promises that the Lord will deliver us, and redeem us from our enemy. Knowing that God will deliver us, should give us that spiritual "second wind" that we need to continue on, fighting that good fight of faith.

Labor is just what the word means, labor. Spiritually speaking, we must labor for God. We weren't called into His Church to warm a seat. We have all been called to be used as an instrument or tool in His hand to build His kingdom. This means setting the example, abstaining from sin, giving our testimony, going wherever God sends us (realizing that if Jesus goes with us we'll go anywhere), and keeping His commandments. Doing all of these things requires a sacrifice from the things our flesh wants to do. I'm sure a travailing woman would rather be relaxing on her couch than to be in such extreme pain, but the pain is necessary to bring forth that beautiful child. Interestingly, women usually forget all about the pain afterwards. When God's kingdom is established, we will forget all about the rampant sin and sorrow we have felt. Just like a newborn baby, that kingdom will be perfect in every way. If we don't live to see this earthly kingdom, then the heavenly kingdom, paradise, awaits us.

In conclusion, let's not give up, regardless of how hard it may seem. Satan makes us think our burdens are too heavy to bear, but in reality, the Lord is carrying our burdens and carrying us. Certainly, He will carry us through. *"He has sent my spirit peace, and He's been good to me."*

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

*I will uphold thee with the right arm of my righteousness (Isaiah 41:10).*

Dear Friends,

Something powerful and beautiful happened in my life early this summer. A miracle happened, a real miracle documented by doctors, strangers, hospitals, and special x-rays. God reached down and touched me, and that is a joyous thing.

It started with a normal check-up at the doctors. I went home; then a few days later they called to say I needed to come back for more tests. Something was wrong. I was nervous; I went to church and asked to be anointed, dreading the tests.

Trying to be calm, I went back to the doctors for tests that took over four hours. To my amazement a wonderful older sister from our Church was there too. We sat in our gowns and talked. She helped my fears go away as the hours passed and they called me for more special x-rays, an ultrasound, and more x-rays. I was comforted by her.

But the tests were bad. There was something growing deep in my body that wasn't supposed to be there. I was so scared. The doctors made an appointment to cut it out.

Meanwhile, I went to work, teaching children every day, and tried not to think about it. But I was so worried in the back of my mind, I started making mistakes, forgetting things and misplacing things. At night I would cry and wake up over and over. My doctor made a date for my operation. I tried to start getting things ready for a long illness; I kept busy every night.

I went to The Church of Jesus



Christ again and our elders anointed me and prayed beautiful prayers. They poured out their hearts and asked God for a healing.

My surgery got delayed a week and I got a better doctor. The brothers and sisters kept praying for me. But the night before my surgery, I was home alone, trying to keep so busy so I wouldn't fall apart. I was so afraid.

The phone rang. I was so surprised to hear the voice of Brother Rick Elzby from way up north in Canada. He asked me how I was. To be polite I answered, "Fine."

"Really?" he asked, "because I was just outside mowing on the tractor and the Lord spoke to me with a still, small voice and said, 'Go call Sister Jan Steinrock.' I said, 'Just let me mow a little more before dark and I will.' A few minutes passed and then the Lord said in a loud voice, 'Call Sister Jan Steinrock NOW!' And He gave me these verses for you from the Bible, so here I am calling."

I started crying; God knew the state of my mind. God cared that I felt like I was going out of my mind, but was fighting it. Brother Rick continued, "The first verse is Isaiah 41:10, *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God:...I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.* The second verse is II Timothy 1:7, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*"

He prayed for me over the phone. The spirit of fear and confusion left me. I slept wonderfully and woke up for my surgery with peace in my heart, trusting God. Whatever was to happen during or after they cut the growth out, God was with me.

My daughter, Leah, and Sister Cathy Gentile took me to the hospital. Before the cutting and surgery part, I had to go for another ultrasound and more mammograms (special x-rays). There, they'd mark my skin with a magic marker and insert two long needles to show the surgeon where the mass was that needed to be cut out.

But the lady doing my ultrasound kept rubbing my skin. "I can't see the mass," she said. "Maybe I've been healed," I told her. She kept working. "I believe in God," I said. "So do I," she replied. "I got prayed on at Church; God can heal me," I said hopefully as she continued working.

"There's nothing showing here, but you go for special x-rays next and things show up there that don't show up here. I'll go tell the radiologist," she said.

So I went to another room for more mammograms (special x-rays).

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

ISAIAH	BE	GOD
FORTY	NOT	I
ONE	DISMAYED	WILL
TEN	FOR	HELP
FEAR	I	THEE
THOU	AM	UPHOLD
NOT	THY	THEE

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

## Great Lakes Region Conference

On May 6, 2001, the Great Lakes Region gathered together at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 for a Regional Conference.

Region President, Brother Lyle Criscuolo, welcomed the brothers, sisters and friends of the region. Brother Alex Gentile opened the meeting in prayer petitioning God to be with us throughout the meeting.

The first speaker was Brother John Buffa from Branch #4. The theme of his sermon was God preparing us to do His work, no matter what it is. He opened by saying that we must be soldiers in His army because there is a war out in the world and a war within us everyday. He spoke of David and how he was chosen to be crowned King after Saul because of what was in his heart. He recounted the familiar story of David fighting Goliath. "He not only opens the door, He prepares the way to do it. He opens our heart and mind. We are the children of God. We are THE Church of Jesus Christ. God prepared this Church for you and me. Not that it would be easy; it was not easy for David. God prepares us for everything we need to do." Brother John shared several experiences in which the Lord used him to anoint and heal the sick, specifically two individuals who needed surgery, and after prayer did not. He gave reverence to the awesomeness of God. "We all, every day, go before a great giant. The great giant is beyond these walls, beyond these doors. The great giant is within us every day trying to tempt us to do what's not right in the sight of God. When the giant tries to disturb your thoughts or tries to make you do things that are wrong, remember the God that David believed in. The word of God is our sling and our stones."

Brother Gary Champine spoke next. He read from 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi "...for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men save he prepare a way for them that they shall accomplish the thing that he commanded." Brother Gary continued,

"In our quest to serve God, in our desire to lift up His name, God prepares us and puts within us a vision, a spirit, His spirit, to accomplish the thing that needs to be done." He spoke of his conversion, how low his life was before he made his choice to serve God. He also spoke of Brother Sam DiFalco, who stood by and helped him.

Sister Rosanne and Brother Larry Champine gifted us with a beautiful song, and then Brother Sam DiFalco spoke to us. Brother Sam humbly gave credit to God for working with him to bring Brother Gary into the Church. He talked about shining our light and being an example. "We all have the power to persuade others. If we all just tell one person, how many will come in? He changes your whole life. He can do it. We can't do it but He can do it."

Apostle Peter Scolaro concluded our service by continuing the message brought forth by the previous brothers. "Brother John opened on being prepared. We are all at different places. You can talk about being prepared to be converted or to carry out the promises of God and the whole spectrum in between. We should never come to the point where we are not willing to let the Lord prepare us for something more. Even from the point when we are trying to get ready to serve Him, when we are trying to get our heart in a place where there is room for His spirit to come in and to fulfill it." He spoke on the Lord choosing David saying, "The Lord does not look at the stature of a man but at the heart. We must remember this. It's the heart that counts. David had a heart that God could use." He spoke on Jesus' words "strait is the gate." He explained that the reference means that there is resistance in entering the gate and that truly we have resistance daily. "We have to come through the gate and be solidly in the Gospel or we could be shaken off. The energy comes from God. The decision comes from you. The Lord looks at the heart. We need to be a body of hearts that are united in the service to God. This is the role of The Church of Jesus Christ."

Our meeting concluded and the brothers and sisters greeted each other with much enthusiasm and love.



## Branch and Mission News

### Two More Souls Surrender to the Lord at Forest Hills, FL Branch

*By Sister Lorraine Rose*

We have been so blessed recently, as the Lord allowed us to witness two more baptisms. Don and Diane Holmberg were introduced to our branch quite a while ago. Don is related to Brother Merle, Jr. and Sister Carol King of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. A few years ago, they were visiting Don and Diane here in Florida when Sister Carol became ill and called on Brother Jim Speck (known from Levittown also) for an anointing. This was the first encounter Brother Jim had with Don and Diane. Our Ministry was eventually made aware that they were seeking a church to attend. Without much ado, the elders kept in touch with this couple and they were invited to attend our branch. They made their way to the Church and were able to witness the love of our Lord. We have truly enjoyed their company at our services and the Lord entered into their lives and touched them.

Sunday, April 29, 2001 during testimony, Diane testified and asked for her baptism and for prayer that the Lord would give her direction. During the prayer, the gift of tongues was spoken saying, "I died for you!" After the meeting, the elders felt inspired to ask Don if he wanted to have prayer as well, and he did. During this prayer, the gift of tongues was also spoken saying, "I offer you that same gift of Jesus Christ, thus saith the Lord!" What a wonderful confirmation of the love and mercy that our Savior shows to those who are faithful.

Monday evening, April 30, 2001, during our New Members meeting, Don answered his calling and asked for

(Continued on Page 8)

## Two More Souls

Continued from Page 7

his baptism. The Lord has truly touched their hearts, and by our Wednesday evening meeting, they were both aglow with a beautiful light anticipating their baptisms set for Sunday morning.

Sunday, May 6, 2001, we met at the river's edge to witness the example Jesus Christ set for us to be baptized in His name. Brother Sam Risola performed the baptism for Don, and Brother Scott Griffith for Diane. Brother Don and Sister Diane were overjoyed with emotion as we sang *I Surrender All*. With the blessings of God already put forth, we returned to our branch.

We opened our meeting singing *Burdens are Lifted at Calvary*. Brother Scott Griffith offered the opening prayer. Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr. read from James 5:14 and Mark 6:13, how Jesus set the example for us to follow by anointing the sick with oil and praying for those that are in need of His blessings. We had several members come up for anointing both spiritually and temporally. The Lord always hears our supplications when we ask with a faithful heart. The meeting continued with Brother Jim Speck reading from John 14:26, 16:7, and Acts 2:17. God sent a comforter in His name to bestow the Holy Ghost on His people. He shall "pour out of His spirit" upon all flesh. Only through repentance and baptism will we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. It was with His calling to Don and Diane that they were baptized.

We continued with singing *Jesus and I*, as Brother Don and Sister Diane came forward. The Ministry knelt in prayer led by Brother Sam Risola that God would move upon one of the elders to confirm them. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. then laid hands on Sister Diane and Brother Jim Speck laid hands on Brother Don for reception of the Holy Ghost. Sister Pam Benyola then sang a beautiful song she wrote that just added to the wonderful spirit we were all feeling.

Brother John Griffith continued

by reading Psalm 86:7, where David reminds us that the Lord is there in our time of need and in time of trouble. He is our pilot that leads us through the paths of life. We must learn to trust and take God at His word. God had a purpose for Don and Diane by encouraging them to come, listen to His voice, and make their choice. Brother John also read John 1:32 referencing the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist and the "spirit descending from heaven like a dove," indicating the Son of God and signifying the Holy Ghost. The Lord gave us many examples of His love and mercy through experiences and miracles. Brother Sam Risola reminded us how our sins are washed away. We become white as snow when we walk through the waters of baptism.

After enjoying all those that testified, communion was passed as we sang *Room at the Cross for You*. We had a few more that asked to be anointed and in preparing to close, Brother John Griffith expressed what an enjoyable day was had and how all had felt a portion of God's spirit. We closed by singing *No Never Alone*. Brother Jim Speck offered the closing prayer.

When God bestows His blessing upon His people, we can rejoice together in that love. God bless you all.

## Ordination in Bell, CA

Saints from California, Chicago, Michigan and Atlanta gathered together to witness the ordination of Brother Justin Paxton into the office of Teacher. Justin transferred to the Bell, California Branch recently from Atlanta, Georgia, and what a welcome blessing he has been to our small group.

Brother Sal Azzinaro opened the meeting in prayer. What a joy to see him back from his near fatal bleeding problem. Praise God for His healing touch and the prayers of the saints.

The Zioneer's sang a few songs. Brother Malcolm Paxton from Atlanta,

Georgia spoke to us from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew. Brother Tom Jones also of Atlanta, Georgia followed on the same scripture. Sister Amy Buccellato sang a beautiful rendition of *In the Garden*.

Brother Justin's feet were washed by Brother David Arreola, who later testified that he had a burning sensation throughout his body, and a desire to wash Brother Justin's feet. The congregation sang, *Ready to Go*. While the elders surrounded Brother Justin and knelt in prayer, Brother Bob McDonnell offered a prayer for blessing and guidance. Brother Malcolm Paxton then ordained his son Justin.

Sister Bennie Jones testified that while Brother Justin's feet were being washed, she saw a messenger come and put words in Justin's mouth and then handed him two books. After the ordination, Brother Justin expressed himself. The Zioneer's sang another song and the meeting was opened for testimony.

Brother John DiBattista, visiting from Chicago, gave an update on the missionary work throughout the world. He also told of an upcoming first conference in Italy that he and 18 other church members would be attending.

The meeting was dismissed and lunch was provided. We thank God for sending us this fine brother and pray the Lord will bless, guide and use him greatly in his new office.

## Cincinnati, Ohio Branch

There was nothing that would have alerted anyone that there would be a special day in the Cincinnati Branch. Although the brothers, sisters and friends had enjoyed a wonderful Saturday together at our Sunday School picnic, and although Brother Joe and Sister Carmel Genaro were visiting, no one was bold enough to expect Sunday would develop into a "special" day.

Brother Joe opened the service concerning "the faith of a mustard seed." Following his sermon, Brother

Joe was asked to share a few personal experiences. He told of many times in his life when the faith of the saints supported him. One example he told had been when he and his brother had been "set apart" in prayer before going off to war (WWII). He said he was reminded of this prayer and the faith of the saints when he and his brother were in a foxhole together and bullets passed closely overhead. He said they acknowledged immediately that it was the prayers that had saved them. It began to be apparent to all present that this was, in fact, becoming a very "special" day.

Someone remarked that the youth today were also in a daily battle. The young people were then asked to come forward, while each of the brothers and sisters in the congregation encircled them. Brother Joe offered a prayer, "setting them apart," as they would be prepared for their own warfare. Jessica Batson, Brother Joe's granddaughter asked for special prayer, as she felt the touch of God. Immediately after this prayer, Sister Jessica said she was ready for her baptism. Courtney Obradovich also asked to be prayed for and again, as the prayer ended, she too asked to be baptized.

Brother Chuck Maddox then told of an experience he was given early in the service, which confirmed much of what the saints had witnessed. Brother Chuck had "been shown" that Brother Joe was going to offer a "special" prayer for the young people. He stated he also knew the young people would be encircled by the saints as they sat in their chairs. He was even "shown" one empty chair beforehand (as it was when the young people were inside of the circle of saints) and he was told that this chair was for the Lord. On the way to the baptismal site, young Kiley Obradovich confirmed this stating, "I know why the chair was empty. God told me it was for Jesus." All this, yet his "special" day was not yet complete.

Our new sisters were baptized this same afternoon in a beautiful lake in Miamisburg, Ohio. How wonderful to witness Sisters Courtney and Jessica

go into the water with their fathers, Brothers Doug and Bob. After the baptisms, everyone stayed at the lake and our new sisters were confirmed lakeside. Her grandfather, Brother Joe, confirmed Sister Jessica and Brother Paul Pezzenti confirmed Sister Courtney. The saints (which included our two newest members), then enjoyed communion during this lakeside service.

Each in attendance discovered that an "ordinary" meeting can quickly become a "special" event when the spirit of God is in control.

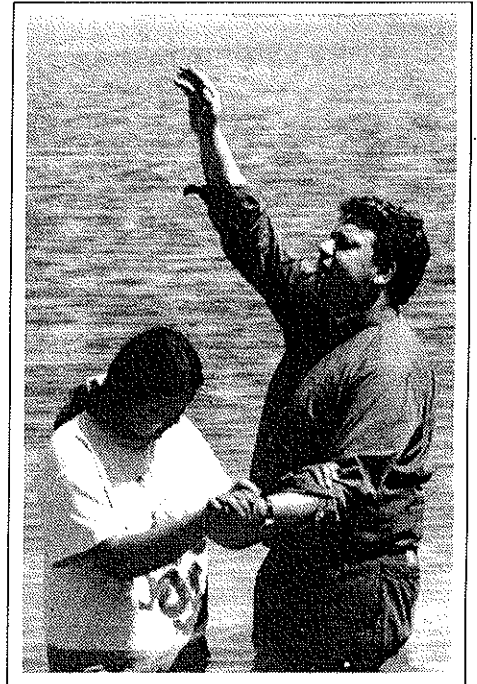
## Two Baptisms in Miami, Florida

*By Sister Betty Gennaro*

God continues His blessings in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission by calling two more souls from the seed of Joseph. On March 18, 2001, Carmella Saldana Perales was baptized by Brother J. Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Brother George Kovacic. Her natural brother, Fabian Perales was the first person baptized in Florida City 12 years ago. His wife, Juana, followed him in baptism at that time. The great change in her life touched Sister Carmella. Brother Miguel read from Alma 31, "Men never tired journeying for the Lord, because of fasting and prayer, the Lord gave revelations daily." Brother Joe Catone, Sr. continued stating, "The angels rejoice today and so do we. Our new sister has seen the light and rendered obedience to the Lord." He read from John 14, "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me. The comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, shall teach you all things. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

On Mother's Day, May 13, 2001, we gathered again at the lake in the beautiful sunshine of Florida City, to witness the baptism of Jennifer Gonzalez. She was baptized by Brother Miguel Bicelis, and as the service

continued in her mother's home, Brother Joe Catone, Sr. pronounced the gift of the Holy Ghost upon her. Brother Miguel commented, "What a great blessing for the Gentiles to be in the home of our two sisters, who are of the Seed of Joseph. The Gospel has touched the whole family. Even the children are excited." Jennifer's younger sister, Nayelly, had a dream in which she saw Jennifer being baptized. Their home was overflowing with their extended family out on the patio.



**Brother J. Miguel Bicelis and Sister Jennifer Gonzalez**

Brother Joe Catone, Sr., read from Alma 37, "Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart, for such shall find rest in their souls. Counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and He will direct thee for good."

Brother George Kovacic followed, "Let your affections be placed on the Lord forever. As with Jennifer, I was baptized 33 years ago on Mother's Day. Serving God is exciting! We see how the spirit of God is working in these last days. We love the Church, His people, and the Word of God. This becomes the priority in our lives."

## Note of Thanks

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your care and concern, and especially your prayers during Brother Tony's illness and subsequent passing.

The cards, letters and gifts were greatly appreciated and were a tremendous support to us and our family. May God bless all of you is my prayer.

Love,  
Sister Pierina DiFalco and Family

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to you for your love and concern throughout my recent surgeries in April and June of this year.

Words can hardly express my appreciation for your prayers, cards and phone calls. Your notes of encouragement continue to be a great blessing to me.

I thank God for His help throughout this ordeal. I hope to continue my recovery during the next few months.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless you all with good health and spiritual strength as you serve Him and His Church.

Sincerely,  
Brother Dominic Thomas

Prayer should be  
the key of the  
morning and the  
lock of the night.

## An Old Hymn

*(Editor's note: Reprinted from the February, 1958 Gospel News.)*

The time is nigh, that happy time,  
That great, expected blessed day,  
When countless thousands of our race  
Shall dwell with Christ, and Him obey.

The prophecies must be fulfilled,  
Though earth and hell should  
dare oppose,  
The stone out of the mountain cut,  
Though unobserved a kingdom grows.

Soon shall the blended image fall,  
Brass, silver, iron, gold and clay:  
And superstitions dreadful reign  
To light and liberty give way.

In one sweet symphony of praise,  
The Jews and Gentiles will unite,  
And infidelity o'ercome,  
Return again to endless night.

From east to west, from north to south,  
The Saviour's kingdom shall extend,  
And every man, in every place,  
Shall meet a brother and a friend.

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Betty Azzinaro  
5649 Daisy Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
(corrected address)

Elizabeth Berticelli  
1876 Bristol Rd.  
Bristol, ME 04539-3519  
207-677-2029

Ron and Marilyn Carradi  
2488 Atlantis Dr. Apt. #2  
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561-489-2013

Jim and Alicia Draskovich  
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Boca Raton, FL 33434  
(561) 488-9962

Don and Pat Green  
2122 Fourth Line #10  
RR#1 Ohsweken  
Ontario, Canada NOA 1MO  
(519) 445-1251

David and Darlene Lovalvo  
40139 Kristen Dr.  
Sterling Hgts., MI 48310  
810-264-1957

Richard Nath  
20000 Sauns Rd. Apt. 6206  
Katy, TX 77449  
281-492-1924

Paul A. and Kimberly Palmieri  
184 Hampshire Drive  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066  
724-741-0602

Erma Rossi  
c/o 117 Lutton Lane  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

## LaGrange, Kentucky

Continued from Page 3

Church. Following this prayer, Brother Dan was encircled and greeted by each of the brothers and sisters in LaGrange. He later stated that he felt so sincerely welcomed back by these loving embraces.

Another glorious moment came when Brother Dan took communion for the first time in more than 16 years. What a sight to see Brother Dan sitting between his wife, Sister Tina (baptized less than a month) and his 15 year old daughter, Danielle, who was witnessing her father taking communion for the first time in her life.

The brothers and sisters then testified to the goodness of God and the excitement they felt in the work God was doing in LaGrange. As they invited the visitors to join them in this work in LaGrange, the same invitation is extended to each of you reading this. So again, "come on down" and visit us in LaGrange, Kentucky and meet these, the newest saints in The Church of Jesus Christ.



## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." This passage was in keeping with Brother Martorana's reference for the entire trip, the words of Jesus in St. Luke 22:32: "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." A prayer was offered for Brother Nino and Sister Immacolata Romano, elderly pillars, and communion was served.

During the week, visits were made to the homes of friends and relatives, sharing the good news of Christ and the Restored Gospel.

On Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Evangelist Rosario Scravaglieri, President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Italy, arrived after a long trip. Experiences and fellowship were shared, and Brother Rosario related details of the wonderful conference held in March. He also told of the three new converts in Italy.

Brother Scravaglieri recently wrote a pamphlet entitled, *La Biblia e Il Libro Di Mormon*, which tells of the great importance of the Bible and The Book of Mormon and of their being one in the hand of the Lord. He also outlined the early history of the Restoration, the promises to Israel, the gathering, and a copy of our *Articles of Faith*. Copies of the booklet were distributed to all the saints in Italy.

Brother Russell said they had the opportunity to speak to Pietro Romano, our new brother in Christ, who said God has been working in his life since his baptism. He prays daily for spiritual guidance and enjoys the fruits of God.

The weekend of June 2-3, 2001, members and friends from Cagliari, two and a half hours south, came to Cala Gonone. A lesson on the great value and importance of the Holy Ghost and God's Spirit was taught. Also discussed were the seed of Joseph in America and the locations where missionary work is done in these areas. Other church-wide places were identified as well.

Sunday's service was also blessed with preaching, teaching, testimonies

and communion. Brother Russell wrote, "The love of God was felt by all." A visitor from Cagliari named Mario asked to be remembered in prayer for a physical condition.

In concluding, Brother Martorana stated, "We were very sorry to leave the saints in Cala Gonone. Their love is so great; however, we believe our brothers and sisters were strengthened. We also want to thank everyone who prayed for us. All went well. May God bless you always."

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

They turned the machines this way and that way but the mass was not showing up. "The radiology doctor wants to talk with you," the nurse said.

"Could my friend and daughter join me? I asked." I was excited and wanted them there to hear too.

The doctor showed us a wall covered with my x-rays. The five x-rays from six weeks ago showed the mass, deep in my body. He pointed to an older x-ray from 2 1/2 years ago. It showed a smudge where the mass was starting to grow, way back then. Then he showed us the seven x-rays from today. Nothing was there!

"I'm going to call your surgeon," he said. "He can't do surgery if I can't pinpoint a mass." We rejoiced happily! The surgeon sent me home.

A miracle, documented by doctors, by strangers, by hospitals, by a dozen x-rays, has happened! I praise our sweet Jesus and our precious and powerful God for *everything*. He held my hand, gave me elders of faith and love to care for me, gave me a family of God to pray for me, and He healed me.

Believe in miracles. Expect miracles. They can happen to you too. Then thank and praise our wonderful God, who hears your cries and His beloved Son, Jesus, who cares for you.

Love,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Jason Bashaw and Kandace Burr were united in holy matrimony in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on February 24, 2001.

Brother Osbaldo Reyes and Sister Nyema Brown were united in holy matrimony in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on April 7, 2001.

Warren James Schweitzer and Joanne Danielle Azzinaro were united in holy matrimony in Palm Springs, California on April 28, 2001.

Rodney Jarrett Hunt and Karen Ruth Verado were united in holy matrimony in the Simi Valley, California Branch on April 21, 2001.

## Births

Joshua Thomas Huttenberger, son of Brother Carl Jr. and Sister Suzette Huttenberger of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch, was born on June 25, 2001.

## Children Blessed

MacKenzie Jo Gibson, daughter of Brother Tim and Sister Brianne Gibson was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on January 28, 2001.

Jessica Marie and Caulin Michael Bloom, daughter and son of Sister Maria and Brother Michael Bloom were blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on February 11, 2001.

Megan Lane, Jordan Douglas and Alison Grace Stitzel, children of Sister Teri and Brother Jason Gibson, were blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on February 11, 2001.

Christian Thomas Botwright, son of Thomas and Shelly Botwright was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on April 29, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Jennifer Gonzalez was baptized on May 13, 2001 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. She was baptized by Brother Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Brother Joe Catone, Sr.

Carolina Gomez was baptized on April 7, 2001 in the Bell, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Santos Zamora and confirmed by Brother Robert McDonnell.

Teresa Sanchez was baptized on April 7, 2001 in the Bell, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Santos Zamora and confirmed by Brother Stacy Light.

Rina Montez was baptized on April 7, 2001 in the Bell, California Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Santos Zamora.

Edward Jimerson was baptized on May 20, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Laurence King and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Maureen McCarthy was baptized on May 20, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo.

## Ordinations

Brother Jamie Paternoster was ordained a Teacher on December 10, 2000 in the Simi Valley, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother John Azzinaro, and he was ordained by Brother Ed Buccellato.

Brother Tony Paternoster was ordained a Teacher on December 10, 2000 in the Simi Valley California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Pat King, and he was ordained by Brother Ken Jones.

Brother Owen Wilcoxson was ordained a Deacon on December 10, 2000 in the Simi Valley, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Justin Paxton and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Ciarolla.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Betty Azzinaro of the Simi Valley, California Branch celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 13, 2001.

## OBITUARIES

### JENNIE RANDAZZO

Sister Jennie Randazzo, a member of Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan, passed onto her reward on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Sister Jennie is survived by her sister, Bertha Giaordano; her children, Andrew, Frank Jr., and Sister Mary Bertolo (Dan); nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Brother Frank and two children, Brother Anthony and Samuel.

### MADELINE BYRDIE

Madeline Byrdie of Freehold, New Jersey, passed onto her reward on December 23, 2000. Mrs. Byrdie is survived by her daughter, Sister Karen Rodriguez, and her grandchildren.

### ANNIE COGMAN

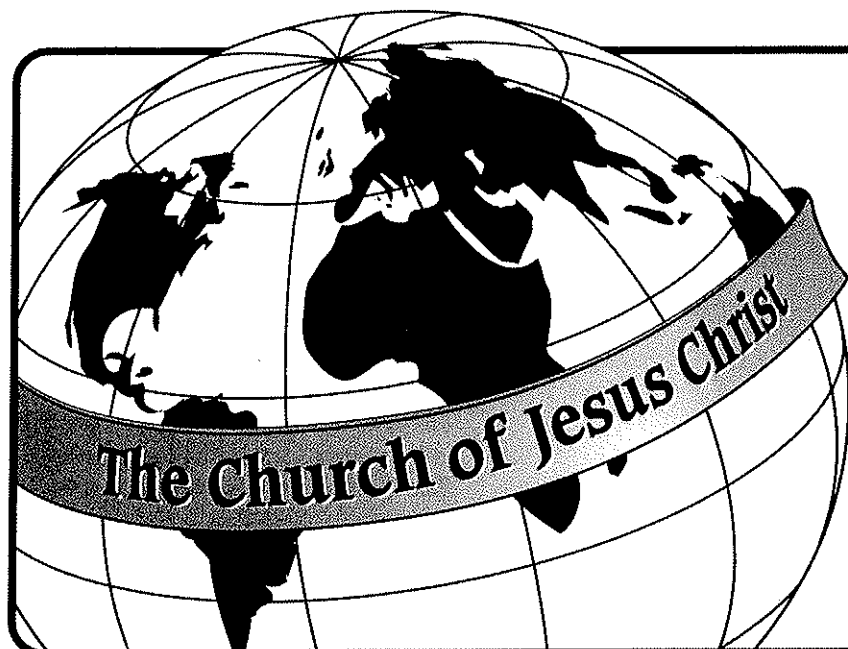
Sister Annie Cogman, a member of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch, passed onto her reward on April 16, 2001. She was a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Annie is survived by her son, Willie Lee Brown Sr.; two sisters, Jassie Cole and Ada Gibbs; grandchildren, Brother Jim Crudup, Brother Willie Brown, Ronald Brown and Ann Marie Douglas; several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

### VINCENT SCALISE

Brother Vincent Scalise, an ordained elder of The Church of Jesus Christ in the Bell, California Branch, passed onto his reward on March 23, 2001. Brother Vincent is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Scalise; four children; Vincent, Tom, Karen and Rosemary; as well as seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

### VINCENT "JIM" CAMARDA

Brother Vincent "Jim" Camarda, a member of the Modesto, California Branch, passed onto his reward on May 27, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Nancy Camarda; his mother, Sister Frances Camarda; two sisters; Sister Rosalee Salerno and Sister Rose Randazzo; a son, Brother Samuel Camarda; a daughter, Annette Roddan; and five grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 2001

Volume 57, No. 9

## Native American Work at Muncey and Six Nations, Canada

The Church of Jesus Christ, General Church Conference of November 8, 1861, accepted the following revelation:

“Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my Church and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go saith the Lord, and I will go with you ... I have told you to go and preach my word ... you must do your part and I will do my part ... and when you go to the Indians, tell them that Jesus died to save them. Tell them they are the seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their forefathers ... and tell them that I will again gather them ... for I the Lord have spoken it.”

1932, THE REVELATION BEGAN  
TO UNFOLD

The following is a brief history of how the Muncey and Six Nations Missions began and continue today as the oldest Native American works in the Church.

### MUNCEY MISSION

It was October 1932 that an

Indian woman named Julia Nicholas, dissatisfied with the churches she had known, began earnestly praying for the Lord's direction for a church containing His spirit and truth. Julia's husband George, was the Chief of the Muncey-Delaware Indians, and was a devout Anglican Church member.

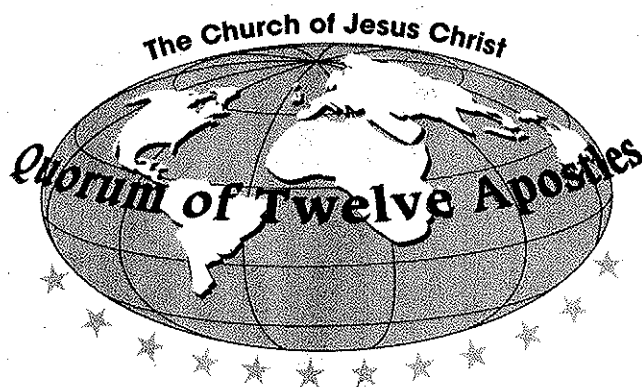
About this same time, Brothers William H. Cadman, Alma B. Cadman, Paul Love and Anthony DiBattista were planning a trip to Six Nations Reservation near Brantford, Ontario, Canada to meet with the Native Americans.

“While traveling on the No. 2 Highway, then the only main fareway heading east out of Windsor, the brothers stopped at the small village of Melbourn, about 120 miles from Windsor. There, in a combination gas station/restaurant, they engaged in a discussion with a few of the locals regarding their whereabouts and the distance needed yet in travel to Six Nations (another 100 miles). To their surprise they were told of their close proximity to some other Indian communities, and it was at this point that the decision was made by the brothers to check it out. As they

reached their new destination they stopped again to inquire from an Indian to where they could find the Chief. The man replied that there were three chiefs, one for each of the three reserves. However, when the Indian was told the nature of the trip, he directed the brothers to George Nicholas, Chief of the Muncey-Delaware Indians, who was considered the most religious man. The brothers arrived, finding a very humble dwelling consisting of two rooms on the main floor and an upstairs, in all, which made for the living quarters of the Chief, his wife, three daughters and two sons. Having neither electricity, nor running water, the only source of heat was provided by the wood stove by which they cooked their meals. Julia's search was over. She would hold fast from that day, to her belief, that the brothers had been directed to her home by Divine Providence.”

Currently the Muncey Mission has an average Sunday attendance of approximately 40, with 25 adults and 15 children. The Church of Jesus Christ owns the 60-year-old church building and a mission house immediately adjacent, both of which are in need of renovations. The Great Lakes Regional Missionary Operating Committee (RMOC) has developed

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## Blessed Are They Who Shall Seek To Bring Forth My Zion

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

Above the rostrum in our branch in Lorain, Ohio is a sign that gives the name of the Church in large bold letters, "The Church of Jesus Christ." Beneath the name is the quotation, "Blessed Are They Who Shall Seek To Bring Forth My Zion" and below the name and the quotation is painted two books, one on the left, and one on the right. The scripture that is quoted below the two



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

books is Revelations 14:6-7 and Ezekiel 37: 15-17. Revelations 14:6-7 reads as follows: Verse 6, "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, tongue, and people." Verse 7, "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." This scripture indicates very strongly that God in due time would send an angel to earth to bring forth an everlasting gospel. The question here would be why or what would be the need for an everlasting gospel, if in fact, the Church that Jesus Christ established was the true church? The fact is that God showed John the revelator a time would come when men could not endure sound doctrine. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3-4: Verse 3, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..." Verse 4, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned into fables." The Apostle Paul writing was writing to Timothy. He shows very clearly that an apostasy was forthcoming. There are many other scriptures that point to the fact that there was to be an apostasy or a falling away of the Church that Jesus Christ set up. My thoughts for this article is not to go into depth on the falling away of the Church that Jesus Christ set up, only to make an attempt to show that in my title, "Blessed Are They Who Shall Seek To Bring Forth My Zion," we would be a blessed people.

Let us continue. In Revelations

14<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 7, is saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come..." etc. Here the Apostle John was told to write the above words, because in that period of time that an angel would come to bring the everlasting gospel would be a time "for the hour of his judgment is come." In other words, it would be a warning for His children, the human family, to prepare for a greater destruction that would be coming and that we should "Fear God and give glory to Him." Jesus said himself, speaking in Matthew 24:5-8. Verse 5, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Verse 6, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Verse 7, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, pestilences and earthquakes, in divers places," Verse 8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." Surely we are experiencing all the above words of Jesus Christ, even now, all we need to do is read the papers, listen to the radio and television. To quote the 8<sup>th</sup> verse again, "If these things are the beginning of sorrows, may God have mercy on all his creations." But remember there is a "blessing for those that seek to bring forth his Zion."

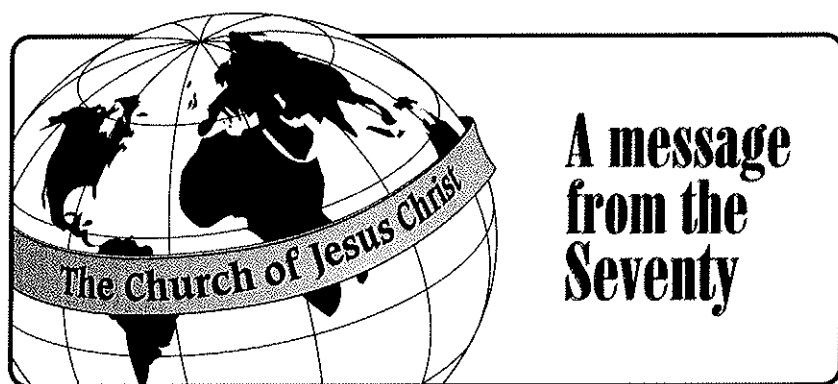
Ezekiel 37:15-17 reads as follows: Verse 15, *The Word of the Lord came again unto me, saying.*" Verse 16, "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions." Verse 17, "And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand." Here we first need to make clear the use of the word "stick or sticks." In those times, one of the methods to write was on animal skins. In *Smith's Bible Dictionary*, page 75 under the word writing, it says, "Herodotus after telling us that the

lonions learned the art of writing from the Phoenicians, adds that they called their books "skins" because they made use of sheep skins and goat skins when short of paper. It was one of the provisions in the Talmud that the law should be written on the skins of clean animals, tame or wild or even of clean birds. The skins when written were formed onto rolls. They were rolled upon one or two sticks and fastened with a tread, the ends were sealed. Therefore the two sticks in Ezekiel 37:15-17 was a method used under the ancient custom of keeping records on parchment or skins of animals. Here Ezekiel indicates that one stick would be for Judah and his companions, the house of Israel. All Bible readers know that our Bible came to us through the kingdom of Judah, therefore, it would make the Bible a record of the stick of Judah. Then he continued and said, *"take the other stick for Joseph which represents the stick of Ephraim."* Why separate Ephraim from Judah? Why select Joseph from all the other brothers? Why a special stick or book for him? In the 17<sup>th</sup> verse, he continues to write, *"And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand."* Now in the 18<sup>th</sup> verse, he continues to write, *"And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by thee?"* Verse 19, *"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."* Verses 17-19, God has made it clear the day would come that the stick (Book of Judah) and the book (Stick of Joseph) which is in the hand of Ephraim would be joined together as **one book**. Now if the stick of Judah I referred to is the Bible, what would the stick of Joseph, or Ephraim be? In the 29<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, Verse 11, he writes *"And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this I pray thee; and he saith, I*

*cannot; for it is sealed."* Verse 12, *"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this I pray thee; and he saith I am not learned."* Another reference to this book is found in Psalms 85:10-11, *"Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven."* To confirm this quotation, we find in the 45<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, Verse 8, *"Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it."* These references should suffice to prove that a book would be forthcoming. Our point here would be to show it to be a record of the stick (book) of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim. We need to identify him. Who is he? Where is his land? In the 48<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis, you will find that Jacob, a prophet of the living God, just before his death, blessed his son Joseph in the land of Egypt, and that he also pronounced a peculiar blessing upon his two grandsons, Manasseh and Ephraim, sons of Joseph born unto him in the land of Egypt. In this blessing, God through his prophet Jacob, enters into a very peculiar covenant with these lads, as you will find by reading the 19<sup>th</sup> verse *"And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations."* Then where is the place for the peculiar covenant to be fulfilled? In Genesis 49<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 1, we find the following *"And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."* Not that which should befall them in person, but that which should befall their posterity in the last days, as is evident from his blessing upon Judah in the 10<sup>th</sup> verse, where he says, *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (i.e.,*

*Christ) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be,"* a thing that Christ has not done yet. In verses 22-26, you will get Jacob's dying blessing upon Joseph and his posterity. And inasmuch as Ephraim and Manasseh are all the children that the Bible informs us of Joseph's having, this blessing, of course, pertains to their posterity. In verse 26, Jacob says to Joseph, *"The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors, unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."* Thus we find Jacob declaring that he has prevailed with God and obtained a greater blessing than his progenitors, Abraham and Isaac, had obtained. They had obtained, as we learn from Genesis 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> chapters, the everlasting covenant of all the land of Palestine. But here Jacob claims a greater possession and describes it geographically as extending to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, which on examination, we find to be on this continent (North and South America), it being on the opposite side on the globe from the land of Palestine. And these everlasting hills, at the utmost bound of his blessings; He declares shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. We have already seen, in the 48<sup>th</sup> chapter that he made Ephraim, the crown of Joseph's head by putting the right hand blessing upon him. Thus, we find that the Bible provides a land for Manasseh to become a people, and a place where Ephraim can become a multitude of nations. And it now becomes as much the work of God to get them to this land, as it was his work to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt with great substance in fulfillment of his covenant with Abraham, in Genesis 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. And also as emphatically the work of Ephraim and Manasseh to write the dealings of God with them, and the history of their travels and of their settlement of this their covenant

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## Youth In Action goes to Guatemala, Georgia, and Herndon

By Evangelist Jerry Valenti

The summer of 2001 saw three more successful tours by the General Missionary Benevolent Association's Youth in Action program, including the first full international tour. This GMBA program, which organizes missionary-oriented activities for young people aged 15-25 at established church locations, has now conducted tours for eight years. Full tours have been held at a total of 15 different branches/missions and about 10-15 more were visited in the past two years during the two choir tours.

### GUATEMALA

Six young people participated in the Youth in Action tour in the country of Guatemala from June 23 through July 2. The six international travelers were Michael Watson, Jordan Champine, Karen Henderson, Ryan Forster, Rachel Smith and George Rodriguez. Also making the trip were YIA Coordinator Brother Larry Watson, AMOC Representative Brother George Kovacic and Sister Bonnie Metzler. The group was made very welcome by the brothers and sisters in Guatemala, all of whom turned out at the airport to greet them with a big sign, which read, "Bienvenidos YIA."

All of the young people mixed together very well and held many activities together. There were 24 young people in attendance at an MBA

meeting during the week and they had an excellent dialogue, encouraging one another in their efforts to live godly lives. A music program was held on Saturday, which was attended by a large group of people, including many visitors. The young people, who sang in both English and Spanish, harmonized beautifully together and it was very well received by the congregation. After the meeting, the young people remained on the rostrum and began to share from their hearts how much they had come to love one another in such a short period of time. Many of the parents also gathered up front and were weeping along with their children. It was a fitting climax to a beautiful week.

Nearly 60 people gathered together for the Sunday meeting and witnessed a powerful manifestation of God's presence throughout the meeting. There were again many visitors, including one family with two teenage sons who told Brother Luis Marroquin that they would be attending regularly going forward and intend to make this their church.

### GEORGIA

A total of 17 young people traveled to Georgia for a two-part tour June 30 through July 8, encompassing Atlanta and Mid-Georgia. The participants were Andrew DiNardo, Christine Maddox, Jessica Batson, Rebecca

Hemmings, Jeremy Nicklow, Lisa Gray, Jordan Giannetti, Patrick Giannetti, Mark Cotellesse, Jenny Vargo, Amanda Straccia, Christine Henderson, Rachel Yeager, John Yeager, Ike Smith, Bethany Smith and Christina Benyola. They were joined by the Georgia young people as well as YIA Coordinator Sister Mandy Griffith, YIA Chairman Brother Jerry Valenti and Brother Phil Buffa who drove a van from Michigan with part of the group.

My flight to Atlanta arrived on Tuesday evening and as I was walking down the jet way, wondering who was going to meet me, I heard a commotion inside the concourse and then realized that there were people singing in there. As I got closer, I recognized the song as *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*, so I knew who it had to be. Yes, a group of about 20 young people had accompanied Brother Ken Staley to the airport to greet me. I was touched by this greeting and was happy to be joining them for the balance of the tour.

Several activities were held in Atlanta to involve the young people, including a singspiration, a seminar and a fund-raiser. The key success of the Atlanta portion of the tour was the effect that these young people had on some of the local young people who haven't been active in the Church. Their parents were thrilled with the renewed interest in the Church, which resulted from the time spent with the YIA team.

As the group prepared to depart for Mid-Georgia on Thursday morning, the sad news arrived that Sister Ruth Morris had passed away. However, in spite of the fact that most of Mid-Georgia Mission is from Sister Ruth's family, the message was delivered loud and clear that their desire was for the YIA tour to go on as scheduled. God blessed these brothers and sisters for their desire as many of them testified that they received great comfort during the few days that the YIA team visited with them.

Brother Johnny Bennett, a new member of the Church, was hospital-

(Continued on Page 11)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).*

Jesus Christ loves us more than we will ever be able to comprehend in our mortal mind. His love is constant, sure, never changing, unconditional, and complete. He will not allow ANYTHING to separate us from His love. In the above scripture, there is nothing naturally or supernaturally that can tamper with His love for us. Supernatural forces are beyond our control, but not beyond the control of Jesus Christ. That is the best insurance policy you can ever receive, because almighty God, who created us, and who created everything we see, gives it freely. His love is like a tall mountain tree that cannot be moved. If we ever feel like His love is not there for us, it is because we wandered away from it, but if we find our way back, His love is still there, the same as it always was, just like that giant tree.

Whenever we are stressed about our jobs, school, finances, our future, or are faced with conflicts with others, or having marital problems, or cannot find the right mate, or faced with serious affliction, all we have to do is grab hold of the tree of God's love, and the nervous worry disappears. This is what Jesus Christ can offer to anyone who simply makes the decision to believe in and follow Him. Being called a son or daughter of Jesus Christ puts everything in perspective. When you really, truly meditate on His love and His promise to never leave us alone, suddenly, all your cares disappear, and a spiritual and physical calmness overcomes you. You realize none of those things are important because they are only temporary. Our life with Jesus Christ is forever, and we are safe in His loving arms. Making that decision to become His follower is not making a decision to limit your life in any way. To the contrary, making a decision to follow Jesus Christ will set you free from worry, anxiety, heartbreak, hurt, loneliness and sorrow. His love is compared to a warm blanket, a toasty fire, an embrace of a loving mother, or the hug of a newborn baby. So many people today are searching far and wide for this kind of feeling. They may find temporary relief from their cares, but true contentment comes only from Jesus Christ. It can be tapped into at anytime, or anywhere. You don't have to visit a spa, contact a friend, read a motivational book, listen to soft music, or meditate. All you have to do is pray to Him that you would feel His love surround you, and within minutes, tears will be streaming down your face with joy, and you'll feel that "release" of anxiety you were looking for, and you'll realize you are eternally cradled in the hands of a loving Father.

This month, many young people will be going back to school. School for some can be a torturous environment because of peer pressure, ridicule, and conflict. Retreating into prayer mode can make you untouchable. No one even knows you're doing it. You'll feel Jesus walking with you to your classes, sitting there next to you, and walking you home. Just like that tree, it is always there for you to grab hold of. What power over our "emotions" we have! The spirit of God is a feeling that cannot be duplicated or substituted by anything else.

When I was ten years old, I dreamed of Jesus sitting on a beautiful porch swing in front of a beautiful white mansion. The morning sun was blazing on this scene. On the porch swing with Him were several young children. I looked, and saw myself sitting there with Him. The only way to describe the feeling in the dream is IMMENSE LOVE. That love has only gotten deeper over the years.

If you haven't already done so, make the decision to be happy once and for all. Truly commit your life to Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ can show you the way. No matter what you've done in life, or how bad you think you are, you'll feel unconditional love like you have never felt, and NOTHING will ever separate you from it, FOREVER!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## The Good That You Do Shall Come Back To You—Be like Dorcas

Dear Friends,

Can you imagine being so loved by others that when you died, they begged God to let you live and you were brought back to life? This is what happened in the Bible days with a wonderful sister named Tabitha and called Dorcas.

Why did people love this woman? What was so special about her? The Bible doesn't describe her as a great beauty, nor do we know if she was really rich or really smart. What she was, was a wonderful, loving worker for Christ.

In those days, in that country, if your dad or mom died, the government never gave you help, food, or even a little bit of money. Other good people had to help. But if no one helped you or if you had to borrow money and then could not pay it back, you were in terrible trouble. A family member could be sold as a slave or signed away to be a servant, bound for years. When there was no work, people starved, begged for food and went without decent clothing or warm coats.

So what did Dorcas do that was so valued and so special? The Bible says (see Acts 9:36-43) that she made coats and other garments of clothes for needy and poor people.

Can you imagine how it would feel to not be dressed properly like the other people? Can you think how poor people felt embarrassed, and sad, and



cold? Dorcas noticed. Dorcas cared. She used her talents to work and provide beautiful garments and coats for others. Instead of being cold, and looking poor, she helped others feel warm and look wonderful. No wonder they cried when she got sick, then died.

At the time Dorcas was dying, the Apostle Peter was visiting in Lydda, a town about twenty-five miles away. The disciples sent men to bring Peter to Joppa. But there were no cars, or trains; people had to get places on foot, wagon, or ride a donkey who walked slowly.

By the time Peter arrived, this wonderful woman was truly dead. Her body was washed to be ready for burial and laid in a room upstairs. All the widows stood around Peter crying and showing him the fine clothes Dorcas had made for them.

Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt down and prayed to God. Afterwards, he turned to the body, called her name, and told her "arise." Dorcas opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Peter gave her his hand and lifted her up. And when he called everyone to come, he presented her, probably saying something like, "Here is Dorcas, servant of God and your friend and sister."

Can you imagine their joy and delight? A mighty miracle had occurred. Dorcas was one of eight people brought back from death in the Bible. Everyone knew she had died; now everyone could see the power of God. And why was she returned to life? Not because she was rich or important, but because she was a beloved worker for God.

The Bible tells us that after this miracle, many believed in God. We can

be workers for God, too. Even in the smallest ways, we can make a difference. Look around, don't be afraid. There's some small but important job each one of us can do every day for someone else in the name of the Lord. Be like Dorcas, find your job.

Love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

PETER	DORCAS
BE	WHO
A	MADE
WORKER	CLOTHES
FOR	FOR
JESUS	THE
LIKE	POOR
GOOD	

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

Jesus is a friend  
who knows all  
your faults and  
still loves you  
anyway.



**Our Women Today**

## Sweet Smelling Savor for the Lord

AREA LADIES' CIRCLE  
FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND 2001,  
HERNDON, VIRGINIA

*By Sister Jessie Scaglione*

The aroma in the air this weekend was nothing short of the Lord with His abundant spirit, filling the room. Ladies from six states met in the Days Inn Hotel in Herndon, Virginia for a weekend of spiritual upliftment and fellowship only sisters in Christ could share. The business portion was attended to first, then on to the devotions, presented by the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch under the direction of Sister Linda Ottavian. The theme of the weekend, "Sweet smelling savor for the Lord" was expressed through scripture and song. The spirit was present from the opening prayer, through special selections chosen, then confirmed by another. Little ones were healed and tears were shed.

Lunch was followed by a seminar presented by Sisters Connie Frankenberg, Judy Neagle and Nellie Maletta. The sisters enjoyed the preparation portion, sharing even the blessings they felt in cleaning details they were responsible for.

The evening was filled with fellowship, and even the young ones knew their scripture. Ephesians 5:2 summed up the weekend:

*"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor."*



**Branch and  
Mission News**

## LaGrange, Kentucky

On Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Mark Bringle said he could no longer wait. He had quietly and patiently attended church in LaGrange, Kentucky for six months, but he could not wait another day. The Spirit of God had touched him and he said he wanted to be baptized immediately. But as it turned out, Thursday wasn't ideal for the other members of LaGrange. So, Mark said he was willing to wait until Friday. But as it turned out, Friday wasn't ideal for the other members in LaGrange. So, Mark said he was willing to wait until Saturday. As it turned out, Saturday night was ideal for the other members in LaGrange.

On Saturday evening, June 16<sup>th</sup>, after waiting 48 hours, Mark finally entered the same beautiful waters of Crystal Lake that his wife, Nancie, had been baptized in three months earlier. Mark's baptism was taking place just six months after he took a horrible fall

from an icy roof (he was a chimney-sweep by trade), in which he broke his back. Mark said this fall had caused him to stop and reflect upon all he had always taken for granted. Following a very serious and immediate back surgery, Mark had experienced a miraculous recovery that ended with his going into the waters of rebirth, just six months later.

Following Brother Mark's baptism, Brother Doug Obradovich spoke for a moment at the water. He used Mosiah 18, comparing the Waters of Mormon mentioned in this chapter, to "LaGrange's own Waters of Mormon" (Crystal Lake). He invited anyone who wanted to "mourn with those that mourn, comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and stand as witnesses of God" to join Mark in being baptized. Ron Karroll, Mark's father-in-law asked, "Do you have room for one more?" Ron and Doug spoke for a few moments at the water and then embraced. Ron affirmed his desire to repent and serve God for the remainder of his life. He then removed his sunglasses and went into the water.\*

(Continued on Page 8)



From left to right: Sister Nancy Bringle, Brother Ron Karroll, Sister Beth Karroll, Sister Elsie Karroll, and Brother Mark Bringle.

## LaGrange, Kentucky

Continued from Page 7

As Brother Ron came out of the water, another invitation was extended to join Mark and Ron in being baptized. Elsie Karroll, Ron's mother, stepped forward. Again, after a brief conversation with Brother Doug, Elsie was baptized. Sister Elsie related that during her 70+ years of life, she had never made any commitment to the Lord. She said she was ready to give her life to Jesus. Her baptism made for three generations in this family to join the Church on June 16, 2001. It was a wonderful surprise for "the other members in LaGrange" who had gathered to see Mark's long awaited baptism, and ended up witnessing three! It seemed much clearer why Mark had to wait 48 hours to get baptized.

All three of the new converts went back to the Karroll's home, where the evening service continued. Each of the new members was confirmed and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Testimonies followed and then the 12 members (Doug, Candace and Courtney Obradovich, Dan and Tina Palacios, Brian and Tracy Younce, Ron, Beth and Elsie Karroll, and Mark and Nancie Bringle) in LaGrange, Kentucky enjoyed their first communion as such a large group.

The chapter that was referenced at the water, Mosiah 18, records that 204 souls were "added to the Church" at the Waters of Mormon. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the three souls (totaling eight when coupled with the five from March 18<sup>th</sup>) were "added to the Church" at the Waters of Crystal Lake. Makes you wonder how soon the rest of the 196 will go into the waters of Crystal Lake in LaGrange, Kentucky, doesn't it?

*\* As an aside, just two weeks following his baptism, Brother Ron went into the hospital for an angioplasty, due to major blockage in his heart. He was anointed the night before and as the doctors prepared for this surgery, they stopped, stating that Ron's heart was not as bad as they previously had determined. They determined that the procedure would*

*be aborted. Brother Doug later stated that while he was anointing Ron the night before, God told him that Ron would not require the scheduled procedure. As Doug was in prayer the following day, asking God to confirm that Ron's procedure would be aborted, this very prayer was interrupted with a phone call. The call was to inform him that Ron would not, in fact need the angioplasty.*

## Blessings in Spartanburg, South Carolina

By Sister Regina Alverson

### CALLED TO LABOR

On the morning of April 15, 2001, the saints of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission were pleasantly surprised to witness the ordination of Brother Joe Alverson into the office of a Teacher. Brother Harold Littlejohn mentioned in the previous Wednesday night service that we would have a double meeting on Sunday, but he did not tell us why. After our morning service, Brother Harold announced that we would begin part two of our meeting. He began to talk about one being called by God to labor, and the responsibilities of the ministry of the Gospel. He then called Brother Joe to the front of the church, and said that after much fasting and prayer, Brother Joe was going to be ordained into the office of a Teacher. Brother Joe was overwhelmed as the congregation sang, *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*. Brother Cletis Hill washed his feet, and Brother Darrell Rossi ordained him as a Teacher.

Brother Joe had several experiences concerning his calling. In one dream, Brother Joe saw some members of the Church having a disagreement. He approached them and told them he would help them because he was a Teacher now.

We thank God for the beautiful day we all were blessed to witness. Our brother solicits your prayers that he may continue to do God's will.

### BAPTISM

On Mother's Day, May 13, 2001, we gathered at the river to witness 15-year-old Ruben Fernando Figueroa repent of his sins and be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Ruben, who is also my natural brother, called me on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and said that he wanted to go to church that night with me. While we were in the service I observed that Ruben had his Bible open and he was paying attention to the lesson, which is not something he used to do before. Later that night when we were back at my mother's home, Ruben told me that he wanted to be baptized into our Church. He said that while he was okay with the church he was attending, he said he felt more comfortable in our Church, and he never learned from them what he has learned in The Church of Jesus Christ. He made his wishes known to Brother Harold who told Ruben that he knew he needed to change his life.

It was a very beautiful Sunday morning as we gathered at the water. Brother Harold led Ruben into the water and baptized him with the authority of Jesus Christ. Later at the church, Brother Darrell Rossi laid hands on Ruben for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. My prayer for years has been that my natural family would become my spiritual family, and I thank God because he is answering my prayers. Later that evening while my mother (who is not a member of the Church) and my brother were about to enter a restaurant, a camera crew from a local TV station approached her and asked what was special about her Mother's Day. She began to cry and said she had received the best present ever because she witnessed her son being baptized! PRAISE GOD because just a few years ago when I told my mom I was leaving the church we attended to join The Church of Jesus Christ, she was not happy at all. We can see the hand of God is working now and we thank Him.

Please pray for our mission in Spartanburg, that we may continue to grow not only in numbers but in spirit as well.

## Two Baptisms in Maine Mission

*By Sister Cynthia Onorato*

The air was chilly but refreshing and the snow crunched beneath our feet as the Maine Mission and families gathered at the water's edge on April 1, 2001 to witness the baptism of Patricia Chatman.

Our hearts were warmed with joy and the spirit of God as Brother Darryl Onorato baptized our sister with power and authority from God. We sang, *There's a New Name Written Down in Glory*. As we were rejoicing, Joshua J. Onorato stepped forth and with a repentant heart expressed his desire to be baptized as well. Into the waters of rebirth he went immersed in our Savior's love. Brother Darryl Onorato, Joshua's father, baptized our young brother.

Upon returning to the Sunday service, Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. offered a prayer. Brother Darryl confirmed Sister Patricia. Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. confirmed Brother Joshua.

Brother Richard Sr. was inspired to go into Matthew, Chapter 28, Verse 19 where Christ told His disciples to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Christ exclaimed, "Lo I am with you unto the ends of the Earth."

Brother Richard Sr. exhorted us to pray without ceasing and obtain the Spirit of God in our lives. Brother Darryl then spoke from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter, teaching us to be subject to one another, to be clothed with humility, to be sober and vigilant because our adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking who he may devour. He spoke that as an Elder, Christ instructed them to feed the flock, being ensamples. When the chief shepherd shall appear we shall receive a crown of glory that will not fade away. He stressed to us the hope of baptism gives us the hope of salvation. All those who die righteously will resurrect righteously.

Sister Patricia then gave her

testimony, stating her sincere thankfulness to be called into the Church. She stated, how God helped her through her time of great need when her husband recently passed away. She felt strongly, by the love that was shown to her and her family throughout the years by the saints, that she was given this Gospel as a gift.

Brother Joshua then expressed his thankfulness for being called into the Lord's Gospel. He has had this desire from a very young age. Brother Joshua told of a dream he had previously that he saw his Dad, Brother Darryl, in a meeting saying, "Someone here wants to be baptized!" Joshua rose to his feet and said, "That is me! I want to be baptized!" Sister Marie Perello testified that when Sister Patricia requested her baptism a few weeks earlier, she saw a white dove rest upon her head.

Sister Kathy Onorato testified that on the morning of her sister Patricia's baptism, that she and her mother, Charlotte Boynton, looked on the ground and saw two shiny bright pennies. It was given to Sister Kathy that there would be two baptisms that day, not knowing that her son, Joshua, would be the other one requesting baptism.

The meeting concluded in saying: "Through death, a blessing (life) was manifested. The Lord has used this as an instrument in calling his servants into his realm of salvation. We praise God for His great miraculous plan of redeeming love!"

Please keep Brother Joshua and Sister Patricia in your prayers as their walk with Christ has just begun.

## Note of Thanks

A sincere thank you to all of my dear brothers, sisters, family and friends for their love shown through prayers, cards, phone calls and gifts to me and my family during my husband, Dominick Perello's illness and passing.

I'm especially grateful to the Lord for calling my husband into the Gospel. He would have been baptized four short years come this June. We were married for 50 years. I prayed for 46

years that the Lord would call him into the Gospel.

I can testify that the Lord answers prayers and there is nothing that he cannot do.

Brother Dominick was blessed with a sincere testimony and he remembered to pray for all those in need. He especially remembered the young in our mission. He was a pure example of God's love.

I thank God for the assurance that Brother Dominick is now in the Lord's presence for eternity.

God bless each and every one of you. Thank you for your love and thank God for answered prayers!

Sister Marie (Onorato) Perello  
Maine Mission

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Andruccioli, Albert  
2945 Lincoln Drive, Room 304  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-628-3526

Belenski, David and Donna  
9015 Derby Lane  
Port Richie, FL 34668  
727-697-0047

Donkin, Jennifer  
6100 Laurent Dr. #514  
Parma, OH 44129  
440-842-1820

Maggio, Laurretta  
620 Creek Tree Dr.  
DeSoto, TX 75115  
972-274-3843

Parravano, Dan and Olivia  
3470 Ravinia Circle  
Aurora, IL 60504  
630-820-0937

Phillips, Brandon and Adrianna  
301 Gatewood, Apt. G1  
Lansing, MI 48917  
517-886-6252

Scolaro, Tim and Renee  
1922 E. Lodge Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85283-4212

## Native American Work

Continued from Page 1

plans to renovate the mission house and church. The existing buildings, once renovated, will provide living quarters for visiting missionaries, a church 'community center' to be used for arts & crafts, Vacation Bible School, fund raising dinners, etc., serving the needs of the membership and the Native American community.

## SIX NATIONS MISSION

It was October 1937 when Hugh Beaver of the Six Nations Reservation, also not pleased with the churches he had attended, began to petition the Lord with great fervency for Spiritual direction.

"Jane Dolson was the daughter of Brother Isaac and Sister Maggie French and niece to Hugh Beaver, as well as a niece to the Nicholas'. It was not long after her baptism at the Muncey Mission, when Jane was overwhelmed by a desire to give her testimony to her Uncle Hugh. Undaunted by the 100-mile distance to Six Nations (east of Muncey) and without any transportation, Jane simply packed some clothes and began to walk the arduous journey in early October of 1937. Shortly into her walk, though, a car pulled up and stopped. Asking Jane of her destination, the driver surprisingly stated that he was heading to the same destination and offered a ride. Jane could not refuse, and in accepting the offer she marveled at the driver's ability to know the exact route to her uncle's home. Upon arriving Jane stepped out of the car, and when turning to thank her driver it was then that she discovered, mysteriously, both he and the car had vanished! Jane would be left with no other explanation than to believe that this most kind and generous stranger was none other than a messenger of God sent to her aid.

"As Hugh and Lillian welcomed their niece, Jane immediately began to tell her story of the driver and began to relate the testimony of her conversion into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To Hugh, his prayers had been answered. His only aim at this point was to meet

the saints in Muncey as soon as possible and to learn more of this "new" church.

"On the following Sunday, Hugh and his friend, Henry Liker, walked into the home of Sister Muskellunge where Brothers Wade Riggen and Matthew Miller were conducting a church service. 'We have come from Grand River,' Henry spoke up. 'We have heard the Spirit of God is in this place, and we have come to see.'

"Within a week Hugh Beaver received letters from William H. Cadman and Thurman Furnier asking if they could meet with him in Grand River. By Sunday a handful of saints,

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"Thus saith the Lord, I will  
purify my church and my  
servants shall go and preach  
the Gospel to the Indians of  
America."

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including Brothers Riggen and Miller, held the first church services in the Beaver's home where, in Riggen's words, 'they felt a good spirit.' It was as if a new life had been given Hugh. Shortly thereafter, on Wednesday, October 15, Apostles William Cadman and Joseph Bittinger made their first visit to Grand River as part of a twelve-day missionary trip through Canada. Feeling 'well received and cordially treated' during his first day at the Beaver's home, Brother Bittinger would write years later that 'a more faithful brothers and sisters than these at Muncey and Grand River would be difficult to find.'

Currently Six Nations has an average Sunday attendance of approximately 30, with 15 adults and 15 children. They meet in an 80-year-old building that requires significant repairs although the Church does not own the property. A sizeable parcel of land, approximately two miles from the present church, has been donated for the express purpose of building a new church building. With architectural drawings nearing completion and groundbreaking 'around the corner' the

new building will provide eating facilities, classrooms and sleeping quarters for visiting missionaries. The initial estimate for both of these projects is approximately \$225,000. Since the Great Lakes Region receives no direct financial assistance from General Church to support these missions, the Great Lakes RMOC has established a goal to raise these funds over a two-year period. The membership with the region voted and overwhelmingly approved these projects, with each branch and mission within the region setting individual goals to support this historic effort.

## KEEPING THE REVELATION ALIVE

A significant amount (\$118,000) has already been raised, donated and/or pledged, as noted in a letter dated July 16, 2001 and sent to all branch and mission locations in the U.S. and Canada. This letter was signed by Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President as well as by the Missionary Committee Chairmen, noting that... *"The brothers and sisters of the missions at Muncey, Six Nations and the Great Lakes Region deeply appreciate your support of this effort."*

**Anyone desiring to assist, in keeping the revelation of November 8, 1861 alive may send donations to:**

The Great Lakes RMOC  
Building Fund  
C/O Paul P. Whitton  
17339 Heather Lane  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Please make your check payable to The Church of Jesus Christ and note it is for the RMOC Building Fund. Include your return address and an acknowledgement of your generous donation will be provided.

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... To Bring Forth My Zion  
Continued from Page 3

possessions, as it was the business of the Israelites to write the dealings of



God with them, and the history of their settlement in their covenant possession in the land of Palestine. Having learned who Ephraim of the house of Joseph is, and the land on which they reside, we are now prepared to understand to whom God wrote the great things of His law, and they were counted a strange thing. But from Hosea 9<sup>th</sup> chapter commencing at the 11<sup>th</sup> verse, we find that Ephraim has apostatized from God, and that God has cast them away because they would not hearken unto Him, and made them wanderers among the nations. Or, in short, they having joined themselves unto idols, God has left them, and they have dwindled down to their wild roving Indian tribes, grieved, shot at, and hated, as Jacob and Hosea have both predicted. Now the question arises, what has become of the great things of God's law that was written to Ephraim? Is it forever lost? Let prophet Ezekiel answer. I will now refer you back to the beginning of this article. I made a reference to Ezekiel 37:15-17. I explained how in ancient time, they kept records. Hence, we perceive that the great things of God's law to Ephraim here on this continent his covenant possession would be the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim; and that God has positively declared that he would put it with the stick of Judah, the Bible, and make them one in His hand. But when? Ezekiel here answers that question by showing us what shall follow God's putting the sticks together: And say unto them, thus saith the Lord God. Behold I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen (or Gentiles) whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into thine own land; the very land that God has been turning and overturning the nations to accomplish ever since the book was to be identified and that book is The Book of Mormon. Many other scriptures can be referred to, to identify The Book of Mormon, however, I want to return to my original reason for this article and that is "Blessed are they that seek to bring forth my Zion." This scripture is found in The Book of Mormon, 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:37.

From the beginning of time,

God's desire was to have people that would serve Him and keep His commandments. However, He did not want to force anyone to serve Him. He gave us all a free choice. We could serve Him and love Him or be free spirits, and choose not to, which would not bring us into His kingdom, as we would otherwise go to if we did. This reward to be with Him in His kingdom was, of course, the ultimate goal. But throughout His teachings, which He gave through the prophets and the apostles, He promised us blessings while here on earth as well. This brings me to the word **Zion** that is in the above scriptural reference given.

(To be continued next month)

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

ized on Thursday, just prior to the group's arrival. That evening, the groups in the respective houses had prayer for him and he was also anointed in the hospital. The result was that he was released from the hospital the next morning and was able to participate in the tour. Flyers were distributed to the surrounding community on Friday and some visitors attended the picnic at the church on Saturday. The tour climaxed with a packed house for the Sunday meeting.

HERNDON, VIRGINIA

The YIA team in Herndon July 7-15 consisted of the following young people: Christina Carson, Laurel Cherry, Ryan Huttenberger, Jared Bright, Ben Bright, Chastity King, Stefanie Suska, Kenneth Yanes, Miguel Reyes, Saladin Foy, Jamie Schroeder and Brian Smith. They were joined by the Herndon young people as well as YIA Coordinator Brother Jason Monaghan, YIA Chairman Brother Jerry Valenti, Sister Cindy Bright and Ray Bright who drove a van from New Jersey with part of the group.

The group of young people hit the streets in Herndon, knocking on doors

and delivering flyers to about 1200 homes. The effort showed some results as one person called with questions about the Church and one woman came to the Church on Sunday to request prayer for her mother who has cancer. We pray that others may be affected in the future by these seeds, which were planted.

Special meetings were held on Wednesday night and Friday night. The Friday night meeting was especially memorable as a planned singspiration turned into a season of emotional testimonies from the young people. Some exhorted those who are not baptized to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to serve God. The YIA group helped fill the church building on Sunday and a wonderful spirit was felt during the meeting. Some of the afflicted were brought before the Lord and we pray that the gift of healing is bestowed upon them. The group formed a huge circle at the end of the meeting as the tour was closed in prayer.

THANK YOU

As Youth in Action Chairman, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all who helped make this year's tours successful. This includes all of the families who hosted YIA members in their homes, those who drove the vans as well as others who provided transportation, those who prepared food and those who donated their time and money to these tours. The three YIA Coordinators did wonderful jobs this year and the entire YIA Committee continues to work well together to make these tours a reality. And, of course, it was a blessing to witness the zeal and desire of the 35 wonderful young people who brought a blessing to these three locations this year. I believe God blessed them for their efforts as well as all who participated.

We appreciate the support of the GMBA officers, each of whom visited one of the tours for the final weekend; Brother Jeff Giannetti (GMBA Vice President) in Guatemala, Brother Isaac J. Smith (GMBA Chaplain) in Georgia, and Brother Paul A. Palmieri (GMBA President) in Herndon.

## Children Blessed

Rocco Joseph Farmantino, son of Vince and Sharon Farmantino, was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on May 13, 2001.

Stephanie Rose Green, daughter of Richard and Rosemarie Green, was blessed in the Kent, Ohio Mission on May 27, 2001.

Derek John David Jr., son of Derek and Heather David was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on July 22, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother George Elliot was baptized on July 8, 2001 in the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Joseph Lovalvo.

Brother John P. Ricco was baptized on June 24, 2001 in the Perry, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Hufnagle and confirmed by Brother Bill Hufnagle.

Sister Jamie MacDougall was baptized on June 3, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Donald Pandone.

Sister Pamela Keener was baptized on June 3, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Donald Pandone.

Sister Diane Homberg was baptized on May 6, 2001 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Scott Griffith and confirmed by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr.

Brother Dan Homberg was baptized on May 6, 2001 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Sam Risola and confirmed by Brother Jim Speck.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Jonathan Olexa and Sister Karen Stefani were united in holy matrimony in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on June 16, 2001.

## OBITUARIES

### MARGARET S. IORIO

Sister Margaret S. Iorio, a member of the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission, passed onto her reward on February 10th, 2001. Sister Margaret is survived by her daughter, Sister Virginia Molinatto; two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### JACK F. PONTILLO

Brother Jack F. Pontillo, an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ, passed onto his reward on April 18, 2001. Brother Jack is survived by his wife, Sister Antionette (Lena); one daughter, Sharon; two sons, Daniel and Brian and their wives; one sister; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

### LORNA "MICKEY" (CAMPAGNA) SIMPSON

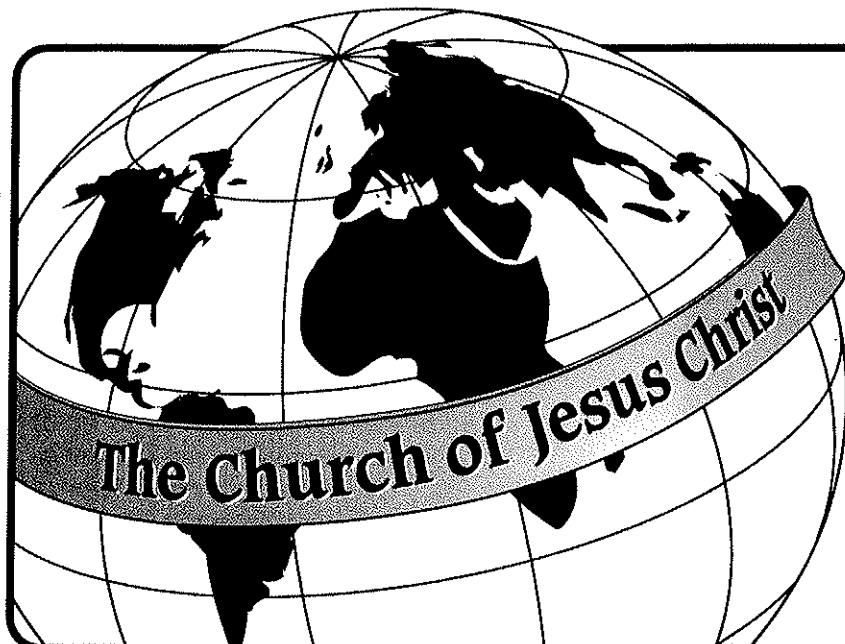
Lorna "Mickey" (Campagna) Simpson passed onto her reward on April 18th, 2001. Lorna was preceded in death by two brothers, Tom and Ted, as well as her first husband, Richard Campagna. Left to mourn are her husband, Harry; sons, James, Ty, and Curt; daughters, Danine and Tracey; step-children, Harry, Kris, and Pam; three siblings; and 14 grandchildren.

### ELIZABETH GERACE

Sister Elizabeth Gerace, an ordained Deaconess from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed onto her reward on July 5, 2001. Sister Elizabeth was preceded in death by her sister Sarah, and brothers Dan, Sam and James. She is survived by her husband, Anthony; daughter, Rebekah De Roo; sisters, Pricilla Kerver, Ruth Maurich, and Geri Garofalo; brother, Frank Garofalo; grandsons, Tony and Jared; and granddaughter, Alexandria.

### DOMINICK (SONNY) PERELLO

Brother Dominick (Sonny) Perello, a member of the Maine Mission, passed onto his reward on April 9, 2001. Brother Dominick is survived by his wife, Sister Marie (Onorato) Perello; one sister, Katherine Cordisco; one son, Brother Donald Perello and his wife Ann; two daughters, Sister Elizabeth Berticelli and Jeanette Israel; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 2001

Volume 57, No. 10

## Valle Guanape, Venezuela Mission

Brother Fred and Sister Charlotte Olexa along with Brother Frank and Sister Rose Palacios visited the Valle Guanape, Venezuela Mission from July 11 to July 24, 2001. They had a number of goals to accomplish.

The missionary trip was to preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, to instruct our members in the Faith and Doctrine and Law and Order of the Church, to instruct the membership about the Restoration,

and The Book of Mormon.

Upon their arrival, they immediately began by anointing the sick. There are not many doctors in the area, only one small clinic. People that have come to the knowledge of The Church of Jesus Christ have come to depend on the anointing with holy oil and the prayer of faith. Many have been healed when anointed, both young and old, members and non-members.

Brothers Fred Olexa and Frank Palacios both encouraged and instructed Brother Raul Bicelis to study and read the Scriptures, especially those that deal with the Apostasy and Restoration. Brother Raul Bicelis was provided scriptural references dealing with the Restoration. He was instructed and is committed to spending time each day in studying the Word of God and the Restoration.

Sisters Charlotte Olexa and Rose Palacios continued to encourage and instruct Sister Alicia Bicelis on the important role in her office and calling as a Deaconess. She is an excellent example for the women, both young and old, in the neighborhood.

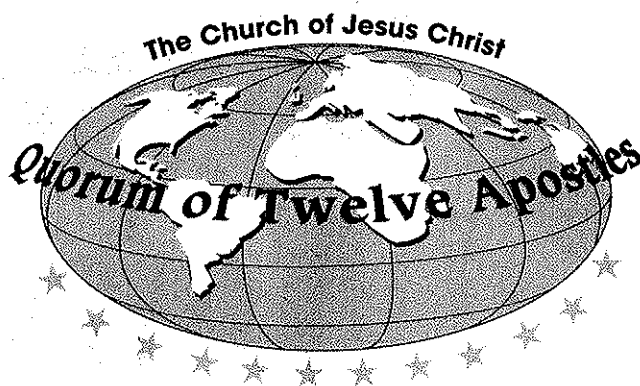
Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis were diligently instructed in The Book of Mormon during the course of the two week missionary visit. Others who attended the services and visited, also heard the message of The Book of Mormon and the Restoration. One of the challenges is there are some who associate us with other Restoration groups. Brothers Fred Olexa and Frank Palacios were very emphatic that we are a distinct group and are not associated or affiliated with any other Restoration group or church.

Other challenges exist. There are a number of evangelical groups that



Venezuela's new converts: Sisters Fidelia Leal, Carmen Quiaro, Catalina Quiaro and Brother Ramon Quiaro, plus brothers and sisters from Venezuela and the United States.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Blessed Are They Who Shall Seek To Bring Forth My Zion

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

(Continued from last month)

### WHAT IS ZION?

**Zion:** A word, a place, a thought, a dream, a condition or a kingdom. Let us look at the word first. Where does it come from? What does the word of God say about it? It appears 132 times in the Old and New Testament. It is spoken mainly by the



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

Psalmist David (35 times), Isaiah (31 times), and the following: Lamentations, Jeremiah, Micah, Joel, Zechariah, Amos, Matthew, John, Romans, 1st Peter and Revelations. It first appears in 2nd Samuel 5:7 and it last appears in Revelations 14:1.

### OTHER NAMES IN THE BIBLE WHICH REFER TO ZION ARE:

The *City of David* is found in 2nd Chronicles 5:2. The *City of God* is found in Psalms 46:4-5, Psalms 48:1-14, Psalms 87:3 and Hebrews 12:22. The *City of the Lord* is found in Isaiah 60:14, Isaiah 62:4, and Isaiah 62:12. The *Mountain of the Lord* and the *New Jerusalem* is found in Revelations 3:7-13, Revelations 21:9-10, 3rd Nephi 21:20, 25, and Ether 13:4-11. Some have stated that Zion is Jerusalem. Jewish rabbis preach that when Messiah comes to Jerusalem and all Jews are gathered there, that will be Zion.

### THE BIBLE TEACHES OF THREE PLACES: JERUSALEM, ZION, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

What is the difference between Jerusalem, Zion and the Kingdom of God?

Let us look at Jerusalem first. It is mentioned in Genesis 14:18, where it is called Salem (peace). It later becomes U-RU-SALEM (City of Peace), yerushalayim, Jerushlem, Urishlem, Hilrousaleem and finally, when the Jehusite people lived there until the time of David, it was called as it is today, Jerusalem. This name appears in the Old Testament approximately 600 times and after the Acts of the Apostles, it is mentioned

10-14 times. The tribe of Benjamin claimed the city as part of their inheritance, but was never able to take it. 2nd Samuel records that after David was proclaimed king over all of Israel, he immediately with United Israel took the citadel outside of the city and proclaimed it "Zion," and proceeded to take the rest of the city. Jerusalem is built upon three hills:

1. Moriah- where Abraham offered Isaac, and where the temple was built (2nd Chronicles 3:1).

2. Zion - where David's first victory as king of United Israel was won. Where the Ark of the Covenant rested during David's reign (2nd Chronicles 5:1-2).

3. Golgotha - where the Lord was crucified.

We can see by these Biblical facts that there were two places, Jerusalem was a city, a place. Zion is a condition within a place and by it was the power of God made manifest within the kingdom. From Zion, David ruled with the Ark of the Covenant within the city of David and Israel was a United Kingdom under God. As this literally was the condition of Israel at the time of David, so did Ezekiel's prophecies to the kingdom God established in the last days - Ezekiel 37:21-28. Jesus speaks of the kingdom of God being set up (Matthew 6:10) and many more places. Paul said the kingdom of God is not in word but in power (1st Corinthians 4:20). Daniel said in the days of these kings, I (God) will set up a kingdom (Daniel 2:44). Isaiah 2:3 states that the law shall go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

As the condition existed on Mt. Zion with ruling, the laws of God were duly kept and made the law for all of Israel. So shall it be, when Zion is established in the last days, there shall only be the laws of God proclaimed. Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and was the place wherein the doctrine of Zion was proclaimed to the world. So shall the New Jerusalem spoken of by Christ be the place wherein all the world will hear the doctrine of the kingdom of Zion (United Israel) (those that have

prevailed with God), Genesis 32:28.

#### WHERE IS IT TO BE ESTABLISHED?

Basically, no one really knows. Christ spoke in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 20:21-22 stating that on this land, etc., it shall be a New Jerusalem. It states that Jesus said "on this land." Where was that land? It was called the land Bountiful in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 11:1-10 and also in Alma 22:27-35. North or south, a matter of interpretation of how far is north or south. When Jesus spoke, he could have meant all of the American continent. Jacob speaks in 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 10:10,20. Ether speaks in Ether 13:1-2.

#### WHAT IS THE REASON FOR ZION?

A gathering place for the whole world and all those that repent and are numbered with Israel (See 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 12:13, Isaiah 51:11,13, Isaiah 54, Isaiah 46:13, Psalms 132, Isaiah 60, and Daniel 7:9-12).

To become the Bride of Christ, John describes the New Jerusalem and called it the Bride (See Revelations 20:9, Isaiah 62:1,5, Daniel 7:13,14, Isaiah 59:20,21 and Isaiah 49:18). All nations to come to it and serve (See Isaiah 2, Micah 4, Zechariah 14:16, Isaiah 60 and Daniel 7:27). All to have God's pure language (See Zephaniah 3:8,9).

#### WHERE DID ZION START AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Daniel 2:44 stated in the days of these kings of the year 1830 and Greece received independence, all four kings of Rome, Persia, Greece and Assyria were in power at one time (See Daniel 2:34-35).

All kingdoms have a start, a middle and an ending. The spirit of Zion must flourish in the Church if it is to help bring the kingdom to fulfillment. We must labor for Zion (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 26:31). A nation born in a day. The epitome of Zion (Isaiah 66:5,9).

#### HOW LONG?

Opinions go from a few years to

1000 years. Neither the Bible nor The Book of Mormon give a time (Isaiah 65:12,25). This concludes my thoughts and personal opinion of the scripture outlined for this article (Revelations 14:6,7, Ezekiel 37:15-17, 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:37).

*(In compiling this article, other than my own research through the Bible, Book of Mormon and Smith's Bible Dictionary, I have referred to an article written on Zion by Brother A.R. Lovalvo).*

### Venezuela

Continued from Page 1

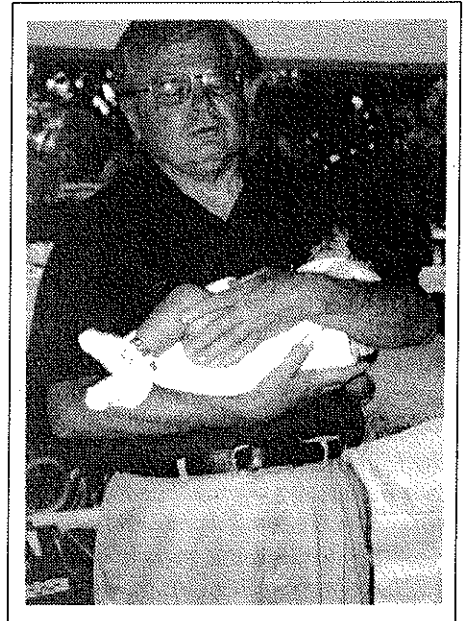
try to cause confusion and discontent. Our members in Valle Guanape, Venezuela were taught to keep themselves separate and apart from other religious groups. The experience about "Identity" was related to the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was reviewed again with Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis so they are fully aware of the importance of maintaining the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Meetings were held every evening. Many attended from the community. As usual, many were anointed. Some struggled with the decision to become baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. However, their struggles were not in vain. Four people requested their baptism and their request was honored and fulfilled. Their names are: Brother Ramon Quiaro and Sister Fidelia Antonia Leal, both baptized by Brother Fred Olexa, and Sisters Catalina Quiaro and Carmen Quiaro, both baptized by Brother Frank Palacios. Sixteen people attended the baptisms and witnessed how one is immersed as was Jesus Christ when He was baptized by John the Baptist.

One child was blessed. The child's name is Abreel Alejandra Gomez-Diaz.

Two of the new members, Sister Fidelia Antonia Leal and Sister Carmen Quiaro had dreams. In her dream, Sister Fidelia saw a beautiful

tree on top of a mountain. Fruit was falling off of the tree, and the children were feeding from the fruit! In her dream, Sister Carmen saw a bright light and a voice spoke to her saying, "Everything the Brother has told you is truth!" Sister Carmen Quiaro has a physical handicap. She is blind! There are several who are very interested in The Church of Jesus Christ. They are impressed with the spirit and example of the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. When doing something as simple as buying

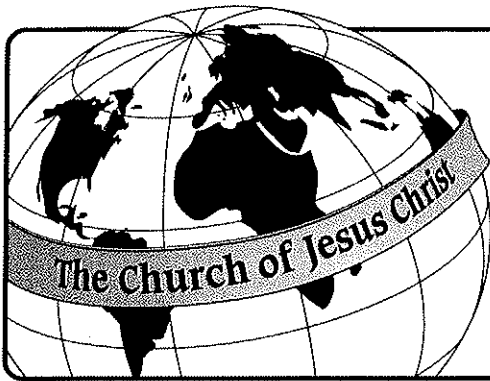


**Brother Fred Olexa blessing Abreel Alejandra Gomez-Diaz.**

an inexpensive pair of glasses, they cannot understand why we do things for people we just met. We explain it is the love of God that God has placed in our hearts once we become members of His holy Church.

The people of Valle Guanape, Venezuela have their struggles and challenges. There is much poverty. Over eighty percent of the Venezuelan people live in poverty. It has a profound effect when you see it and witness it firsthand. It is difficult to see people live in such conditions. However, God will provide for them and never leave them alone. Their spiritual poverty is over. They now have and

(Continued on Page 10)



## A message from the Seventy

### Revival in Tijuana, Mexico: 19 Souls Baptized Unto Repentance

By Evangelist Paul Liberto

*"And it came to pass that in this same year there was exceedingly great prosperity in the church, insomuch that there were thousands who did join themselves unto the church and were baptized unto repentance. And so great was the prosperity of the church, and so many the blessings which were poured out upon the people, that even the high priests and the teachers were themselves astonished beyond measure. And it came to pass that the work of the Lord did prosper unto the baptizing and uniting to the church of God, many souls, yea, even tens of thousands. Thus we may see that the Lord is merciful unto all who will, in the sincerity of their hearts, call upon his holy name" (Helaman 3:24-27).*

These words from Helaman were running through my mind as I traveled to Tijuana, Mexico on Sunday, July 15, 2001, to witness the baptisms of two new converts. The previous Friday this scripture was the topic of discussion as several brothers met together to discuss the work of the Church. We realized that God can bless the Church today as He did in the days of Helaman. We committed to do more to draw new souls to Christ and agreed that we should hold this scripture in our hearts as a witness of what God can do. I looked forward to the time when we will see thousands come, but until then, I was grateful for just two.

When I arrived at the church the saints were inside singing hymns and waiting for others to arrive. The two converts were ready and waiting with great anticipation to go down into the waters of regeneration. As we were about to depart to the ocean, the hymn *Aleluia, Aleluia* was sung by the congregation. As the chorus was being sung, Brother Ulises Cardenas, the presiding elder, began to exhort the congregation that "today is the day of salvation!" He urged the people to give their lives to Christ and pleaded with them not to procrastinate. God's spirit fell upon him as he continued to exhort. The congregation continued to sing, repeating the verses and chorus

over and over until Brother Ulises concluded. It was evident that hearts were touched. We sat, waiting upon the Lord, praying for those that were touched, as a duet was sung, again calling the people to Christ. And then it began to happen. God's spirit came down upon us as a young man wept tears of joy and asked to be baptized. Then, the spirit moved to a young woman, and went on to another person, and then another, until one hour had passed and seventeen more souls committed their lives to Christ. They were young and old, from all walks of life, united with one desire, to answer the sweet call of their Savior.

It was a beautiful sight to see the brothers question each convert and baptize them in the Pacific Ocean. As hands were laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost at the church, it was a blessing to understand that God has promised eternal life to all who accept His call and follow His commandments. The service which began at 10:00 AM finally concluded at 5:30 PM and the following new members of The Church of Jesus of Christ went home rejoicing:

Jorge Humberto Gonzalez, Pedro Sandoval Rodriguez, Israel Ocegüera Rodriguez, Lorenza Herrera, Martin Cardenas, David Bernal Rivas, Hugo Valdez, Jesus Avechiga Rubio,

(Continued on Page 10)



Baptisms in Tijuana, Mexico





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

There is a wonderful story in The Book of Mormon about taking advantage of spiritual *opportunities* the Lord presents us with. It is the story of Ammon, which begins in Alma 17.

Ammon, a Nephite, went into the land of Ishmael, which was a Lamanite land. It was customary to bind up any Nephite and present him to the king who would determine his fate. The king's name was Lamoni. Ammon told Lamoni that he wanted to dwell with the Lamanites, perhaps until he died. Most of us would never say what Ammon said, but he viewed this as a spiritual *opportunity* to influence the Lamanites and teach them about God and Jesus Christ who was to come. Lamoni was so pleased, that he even offered one of his daughters to be Ammon's wife. Seeing another *opportunity*, Ammon said no, but instead wanted to be Lamoni's servant instead, impressing the king more. Next, as Ammon and some of Lamoni's servants were taking care of the king's flocks, enemies of the king scattered the flocks away. Lamoni's servants became fearful that Lamoni would kill them because of what happened. If we were in their shoes, I suppose we would panic at this event, too. However, Ammon didn't panic; instead he saw it as another *opportunity*. He faithfully tapped into the power God had given him, and slew and injured the enemies of the king. Ammon even cut off the arms of everyone who rose up to kill him, to bring back to Lamoni. He regrouped Lamoni's flocks and returned to the king along with the king's astonished servants. But while the servants were telling the king what happened, Ammon seized another *opportunity* and began quietly preparing Lamoni's horses for a great feast the king was to attend that day. Lamoni was so impressed by all that Ammon had done, that he started to think Ammon was the Great Spirit (who was the Lamanite god). When Ammon told Lamoni that he wasn't the Great Spirit, Lamoni asked him by what power was he able to do these things. Finally Ammon was able to take advantage of the greatest *opportunity* of all. In our lives today, isn't it exciting when someone asks you about the Lord? It doesn't happen often, but when it does, it is an *opportunity* that we can't let pass by. The story goes on that Ammon spoke with the power of God about who He is and Jesus Christ who would come. Lamoni and his wife, the queen eventually passed out, being overcome with the spirit. Even Ammon passed out being overcome by the power of God.

On the scene enters Abish. She was a Lamanite woman who secretly believed in God and Jesus Christ, who was still to come, because of a remarkable vision her father had. She could never say anything, though, because she would be killed. But when she saw the king, queen, Ammon, and the other servants of the king passed out in the spirit, she too seized this *opportunity* and went from house to house telling the people to come and see what had happened. So great was the faith of Abish, that once she touched the hand of the queen, the queen rose up. The king also rose up and began preaching to the people the truth of Ammon's words. Many were converted because Ammon, and even Abish took advantage of the spiritual *opportunities* that came before them. This entire story was a turning point for the Lamanite people. Thousands were eventually converted.

Do we look for the spiritual *opportunities* that come before us every day? If there is an opportunity to show love to someone (as Ammon did with Lamoni), then we are well on our way to taking the *opportunity* to tell him or her about the Lord. Ammon couldn't just go to the Lamanites and start preaching. He had to gain their trust by taking advantage of those *opportunities* to show love and show the power of God. Then when they were ripe to hear the word of God, Ammon seized the *opportunity* to tell them.

Let's seek out the spiritual *opportunities* the Lord presents us with every day on our job, at school, with our friends or family. There was a time when someone took the *opportunity* to tell us about a sinner's friend. Now let's do the same.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## Have Joy, Not Fear

Dear Boys and Girls,

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

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

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

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

So the first time that Satan puts fear or bad thoughts in your mind, or the first time you think them, you need to stop those thoughts. Or maybe you are angry or coveting. Coveting means wishing something that doesn't belong to you was yours. Even grownups have to watch their thoughts so they don't start to covet their friend's house,



mean feelings or scary worries. Ask Him to help you change or be willing to change. Talk to the Lord the same way you talk to anyone. He will hear you. He loves you already. He wants you to feel great joy, too.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

WE	OF	HE
HAVE	HIS	LOVES
GREAT	CHILDREN	US
JOY	PRAY	EACH
FOR	AND	WILL
GOD	CALL	HEAR
LOVES	TO	YOU
ALL	JESUS	

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

or pretty car, or nice family, or the way someone sings or can think real well. Each one of us is supposed to be thankful to God for what He has given us. It wastes our lives and our time for joy if we're sitting around mad or jealous about other people's blessings.

Jesus told us that when we feel this way, to ask Him for help to change our thoughts. If we are angry or afraid, we need to call out His name; He will be there with us. He will help us.

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

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

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

When you're afraid, tell Jesus. Talk to Him out loud or in your mind and heart. He already knows your every thought, so tell Him about those

## Note of Thanks

My family and I would like to express our gratitude to all of the brothers and sisters throughout the Church. Their many cards, calls and expressions of love and sympathy were a source of real comfort to us during the illness and passing of my husband, Brother Tony. We thank God for seeing us through this stressful time and how He gently took my husband home. We praise and glorify Him for the wonderful ways He takes care of us.

God bless you,  
Sister Angela Scolaro

## Notice from the General Church Finance Committee

Brothers and Sisters – this article addresses the financial matters of your church, The Church of Jesus Christ. The General Church Finance Committee would like you to be aware of the current status of the Church's financial affairs and is providing this article so you may better understand the financial operations and needs of the Church.

The General Church Budget for 2001, which is funded directly from your contributions, totals \$683,034. Of this amount 65% (\$445,010) directly supports the missionary work of the Church. The remaining 35% (\$238,024) is used to fund General Church operations including the World Conference Center, the Print House, and many special projects like the new Book of Mormon publication and Branch Assistance.

The General Church Budget is funded by your donations to your local branch or mission. Here is how your contributions to your local branch are distributed – for each dollar provided, \$0.45 remains in your local branch or mission, \$0.10 is sent to your region, and \$0.45 is sent to the General Church to meet the budgetary needs described above.

Within the United States, the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ totals 2,670. The 2001 General Church Budget would be funded at 100% if, on average, each member donated \$47.38 per month to his/her local branch or mission. If this occurred, the General Church would receive \$683,124 and would have sufficient funds to support each missionary work throughout the world. In addition, your local branches and missions would have a collective \$683,124 to meet local branch needs, and the seven regions would receive \$151,805 to meet the various regional needs. The entire Church of Jesus Christ would benefit tremendously. Unfortunately, during the 2nd Quarter of this year, the General Church

Budget was severely under-funded. Only 70% of the total budget was donated. This means that the missionary work of the Church will receive only 70% of the funds needed to meet their missionary endeavors. Mexico, for example, will only receive 70% of the amount they need to spread the Gospel there, India will only receive 70% of the amount they need, etc., etc. Brothers and Sisters, this is a critical shortfall. The Great Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ is to preach the Gospel to all of the dying souls in this world. At this juncture we cannot proceed with a 100% effort. Right now, we need your generous support.

The General Church Finance Committee realizes two things:

1. Many of the 2,670 members of The Church of Jesus Christ (in the U.S.) cannot give \$47.38 per month, every month. And...
2. Many of the 2,670 members of The Church of Jesus Christ can give significantly more than \$47.38 per month, every month.

We simply ask the following of each member of The Church of Jesus Christ:

1. Give as much as you can.
2. Give consistently.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthians regarding giving. In II Corinthians 9: 6-9 he wrote: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever."

To the local branches and the seven regions, we ask the following:

1. Do you have extra funds that could be used to offset the needs of the missionary work of the Church?

2. If you do, are you willing to donate those funds to help meet the General Church Budget? If so, please send your check to: The Church of Jesus Christ, P.O. Box 15667, Pittsburgh, PA 15244.

Brothers, Sisters, Local Branches, and Regions – thank you for your support of the General Church and the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. The General Church Finance Committee has vowed to keep you better informed regarding our collective success in these important matters and this article is our first attempt to do so.

May God and His Son Jesus Christ richly bless each of you for all that you do for Him.

The General Church Finance Committee  
The Church of Jesus Christ

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## Aliquippa Branch Bids Farewell to Long Time Members

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Every Branch goes through it, but it is difficult nonetheless. On July 22, 2001, the congregation of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch Sunday service was bidding farewell to Brother Pete and Sister Patty Giannetti. It is hard to say goodbye to those we love, but we are grateful that Brother Pete has felt a calling to help with the growing work in the Dallas, Texas area.

We were also blessed to have a number of visitors from throughout the Church in our midst. Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Picciuto from California were in attendance, as well as many brothers, sisters and friends from throughout our Region and Michigan.

We were pleased to have Brother Tony begin our service, which he dedicated to prayer and its vital role in our lives. Even the hymns chosen, *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*, and *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*, echoed this theme. Using St. John, 17<sup>th</sup> chapter as his reference, Brother Tony admonished us that Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes in our behalf with the Father. He reminded us that when Jesus visited His Church in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, 19<sup>th</sup> chapter, he found them on their knees in prayer. He concluded by encouraging us to exercise prayer, assuring us that God will be with us.

Brother Peter Giannetti continued stating that when he was in trouble, he went to the elders and they advised him to pray, which he did, and his prayers were answered. Brother Pete told the congregation how in his natural work as a barber, he had always told all of his patrons about the Church and discussed scripture with them often. In over 40 years, he lamented that he had only one person who converted to the

Gospel, but we know that he has planted many seeds. Upon returning from a January visit to Dallas and his family there, Brother Pete stated that he felt directed to go there to help with the work. He requested those precious prayers in their behalf as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Sister Patty was afforded the opportunity to testify. She reminisced on her early exposure to the Church, while she and Pete were dating and she was attending another church. She concluded stating that when she met The Church of Jesus Christ, it became her family.

It was fitting that our meeting was closed with *God Be With You*, and we trust that He will be with our beloved brother and sister. The branch honored them with a luncheon and time of fellowship so that all could say their farewells.

## Lake Worth

By Sister Joann Romano

On March 11, 2001, the brothers and sisters from the Lake Worth, Florida Branch witnessed the ordination of Brother Carl Romano into the ministry. The meeting was opened by reading a portion of scripture in John 13. Our brother then had his feet washed by Brother George Kovacic. Brother Joseph Catone ordained him. Brother Richard Loffredo, from Detroit Michigan, Plumbrook Branch, then read to us from Ezekiel 34:26 and expounded upon this. Brother Ron Carradi followed. Brother Eugene Perri then read from Hebrews concerning how the Lord chooses those who will serve him.

The meeting was very well attended by brothers and sisters from many branches as well as many friends and family. After the conclusion of this meeting, we all enjoyed a time of fellowship and a wonderful dinner prepared by the Ladies Circle.

In April, Brother Chuck Maddox and his family visited with us. He spoke to us from Luke Chapter 8, Verse 22. If we put our trust in God always we will find peace in our lives.

On Easter, we were visited by

Brother Joe and Sister Mary Perri. Brother Joe read to us from 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi. We must hearken unto the voice of the Lord.

We have been very blest to hear wonderful words of life each time we gather. God is so good to us.

## New Brunswick, NJ

Genesis 12: 3: *"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and in thee shall the nations of the Earth be blessed."*

The year 2001 has started with many blessings in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Sister Maria Espinosa was baptized. Our sister is originally from Oaxaca, Mexico. She came to the Church in November of 2000. While looking for a church to go to, she came upon the Church with some friends. While standing outside the Church, she heard singing in English. For a moment she thought, "This is not a Spanish speaking Church," so she turned around ready to leave. Just then, Sis. Carmalita saw her and stopped her and said "hablamos espanol aqui." She learned that not only did we speak Spanish, but also we spoke "spirit." On her first Sunday, she was blessed with visions from God.

At her baptism, our sister was immersed, and upon her coming out of the water, instead of seeing Brother Rick Calabro, who was baptizing her, she saw Jesus. As she began to walk out of the water, behind the saints standing on the beach, were a "host of angels dressed in white." It is a blessing for the seed of Joseph to witness the power and gifts of God! Our Branch has been blessed in working with the seed of Joseph for the past few years and we are seeing growth among them. That same Sunday, we witnessed the blessing of three-month-old Michael Tarulli, the son of Sister Diana (Biagi) Tarulli. Brother James Sgro blessed him. God blessed our meeting with the gifts of the spirit and we thank God for His love.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the morning of the Atlantic Regional Conference, we

witnessed the baptism of Brother Walter Howard. Brother Walter had attended our meetings for some time. His brother and two sisters are members of the Church and he is also the nephew of the late Brother Cleve Baldwin. Months before his baptism, Brother Walter had double pneumonia. During his recovery, at a meeting in the New Brunswick Branch, Brother Walter stood up and declared, "Today is my day." He answered the call of God.

On that same day at our conference, the outpouring of God's mercy was upon many with healings and visions. Throughout this year our Lord healed many of our members. Sister Carmela Biro, celebrating 75 years in the Church, was carried through heart surgery. Sister Ann Sgro was given a clean report on leukemia. On May 6th, young Joshua Calabro was blessed in the Church by Brother Sam Sgro. Since the beginning of this year we have been blessed with 22 children and young adults, including the newborn twins of Sister April and Brother Rick Calabro. And there are more and more to come. (Before I could finish this article Sister Angela Sgro called to tell us that she has asked for her baptism August 5<sup>th</sup> in Denton, Texas. She is the daughter of Brother Jim and Sister Lynda Sgro.)

We want to thank God for helping us and blessing us. God's promise is sure: If we are to bless Israel and help restore His people, He will surely bless us.

## Dad's Miracle

By Sisters Eileen Katsaras  
and Betty Gennaro

On July 16th, 2001, our father, Brother Nicholas Ritz, entered the hospital with congestive heart failure. He is 95 years of age, and the oldest living member in The Church of Jesus Christ (80 years). That weekend, his heartbeat dropped to 30 and an external defibrillator was applied. He was given a medication that paralyzed his throat, and was unable to swallow even a sip of water. A feeding tube was put in his nose, then bronchitis and pneu-

monia developed. We were told by three doctors that he would aspirate and die if we were to give him anything by mouth. He would whisper, "water, water," as we wet his lips and watched as he became weaker and weaker. The feeding tube was removed; the doctors had given up on him. Our Miami elders, Brothers George Kovacic and Miguel Bicelis came to anoint and pray for him during the next few days.

On the third day, his grandson, Brother Peter Katsaras, came in at midnight and was told that the family would meet with the doctor in the morning. Hospice was called and Dad would be sent home. During the night, Peter prayed and tried to sleep, but he kept hearing his grandfather ask for water. At 6:00 a.m., he decided to take him out of bed, sit him up and give him a sip of water. Dad did not choke. The miracle that Dad could now swallow was an answered prayer. Hospice was cancelled, and Dad went home eating normally. Although still weak, he is able to attend Church and give his testimony again. The Ritz family is thankful to God and to all of you for your prayers.

## One Nation Under God

At the time this issue of the *Gospel News* was being compiled, terrorists attacked the United States, and thousands of people lost their lives in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. As *Gospel News* Editor, I work in New York City and was there on the day of the bombings. Had this attack occurred one day later, I would have been downtown in meetings. Thank God that myself and two other members of the Church in New York at the time, got out safely. It was a frightening trek on foot that took me over eight hours to get home (one ferry boat was the only way to escape Manhattan).

Incredibly, my cell phone got through to my wife and I was able to tell her I was okay. I kept hearing the song *Awake Great Nation* from the *Songs of Zion* playing over and over. Although there was panic and chaos

everywhere, I felt comforted knowing the Lord was with me. The tragedy of what I witnessed first hand is beyond words. Each day traveling to work now, I must face the grim reminder of this senseless act of terror. On the bus each morning, I see some praying, and I see others crying, having lost loved ones. Many who I work with have lost family members in this attack.

This event, however, has dramatically changed New Yorkers. Everyone seems to be mentioning God's name in a respectful way. Kindness and courtesy (not common traits of New Yorkers) is found everywhere. Patriotism is at an all time high. People have pulled together for a common cause. Prior to this attack, this month's editorial was written. Strangely enough, it speaks of taking advantage of *spiritual opportunities*. I was amazed at how fitting that topic was in lieu of what happened afterwards. In our branch the other night, we had a friend visit us from Romania. She was leaving soon to go home to her country, but was clearly consumed with fear. There are people who have been brought down to a state of humility and fear by this tragedy. What a wonderful *spiritual opportunity* we have to bring them peace that passes understanding, and tell them of Jesus Christ.

As saints of God, we too may be looking at our spiritual lives more closely, and are considering "laying down the weights that so easily beset us." We know the events that are happening and will continue to happen will take us into a new era of time, the Peaceful Reign. Unfortunately, many more may have to die along the way. Fortunately, the Book of Mormon promises that the "wicked will be destroyed" and the "righteous need not fear." The doors of the ark of safety (The Church of Jesus Christ) are still open. Let's be sure we're on board, and bring others with us.

Let's pray for all the victims of this tragedy, and band together as saints of God in fasting and prayer. In our pledge of allegiance, it says, "One nation under God..." Those words will be true once again for everyone who would love and serve Him upon this, the Promised Land. May God bless America.

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 3

know The Church of Jesus Christ.

Communion was passed during the Sunday Services. A feet washing service was also held for the members. It is a wonderful experience to see people react to the members of The Church of Jesus Christ as they wash one another's feet. They seem to be awe-struck!

A large number of people from the community visited the home of Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis on Monday evening, the last evening of this missionary trip. They came to show their respect and love. Remember them in your prayers. They need the Lord. They need the help and provisions of the Lord. The people of Venezuela are a wonderful people.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Yolanda Lopez, Rubi Duenas Canedo, Andres Martinez Rodriguez, Mayra Sandoval, Manuel Hernandez D., David Ocegueda Rodriguez, Damaris Martinez, Karla Rodriguez, Jessica Palacios, Damaris Beltran R. and Luis Ernesto Valente Marin.

It is appropriate to emphasize here that the tens of thousands of baptisms noted in Helaman were unexpected and astonished the people. The scripture tells us that there had been great contentions and disturbances, and wars, and dissensions, among the people of Nephi. But in spite of those difficult conditions, Helaman filled the judgment-seat with justice and equity and observed to keep the statutes and judgments and commandments of God, doing that which was right in the sight of God continually. Just a few years passed from their darkest times to years of prosperity and blessing. It is the same for us today. We are living in dark and difficult times. But let us hold on, and continue to do right in the sight of God, and we too shall be astonished as tens

of thousands come to Christ. God has promised us that He is merciful unto all who will, in the sincerity of their hearts, call upon His holy name. We were astonished to see 19 baptized in one day and we look forward to the day when the Church will be astonished to see hundreds and thousands baptized in one day. The day will surely come!

## Trip to Mexico

*By Brother Joseph Ciarolla*

On May 2, 2001, Brother Hector Gastelum, President of The Church of Jesus Christ's Mexico Region, and I started on a two-week tour in that country.

It began after we went to Las Mochas. We held a Wednesday night service at Macapoule, a small mission under the Ahome Branch, and were also able to visit the families in San Isidro and Ahome.

Thursday, we departed for Durango, where our expectations were to find a lot and get some prices for a new building. It was a 26-hour trip. On the bus, I had a severe kidney stone attack and suffered terrible pain, which did not allow me to get any sleep the entire way. On this journey, it was necessary to travel through many

mountainous, treacherous areas with many cliffs well over 1,000 feet high. The driver stopped rather abruptly but did not clarify what the reason was. When a summoned mechanic arrived, the driver told him he was having difficulty with the steering. The mechanic checked the bus out and said that the steering mechanism was broken and he advised not to continue with the trip. Even with this knowledge, the driver insisted on continuing and asked everyone to board. It was the hand of God that the bus broke down. This way the mechanic was able to tell us that there was something wrong with the bus. We refused to re-board the bus, considering the perilous report given by the mechanic, and we sought another bus passing through and went on safely to Gomez-Palacio in Durango.

At Gomez-Palacio, my topic in preaching was, "Upon this rock I will build my church." My message was blessed and I was given much liberty. We went to visit Sister Josephine Rubio, but the next morning, I was still in quite a bit of pain from the kidney stones. I told Brother Hector that I had to go and lay down. When I rose from my rest, the pain was gone.

### BAPTISM, ORDINATIONS

On Saturday, we did more visiting and then began to prepare for Sunday.



Brothers and Sisters of Durango, Mexico



There was a beautiful service with one baptism, Sister Alma Cifuentes. Our intention was to ordain Brother Ceasareo Rubio a Teacher, an office to which he was called and it was felt he was prepared to assume it. The same was true for another young man, Eugenio Hernandez, into the office of a Deacon. These were performed on Sunday. There was a good feeling and a good spirit present, which manifested itself in three visions and a voice heard. Sister Maria Luisa Sifuentes said, "...when Brothers Joe Ciarolla and Hector Gastelum put their hands over our Brother Ceasareo, I saw a white cloud descending over him and a circle of fire came down onto his head. When they were ordaining Brother Eugenio a Deacon, I saw a narrow and very straight road, which directly led to a place where there were many tombs and crosses, like a cemetery. But suddenly, all of that became a valley of many green trees." Sister Alicia Hernandez said, "When Brothers Joe and Hector put their hands on the head of Brother Eugenio and as they began to ordain him a Deacon, I saw a light descend upon both Brothers Eugenio and Ceasareo and it became a triangle of light." Sister Sandra Zarate said she heard a voice speaking in English when the brothers were praying for Brother Ceasareo. She said she did not understand the words because she does not know the English language. Another voice then spoke in Spanish saying the Lord had more work for Brother Ceasareo.

#### **MORE VISITS, SEARCH FOR LAND**

Sunday night we were able to make more visits. Our intention was to also do more visiting on Monday, as well as search for a lot and get prices for the building. There are 19 members there now. We went to visit a friend for whom we had prayed for six months ago. He has cancer, and at that time had been told he only had one month to live. He is doing great! God has spared his life with many more months than was expected. I am so happy that God has allowed me to go to Durango and be part of that work.

After returning to Ahome, we had

a Wednesday night service and did much visiting. We have a beautiful group of people in all the places we were blessed to attend and they are on top of the mountain with God's joy and blessings.

The following Sunday, we were in San Isidro where my topic was, "Take upon you the whole armor of God." While opening the service, I had another kidney stone attack; however, God brought me through so we might continue to feed His children.

During this trip, God was merciful many times, as He allowed me to continue to labor for Him even though I was suffering from my illness. When I got home, I rested and the next morning the affliction and pain were gone.

Lord permitting, my intention is to return to San Isidro in October with Brothers Paul Palmieri and Phillip Jackson. In the interim, my hope was to possibly also go back to Durango at the end of August to try to raise funds for the new building. Please remember these works in your prayers.

Again, I want to state how grateful I am to be involved in this work in Mexico. What a privilege it is to work with the brothers and sisters in that part of God's vineyard.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **JOSEPHINE ROSS**

Sister Josephine Ross, an ordained Deaconess from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto her reward on April 28, 2001. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Thomas Ross; a grandson, Jared Thomas Ross, and a sister, Deborah D'Antonio. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Brother Don and Sister Joyce Ross, two daughters and sons-in-law, Sister Janet and Brother Paul Gibson and Sister Sharon and Brother Ken Staley; seven grandchildren; two brothers, David DeLuca and Matthew DeLuca; and three sisters; Sisters Sue Breschayko, Ruth Eleanor Palmieri and Jennie Ross.

### **DAVID S. ZINZI**

David S. Zinzi passed onto his reward on August 4, 2001. He is survived by his mother, Sister Pearl Zinzi; his brothers, Brother Nicholas Zinzi and Ralph Zinzi; his sister, Sister Gelsa Zinzi; two nephews, Brother Dan Risola and Dominick Risola, and niece Janna Zinzi.

### **LOUISE ROSATI**

Sister Louise Rosati, a member of the Lockport, New York Branch, passed onto her reward on June 20, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Pasquale and a daughter, Anna. She is survived by two sons, Anthony and Brother Frank and his wife, Sister Marian; 13 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

### **HELEN (BABE) SMITH**

Sister Helen (Babe) Smith, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed onto her reward on July 20, 2001. She is survived by her mother, Sister Helen Ackermen Smith; two brothers, Apostle Isaac Smith and Evangelist Harry Smith; and a sister, Arlene Rogers.

### **ROBERT FRANCIS BOUDI**

Brother Robert Francis Boudi, a member of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch, passed onto his reward on May 4, 2001.

### **ANTHONY SCOLARO**

Brother Anthony Scolaro, a member of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 (Chesterfield) passed onto his reward on May 8, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Angela; his children, Apostle Peter Scolaro, Sister Kathleen Perkins, Brother Timothy Scolaro, Brother Anthony Scolaro and Sister Roseanne Champine, as well as their respective spouses; Sister Marilyn Scolaro, Brother Larry Perkins, Sister Renee Scolaro, Sister Linda Scolaro, and Brother Larry Champine; a sister, Sister Grace Everett and nine grandchildren.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Christopher Peter Scolaro and Sister Alissa Marie Champine were united in holy matrimony in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield Michigan on May 25th, 2001.

Jason Ross and Lisa Milito were united in holy matrimony in Somerset, New Jersey on June 23rd, 2001.

## Children Blessed

Gianni Marco DiFede, daughter of Brother Carmen and Sister Lori DiFede, was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on June 17, 2001.

Joshua Thomas Huttenberger, son of Brother Carl Jr. and Sister Suzette Huttenberger, was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on August 5, 2001.

Keaton Ishmael Humphrey, son of Keith and Wendy Humphrey, was blessed in the Columbus, Ohio Mission on June 17, 2001.

Adriana Rain Roiland, daughter of Brienne Roiland, was blessed in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on August 5, 2001.

Emily Sharon Tuttle, daughter of Nicole and Brian Tuttle, was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on June 30, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Jeffrey Eiler was baptized on June 18, 2001 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chuck Jumper and confirmed by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr.

Brother Peter T. Benyola was baptized on August 12, 2001 in the Tampa, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Phillip Benyola Sr., and confirmed by Brother Sam Risola Jr.

Brother Joshua Hanson was baptized on March 11, 2001 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Ed Donkin.

Sister Carol Elizabeth Burnett was baptized on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola and confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

## Ordinations

Brother Mark King was ordained an Elder on June 17, 2001 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Sam Dell and he was ordained by Brother Lawrence King.

Brother Nick Boruch was ordained a Teacher on June 17, 2001 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jerry Valenti and he was ordained by Brother Paul Benyola.

Sister Roseanne Champine was ordained a Deaconess on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. Her feet were washed by Sister Marilyn Scolaro and she was confirmed by Brother Steve Champine.

Brother Christopher Scolaro was ordained a Teacher on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. His feet were washed by Brother Sal Molisani and he was confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Brother Joseph DiBattista was ordained a Deacon on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. His feet were washed by Brother Roy DePerno and he was confirmed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

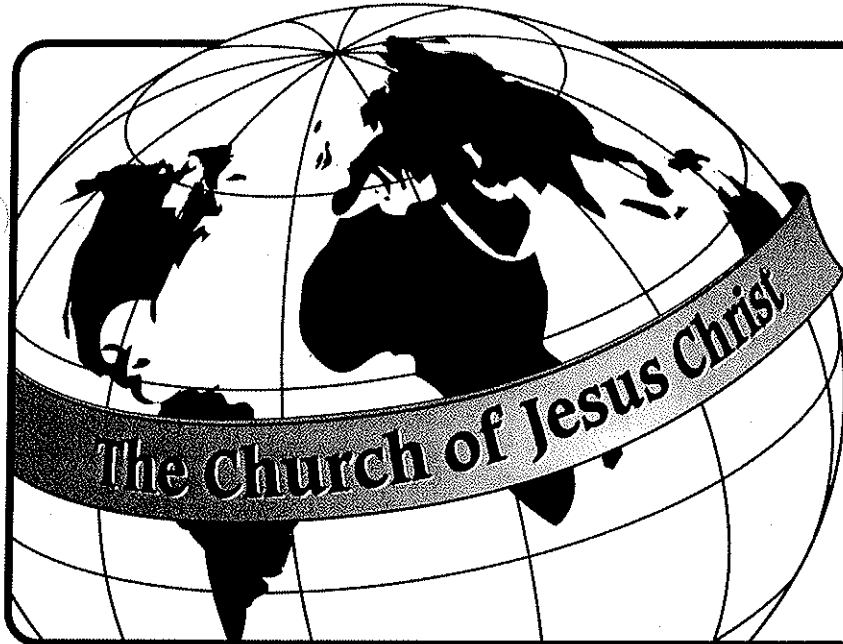
Brother Brett Gibson was ordained a Teacher on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Detroit Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. His feet were washed by Brother Paul Stallard and he was confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 2001

Volume 57, No. 11

## A Trip to the Holy Land

*By Pete Oestreicher*

Nine members of The Church of Jesus Christ had the opportunity to spend six days in the Holy Land. They were, Apostle Isaac and Sister Bonnie Smith from the Phoenix, Arizona Branch, Brother Joel Ondick, Pete and Sister Janet Oestreicher from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, Sisters Nancy Gehly and Esther McCartney from the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch, and Brother Tom and Sister Tava Jones from Atlanta, Georgia.

Our trip started off on an interesting note when we had difficulty getting through Israeli security at Newark Airport. For one thing, Brother Joel hadn't shaved that day, and looked very suspicious. It was also difficult for the agents to understand how members of the same Church could live in different parts of the country and be traveling together. They kept asking the same questions over and over again hoping to catch us in a lie, and they would talk among themselves while looking at us apprehensively. It also threw them for a loop when they discovered that one of our group was Jewish, and looking forward to meeting two of his cousins in Israel; one he hadn't seen

in 52 years, and one he had never seen.

After about 45 minutes we finally made it through security, and after a nine and a half hour flight, landed at Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel

Aviv, where Ham, our guide, and Moses our driver met us. We were also fortunate to have a tour bus all to ourselves.

We were then on our way, traveling through a land with over 4,000 years of history, visiting many places we had learned about in Church and from the Bible. After driving

(Continued on Page 10)



Pictured in Calvary after receiving Communion, from left to right, first row: Sis. Tava Jones, Sis. Bonnie Smith, Bro. Joel Ondick. Second Row: Bro. Tom Jones, Bro. Ike Smith, Sis. Nancy Gehly, Sis. Esther McCartney, Pete Oestreicher, and Sis. Janet Oestreicher.

## Church in Nigeria Extends Prayers for Parent Church

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

Recent mail received from Evangelist George Frank Arthur, Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, extends to all the Parent Church here in America the love, prayers and concern from him and his family and the entire Nigerian Church membership, for Gods protection during this period of crisis in our country. The following paragraphs were written in a fax received on Monday morning Sept 24th.

"On behalf of the entire Church in Nigeria, my family and myself, I wish to express the feelings of sadness and sorrow over the events that took place in United States of America. The destruction of lives together with property had created unpararelled events in the history of America. It leaves the members of the surviving families whose members were victims in tears, and lamentations. The whole nations and friends of the United States are left to mourn with lamentations.

"Adults and youths of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria had in their various branches and homes expressed themselves in prayers requesting the Almighty Father to give protection to our brothers, sisters, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ in United States of America. At the Executive Priesthood meeting on September 21, 2001 fervent prayers for God's protection of our Parent Church and the entire country was held. At that meeting, a resolution was taken for the entire National Church to hold prayer meetings for the safety of the Christian Churches in the United States and our Parent Church in particular on Friday September 28, 2001 at the various District Headquarters throughout Nigeria. I believe our brothers and sisters in U.S.A. may also observe a few hours prayer and fasting for the Lord's protection of our members in United States.

"May the Lord bless our deliberations and the meditation of our hearts in Jesus name. Amen."

A letter of appreciation on behalf of the Presidency, Quorum of Apostles, Evangelists, The Parent Church, ETC has been dispatched back to Brother George thanking the entire Nigerian Church for their out pouring of love, prayers and concern for the brothers and sisters of the Church in America.

### GROWTH OF NIGERIAN CHURCH

It was a blessing to receive this letter because in the midst of their Nation's difficulties they have taken time to pray for us. The Church in Nigeria has grown to a number exceeding 3,000. Efforts currently are underway on the part of the National Church Priesthood with the financial assistance of the Parent Church, to join in the spirit of Evangelizing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not only to Evangelize the Gospel, but also to introduce The Church of Jesus Christ to all the people of their respective villages, and to all the people in the surrounding villages that are in close proximity to where their branches are located.

Efforts of this magnitude on the part of the Priesthood have begun to bear fruit. During the months from January through June 2001 with 7 of the 8 districts reporting, the Church has increased, having experienced 353 baptisms during this period.

We have also seen a great interest in The Book of Mormon among a number of the Priesthood. In reading their district minutes we have taken notice that some of the Ministry are using The Book of Mormon in preaching to their congregations. In all the years of being associated in this mission field, we have not seen the interest of wanting to know more

of The Book of Mormon as we have since the return from our last missionary trip in November 2000. Requests are being made for us to send Books of Mormon, and any literature that might give them more understanding about this sacred record, what it contains, why it was written, what does it explain about the coming events, how are the Bible and The Book of Mormon to be as one.

Brother Arthur has been conducting seminars on the Apostasy and Restoration using the material that has been sent to him. During their May conference, brother George held a seminar on this article and assigned several brothers from each of the three tribes, Efik, Ibo, and Yoruba, to translate this written material into their Vernacular. A committee is currently reviewing the translation of The Book of Mormon from English to Efik. This assignment will take some time before its completion.

There are a number of young brothers who have recently embraced the faith of the Church and The Book of Mormon that have expressed a desire to be involved in the evangelizing programs in their districts. Brother Arthur has been encouraged to use them, to expose their desires and energy into becoming missionaries for the Church in their own country. As the Church grows, new branches are established. We encourage growth and the spreading of the gospel, and while it brings joy to us in seeing more souls come to Jesus Christ and embracing the Church, we also receive requests to assist them in building worship halls (Church buildings) purchase of Bibles and church literature, hymnals, transportation etc. We recently received a request to purchase communion utensils for one branch because they cannot afford to buy them. They have not had communion because they do not have a communion set. Some questions may arise asking why they cannot buy their own like we do. Almost every member of branches we have situated in the bush are very poor. They live from the crops planted on their land. They do not receive any monetary benefits as we do here in America. Unemploy-

ment stands at more than 70% in the country. Inflation is beyond our imagination and while there may be some goods that can be purchased, people cannot afford to purchase them. Brother Lyle Criscuolo was in Vietnam and said to me one day that he thought poverty was bad in that country, but he said the poverty that he saw in Vietnam couldn't compare to that of Nigeria.

A recent experience was received by a sister of the Church who with her husband, an ordained teacher, went to their farm a distance away from their home. The weather is extremely hot and humid in this part of the world. While they were cultivating the ground the sister became very ill where she thought she was going to die. There were no elders nearby to call to come anoint and prayer for her, so her husband prayed for a healing, that God would restore his wife to health. She was completely healed there on the farm, and within 1 hour with her strength regained, she helped her husband carry the crops they harvested back to their home.

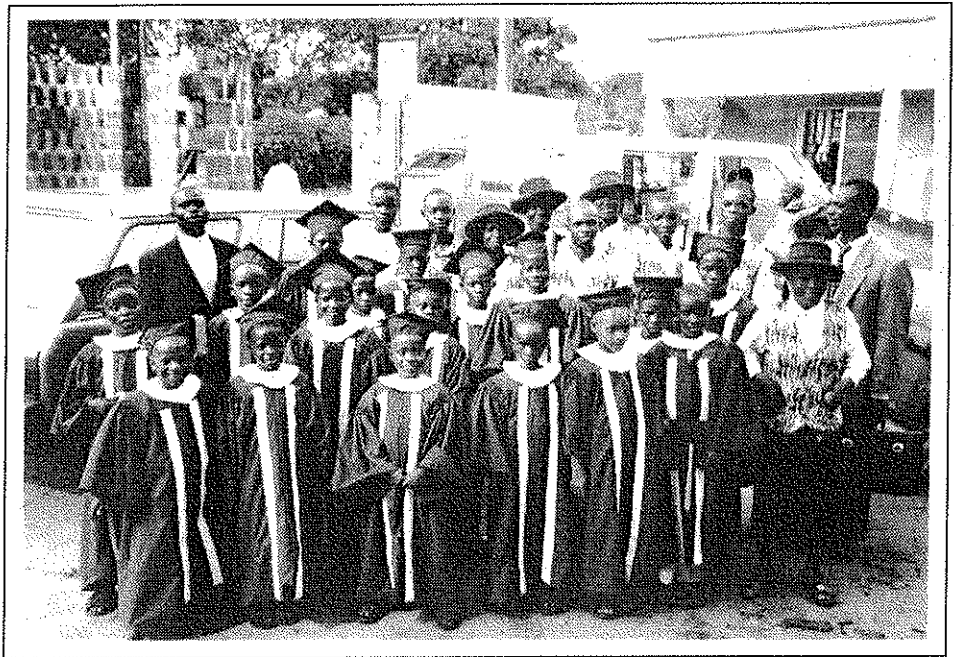
Another experience was sent of a healing during early morning prayer. It is a custom in the home of just about all Nigerian families to have prayer before they start their day's activities. They awaken while it is still dark and must use a bush lantern for light. We take for granted the luxury of turning the switch or touching any metal part of a lamp to produce electrical light. We are spoiled here in America because of all the modern-day conveniences we have and enjoy.

One morning during a prayer meeting in the home of an Elder of the Church, a member of the family who is not a Church member happened to be present. She is the mother of the Elder's wife. Being afflicted she requested to be anointed and prayed for. This woman experienced an instant healing. Leaving the home she went about her days labor and pondered over what God had done for her. She poured out her heart in silent prayer to God for what she had received. There was something else she wanted to do to show her appre-

ciation to her son-in-law, the Elder who prayed for her. Towards evening when it was time to return home, she stopped at the local market place, purchased a plastic container, and had it filled with kerosene. Upon her arrival home the family noticed she was carrying this red plastic container and asked her why she had it with her. She proceeded to tell her family that after being anointed and prayed for that morning, she was healed of her illness and wanted to show her appreciation not only to God by thanking him and the minister who prayed for her, but to do something to encourage and keep the family holding prayer meetings during the early morning

number will be increased by approval of 10 brothers recommended for ordination. The National secretary reports we have 53 branches (stations as they are called) in 8 districts. Each branch has a Sunday School. Almost every branch has a Ladies' Uplift Circle. The sisters have a National Ladies' Uplift Circle with Sister Agnes Arthur as their President. The MBA has been organized with 8 locals during our November 2000 missionary visit and reports though not confirmed have increased to another 4 locals organized.

Several years ago, property was purchased with a private donation and the buildings renovated to accommo-



**The Sunday School Choir at the branch of Mbiabong Ikot Udofia, Ikono/Itu District.**

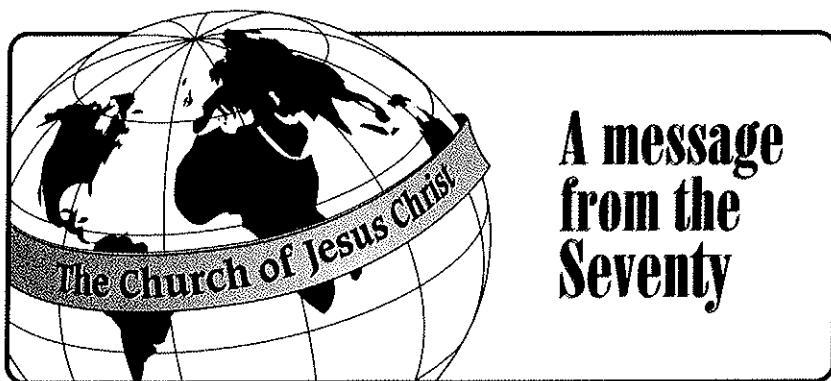
hours of the morning. She purchased kerosene for the lantern so they would continue to have light. God's hand is extended to those who exercise faith when calling upon his name, even if their faith is as small as a grain of mustard seed. There are other experiences, but space will not allow us to put them on paper.

Currently in Nigeria we have a true membership count as of the May National conference of 3,025, not counting all of the 353 baptisms. There are 72 Elders, 1 Evangelist, a total of 72 in the Priesthood. This

date a number of orphans. The orphanage is known as The Social Welfare Educational & Development Center and currently we are caring for 41 orphans. Brother George in his most recent communication, states more children have become orphans due to the death of their parents who were members of the Church.

The clinic has not been in operation for some time, but hopefully we are nearing the time that it will be reopened to serve the needs of

(Continued on Page 10)



## God Touches Colombia, One by One by One

*By Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr.*

The brothers visiting Bogota, Colombia from September 1st through September 10th, 2001 were well aware that the Lord had declared His presence in that part of South America. Over that ten-day period, five members of the ministry were able to visit. The group included Apostle Isaac Smith, Evangelist Paul Liberto, and Elders Paul A. Palmieri, Isaac J. Smith and Bob Nicklow Jr. Brother Salvatore Conte assisted the missionary effort tremendously serving as interpreter for the entire 10 days.

Brothers Bob and Salvatore arrived first and began with the first service on Sunday, September 2nd. A wonderful spirit of anointing began the day as 16 of the 28 attending asked for prayer for physical or spiritual needs even before the opening speaker. One particular visitor requested prayer for her painfully swollen right arm. What a blessing when she walked into the meeting the next night holding out her arm for all to see. The swelling and the pain were gone. Just after the close of our Sunday service, attendee Victor Vargas came forward. He had accepted the invitation of the Lord to, "Come unto Me," and requested his baptism.

On Tuesday evening, our group was blessed with the arrival of Apostle Isaac Smith and Evangelist Paul Liberto. Both brothers had been to Bogota before and the members and visitors were thankful for their safe return.

### PRAYER, MEETINGS

Every morning was started with prayer

and every evening the mission gathered to hear the Word of God. The daytime hours were spent tending to the mission's natural needs and visiting in the homes of the members and friends. At every home, the love of God was exhibited and all the brothers were moved by the overwhelming hunger for the touch of the Lord's hand. Even the youngest children often requested prayer for healing as well as the ability to learn English so they could better know the Church.

The blessings continued, as after the Wednesday evening service, the Lord touched the heart of Felipe Pedraza and he requested his baptism. He is the natural brother of Brother Juan Carlos the ordained Teacher of the mission. What a joy to see these two united in spirit as workers for Christ in Colombia.

The evening of September 6<sup>th</sup>, Brothers Paul A. Palmieri and Isaac J. Smith arrived to join the Lord's work in Bogota. Since this was the first trip to Colombia for both brothers, some time was taken Friday to show them a little of Bogota, a city of 10 million people. What a field of harvest waiting for the Lord to reap!

### CHANGED MY LIFE

The visiting brothers had been invited to come to the home of Betty Arias. She had only met the Church that week through a chain of events, which in her words "changed my life." The oldest member of the mission is

now Sister Hoba Torres at 88 years of age. She had asked for her baptism on a previous trip and was to be taken to the waters during this visit. Sister Hoba made good use of her time while waiting for her baptism. She began to give her testimony to many of her friends. One was Laura, who is now attending the mission. Laura told her friend Dalia of the Church who told her friend Betty. Now Laura, Dalia and Betty attend because a sister shared her testimony. Betty had only visited the mission twice that week before inviting the brothers to her home where they were greeted in love by her and eight other friends and family members.

As we sat in a circle, Betty requested we explain to all the message of the Church. She finished her request by opening her home to the ministry for use by the Church. What a complete feeling of the presence of the Lord. Brother Juan Carlos began, with the guidance of the ministry, to explain the Church in their native language. We watched with awe as that family drank in his every word. Tears formed in many eyes, as the story of the restoration was unfolded. The spirit of Truth and the confidence of the Lord were upon our Brother Juan Carlos as he went through the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion, all held hands as the closing prayer was offered.

On Friday evening, Brother Palmieri opened with a wonderful message of the power of God to change the lives of individuals. He spoke of the great change that many had expected with the coming of the year 2000. He was confident of the change for Colombia in August of 2000. That was when our Lord returned The Church of Jesus Christ to the land of Colombia.

The meeting was opened to testimony, and a spirit of praise filled the room as one by one individuals stood and thanked the Father for the change in their lives since coming to know the Gospel. Before the meeting was closed, 18 individuals requested anointing for healing and spiritual strength. That meeting was a powerful

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Yea and we may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people, yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind of art; sparing their lives, and delivering them out of the hands of their enemies; softening the hearts of their enemies that they should not declare wars against them; yea, and in fine, doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people; yea then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God, and do trample under their feet the Holy One—yea, and this because of their ease and their exceeding great prosperity. And thus we see that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death and with terror, and with famine and all manner of pestilence, they will not remember him "* (Helaman 12:2-3).

I could probably end this month's editorial right there when we think upon the terrorist acts and war that has developed over the past few months. No other nation has prospered like the United States. God delights in prospering His people; it is the way he blesses them for serving Him. Unfortunately, the nature of man is such that when he prospers, he becomes prideful. When he becomes prideful, he feels he doesn't need God. As this pattern continues down from one generation to the next, soon God and religion become something of a joke to many. Soon God becomes a fairy tale and not reality. Soon God is not even thought about anymore. This is the general condition we have come to upon this once blessed land of America. The above prophetic scripture describes almost perfectly our day and the current events, yet it was written thousands of years ago. The nature of man has not changed very much.

This Thanksgiving will be different for people who have been moved upon to "remember" the Lord because of what has happened. In the past, Thanksgiving was a time of eating, drinking and watching football games, but now, Thanksgiving has become a time of truly thanking God for life, health, and His many blessings. Thanksgiving becomes a time of doing something for God by doing something for others. The question has to be asked, why did thousands of innocent people have to die in order for some to "remember" the Lord? Re-read the above scripture and you'll see why.

As saints of God, we are taught to prepare for war in the time of peace. Spiritually speaking this means living each day as if it were our last, regardless of the events around us. Even in good times, when we are prospering, our service to the Lord should be no different then when tragedy strikes. This is such an important lesson for us because we really don't know what tomorrow will bring. In scripture, Israel was destroyed by the Babylonians before they really knew what was happening. It is why God instructed Lehi and his family to flee the city before it was too late. Bible history even speaks about barbaric terrorists called Scythians who performed terrorist acts on Israel, not sparing women or children, and destroying their crops. The Book of Mormon speaks of Gadianton robbers who terrorized the people of God continuously, just like modern day terrorists who are killing innocent people upon this land. No one really knows when and where they will strike next. They are hidden in secret places throughout the world. But if we are living righteously, God will prepare us like He did Lehi. He will warn us like He did Noah. He will tell us when it is time to leave the city like Lot and his family.

There is nothing to fear when we are serving Him in truth and in righteousness. Every day is Thanksgiving for us, because the bounty God has provided us has only made us more humble and thankful, not prideful. This Thanksgiving as we sit around the table with our loved ones, let's be thankful to God and truly "remember" Him, not because we were brought down, but remember Him because He first remembered us.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## Do Not Fear

Dear Boys and Girls,

We are not the first of God's people to be warned about war or have problems. King David was chosen by God to shape the twelve tribes of Israel into a powerful and rich nation. But many people tried to take over and also tried to kill David.

What did David do when scary things happened, when enemies turned on him or family members betrayed him? He turned his heart over to God! In Psalms 6 we can read his prayer.

"Oh Lord, don't be mad at me. Heal me. I hurt. My bones are weak, my soul is hurting, O Lord—How long? Return, rescue my soul.

"Save me for your mercies sake. If I'm dead, I won't be able to remember you. If I'm in my grave, I can't thank you.

"I am weary with my groaning. All night [I cried] I made my bed swim with tears...all you workers of iniquity [bad people] depart from me [leave me alone], for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.

"The Lord has heard me begging for help. He will receive my prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and fail! May they have problems. Let it happen suddenly!"

Why did God love David so much and bring him safely through so many wars and troubles? Why does the Bible say David was a man after God's heart (close to God in heart)? David tells us why in the 22nd chapter of Samuel.



First he praises God and then says, "God delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me, for they were too strong for me...the Lord delivereth me because He delighteth in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness... according to the cleanliness of my hands, he repaid me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from God."

No matter how rich and powerful and important David became, he never forgot to be grateful to God. He never quit really talking to God about his feelings and fears. He never quit telling God how much he loved Him.

So our answer too is to love God, talk to Him about all of our joys, fears and heartaches. Keep His commandments and pray in the name of Jesus. God is fair. He rewards those who do good. He guides those who ask Him for wisdom. He protects His own.

Remember, Romans 8:38-39, "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things

present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Trust Him; have faith and fear not. He cares for us.

Love,  
Sister Jan

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## WORD SEARCH

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## A Reminder

Literature makes wonderful Christmas gifts. Consider giving someone on your Christmas list one of the wonderful books that we have available at the Print House, written by brothers in our Church. Gift Certificates are also available.

Please call 734-429-5080 for more information or to place an order.

The Print House



## Baptism in Greensburg

By Brother Andrew Gehly

During the first weekend of January 2001, the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch had the privilege of hosting the FMOC's Saturday meetings to outline the year's objectives, as well as a Saturday evening meeting with the missionaries. Although these meetings all provided great blessings, the Sunday service had the biggest event in store.

On this Sunday, Sister Angela Nardozzi was baptized by Brother Bob Nicklow Jr., one of the seven visiting elders. Brother Nicklow related that it was a special baptism for him because he was also baptized at a very young age.

"We all had great excitement in the baptism, to come and feel the spirit of God in our fellowship," said Brother Joseph Fallavollitti, one of the five brothers who cut through approximately nine inches of ice on Saturday before the baptism.

Words were spoken from the rostrum following the theme of the morning, giving knowledge on how to maintain or improve one's relationship with God after making a commitment.

Brother Lyle Criscuolo of the Great Lakes Region encouraged the congregation to use the Bible and Book of Mormon as mirrors, to look at ourselves and fix our spiritual flaws. Brother Ken Staley followed, speaking on how to change these flaws when they are identified and how to "burn the boats to the past," relating the historic event of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River. Brothers Joseph Perri and Joel Gehly spoke last emphasizing how to plan for the future once these "boats to the past" have been "burned."

After the Lord's message was given to the branch and visitors, Brother Paul Gehly offered the prayer for Sister Angela to receive the Holy Ghost.

## Baptisms in Youngstown, Ohio

The months of June and July were months of joy and celebration for us. God chose to bless our branch with the energy that can only come from the young. On June 3, 2001, Jamie McDougall and Pamela Keener were baptized, casting their lot with the people of God. Sister Jamie was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Ron Genaro. Sister Pamela was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo, and confirmed by Brother Don Pandone.

A month later, on July 8, 2001, Mark Smith and Nathan Sculli were baptized. Brother Mark was baptized by Brother Ron Genaro and confirmed by Brother Joe Genaro. Brother Nathan was baptized by Brother Ron Genaro and confirmed by Brother Ken Murray. As Brother Mark was being confirmed, Brother Mike Nuzzi saw a ring being put on Brother Mark's finger. While Brother Nathan was being confirmed, Brother Mike Italiano had a vision. As Brother Ken said that Brother Nathan had made his way through the crowd, Brother Mike saw Brother Nathan reaching out to touch the hem of the garment of the Lord.

All four of these new brothers and sisters have decided to "...give Him the strength of their youth..." They need our prayers and our love. They need us to be a good example to them. And we who have served God these many years need their energy and excitement. May God bless them always.

## Ordinations at Detroit, Michigan Branch 2

It was a beautiful Sunday morning on August 19, 2001 when the brothers, sisters, and friends of Branch #2 gathered together to witness the ordinations of Brother Almo Straccia and Brother Peter Prechel into the office of Deacon.

The congregation was large with many visitors, including family and friends of the candidates. After a

session of singing, our meeting was opened in prayer.

Brother Paul Whitton, Brother Pete's uncle, opened our service. The theme of his sermons was *opportunity*. He began reading the seventh chapter of Jacob where Sherem wanted the opportunity to meet with Jacob and tell him the error of his ways. Brother Paul continued to speak to us about opportunity and shared with us the way to take the opportunity to introduce The Book of Mormon to those who ask us about the Church and our beliefs. He persuaded us to be in tune with God to recognize the opportunities that come our way. He also admonished us that if we do not take advantage of them, we will fall behind as an organization. He closed by saying, "We need to work together."

Brother Don Ross, Brother Pete's uncle, continued our meeting. He thanked God for the greatest opportunity, to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. He spoke of Zeezoram and his conversion, and shared experiences of members of the Church who took advantage of opportunities and how they helped to establish and grow His Church. He finished by saying, "Take advantage of opportunities and He will bless you for it."

After partaking of the Lord's Supper, we adjourned for lunch and fellowship.

Our afternoon meeting began with wonderful news that Adriana Phillips had asked for her baptism and would go to the waters the following week. Sister Adriana met the Church through her husband, Brother Brandon Phillips, who was raised in the Church. We were excited to hear of our sister's desire.

Brother Dominic Thomas opened our afternoon meeting by reading from Acts 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter which relates the origination of the office of Deacon. He continued with Timothy 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter, which lists the attributes a Deacon must have, and the list of duties of a Deacon. Brother Dominic confirmed that both Brother Almo and Brother Pete were able and willing to perform these duties.

The two candidates were brought

(Continued on Page 8)

## Ordinations at Branch 2

Continued from Page 7

forward to have their feet washed. Brother Pete's feet were washed by Brother David Lovalvo and Brother Almo's feet were washed by Brother Emil DiMelis. Brother Jerry Benyola then petitioned God in prayer to guide them as they ordained these two brothers. Brother Almo was ordained by Brother Larry Henderson and Brother Pete was ordained by Brother Dan Parravano.

Brother John Straccia, Brother Almo's brother, shared a few words with us, and the meeting came to an end.

A beautiful spirit was felt that day. The Lord blessed us with two new laborers and the *opportunity* to serve Him.

## Thanksgiving

By Vina Cadman

*(Editor's note: This is reprinted from the November, 1947 issue of The Gospel News)*

Our President will issue a proclamation setting aside a day of Thanksgiving for the people of this nation. This is one of the first holidays made national by our Government. It takes us back over 300 years ago, when 100 English people came to settle in Massachusetts. They had left England because they could not worship God as they wanted to, and had gone to Holland.

In Holland the English children began to talk the Dutch language and to do other things that their parents did not want them to, so they started a voyage, crossing the Atlantic Ocean, in the Mayflower.

They landed here on December 22, 1620, after a very stormy voyage. Arriving here they did not find comfortable homes, nice stores, streets paved or fine churches to go to. No, they found a snow covered frozen land with nothing to see but timber; snow fell fast and often and food was scarce; so first one was taken sick, and then

another, and many died.

The people worked very hard chopping down trees sawing them up to build log houses; living on the ship in the meantime. In the spring they planted plenty of corn. Summer brought the sunshine to ripen it, and when autumn came they had a fine harvest. They had given thanks every day for their blessings, but they wanted a special day held in their new log church, inviting their Indian friends, who were living here, to join with them in prayer and feasting. Plenty of game was found in the woods; wild turkey, chicken, quail, deer and bear.

So the first Thanksgiving was held in the fall of 1621. How much different our Thanksgiving is today: Man has been blest with everything the heart desires, we have comfortable homes, wonderful schools, this is the land of many churches, we travel in comfort, from the soil we produce fruits and vegetables in abundance, also minerals of all kinds, coal and gas to heat our homes; in fact there is no end to these things used for our needs.

Why not stop to thank God for everything; is He not worthy of the praise that should come from our lips? Are not the blessings of life all tokens of God's love for you, do you appreciate them as you should or do you look on them as the common things of life? Let me ask you this, what have you that does not come from the hands of God? Thanksgiving should become a daily duty for us, for Christ set the example in "giving thanks" when He broke bread.

In Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*Count all my blessings? I can't do it  
Though I've tried o'er and o'er;  
Delving in the halls of memory  
Always I am finding more  
Often tho' I think I've ransacked  
Every nook and corner there;  
I can never pause a moment  
Till they're crowding everywhere,  
So I just keep saying "Howdy"  
As they show their smiling face;  
And conclude I ne'er can fathom  
Half the wonders of God's grace.*

## First National Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humble to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both houses of Congress have, by their joint Committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceable to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in tendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, previous to their becoming a nation; for the single and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence, in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors, which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And, also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the Great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to

perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us) and to bless them with good governments, peace and record; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increasing of science, among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best. Given under my hand at the City of New York, the third day of October 1789

-George Washington

## ADDRESS CHANGE

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and Lydia  
237 Syovano Dell Ave.  
Edison, NJ 08817

## Request from FMOC

Brothers and Sisters,

As most of you are aware, communication between the foreign mission fields and the FMOC teams is extremely critical. As we have experienced here in the United States, computers (and especially email) have transformed the way and the speed in which we can accomplish this communication.

The FMOC (and AMOC) needs computers that we may be able to take or send to the foreign mission fields.

In the United States, many computers are slow and obsolete after a couple of years, but they can still be useful. Sometimes companies or individuals actually give old computers to churches and non-profit organizations. This is what we need.

Specifically, we would like to have Pentium I (or better) computers—laptops are preferred. Desktops and separate monitors are also acceptable, just harder to send or transport. Can we spread the word and keep our eyes open for free older computers? Please contact Brother Jason Monaghan (FMOC secretary), Nobile Vista II, #406, Greensburg, PA 15601 if you have a resource for computers like this.

Thanks,  
Brother Joel Gehly  
FMOC Chairman

## Correction

The article *Blessed Are They Who Shall Seek to Bring Forth My Zion* by Apostle Joseph Calabrese, printed in the September and October 2001 issues of the *Gospel News*, was derived from an article by Brother George (Rusty) Heaps and Brother A. R. Lovalvo.

## Publication Notice

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Happy  
Thanksgiving  
to all our readers.

## God Touches Columbia

Continued from Page 4

demonstration of the love of the Lord for the people of this nation. The entire ministry agreed this meeting would not be one they would ever forget.

### TRIP TO BAPTISMAL SITE

On Saturday morning approximately 30 individuals left Bogota by bus to make the 90-minute trip to the baptism site. We gathered on the serene shore of the Subia River in the mountains outside of the city. Our initial thought was that only Sister Hoba and Brother Felipe would be going into the waters of baptism but the Lord had other plans. At the waters edge, Laura and Betty both made their desires to be baptized known. Brother Nicklow baptized Sister Hoba and Brother Felipe. Brother Isaac J. Smith baptized Sister Laura and Brother Palmieri baptized Sister Betty. What a joy to see the hand of God at work!

Saturday evening an informal time of sharing was experienced as approximately 30 people sat circled and related details about their life, their families and what God had done for them. The saints of Colombia are not just desirous to receive the Gospel but to share it as well.

The events of our final meeting on the second Sunday were truly attended to by the direction of the Lord. We started with Brother Paul Liberto asking the blessing of God upon Juan David Torres, the infant son of Brother Juan Carlos and Sister Sandra

Torres. The confirmation of the newly baptized was completed with Apostle Isaac Smith confirming Sister Laura and as he prayed, the Gift of Tongues was given. Brother Liberto confirmed Sister Hoba, Brother Palmieri confirmed Brother Felipe, and Brother Nicklow confirmed Sister Betty.

Brother Isaac J. Smith then spoke wonderful words of encouragement holding out the promises of God to all. The spirit of promise for greater blessings in this land prevailed as Brother Palmieri administered the Lord's Supper to all the members and it was with much reluctance that the meeting was brought to a close. The Lord revealed, however, that His work was not yet concluded that day as one by one others came forward to request their baptisms during the next trip. When all was done there would be eight including Brother Victor Vargas who had been the first to ask this trip, who will be waiting for the ministry to return so they can complete their covenant with the Lord. Brother Palmieri was correct when he declared Colombia was changed when the Lord returned the Gospel to that land and the Lord has shown His will to grow the Church in Bogota as He touches the life of its people one by one by one. Praise God for His blessings!

## Notice

The Print House is now taking orders for the New Edition of The Book of Mormon. Available are a Deluxe Limited Edition (genuine black leather, thumb indexed, red letter, gift boxed), and a Standard Edition (bonded black leather, red letter). The Deluxe Limited Edition is \$75.00 and the Standard Edition is \$24.95. The Standard Edition can be purchased at a discounted price of \$22.50 each if you purchase 1-2 cases (12 per case), or \$19.95 each if you purchase 3 or more cases (12 per case).

To order contact the Print House at 734-429-5080.

## Church in Nigeria

Continued from Page 3

the brothers and sisters and the local villagers.

The Church has a Secondary School with an enrollment of approximately 1200 students that has been in existence more than 30 years. This school at one time had an enrollment of 1500 students, but because some of the buildings having structural damage the number of students has dropped.

## Trip to the Holy Land

Continued from Page 1

through Tel Aviv, our first stop was Caesarea, a center of the early Christians. Here, Cornelius (the author's favorite Bible character) became the first Gentile convert to the new religion, and Paul was imprisoned before being taken to Rome for trial. The next stop was Beit Shean; a reconstructed town, which showed what life was like when it was occupied by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago. At the end of this busy day, we finally reached our hotel in Tiberius, on the shores of the beautiful and historic Sea of Galilee.

The next day (Saturday), we visited Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle, turning water into wine, and then it was off to Nazareth, His boyhood home. We also visited modern Haifa on the Mediterranean Sea, Mt. Carmel, where Elijah defeated the Baal prophets, and Megiddo (Armageddon) where the final battle between good and evil is prophesized to take place. We had lunch in a roadside mall that had a Burger King, and one of our members (I am not at liberty to say who), ordered a cheeseburger, not realizing that dietary laws in Israel prohibit eating milk with meat.

The Sabbath Day was spent around the Sea of Galilee. We sang hymns at the Mount of Beatitudes, possibly on the very spot where Jesus



delivered His Sermon on the Mount. It was then off to **Tabgha**, where we visited the Church of the Multiplication of the Fishes and Loaves (the name says it all), and then to **Capernaum** where Jesus chose to center His ministry. We saw an original reconstructed "**Jesus Boat**" at **Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar**, and had the opportunity of crossing the **Sea of Galilee** in a replica of this kind of boat. Here, Brother Tom conducted a meeting, and gave an inspirational (six minute) sermon.

It was then off to the **Ein Gev Kibbutz** and it's popular fish restaurant, where many of us had the "St. Peter's" fish which is indigenous to the Sea of Galilee. Our final stop this Sabbath Day was to the **River Jordan** where pilgrims gather from all over the world to immerse themselves in these holy waters. It was then back to our hotel.

On Monday, we left Tiberius and headed south. Our first stop in the desert was outside **Jericho**, which we were unable to enter because of the unrest in the area. Here we were able to view the "**Mount of Temptation**," the traditional "high mountain" from which Satan showed Jesus "*all the kingdoms of the world and glory of them.*" It was then off to **Masada**, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod and famous as the last stronghold of the Jewish Rebellion against the Romans. We had lunch by the **Dead Sea**, after which several of us waded in this unique "Salt Lake." Where we ate was near where the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah once stood, and while leaving this place we saw a salt pillar, which could very possibly have been Lot's wife. Our last stop before arriving at our hotel in Jerusalem was **Qumaran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and from where we could see **Mt. Pisgah**, where Moses viewed the Promised Land and where he is believed to be buried.

In Jerusalem, we stayed at the Olive Tree Hotel, so named because of the live olive tree in its lobby. Tuesday morning, on the way to the Mount of Olives as Jesus did, we passed by the Hebrew University. Little did we know that in a few hours a car bomb would

go off in this area. We then stood atop the Mount of Olives as Jesus did, and enjoyed a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem. This view was almost as spectacular as seeing Sister Esther riding a camel (one of the highlights of our trip). We then walked down the road where Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On the way we visited the Church of "**Domini Flevit**," where Jesus wept over the destruction of Jerusalem, and the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus prayed for God's will to be done. (One of the most disappointing events of our trip was to learn that the English translation of Gethsemane is "olive oil press".)

We then caught a glimpse of the city Jesus knew, when we viewed a Model of First Century Jerusalem. While we were here, we heard an explosion followed by sirens. Our tour guide said it was an airplane, but it wasn't until we were in Bethlehem that he told us it was a car bomb at the University we were at several hours before. The bomb was also three miles from our hotel.

On our way to **Bethlehem**, we had to pass through a checkpoint, since Bethlehem is in the "West Bank" and under the control of the Palestinians. It was like traveling to another country. The Israelis wouldn't let us through, but our guide knew a back way. The Israelis blocked this way, but the Palestinians removed the blockade so we were able to get through. Even though some of us wouldn't admit it, we were all nervous, or concerned. While in Bethlehem, we had a delicious lunch and explored the cave revered as the place where Jesus was born. Our final stop was **Bethany**, also in the West Bank, and visited the tomb from which Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, as well as the home of His friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

On Wednesday, our last full day in Israel, we had a good workout, walking through much of the **Old City of Jerusalem**. We entered through the Dung Gate where we witnessed everyday life and customs within narrow, crooked streets, which have remained much the same over the centuries. We touched a piece of

Solomon's Temple at the Western (Wailing) Wall, where Jews pray for peace and for the temple to be restored. We then visited the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, which stands on the accepted site of the House of Caiaphas, the High Priest at the time of the arrest of Jesus. It was outside this house where Peter denied Jesus, and where the cock crowed. Below the church is a cave thought to be where Jesus was detained by the chief priests. We then continued to the **Upper Room**, the Hall of the Last Supper, where Jesus and His followers celebrated the Passover, and where Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and commanded them to *love one another*. Below this room is a hall, which houses the Tomb of King David. We then proceeded to the **Via Dolorosa**, the Way of the Cross, which commemorates the path Jesus walked bearing the cross from the Place of Judgment (Paraetorium) to Calvary. At the end of the Via Dolorosa is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built upon the place Catholic's believe Jesus was crucified and where His tomb is located. Other Christians believe that the location of Calvary is the area now known as the **Garden Tomb** located outside the city. It is here where the two-roomed Herodian tomb (believed to belong to Joseph of Arimathea), the huge, deep cistern, and the skull-shaped hill (**Golgotha**), as detailed in the New Testament are located. The highlight of our trip was having Communion in this sacred and solemn location. It was also mentioned that Brother Ike was the only Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ to pass Communion in the Holy Land since the Restoration. There wasn't a dry eye among us.

The next day we flew home. The 12 hour flight was upsetting (but we don't have to go into that now). The important thing is that we all arrived home safe and sound. We thank God for watching over us the entire trip and for giving us the opportunity to travel through the Holy Land. We were able to walk through many of the places Jesus walked while He was forming His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Children Blessed

Krista Nancy Ausilio, daughter of Ron Ausilio and Jennifer Robertson, was blessed in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on May 13, 2001.

Katelyn Ann Lubbers, daughter of Ron Lubbers and Lisa Marie Stephens, was blessed in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on May 13, 2001.

Alexander James Nieves, son of Brother Abraham and Sister Lynne Nieves, was blessed in Detroit Branch #1 on March 11, 2001.

Christian Obergon Jr., son of Brother Christian and Sister Christy Obergone, was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on August 16, 2001.

Victor Obergone, son of Brother Christian and Sister Christy Obergone, was blessed in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on August 16, 2001.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The family of Sister Mary Scalise, wife of the late Brother Vincent Scalise, would like to express our gratitude for the many cards of sympathy, numerous phone calls, and food, which was provided. Your thoughtfulness was overwhelming.

We cannot thank you enough for the prayers that were offered in our behalf. The Lord has surely comforted our hearts. We could not have survived without your care and concern. "Thank You" seems so inadequate to express our feelings. May God bless each and every one of you.

Sister Mary Scalise

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Mark Smith was baptized on July 8, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ron Genaro and confirmed by Brother Joe Genaro.

Brother Nathan Sculli was baptized on July 8, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ron Genaro, and confirmed by Brother Ken Murray.

Brother Jim DiFalco was reinstated on January 21, 2001 in the Inner City Branch of Detroit, Michigan.

Sister Lana DiFalco was reinstated on April 8, 2001 in the Inner City Branch of Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Anastasio "Negro" was reinstated on June 24, 2001 in the Inner City Branch of Detroit, Michigan.

Sister Adriana Phillips was baptized on August 26, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Brother Christian Obergone was baptized on September 16, 2001 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Crudup and confirmed by Brother Frank Rogolino.

Sister Christy Obergone was baptized on September 16, 2001 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Crudup and confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri.

## Ordinations

Brother Michael Capone was ordained an Deacon on July 8, 2001 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Dan Parravano and he was ordained by Brother Paul Whitton.

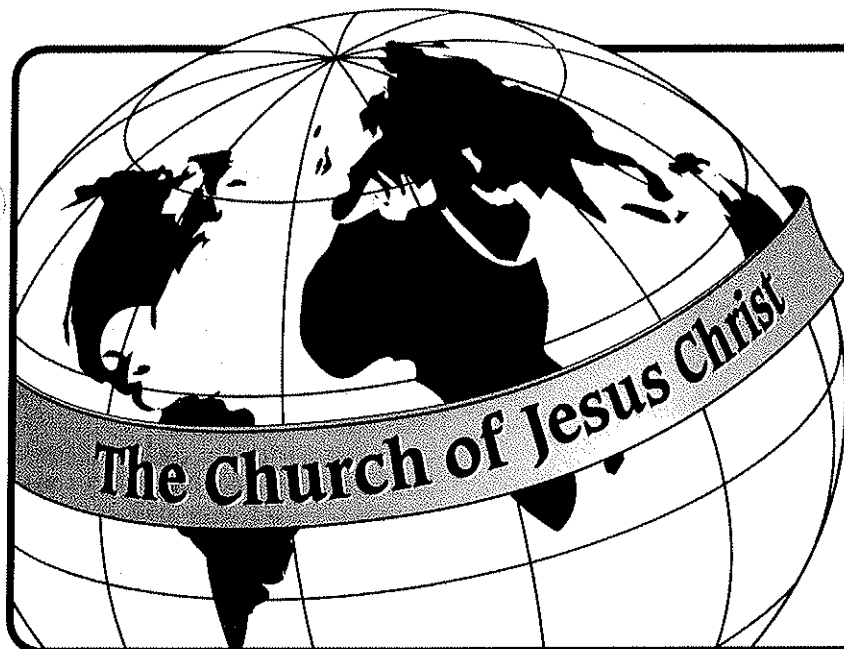
## OBITUARIES

### SALLY ROMANO

Sister Sally Romano, an ordained Deaconess from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed onto her reward on February 18, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Carl Romano. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Dorothy Pastorelli; a son, Brother Carl; their spouses, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## Correction

Sister Jamie MacDougall was baptized on June 3, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Ronald Genaro.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

December, 2001

Volume 57, No. 12

## The Prince of Peace

By Apostle W.H. Cadman

*(Editor's note: This article first appeared in the December 1955 issue of The Gospel News).*

The Christmas season is here again, and as we commemorate it, we should remember the character of Him, whom we hold the day in remembrance of. I read in Matthew first chapter that Jesus was born in the days of King Herod.

His birth was heralded by the angels of Heaven, and men were directed to the City of Bethlehem, the place of birth, by a star—something very much out of the ordinary as to babes been born into the world. We are told that the Virgin Mary was espoused to Joseph, and before they came together, she was found to be with child of the Holy Ghost. Joseph was warned not to fear to take unto thee Mary thy wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. The Virgin had known no man. For the protection of the young child, Mary and Joseph fled into Egypt to save His life from the wrath of King Herod. But when he (Herod) was dead, they returned to the land of Israel; and Jesus, to fulfill all righteousness, was baptized in Jordan by

John when he was about 30 years old.

Mark seems to have little or nothing to say of His birth into the world, but he does record that when Jesus was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying: "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

In the first chapter of Luke I read that an angel was sent of God to a city named Nazareth, to a Virgin named Mary who was espoused to a man named Joseph, and he tells her to "fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest," etc. Mary asked the angel: How shall this thing be, seeing I know not a man? The angel answered her thus: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

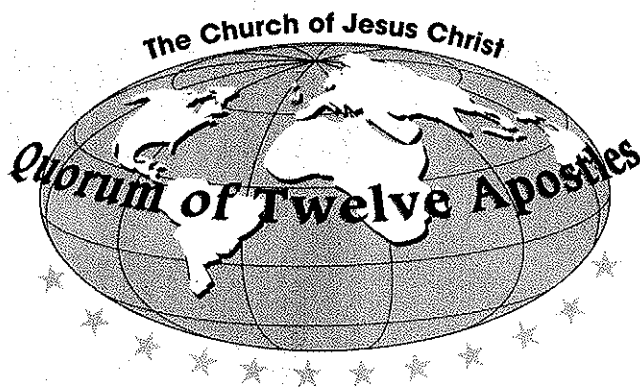
In the second chapter of Luke, he gives an account of the birth of Jesus; He was laid in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn. That same night the shepherds were in the fields watching over their flocks, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto

them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. We read that suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God. And Simeon came into the temple by the spirit, he takes the young child up in his arms, and blessed God and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, yea, He was to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Joseph and Mary marveled at those things, which were spoken of Him.

The same child is presented to us in John first chapter as the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God and that all things were made by Him (Christ the Son of God), and He was made flesh. And the sacred writers agree that Him whose birth we now commemorate created this world, and that He was with the Father from the beginning.

Should we not all be serious as to how we commemorate the one at whose birth, there was no room for Him nor His mother in the Inn, but rather with the beasts of the stall? Remember it is written of Him, "No man ever spoke like this man." Also there was nothing hid from His eyes,

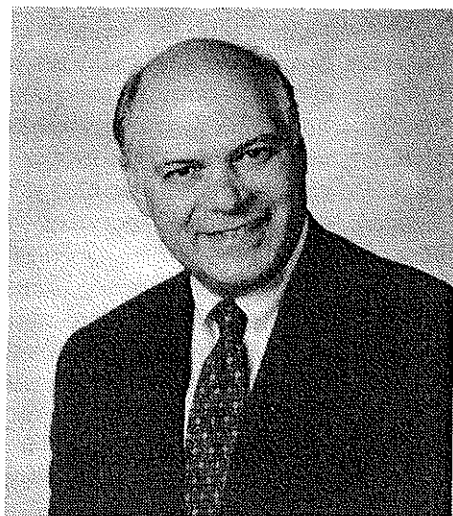
(Continued on Page 11)



## The Formula

*By Apostle Peter Scolari*

As I write, it is the month of October, 2001. We have never before lived through a period quite like the past few weeks. No need to reiterate the details, they have been rehearsed repeatedly. The entire world has been shocked by the horrible events of September 11, delivered by terrorists using our own American based air-



**Apostle Peter Scolari**

lines. To say that the Twin Tower attack was unthinkable is a gross understatement. However, in the context of contemporary American society as of September 10, 2001, our initial reaction as a nation was almost as surprising. People en masse have turned to God for His mercy and support. Mention of the Lord in everyday conversations at work or just

about anywhere is suddenly commonplace. Prayer in schools has resurfaced. The unselfish and united response by the people of this nation, and the degree of respect and love extended to the families of those who perished, created feelings of brotherhood, trust, and community that we would have to go back several decades to remember.

Our nation's leadership reacted with admirable restraint. They acknowledged the work of evil while suppressing any urge to pour out an unfettered retaliation against the Middle East. Instead, the USA investigated and identified the sponsors and agents of this evil, then went after them specifically while the nation stood in support of this stand for justice. Our nation's President expressed the understanding that God's will calls for triumph of good over evil. Boldly and publicly, he called the nation to prayer claiming the benefits promised to the righteous: primarily God's protection and God's vindication. Witnessing such leadership was encouraging. I envisioned the Lord Jesus Christ pleased at seeing the population of this land remember and humble themselves before the God of the land (Ether 2:12) in a time of crisis.

Still, it seems as if we are only at the beginning of what could be a very long and precarious trip. The ensuing few weeks have thus far been a combination of bombardments, lethal contamination, and warnings (wars and rumors of wars?). In fact, society is threatened by potential devastation wrought through cowardly and unconscionable means. Nevertheless, I am not convinced that temporal

dangers are the greatest threats we are facing. As I write this in October, considering that it will not be published for several weeks, I ask myself in these newly uncertain times: What will develop between now and December? What will we see in the future? For example, I am hoping that we will see that...

- America's suddenly increased affinity for worship and prayer has continued and is still on the rise.

- Hunger and thirst for true righteousness has bloomed and abounds.

- The leaders of our nation have been depending on God for direction, wisdom, and intervention having avoided frustration and temptation to trust in the arm of flesh.

- The Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ have seized this opportunity to live in and shine the light of the Gospel, which has been restored.

Actually, whether or not we see any of the above in December and after is a function of choices to be made by groups of people, including the Saints. Accordingly, no one can be precisely sure how the future will play out in terms of any group's actions. However, I am certain that any of us could attempt a forecast for each example. In each, the actions and attitudes of one group or another is under consideration. When predicting group behavior or performance, individuals usually do not factor in their own influence. It is human nature to think from a detached perspective, considering the attitudes and influences of others, as if one's own personal performance and/or personal intervention will not be a significant factor.

Nevertheless, the fact is that every group's performance is only a composite of individual performances. It occurs to me that each of us will make his or her own personal impact respecting every one of the possibilities I listed above, as well as many others. A more relevant question for each of us to ponder is: Will I increase or decrease the likelihood that any of these possibilities are realized?

Why is this an important question? This is a good spot to reflect

upon a couple of things.

While taking comfort in many aspects of America's reaction, I assume we all understand that the battle is not entirely as it seems. While to some it may seem cliché to note that "We wrestle not against flesh and blood..." (Eph. 6:12), on the contrary, this is never to be forgotten or taken lightly. As much as life is precious, as much as righteous indignation may be justifiable, we readers of the scriptures recognize that this is not a new fight. The one who beguiled our first parents in the Garden of Eden keeps trying to control the hearts and minds of men and women and, ultimately, to possess their souls. While the current terrorist struggle appears to be related to distribution of wealth, health, power, and comfort, these are only fleshly commodities flaunted by the true enemy in order to recruit agents in the fight to stifle the light of Christ. The real struggle is a spiritual one that challenges our ability to maintain the love of God. Paul wrote (Romans 8: 38-39), "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

None of the horrors that have been or will be perpetrated can in themselves bring about the evil victory. The true enemy's only motivation to continue wreaking death and misery is to stimulate base reactions that reflect separation from the Holy Spirit. Success for the adversary is to see the development of fear, of hatred, of bigotry, of intolerance. None of these is compatible with the Spirit of God. They are aspects of the flesh, which demonstrate enmity with God and disarm spiritual defenses. Living in the Spirit precludes slipping into the fleshly nature.

As the battle is not one of flesh and blood, be assured that neither the evil one nor his agents can prevail so long as he does not get the spiritual results he wants out of the warfare he wages. (Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7) Moroni

fought the same enemy (different agents) centuries ago. Read the account of Moroni starting in Alma 46. (You are familiar with the passage, but please open your *Book of Mormon* and read it. It will be a blessing to you, either because the world has become a better place by the time you read this article or because it has not.) Moroni witnessed the ability of one wicked man to stimulate widespread wickedness motivating others to seek the destruction of the church of God, and the foundation of liberty, the blessing that God put upon this land for the sake of the righteous. Moroni lived in the promise of Christ's coming. He channeled his anger not into hatred, but into a focus on the memory of God, religion, freedom, peace, and family. He stirred his countrymen to the same focus.

If you read the subsequent chapters, you will see that Moroni focused on the unity of his people, the Nephites, in their service to God as the key to the strength of his armies. The blessing upon this land is God's promise that as long as the inhabitants serve God, He will preserve them. The value to be reaped from the detailed accounts of warfare recorded in the *Book of Mormon* may never have been any greater than at this time.

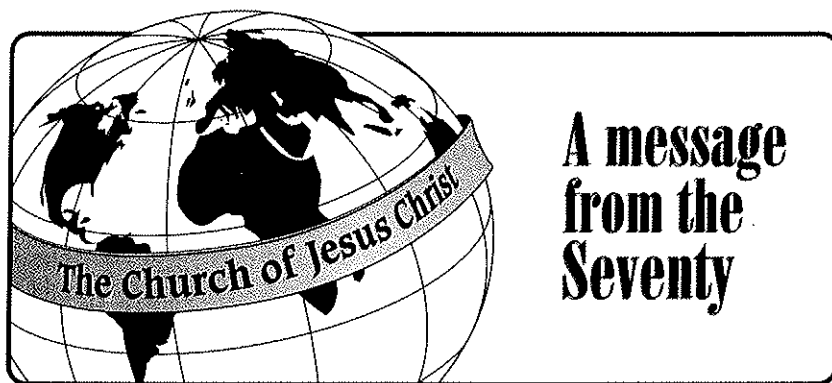
I submit that Moroni knew the formula for spiritual combat. In reading you will see it. He stifled any development of hatred within himself in reaction to his ruthless adversaries by opening his heart to the love of God. He was literally able to carry out physical warfare, under the direction of God, without ever hating his adversaries. We are told that if all men had been like Moroni, the devil would never have power over the hearts of men (Alma 48:17). We have the formula of Moroni's success. We must each continually focus on being filled with the love of God. Acting upon that love is key to maintaining it. This is why I suggest we each ponder the question: Will I contribute to my group's (the Church, my nation, my community, my workplace, my school, my friends, etc.) collective success in the presence of God?

Considering the examples cited earlier. Ask yourself:

- Will I be a catalyst to my group's increase in worship and prayer, to their true belief in God and all that He has promised?
- Will my joy in righteousness and abhorrence of anything that offends God be consistent and a factor in my group's behavior?
- Will my actions demonstrate understanding that this is a choice land obliged to serve God? Will my patriotism take a form that supports and asks for sincere humility and solicitation of God's direction by the nation's leaders?
- Will I love my God, my brothers and sisters, my friends, my neighbors, even my enemies as Christ commanded? Will I testify of God's love for me and of the joy of Christ's Gospel?

On continuing reflection, one might envision the condition of the world if everyone loved the Lord and his fellow man with the love of God. Would the enemy find an agent? Would he be able to assemble a secret combination? Of course, the answer is obvious.

No matter how any attack is manifested, we must recognize our true adversary and we must remember how to triumph. Moroni prayed mightily that the Lord would preserve the blessings of liberty upon his brethren as long as there remained a band of true believers in Christ to possess the land. At the risk of being redundant, I submit that The Church of Jesus Christ must be that band of true believers in this day. If there are others who have some degree of understanding, others who humbly call upon the Lord, some who sincerely believe that Jesus came to bring salvation, there is nothing to gain by discouraging them in their sincerity. We have the opportunity and the duty as true believers (Alma 46) to shine the light of the restored fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus came for all mankind. The word of God tells us how His servants will do His work. We have the opportunity to share our belief in all of God's promises. Now is the time.



## Revelation Given to The Church of Jesus Christ November 9, 1862

*By Quorum of Seventy Evangelists,  
President John Griffith and Vice President Eugene Perri*

*"Thus saith the Lord God unto my people and to my servants: fear ye not, neither be ye troubled for I have chosen you out of the Sons of Men to be my servants and to administer my word to the people of the Nations of the earth; and they shall write to you from the East and from the West and from the North and from the South to know the truth and the way of Salvation, for I have given the knowledge unto you, and all the world shall know that I have loved you saith the Lord God of Hosts."*

-Brother Benjamin Meadowcroft

This is a very troublesome time because of the terrorism that has attacked the free nations of the world and especially the United States of America, the choice land prepared of God. Men and women who traveled about with the confidence now live in fear of threats and violence because of terrorist acts directed toward a peace loving people. In the midst of these uncertain times the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ still has a work to do in carrying the Gospel to all who have requested. These summons for the Plan of Salvation have come from the East, the West, the North and the South. Disruption of transportation has curtailed the Missionary Outreach of the Quorum of Seventy for a short time until travel can be resumed to the

mission fields. The many brothers and sisters who assist in the mission fields are anxious to return to their missionary work place. Branches and missions of the Church have joined in appealing to God in prayer to bless our efforts in spreading the Gospel of Peace through Salvation.

While a terrible tragedy has taken place since September 11, 2001, yet we know through God's Latter Day prophecies that these happenings may occur even on this land of America. This is not the end time; these are latter day events taking place. It is especially important at this time to be right with God. We must do what we can to continue spreading the peace that is derived through belief in Jesus Christ. Some branches and missions have made an extra effort to hand out fliers in their neighborhoods giving an invitation to neighbors to come and join with us in prayer at our places of worship. Their efforts were rewarded as some neighbors did come.

One young man made a statement that before this tragedy took place he tried to invite people to Church but no one seemed interested. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, our churches are welcoming visitors. People are more willing to listen now, there remains a work for each of us.

Now more than ever we are hearing people singing "God Bless America, land that I love..." God has

truly blessed America for many years and in many ways. It is His chosen land for an inheritance for the righteous. All true Disciples of Christ can find a solace in Him. We praise God for His promises of life everlasting.

During this short period of restricted travel, we have stepped up communication activities to the mission fields. We expect during the first quarter of 2002 to resume missionary travel. Our brothers and sisters in foreign lands understand and are supportive of the Parent Church.

The Quorum of Seventy is very involved in programs designed to carry the Restored Gospel to the (Native Americans) seed of Joseph. Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto take their leave as resident missionaries, our prayers and thanks are with them. They served the Church as missionaries for some 22 years on the San Carlos Reservation. God has blessed them in many ways for their efforts. They will continue to reside in Arizona and a missionary in charge will be sought for the work. We gratefully acknowledge the time and effort that Brother Dan and Sister Dolores along with many others have spent on the Reservation, representing The Church of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless them.

Please continue to hold up the hands of the laborers in God's vineyard by your support through fasting and prayer as well as free will giving.

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists also recognizes the many years of dedication given by Brother Spencer Everett of the Great Lakes Region. Brother Spencer has retired as an Evangelist due to illness and was granted an "Emeritus" position with the Quorum, retiring from his daily responsibilities of the Quorum. Brother Spencer will continue to serve as an ordained Minister and we ask for God's blessing upon him. Also, Brother Miguel Bicelis of the Southeast Region, has been called to serve the Church as an ordained Evangelist. May God bless our newly ordained Evangelist, Brother Miguel.

So you see the work of the Lord

(Continued on Page 11)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).*

Jesus was born for you and I. Jesus died for you and I. There was no other purpose for His existence, but to bear our griefs, carry our sorrows, be wounded and bruised for our transgressions and our iniquities, be chastised so we might have peace, and receive stripes of punishment, so we can be healed. Why then do many have grief and sorrow, and feel they have no peace, and feel they have not been "healed?" Why do many wallow in their transgressions and iniquities, and feel they are not worth anything to God? These questions that we may have all asked at one time or another, need to be answered by using the above scripture, and not only that scripture, but many others that speak about the purpose of Jesus Christ.

It is interesting how mankind defines sorrow and grief. It almost always is due to natural circumstances that they feel are beyond their control (physical illness, financial difficulties, etc.). As saints of God, however, we can understand that true grief and sorrow is defined as separation from God, or sickness of the soul. Jesus placed little emphasis on the natural things of life. He told us that if we would put Him first, He would add all those natural things to us. He told us not to worry, that He would provide; His eye is even on the sparrow! He was more concerned about the state of our soul, which is eternal, because this natural life will last only about 70 years or so.

It is also interesting that Christmas has become a time of year that is so focused on those natural things of life. Many buy gifts for others out of obligation, or tradition. This time of year has been set aside to remember Jesus Christ and His birth, yet Jesus is not even a thought in many people's minds when they are scurrying about from store to store, trying to find gifts for others. The absence of those natural gifts, or natural things, is what many consider to be poverty, which is considered grief and sorrow. Again, what really is true grief and sorrow? I know several people who have every reason to be unhappy because of the natural, physical, or financial circumstances they are in. Yet, they are the happiest of people. There are some who have committed the worst of sins, but have accepted the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, and are extremely happy and thankful. On the other hand, I also know of very wealthy people who are constantly unhappy, and feel they have no peace. There are others who feel so worthless, and cannot accept the forgiveness of Jesus Christ for sins they have committed, and cannot forgive themselves. They are constantly in a state of depression. What makes the difference? A person who focuses on those natural things of life will never be happy, because there will always be someone who has more, or can do better. A person who focuses on the spiritual things of life will always be happy, because the reward is the same for everyone, and is everlasting, and forgiveness is never ending.

This season, what gift would you want to receive? Is it something natural that will probably break, be thrown out, or never used? Or is it something that lasts forever, will never break, doesn't need a warranty, and is FREE? The latter is what Jesus Christ can offer, and is the real "reason for the season." The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> have changed attitudes forever. More humbling events will come as The Book of Mormon predicts, until the day would come when all men and women will be equal, and the focus will not be on the natural things, but on the spiritual things. Grief and sorrow will be nonexistent. We will be healed before we even ask to be healed. Our transgressions and iniquities will be forgiven and forgotten. We will have peace. All because of Him who was born for one purpose: FOR YOU AND FOR ME. Merry Christmas.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## Don't Let Fear Stop You

Dear Friends,

As you get older there are going to be times when you have to do something that is very scary or hard for you. Maybe you have to help a fighting relative or person you care about that has big problems. Maybe someone you love dearly is very sick and depressed. Maybe you need to go visit someone who is ill and you are very afraid and don't know how to act.

Don't let your fear stop you; people who serve God have special power to listen, to pray, to care for and understand others. All we do is pray and pray and ask Jesus to show us how and what to do. Then we need to be quiet in our heart and gentle and follow what the Spirit tells us to do.

It sounds strange, but it gets easier with practice. For example, when someone has a terrible problem, many times they mostly just need you to listen to them and to pray for them, and especially pray out loud with them to Jesus. Ask Jesus to help them. Praise our Jesus. Remind yourself of all He has done for you. Strengthen your faith in your prayers by praising Him. And then put on your whole armour of God.

Just like knights in the old days wore chains and metal armour to save their lives, we have armour too. It is invisible but so powerful. Since we battle against evil every time we help someone who is hurting, first put on your armour; wear it every day.

Wrapped around your middle is



truth. Don't tell lies, don't talk about others. Ask for forgiveness when you do and start fresh so you can feel clean inside about yourself. Put on the breastplate of righteousness. That means do your best every day to be good, to care about the things of God. Be strict with yourself not to watch trash on TV or the internet. Don't swear; have nothing to do with magic or witchcraft. Stand up for God.

Study your Bible and Book of Mormon so you know God's laws and His wonderful promises. Learn about how God has always delivered His people throughout history. Remember heroes like David who killed bears, lions, and a giant. Then you will feel brave and ready to step out and tell others of this Gospel. It's like putting shoes on so you aren't afraid to step out.

Your sword is the Word of God. God keeps His promises. Memorize important Bible verses so the Word of God will always go with you. For example, Philippians 4:13 promises, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," and "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Remember you have a helmet protecting your head called the helmet of salvation—that Jesus died to show there is heaven and we don't need to fear death.

The last piece of armour is my favorite. It is the shield of faith. The Bible says you hold up faith to quench (put out) fiery darts (arrows) that wicked people send your way. That means when you are trying to do good someone somewhere will try to discourage you. But you will use your faith and not be discouraged. You will pray, ask God what to do and just keep

on doing good.

Even when others give up, you will wear your armour, pray and stand strong. The powerful armour of God will protect you and allow you to win.

With love,  
Your sister and fellow soldier in Christ,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

PUT	SHIELD
ON	OF
THE	FAITH
WHOLE	THIS
ARMOUR	SWORD
OF	OF
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FEET	HELMET
GOSPEL	OF
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Merry  
Christmas  
to all our readers.



## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Sister Karen L. Progar

From the opening song, *He Planted Me Deep*, through Sister Virginia Rose's prayer and into our meeting, it was clear that the Lord would be in today's meeting. On this beautiful autumn day, with the foliage in its full glory, we continued with *America the Beautiful* and the General Ladies' Uplift Circle began its Conference on October 13, 2001 held in the Greensburg building.

Our President, Sister Arline Whitton, welcomed everyone to the conference stating that it was good to see everyone and to know that there is a desire to attend and support the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Arline asked the Lord to bless us and that we always remember that where God is, there is excitement, there is peace, there is joy, and more than anything else there is love.

Using Mosiah 4:11-14, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, Vice President, shared with us King Benjamin's address in which he reminds us of the greatness of God, our nothingness, His goodness and longsuffering toward us. In addition, he reminds us to humble ourselves in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord and standing steadfastly in the faith and by so doing we will always rejoice and be filled with the love of God. The scripture concludes reminding us to live peaceably and rendering to every man his due. Sister Lorraine stated that this scripture is particularly fitting for the situation currently existing in our country.

Sister Arline was pleased to announce that the brochure, which is an introduction to Ladies' Circle, prepared by several sisters in the

Southeast Area, has been completed and will be sent out to each local circle for use when women attend meetings and are interested in learning more about the Ladies' Circle Organization. Reporting on the recent Fellowship Weekend was a joy for Sister Arline. She commented on the preparation, seminars, special programs and facility, stating that everything was a joy. Tapes of the event will be available. Sister Joyce Ross, Circle Secretary, will duplicate the order forms, which will accompany the minutes of this meeting.

We sang, *Brighten the Corner Where You Are* as the Areas prepared to present their reports. Our sisters presented reports stating a nationwide membership of 609. This number becomes significant when we think that this group was able to raise \$2,802.00 for use with the American Indian work and \$2,628.00 to be presented to the FMOC for use with the foreign works. For the past year, the Ladies' Circle Special Project Fundraiser has been collecting funds to assist with the building of new churches in India. Sister Arline was delighted to report to our brothers in charge of the India work that \$6,000.00 has been collected for that purpose.

A special presentation was made to the conference on the India work by Brothers John Genaro, John Straccia, and Harold Littlejohn. Brother John Genaro expressed how overwhelmed he was with the donation the Ladies' Circle has made to India so that new church buildings can be erected. The presentation included slides and the sharing of experiences, which familiarized us with this work.

Once again, we were amazed at the moving of God's hand. The Penn-Mid Atlantic Area Circle shared the program, which they had presented at this summer's Ladies Circle Fellowship Weekend in California. Since our Fellowship Weekend took place in July, we can see that the Lord's hand was already moving to encourage us in that the topic of their devotions was safety, surely something we need to hear about at this particular time.

Our day concluded after Sister Pierina DiFalco bore her testimony as

to how the Lord directed her from things which were causing her to be fearful for her soul to The Church of Jesus Christ. Truly we have a haven of rest within our Saviour and a wonderful support group of sisters.

If you are not a member of your local circle, consider it today. As you can see, there is something you can do. Just 609 members raised over \$10,000.00. Imagine what the Circle could do if all sisters of the Church joined our group and actively assisted in raising funds so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to go forth throughout the world to *all people*.

### Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for your condolences on the loss of my son David, and also for all the beautiful get well wishes, calls and prayers on my behalf during my recent heart problems.

Please continue to pray for me and my family and I will pray for all of you. God bless you all!

Sister Pearl Zinzi  
Forest Hills Branch  
Holiday, Florida

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Bologna, Richard and Toni  
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## Branch and Mission News

### History viewed through the eyes of the Holy Spirit

By Sister Dorothy M. Miller

On August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Omaha-Bedford Mission held its annual mini-conference. The saints gathered in Omaha, Nebraska for a blessed, spirit-filled weekend. Brother Clifton Wells, our Presiding Elder, opened the mini-conference with a welcome address, thanking the visiting saints for the effort they made to be with us. We were privileged to have among us saints from branches in South Bend, Indiana; Herndon, Virginia; Liberty, Ohio; New Jersey; South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

On display were items depicting the 30-year history of our Mission. On one wall was a display of all or most of the news articles about our Mission published in the *Gospel News*. On another were photographs of members, visitors and visiting saints portraying our progress, activities and spiritual growth over the past 30 years. Also on display was the inner and outer man doll and the doll dressed in high priest garments that we used as our presentation at the 1983 World Missionary Conference.

"In the Land of Love" was the theme of our mini-conference. We felt inspired with this theme because for the past 30 years God has labored to bring forth this work of love in the Omaha, Nebraska area; inviting all those that thirst to come to The Church of Jesus Christ where rivers are flowing with wells that never run dry.

The weekend activities began with a Saturday morning breakfast and then we all took time to view the displays enjoying the blessings of the memories they inspired.

When we look back 30 years, through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, to the beginnings of The Church of Jesus Christ in Omaha, we now understand and clearly see that the roots of God's

work here are found in three revelations that He gave in the early 1970's:

1. Through the gift of tongues, He called this area "The Land of Love" and revealed a hymn, *In the Land of Love*.
2. Through a dream God revealed a gigantic tree with branches reaching out to every area of the United States.
3. He promised that "there would always be a remnant of this work in this part of His vineyard."

With these revelations in mind God allowed the mission members, through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, to compose a skit highlighting the history of our Mission. The skit was divided into the three parts:

The first ten-year period or the "The four little sisters without a presiding elder, holding the work together by the direction of the Holy Spirit (Songs of Solomon 8:8)."

The second ten-year period or "The mission on wheels as God pruned and shaped the work into what He wanted it to be (Ezekiel 36:26-28)."

The last ten-year period or "The work in progress as God taught His Word and His purpose for our mission in bringing forth His kingdom (John 14:12 and 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:37)."

This program was presented Saturday afternoon and those present testified of the spirit of God being present during the presentation.

The preaching for the entire weekend was an inspired teaching lesson from God centering on the theme of "Trusting in God's Love." God used the mouth of the elders present to teach us the oneness of His love and that we are responsible to bring forth the "Kingdom on earth even as it is in Heaven." God's love will keep us from the little things that separate us from this purpose. We are new creatures born in God's love to do His will. We were commissioned to unify ourselves and not let the evil one divide and conquer us. Love teaches us the spirit of forgiveness and makes us fit vessels to spread the love of God throughout the world. We must learn to trust God. King Hezekiah was used as an example; he prospered because he trusted God and kept His commandments. Another example given was the 2000

striplings, whose fathers had buried their weapons that were taught by their mothers to put their trust in God. King Amaziah in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 25 was given another example; he trusted God, but not with a pure heart. It takes a pure heart to fully trust in God. The preaching taught us that the word of God is a "love letter" to us from God which we must follow exactly according to the pattern writing.

We thank God for the opportunity to host the saints from other parts of the Church because it allows our visitors and friends and also the people who live in the area, to see our Church on a larger scale.

In closing we quote a few lines from the inspired hymn, *In the Land of Love*:

In the land of love,  
Jesus brought forth His jewels,  
In the land of love,  
Jesus made me His tool,  
In the land of love,  
Where God is no fool.  
In the land, in the land of love.

In the land of love,  
Where the day never ends,  
In the land where our lives just began.  
Precious love ones we'll meet,  
As our Savior we'll greet;  
In the land, in the land of love.

God has revealed The Church of Jesus Christ to be the land of love where the day never ends, and "the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever... (where) my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places" (Isaiah 32: 17-18).

### A Still Small Voice

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001, members, friends, and visitors of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch had the privilege of witnessing another soul surrender his life to "the still small voice of the Lord." Benjamin Hemmings, son of Brother Timothy

and Sister Paula Hemmings, was baptized by Brother Alvin Gehly. The confirmation was performed by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. Brother Ben is another soul from the sixth generation of the Cadman family to join The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Timothy Gehly of Greensburg opened the meeting using 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, Chapter 19, Verses 11-13. He said that the greatest gift of life is to accept the Gospel. We are very fortunate to have been guided by his grandfather, Brother Russell Cadman, to become members of this great Church. Elijah, as mentioned in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, had a great need to feel the spirit of God. The spirit came through a still small voice. The Lord's voice is peace; it is contentment. The same voice is mentioned in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, Chapter 11, Verse 3. It is our duty to listen to the voice and answer to the knocking on our hearts.

Several brothers followed with the same theme of the still small voice and exhorted us all to heed to the voice. Fellowship and lunch followed the meeting.

## Levittown, Pennsylvania

*By Sister Kathy Strayhorn*

Our Brother Nick Boruch was visited by the three Nephites in an experience on the evening of August 18th, 2001. As they stood in front of our brother, they spoke to him. Then they acknowledged to him that they were the three. They told Brother Nick that there would be three elders present at Church tomorrow to speak words that would bless our people. That Sunday, Brother Joseph Perri spoke on how we, the children of God, are all equal regardless of our ethnic, social and cultural differences. We should acknowledge and accept one another for who and what we are. Our focus should be to hunger and thirst after righteousness. As members of the Church, we don't want to miss out on the first resurrection. More messages of hope and love were expounded by the ministry. The outpouring of

support and love has been what has kept so many in the Church strong. Jesus said, "Love ye one another as I have loved you." Rally around the hurt ones and be there for all. Brother Sam Dell followed up with words of encouragement to press on by opening your heart to know Jesus and submit your will to His. Feel His gentleness and love in order to endure this life. Jesus gives us peace and hope for today and for life eternal. Brother Joe Benyola was the third and final elder to speak on self-examination. Are we trying to prepare to meet God or are we doing something else? Hold on to the Gospel because life isn't always easy. The devil says, "Give in," but the Gospel says, "Hang on for just another day!"

Brother Nick prayed for what to say in testimony, and while opening his Book of Mormon, his eyes fell on verse 26 of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, Chapter 28; "But behold, I have seen them, and they have ministered unto me."

## Blessings in Atlanta, Georgia

*By Sister Bonnie Kunkel*

The summer of 2001 brought happy and blessed memories as well as a landmark achievement to the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. Three saints from this branch celebrated 50 and 51 years of service to our Lord and King.

In July, Sister Rose Cristello Stransky celebrated her 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in the Church. Brother Bill Mazzeo baptized her in the New Brunswick Branch at age 14. Sister Rose was part of a group of 20 that was baptized on the same day. For the past few years, Sister Rose has been suffering bad health but the Lord continues to bless and strengthen her so that we all may draw strength from her testimonies.

The month of September, brought anniversaries to two of our brothers, Brother Tom Jones and Brother Bill Kunkel. It has been 50 years since each of our brothers made their covenants at the water's edge.

Brother Joe Shazzar baptized Brother Tom, who is one of the elders in our branch, in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on September 16, 1951. He was baptized along with his father and brother, and on the same day, Brother Tom with his family, moved to California and settled into the Bell Branch where he later married and raised a family. Then about 11 years ago, Brother Tom and his family relocated to Atlanta where Brother Tom worked for Delta airlines until his recent retirement. Brother Tom is always quick to let all of us know just how good God has always been to him and his family.

On September 23, 1951, Brother Bill Kunkel was baptized in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Dan Cassasanta and



**Brother Tom Jones, Sister Rose Stransky and Brother Bill Kunkel**

confirmed by Brother Vincent Clements. Not long after that, the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch came into being and Brother Bill was one of the original members there. After then attending the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch for many years, he relocated to Atlanta, Georgia. Always quick to get on his feet and testify of God's goodness, God has surely blessed him with the gift of testimony.

These three are our "living testimonies" of God's love and kindness and they do "let it shine, the love that Christ has given to us all."

## Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, Florida Showers of Blessings

By Sister Lorraine Rose

We always like to share the blessings God bestows upon us with you all because they are so beautiful. We had several visitors that also shared with us at our branch.

Our Sunday meeting, October 21, 2001 opened singing hymn #72, *Because He Lives*. Brother John Griffith offered the opening prayer. Sister Carolyn Griffith and Sister Debbie Gonzalez sang hymn #11, *Then You Can Enter In*. Brother Scott Griffith opened our service reading from Mark 8:34-36, how Jesus summoned those who desire to follow Him, "...take up his cross and follow me." Whoever believes in Christ fully shall have salvation. He gives us choices, but we need to have faith in God and ask His guidance to be with us every step of the way. Our soul is our most important possession. Brother Tony Micale's family was visiting with us. His wife, Lydia, saw a beam of light behind Brother Scott as he spoke. The ministry invited Sister Alisia Bicelis from Venezuela to give testimony of the mission work being done there. She is visiting her family here and is thankful God gave her the opportunity to welcome a new grandson and see her family and the Church family as well. The mission in Venezuela consists of 7 members. Her husband, Brother Raul Bicelis, is the teacher and Sister Alisia is deaconess. They feel God has a purpose there for them because they left the big city and moved to the country to do the work of the Lord. The people there are looking to be fed spiritually and welcome them with open arms as well as all the missionaries that go there. There is opposition when trying to spread the Gospel and teach The Book of Mormon as well. The Lord has blessed and guided them in their endeavors in His work. The country is very political with efforts to make the way of life there similar to a Communist environment, as in Cuba. Our church mem-

bers ask for prayers that God will guide them to be ready for any adverse actions within the country. Just prior to the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, one of the sisters there had an experience through a dream. She saw fire all around (she lived in a hut) and feared for her new baby. She went to wrap the baby and saw the Bible. She opened it and heard the Lord say, "**Do not fear, for I am with you!**" Sister Alisia prays for God to bless the parent Church and keeps us in her heart. A beautiful spirit was felt.

The meeting continued with Brother John Griffith, referencing the scripture Brother Scott had read, saying we need to look for the desires of our spiritual being by denying ourselves and following the Lord.

Brother Dan Risola and Brother Bryan Griffith sang hymn #58, *My Place*, which was followed by Brother Sam Risola saying a few words concerning our Sister Gelsa Zinzi. She has never lost her faith in God, and through patience and perseverance she can be reinstated to our fold again. Brother Jim Speck reinstated Sister Gelsa Zinzi.

We continued by singing #7, *Is It Nothing To You*, while the elders passed Communion. We then continued with several members asking to be anointed for God's blessing. Brother Jim Speck then got up and said while Sister Alisia Bicelis was speaking, he heard a voice come to him and said, "**My people, my people, you will overcome, thus saith the Lord.**" Several Brothers and Sisters also experienced seeing several white personages overhead that enveloped Sister Alisia and Sister Heylen with a bright light over the whole rostrum as she spoke and Sister Heylen translated. God's power is real!

Sister Gelsa then testified how blessed she felt today and how in this Gospel, the arms of the Brothers and Sisters are always open for each other. She always felt the love and closeness. Over the years, through the hard times, she felt each and every prayer on her behalf and knew that God never left her side. She tells anyone that feels the need to leave the church, not to, because there is a void in your life

when you do and she is thankful God gave her the patience for this day that she was re-instated into this Gospel.

Before closing, Sister Alisia testified of how Jeremiah 33:36 came to her as Brother Larry Heckerd was being anointed, "...call unto me and I will answer thee...Behold, I will bring in health and cure..."

We sang hymn #44, *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*, and Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. offered the closing prayer. What a powerful day we had. The Lord knows our hearts and "showers us with blessings" if we put our faith and trust in Him. God Bless you all!

## Ordinations in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2

There were many visitors today. Actually, there were too many to list. The deacons were busy getting everything ready for the brothers and sisters. You could feel the anticipation of a beautiful day filled with God's spirit. Apostle's Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Tom Liberto and Peter Scolaro were present. They were ready for the Lord to work through them and the other elders present.

Today was a day long awaited—the ordinations of Sisters Yvonne Lambert and Dolores Thomas as deaconesses in The Church of Jesus Christ. The sisters were ordained in the afternoon meeting. Many brothers, sisters, family and friends had come to witness this event. Brother Larry Henderson spoke on the duties of being a deaconess. He elaborated on how these two sisters have been called by God. They have an awesome task ahead of them, but we know these sisters, by the grace of God, will be up to the task.

Sister Yvonne had her feet washed by Sister Joyce Vargo, and she was ordained by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. Sister Rose Milantoni washed Sister Dolores' feet. Before her ordination, her husband Brother Dominic, commented on what a wonderful companion she has been and how supportive she has been through the



many years of his ministry. It was a beautiful tribute to her love for the Church. Brother Dominic ordained her.

It was a wonderful day spent in God's presence. Even our small children were peaceful and in awe of the feeling of the spirit. We thank God for these two beautiful sisters.

## Apostasy

*(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from the pamphlet Apostasy and Restoration written by Brother Timothy Dom Bucci)*

The Apostasy, according to Webster's dictionary is "The forsaking or abandonment of what one has hitherto professed or adhered to as faith, principle or party."

It is apparent that all Christian denominations base their faith and doctrine upon the Holy Scriptures. Let us examine various prophecies in the Bible concerning Apostasy.

Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12).

Paul said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29,30,31).

And to Timothy, Paul writes, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables" (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3,4).

The ancient saints of Thessalonians troubled about the second coming of the Lord Jesus, and Paul says, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3).

And John the Divine in the vision which he saw while banished on the isle of Patmos writes, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them and power was given him over all kindred's, and tongues, and nations" (Revelations 13:7).

Other Scriptures also foretold the Apostasy and false teachings that would be introduced and specifically states that the laws and ordinances would be changed. As a result of the Apostasy many gospel truths were perverted, which led many into grievous errors of faith and practice. Some thought they could be saved by faith without works, others by introducing infant baptisms, sprinkling and pouring in place of immersion—disregarding the imposition of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. In many instances, superstition arose and various changes were made in doctrine and church organization. The apostolic and prophetic offices and also the spiritual gifts ceased. Against such changes Jesus and holy men of God warned the church. "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:9). I believe that I have given sufficient evidence that there was a falling away of the true church.

## An Experience

My name is Sister Betty Azzinaro from Simi Valley, California. For 54 years I was married to an elder of the Church, Brother John Azzinaro.

During my years of marriage, I never felt the liberty to read scriptures with my husband. Since his passing, however, I have felt that liberty to read every day.

I testified this in the Simi Valley Branch in September. I started to cry and I said I wish that my husband could see me.

That night I had a dream. My husband's smiling face appeared before me. His face faded, and then reappeared. This happened three times.

Brothers and sisters, I am so

thankful that we serve a living God who knows our needs and hears our cries. May God continue to bless you all.

## The Prince of Peace

Continued from Page 1

all things are naked to His eyes. Yet He was despised and rejected, He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was oppressed and afflicted, He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, but He opened not His mouth, but made His grave with the wicked, yea the glory He had once with His Father was taken from Him, and he pleads with His Father in John 17:5, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with THINE OWN SELF with the Glory which I had with thee before the world was." Him whose birth we commemorate at this season of the year is as Isaiah says is called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Prince of Peace.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

continues and will until the total plan of God is set in place. Important to you and me is the fact that He continues to work through His called servants, the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. We are the co-builders of His Zion.

May God bless each and every one of you, particularly during this holiday season.

## Ordination

Sister Beverly Thomas was ordained a Deaconess on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan. Her feet were washed by Sister Cindy Everett and she was ordained by Brother Richard Thomas.

**\* WEDDING \***

Arthur Marvell Williams and Crystal Marie Hogue were united in holy matrimony in Lorain, Ohio on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

**Children Blessed**

Sabrina Rene Liberto, daughter of Brother Thomas P. and Sister Lillian Liberto, was blessed in the San Diego, California Branch on May 27, 2001.

Michael Edward Tarulli, son of Sister Diana and Michael Tarulli, was blessed in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on February 18, 2001.

Joshua Isaiah Calabro, son of Brother Gary and Sister Maurcen Calabro, was blessed in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on May 13, 2001.

Paul Isaiah Calabro, son of Brother Rick and Sister April Calabro, was blessed in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on September 2, 2001.

Leah Caterina Calabro, daughter of Brother Rick and Sister April Calabro, was blessed in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on September 2, 2001.

Morgan Grace Buffa, daughter of Brother Danny and Jennifer Buffa, was blessed in the Detroit, Michigan, Redford Mission on July 29, 2001.

Sister Ana Baez was baptized on October 7, 2001 in the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Daniel Mora, and confirmed by Brother Daniel Mora.

Sister Virginia Gonzalez was reinstated on October 7, 2001 in the Inner City Branch of Detroit, Michigan. She was reinstated by Brother Gary Champine.

Brother Eric Joseph Ugi was baptized on September 23, 2001 in Lake Osborne, Florida. He was baptized by Brother Eugene Perri and confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola.

Sister Maria Luisa Canseco DeEspinoza was baptized on February 18, 2001 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

Brother Walter Howard was baptized on June 3, 2001 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Salvatore Sgro and confirmed by Brother James Sgro.

Sister Angela Sgro was baptized on August 7, 2001 in Denton, Texas. She was baptized by Brother James Sgro and confirmed by Brother Salvatore Sgro.

Brother Alfonso Redding was baptized on September 30, 2001 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Salvatore Sgro.

Sister Renee Redding was baptized on September 30, 2001 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother James Sgro.

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Sister Michelle Salazar was baptized on September 23, 2001 in the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Gary Champine and confirmed by Brother Daniel Mora.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**OBITUARIES**

MARIO COPPA

Brother Mario Coppa, an ordained Elder from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed onto his reward on May 27, 2001. He was preceded in death by his brothers; Sylvester, Joseph and Aniello. He is survived by his wife Mary; daughters Jane Elzby and Joann Anderson; sons, David, Donald, Daniel and Dennis as well as their respective spouses; Richard, Scott, Debbie, Sue, Sue and Marie; brothers Peter and Dominic; sister Mary; 14 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

FRANK NARDOZZI

Brother Frank Nardozi from the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed onto his reward on September 25, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Mary; one son and daughter-in-law, Brother Leonard and Sister Tammy Nardozi; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sister Leona and Brother John Buffa and Sister Susan and Brother Paul Ciotti Jr.; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; one brother, Salvatore and one sister, Helen.