

# The Gospel News

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## Enter In

By Apostle James Nichols  
(published in 1864)

*"Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter and shall not be able to" (Jesus Christ).*

The above passage of scripture is one that every seeker after salvation ought to examine carefully, as our future happiness or misery depends upon the choice we make in this life. Therefore it behooves everyone to examine himself to see whether he is traveling by knowledge or only by chance; for the Saviour says many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able. Now there must be some cause or reason that many shall seek to enter and not be able. It certainly must be because they do not seek to enter lawfully in the way that the Saviour has laid down, because, He says, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Now, in order to become a citizen of any earthly kingdom, we must first comply with the laws of that kingdom, so in like manner with the kingdom of God. If we want to become citizens of that kingdom, we must seek to enter in the way that Jesus and His disciples has laid down; not our own way but the Lord's way, remembering always

that he that climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber, or as the Apostle Paul says, "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully" (2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter, 5th verse).

Now, any reasonable minded person will admit that the way that Jesus laid down, and which was carried out by the Apostles, was the lawful way to enter the kingdom of God, and as Jesus was the great lawgiver, and the Apostles the officers to administer that law, it certainly must follow that all persons wishing to become citizens of the kingdom of God, in that age of the world, had to comply with the laws of that kingdom, in order to make their citizenship legal, and be adopted in by those having authority, otherwise their citizenship would be illegal, and we can only find one method of adopting men and women into that kingdom, in the New Testament scriptures, and there is nothing on record to show that the method has ever been changed by the Almighty. It certainly must be admitted that the method laid down by the Saviour stands as firm today as when it fell from His gracious lips; for has He not declared that heaven and earth shall pass away but not one tittle of the word of God shall fail.

It will now be for us to see what that method was for. We find that

when Jesus was about to be taken from His disciples He gave them a commission, which is written thus: "And He said unto them go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark, 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> verses). We therefore learn from these words of the Saviour that they were to preach the gospel to the people first, and then he that believed was to be baptized, and the promise was that they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts, 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, 38<sup>th</sup> verse). But now we find the scene has been changed, for instead of baptizing them after they believe the gospel, they take and baptize unconscious babies, and then when they grow up to riper years they tell them to believe; therefore they do just as the prophet Isaiah said they would do: "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof, because they have transgressed the law, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah, 24<sup>th</sup> chapter, 5<sup>th</sup> verse), "and for this cause the inhabitants of the earth are to be burned, and few men left." This then is one reason that many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able, because they have changed the ordinance of baptism; they have instituted a sprin-

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## The Gospel Is Moving On

Jesus Christ came for all people. He came to rescue the sinners, whether men or women. The Lord did not exclude any one from His plan of salvation. How do we know this to be a fact? Consider His commandment to His eleven remaining disciples prior to His departure from earth.

In Matthew 28:18-20 the Lord states, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

It is important to note that He has all power. He can do all things that are expedient in the Father. The Lord can make the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame walk, the lepers skin as new. He can and will intercede for our sins provided we present Him the opportunity. The Lord did just that when He allowed Himself to hang on the cross, suffer a cruel death by crucifixion, and resurrected from the grave. Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be sacrificed for the entire human family, that whosoever will believe in Him, whosoever will follow and obey His commandments, will have everlasting life.

The Church of Jesus Christ has the authority, power and commission to preach The Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. No nation, no people, no language will be overlooked. All shall hear the message and divine commandments of Jesus Christ. Every nation, people and tongue will be given an opportunity to hear the true and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is our mission. It is our commission. Every nation, kindred, tongue and people will be taught to observe all things that He commanded His disciples. His message was not only to His remaining disciples, it is for us as well. We have to possess the zeal, enthusiasm, and spiritual drive to

preach and teach all nations. It will take the strength and power of God to make this commandment a reality. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot do it with our strength. We can only do this with the strength and power of Jesus Christ.

The Lord stated in the scriptures that we will do greater things than He did in His lifetime. What can we do that He did not do? We will be used as His instruments to gather the House of Israel. We will seek them out in the North Country. We will seek them out by the direction of Jesus Christ, to preach and teach that Jesus Christ is Lord, their Saviour and Redeemer. We will go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people with the message of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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All people will hear that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to be preached to every nation, every kindred, every tongue, and every people. No one will be overlooked. No one will be excluded from the message of salvation and the requirements for salvation. All shall hear they must believe, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. All shall hear that The Church of Jesus Christ is the Church of the Lamb of God. It is the Church He gave His precious name to and it is the Church that He gave His life.

This message of salvation was also given to King Benjamin by an angel of God. King Benjamin declared to his people, "...wo unto him who knoweth that he rebelleth against God! For salvation cometh to none such except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." King Benjamin went on to declare that the Lord sent His holy prophets

among all the children of men, to declare these things to every kindred, nation, and tongue, that thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same will receive remission of their sins, and rejoice with an exceeding great joy.

The Church of Jesus Christ is at the threshold of moving forward and carrying out this commandment of the Lord. It is on the move. The momentum is increasing and we are reaching out to many people and soon, yes, very soon, all people.

Trips are being planned and scheduled to visit the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Ecuador, Romania and elsewhere. Requests for The Church of Jesus Christ are coming in from many nations. Letters are being received from around the world about The Church of Jesus Christ. People are hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is represented by the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You might ask, "How can we accomplish this with limited resources?" With God, there is no limit. With God, there are no limitations. The Apostle Paul stated in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

This "can do" attitude must apply to all of us. We can also do all things through Jesus Christ. Do we need finances? The answer is yes. God will provide. He always does if you look to Him. Do we need workers? The answer is yes. God will provide by moving on those who express a sincere desire to be used by Him and for Him.

Do not limit your thinking. Think big! Remember, ask and you shall receive. God will provide!

## Restoration

*(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from the pamphlet Apostasy and Restoration written by Brother Timothy Dom Bucci)*

As there are prophecies that foretold of the falling away so are there prophecies that foretold the

restoration of the true church and the Lord's work in the latter days which is preparatory to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

When the disciples inquired of Jesus for a sign of His coming and the end of the world, He gave them this sign, "And the gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

The prophet Daniel, seeing the Apostasy, clearly prophesies of a restoration. In the book of Daniel, 2:44, he says, "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."

The Lord at work in the restoration is clearly evident in the last days.

The apostle John saw in vision the restoration. He writes, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come" (Revelations 14:6,7).

The coming of an angel to Joseph Smith, Jr., who was the principal character in the restoration, was therefore in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

## Enter In

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klung baptism. Neither is this the only cause that many shall seek and shall not be able to enter, for we find those in our day and generation that deny the gift of the Holy Ghost, while the Apostle Paul emphatically declares that: "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, 3<sup>rd</sup> verse).

Jesus says: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John, 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, 5<sup>th</sup> verse). Now this language is so positive and so plain that we cannot see how men

can fight against such plain declarations, for if any man can enter the kingdom of God without the Spirit of God, the words of the Saviour fall to the ground and would be of no more values than the words of men. But seeing that He spake as never man spake, and that He spake the words of the Father, and that the word of God endureth forever. Therefore seeing that this is the case, every reasonable minded person must admit that it takes the spirit of God to constitute us heirs of the kingdom of God.

The Apostle Paul makes it very plain in his epistle to the Romans, 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, 9<sup>th</sup> verse. He says: "But ye are not in the flesh but in the spirit; if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of His." Verse 14 says: "for as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Judging from the above language of scripture, we must come to the reasonable conclusion that all those who seek to enter the kingdom of God without the spirit of God will not be able, as we have to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance. It is a deed or a title to that inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away.

It behooves every person that wants to enter, to see that they have the spirit and if not, how they can obtain it, so that they may become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. It was by this that the visions of futurity were opened to their view; by it they could tell what would come to pass in the last days. And the Apostle by this same spirit could tell, that in the latter days many would depart from the truth, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, etc. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables" (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, 4<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 3 and 4). Now these people who are now professing Christianity will admit that the above was all true with men of other

ages and yet they will try to get into the kingdom of God some other way.

O vain man to think that God has changed the plan of salvation, or that it will not take the same to save a man in the nineteenth century, as it did in any other age of the world, while it is written that God is unchangeable. Oh, that the human family would be wise and would consider their latter end and obey the gospel of the Son of God, that they might receive the spirit, so that in spirit and in truth they might worship Him, for if we have not the spirit we cannot worship Him in spirit and in truth, for it has to lead and guide us into all truth, and show us things to come. Therefore, leaving these few remarks to the readers calm consideration, and our prayer for them is that they:

*May strive to enter in  
The straight and narrow gate  
And make your peace with God  
Before it is too late;  
For Jesus soon will come again,  
His foes destroy, His saints to claim.*

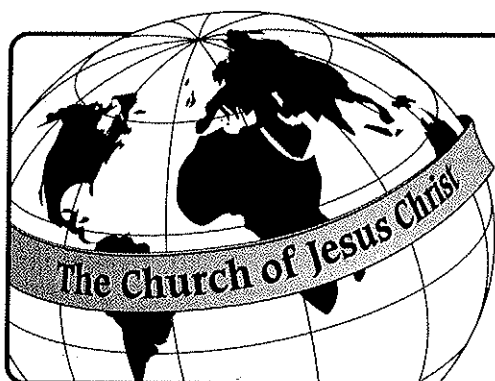
## Thank You

Brother Harry McGuire and family wish to thank everyone for the many cards and phone calls on behalf of the passing of his beloved wife, Sister Marie Azzinaro McGuire. Your many prayers on her behalf during her long illness have been greatly appreciated. A void is left in their hearts which only God can fill along with your prayers.

\* \* \* \* \*

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their cards and prayers during Brother Frank's illness and also for your condolences in his passing this life. God bless all of you.

Sister Marion Rosati  
Forest Hills Branch  
Holiday, Florida



## A message from the Seventy

### Reports about the Mission Fields

*By Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor*

Every October, many reports are presented to the General Church Conference. Among these important accounts are ones about the missionary activities of The Church of Jesus Christ, which give insight into the various fields.

The missionary information comes through the Missionary Operating Committee and the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. The M.O.C. is made up of the Foreign Missions Operating Committee, the Americas Missions Operating Committee, and the Domestic Missionary Operating Committee. The annual report, which is a consolidation from the three groups, is presented to the General Church Conference and allows everyone to see what progress has been made spiritually and naturally.

The reports comprise analyses of trips, which have been made to the sites, the continuity of operations in the fields, and the reviews given by coordinators in charge of the locations.

Many articles have appeared in this column about Church mission fields in the past. Most of them have been about the trips, which have been taken to the various places, while others have been about the locations and the people there. A question about the latter would logically be, "How has this information, sometimes of an interim nature, been received?" The answer is a specific Elder is responsible for each nation and is constantly in touch with the field; therefore, he is in a position to coordinate activities in

and for the field. More current communication means, such as phone, E-mail, and fax transmission, can be used in the process. Thus, some information that used to take many days, and possibly weeks to reach across the miles can be sent quickly and effectively.

The Brother who is in charge of a mission reports to his appropriate committee in the M.O.C., and it is his responsibility to look after the spiritual and natural needs of the field. He also presents updates to the chairman of his M.O.C. committee.

#### RELATED REPORT

In viewing the functioning of the missionary program, another related report is the one presented to conference by the General Church Finance Committee. Because most of the monies received in the Church go for Her missionary work, the Finance Committee is a vital cog in helping to assure there is the ability to continue the work being done in the fields. This group has the responsibility of collecting the donations and disbursing the funds to the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, which then pass them to the committees for the work in the various locations. Understandably, the financial arm is essential for the entire operation.

The Finance Committee presents an overall analysis of past expenditures, recent historical data and recommendations for the Spending

Plan for the next year for the entire General Church. The plan is the total for all the costs for the needs of all the General Church boards and committees for the next year. Actually, the Finance Committee is simply collecting the overall general financial requirements of The Church of Jesus Christ and is responsible for implementing and administering the mandated amounts. Once the plan has been approved by the conference, it becomes the budgeted amount, which must be raised during the year.

The receipts come from the contributions made by church members and friends. One can readily understand, then, how important it is for everyone to donate to the plan so the requirements can be met. There is always the understanding in keeping with 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7 that "...God loveth a cheerful giver." That everyone should submit his or her share of the funds on a regular basis.

Besides the amounts given to the spending plan, interest earned and pass-through funds received by the Missionary Foundation Fund and donations from the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, the General Missionary Benevolent Association, and Sunday Schools add to the receipts so the total needed amount can be met.

#### SOME FINANCE OWN EXPENSES, TRIPS

While necessary expenses and costs are paid as outlined above, some individuals who go into the mission fields finance their own trips and pay related costs. Also, some who labor in different parts of the Church pay their own expenses for official functions and activities. This private funding therefore relieves some of the costs, which would have been incurred. Notwithstanding, it is important that money be given consistently for the plan, knowing that the work of the Lord is ongoing.

The cumulative effect of all the reports to conference gives us the understanding of what is going on and how the Lord has been blessing the lives of many people, hopefully always

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4-11).*

The gifts mentioned above are manifested among those who serve God in truth and in righteousness. They were once part of The Church of Jesus Christ until the Church apostatized around the year 560 AD. The years that followed are known as "the dark ages." Not only were the gifts not manifested anymore, but also there were no advances in science, medicine and knowledge. The Church had changed the ordinances of Jesus Christ, and substituted it with their own laws and doctrine. God withdrew His authority and the gifts disappeared. To appease the people, religious leaders said that the gifts were reserved only for the days of the New Testament. The Church's authority and gifts were taken away for 1260 years as was prophesized in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelations. At the end of this period of time, The Church of Jesus Christ was restored, including those gifts, as stated in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelations. I read in the Church history book of remarkable tongues, visions, healings, miracles, great knowledge and understanding when the Church was restored. As Joel prophesied, the spirit of God would fall upon all flesh in the last days, and there would be visions and dreams once again.

As we enter the year 2002, we realize that we are in the midst of God doing a mighty work to establish His kingdom upon the earth. So many prophecies are coming to pass simultaneously. God is truly the greatest at "multi-tasking!" As the work of God is increasing throughout the world, and among the seed of Joseph who will be instrumental in building that kingdom, we have to ask ourselves, are the gifts increasing among us at the same pace? Are we hearing of visions, tongues, interpretation of tongues, healings and miracles more and more? The Book of Mormon predicts that if the gifts were to be reduced among us, it would be because of unbelief. With God's work marching on, we must keep up with Him in every way. This means allowing the gifts to increase among us because of our belief in them. In an age of skepticism, we must remember as saints of God, we must not be skeptical of anything God does. Notice in the above scripture that the gifts are administered differently, and operate in very diverse ways. God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours. Therefore we may see the gifts come to pass in ways we never saw before. As long as it is by the "same" spirit, the spirit of God and the spirit of truth, then we can marvel at what the Lord can do.

We read that Jesus raised the dead. Imagine seeing the dead rise out of a coffin at a funeral! We read that Jesus healed the lame, blind, maimed and sick. The scripture says that the sick were healed in the very shadow of Peter. Imagine the sick being healed just by being in the very shadow of the Elders! We read in Acts how 120 people spoke in tongues in the Upper Room. Imagine 120 members at a conference or in your branch all rise up and speak in tongues! Imagine members seeing heavenly visions at every meeting! Imagine hearing prophecies and revelations all the time! This is all promised to us. It is ours for the asking. Therefore, starting this year, as God moves the Church to new heights, let us move our faith to higher ground where we can see the power of God manifested among us like never before!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With care,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

GOD  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU  
HE  
SHARED

HIS  
SPIRIT  
WITH  
THE  
SEVENTY  
ELDERS

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

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
To All Our Readers



## Our Women Today

### Near To The Heart of God

*By Sister Arline Whitton*

On a beautiful summer day in California the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend was held July 19-22, 2001 at the Country Suites by Ayers in Ontario, California.

As the sisters began to arrive and greet each other, at that moment began our spirit-filled weekend.

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle President Sister Arline Whitton welcomed all 207 registered guests and asked the Lord to bless us. Our objective to be "Near to the heart of God" this weekend, required that we stay focused on what is necessary and be willing to adhere to the requirements.

A heart-warming welcome was presented by the Pacific Coast Area Circle in song and word. This was the beginning of our journey "Near to the heart of God."

The California sisters presented each sister with a heart that was made

especially for them with love from the materials that the women had in their homes.

In our seminars we were given specific directions with a passport and ticket to begin our journey. The specific directions were as follows:

To get near to the heart of God you must make a right on Kindness Way, left on Gentleness Drive, right on Temperance Circle, left on Faith Street, take the next right on Love, Joy and Peace Parkway. Stay on this road for 2 miles. Get off at exit 10. You will see a sign for the Fruits of the Spirit Thruway. Stay on this road for several miles and you will be "Near to the heart of God."

We had a seminar group of 24 teenagers. This was an encouragement and a blessing to all of us to see their desire to attend and be a part of the fellowship weekend. They are the Ladies' Circle of tomorrow.

Each Area Circle gave a program on our theme, "Near to the heart of God." The key note speakers presented the following topics:

"Jesus Use Me"

"The source of my strength is Victory in Jesus"

"The reason I have hope, Jesus loves me"

"Higher spiritual mind"

Brother Paul Palmieri spoke to us on Sunday morning. He stated that we can't give anything to God but ourselves. Some attributes for getting near to the heart of God—faith in God, then action, working in the Church and everyday in life. Trusting in the Lord, trust is an action. If you say you love the Lord, you must do something, not sit idly by. The time to serve God is NOW! Near to the heart of God is being near to the heart of each other. We want the Church to touch others hearts. We want people to say, "There's a person who is near to the heart of God," by our actions.

There were many testimonies given and hymns of praise sung to the honor and glory of God. Sister Iva Bordeaux spoke in the spirit, "The windows of my storehouse are open before you. I can take away the hurt, I can take away the pain, but humble yourselves before me that I may bless you." What an ending to our Sunday morning meeting!

A blessed weekend was felt by all and the opportunity to fellowship with each other was very uplifting. When women meet with women, they get revived. They lift each other up in self-esteem. Come and attend the next General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend.



## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2

The Lord has been so good to us at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 this year. We have had many wonderful events take place including baptisms, blessings, powerful meetings and healings. Our sister Cindy Henderson who was afflicted with cancer, continues to improve and is now doing well by the grace of God. Brother Al Milantoni was once again healed from a life threatening illness to the amaze-

ment of the doctors. Sister Jan Steinrock on the day of her scheduled surgery, was told that since they could not now find the lump that was to be removed, surgery would not be necessary. Praise God!

We have also been blessed with many ordinations in our Branch. You may remember reading about the ordinations of two Deacons and Deaconesses in past *Gospel News* articles. We have been blessed now with the ordinations of two young brothers, Brother Duane Loyalvo and Brother Dino DiMelis, into the ministry.

The Brothers were ordained on October 7, 2001. It was an amazing day, filled with joy, anticipation and the solemn knowledge of the immense responsibility that these two brothers were taking upon themselves.

We enjoyed two services that day. Apostle Peter Scolaro opened our morning meeting by reading scripture from Romans 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Brother Peter shared experiences and words relating to this scripture and encouraged us to stay close to the Lord.

Apostle Dominic Thomas opened our second meeting. He spoke of the issues facing our country following the events of September 11. He said we should have a deep sense of love for the Lord, for His church, and for the human family. "This has raised a need to grow closer to God. There is a

(Continued on Page 8)

## Blessings at Branch #2

Continued from Page 7

need for inspiration when we get complacent of the freedoms that we enjoy. We are blessed on every hand in this great nation. We need to realize that with God on our side we will prevail."

"As we go down through life whether we are working as ministers or members, you will benefit from His guidance. He interacts with us. If you do not feel that you have sufficient interaction with Him, fast and pray that God will give you experiences."

He shared an article written by Apostle V. James Lovalvo where Brother Jim was asked to explain the Priesthood and its function. He shared Brother Jim's answer including talking specifically of the duties and responsibilities of a minister in the Church and how participating in these events may affect them.

We continued our meeting with the ordinations. Brother Duane's feet were washed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, and he was ordained by Brother Dominic Thomas. Brother Dino's feet were washed by Brother Larry Henderson, and he was ordained by Brother Peter Sclaro.

Experiences were shared and the Brothers testified of their love of God, this Church, and its doctrine. They both expressed a willingness to do God's work. It is evident that the Lord had chosen two willing and dedicated men as tools to help spread the Gospel. May God bless them and keep them close to his side as they learn and grow and assist the Church in its primary function of saving the souls of men.

## South Bend, Indiana

Sunday, October 7, 2001 in South Bend, Indiana was a remarkable day. Awesome, a picture words could not describe, and no artist could paint for it was painted and designed by the Master Creator. We met at the water's edge, the trees were arrayed in golden

glory with specks of red flowing graciously through out. Some sight to behold, this designer also had included the sunrays shining brightly down from the cloudless blue sky, as seemingly it was located just above our heads.

Nature in all of its beauty stood still momentarily in reverence to the will of God. The authority of God, walking into the water with a penitent soul, so tenderly preparing to perform the work of the Lord. The voice, echoing through the soft cool breeze seemed as though the trees bowed and the sky lowered and the sunrays encircled distinctly upon our Brother Alphonso Hopkins as he baptized Quantina Renee Griffin. Immediately the glory of all nature bestowed its favor upon Sister Quantina as she came forth out of the water a new creature radiant as the sun at noonday.

Brother Mitchell Edwards confirmed her into the Church. Her two beautiful children were blessed. Brother Alphonso Hopkins blessed Reginald Devon Edmerson and Brother Mitchell Edwards blessed Deana Chontae Griffin. Such a glorious day the Lord gave unto us.

## Multiplied Blessings in the Atlantic Coast

A spiritual peace was felt at the water's edge on the morning of August 19, 2001 as Brother Ken Lombardo stood beside the young candidate, Dan McNamara, who had requested baptism at the Texas GMBA Campout and desired to be baptized back at his home branch of Metuchen, New Jersey. Small choppy waves were spread smooth as Brother Ken lifted his hand into the air to call upon the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ to cleanse yet another soul longing to be added to the Lamb's Book of Life.

The spirit moved calmly and peacefully throughout those gathered at the water. When Brother David Catalano spoke from the Book of Mormon, Alma 7:13-16, "Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to

the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me. Now I say unto you that ye must repent, and be born again; for the Spirit saith if ye are not born again ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. Yea, I say unto you come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction, yea, come and go forth, and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day by going in the waters of baptism. And whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God from thenceforth, the same will remember that I say unto him, yea, he will remember that I have said unto him, he shall have eternal life, according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me." He then gave the invitation to anyone who wished to render obedience to the Lord and be baptized. The invitation was greeted by Brother Rich Gabriel of the Edison Branch, who then promised to serve the Lord, "with all my heart and soul!"

After Brother Rich came out of the water, again the invitation rang out, and yet again another soul rendered obedience, this time Brother Jim Burns desired to be a part of this beautiful gospel of Jesus Christ. All present were deeply moved by the abundant blessings falling upon us.

Still, there was one more blessing to come at the water that day. Following the calling spirit that day, the invitation was given again, and we witnessed Brother Luis Tenorio step forward to answer the call and give his heart to our precious Savior, Jesus Christ.

We all returned to the Edison Branch and the candidates were confirmed. Sister Karen Gabriel was

then reinstated into the gospel of Jesus Christ by Brother Phil Arcuri.

The testimonies were beautiful and our hearts leaped with joy for the blessings of God. Tina Arcuri was deeply blessed by the meeting and expressed her desire to be baptized. Sister Tina was baptized the following Sunday, August 26, 2001 at the river by Brother David Catalano and confirmed by Brother Tony Vadasz.

On September 16, 2001, the Sunday following the tragedy which occurred in New York City, the Lord provided us with even more of His merciful blessings. Brother Sal and Sister Donna Rios went into the waters of baptism. They were baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo. Brother Sal was confirmed by Brother Jerry Valenti and Sister Donna was confirmed by Brother Jim Link. Their testimonies were powerful as Brother Sal was at "ground zero" in New York City at the time of the attack.

These blessings were only part of what we've experienced throughout the last few months, as several were also baptized in New Brunswick and Freehold as well. We share these blessings from every branch, and it's a great joy to greet one another from the different branches when we gather at the river. We can never stop thanking the Lord for the manna of blessings poured out from His heavenly storehouse to nourish our souls.

## Blessings in Bell and Yucaipa, California

By Sister Linda Renyolds

On October 7, 2001, at the Bell, California Branch, 250 saints gathered together. Part of the gathering was intended to recognize Brother Ken Jones for 50 faithful years in The Church of Jesus Christ. His branch in Yucaipa, California told Brother Ken that it was a revival meeting at Bell, so needless to say, he was surprised. Brother Ken was baptized in Bell when he was 11 years old by Brother Shazer of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch

on the same day his father, Brother Tom W. Jones (deceased) and brother, Brother Tom H. Jones of the Atlanta, Georgia Branch.

Opening remarks by Brother Bob McDonnell and opening prayer was offered by Brother Santos Zamora. The Zionees singing group made up of Brothers Ken Jones, Bob Sullivan, Ken Buck, Joe Nicosia and Sister Nancy Buck at the piano sang *He Changed My Life Completely*. Brother Rudy Carrillo from Yucaipa presented Brother Ken with a plaque. The ministry invited Brother Ken to open the meeting. He thanked everyone for attending and then spoke from Mosiah 18:20-21 where Mosiah instructed us to have hearts knit together, no contention, eye single to the glory of God, and focus on building Zion and that there would be two churches in the end, The Church of Jesus Christ, and the church of the devil which brings the wrath of God. Brother Ken stressed the need for UNITY throughout the Church. We are neither Greek nor Jew, bond nor free, male nor female, we are all ONE in Christ.

Brother Ken referenced the current events and how much of what we are witnessing is recorded in The Book of Mormon. We are thankful to have this record, and we must believe in what it promises: "The righteous need not fear."

Brother Matthew Picciuto followed: "The members of The Church of Jesus Christ have all been preordained to do the will of God. We are all on the same team (the Church). A team does not perform well without unity. Find your place on the team and perform. We all have a purpose." Brother Matthew referenced the Israelite maiden who advised Naaman to go and see the prophet Elisha. He would be healed because Elisha was a true prophet to the God of Israel. We don't even know her name, but she was used of God for a specific purpose. God will use His people to perform the work of the Church.

Brother Paul Liberto followed: Growing up, Brother Ken was one of his heroes. Although close in age, Brother Ken being baptized so young and being large in stature, Brother Paul

looked up to him. He admired Brother Ken's steadfastness in his service to God. He is quick to follow God's direction. Always positive, and not discouraged.

Brother Otto Henderson followed: Brother Ken is like a son to him. We all receive a gift when we come into the Church—the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift unites us together with God and one another. Together we have one goal and purpose.

Brother Jim Huttenberger followed by referencing Galatians 3:26-29. We are all the children of God. Through baptism we have put on Christ. We are now Abraham's seed and united heirs to Abraham's promises. Brother Jim remembered the times he would visit Brother Ken at his book binding company and how he would enjoy the fellowship with Brother Ken and other members of the Church who worked there. Brother Jim said we are all like different pages of a book; we come from different walks of life. But God is the "Great Book Binder;" He binds us together and keeps us united.

Brother Rusty Heaps cautioned us to be aware! We are living in perilous times and if we are not UNITED, we will fail.

Apostle Tom Liberto acknowledged Brother Ken's time in the Church and encouraged him to continue on and endure to the end. He asked Brother Ken to come to the podium and have people from the congregation ask him questions.

Brother Ken then sang a solo, "No Other Song to Sing, But That of Christ My King." The Mexican brothers and sisters sang a couple of songs as well.

The Zionees sang, *The Ending of the Sorrow* which was appropriate for today's times. Then the Zionees presented Brother Ken with a plaque from them. Sister Diane Surdock was asked to sing a song and she invited Brother Ken to sing with her. They sang, *This Is the Time I Must Sing*. Brother Bob McDonnell in his closing comments offered a few memories of Brother Ken as he was a young boy in the same branch and also looked up to

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## Blessings in Bell, CA

Continued from Page 9

him. He also asked the congregation to consider their walk with the Lord. Our salvation should be our highest priority. This life is not a rehearsal or practice run, it is the real thing and is the only time permitted to prepare to meet God. We need to improve the time. It is time to unite and reunite to the Lord.

During the speaking and throughout the meeting, various song selections were offered. The Bell Branch Spanish choir had one song, and all of the seed of Joseph sang together in honor of Brother Ken with his favorite Spanish hymn. The San Diego choir sang and Sister Christina Benyola from the Bell Branch and Sister Amy Buccellato from the Simi Valley branch sang a beautiful duet.

We had a short time for testimony, then observed the Lord's Supper. Brother Stacey Light closed our meeting in prayer that was followed by lunch, cake and fellowship.

## Conversion

*By Sister Tina Morle Rich*

The passing of my father was difficult for me. I couldn't imagine why God would let someone so influential in the Church and who was helping so many people, die. It made no sense to me and therefore made me very angry. It was those feelings that turned me from the Church 16 years ago. I never turned to drugs or a life of crime, I simply continued to live in a way that made sense to me.

The events of September 11, 2001 had a very deep effect on many people, myself included. I knew I was mortal but I never worried about dying. When the death tolls of all of those innocent people started coming to light, I began to realize that those people probably thought that they would be leaving for home at 5 o'clock that night, just like they always did. They took it for granted. It startled me into thinking

about all of the things that I had been taking for granted every day. I had such a strong feeling of regret for everything I had been doing for the past decade that I could barely look at myself in the mirror each day. I began to pray asking for guidance but it seemed the more I prayed, the more confused I became. I e-mailed my brother, Brother Ron Morle, asking him the questions that I had been asking myself and God, but he was on a business trip. I attended church again, but felt unworthy to even be in the building. I felt as if I was being torn apart. I was consumed with the feeling that because of the mistakes I had made over the years and after turning my back on God so many times, that God no longer wanted me in His Church. I attended Branch #4 the following Sunday knowing that I couldn't continue one more day without asking for help. Brother John Buffa prayed for me, and I no longer felt I was fighting my battle alone. The following week I continued to pray asking for assurance that God still wanted me in His Church, begging for an experience to be given to someone else, if not to me. I felt like I was being consumed with the internal tug of war that was constantly going on; I had no peace at any time during the day.

Then one night my thoughts turned not to being unworthy of being baptized but to the act of getting baptized. I thought of who I wanted to baptize me and my thoughts automatically turned to my father. I realized again how much I missed him and how he could have helped me during these difficult weeks. I decided that since my uncle, Brother Dominic Thomas, had been like a father to me after my father passed away, I would want him to baptize me. It was then that I heard, "Ronnie will baptize you." I had so many questions instantly: Where did THAT come from? Ronnie? My brother? The one who tormented me growing up? Oh yeah, he's an elder now. This choice felt so right, I knew that when the time came it would be Ronnie taking me into the water. But being who I am, I dismissed the whole event as being imagined due to lack of sleep.

The next Friday Ronnie called me. While he talked I was overcome by emotions and was unable to speak. All of the guilt and regret of my life weighed so heavily on my heart I couldn't form sentences. Yet every question that was on my mind while he spoke, he answered as if he knew I was trying to form the words. When I did compose myself enough to talk, I told him I wanted assurance that God still wanted me. He reminded me of all the times God has done things for me and my family, that I received experiences every day. Then he said the exterminator was there and he would call me back in a few minutes. I hung up and instantly began to pray. It all became so clear. I didn't need a special experience, I know God is with me every day from all of the things He does for me on a daily basis. I didn't need anything else. I knew that when Ronnie called back I was going to ask for my baptism. When he called back he started talking about his testimony and experiences that other people have had in the past and he said that sometimes experiences are sent to confirm an event. I felt prompted to ask if he had ever had an experience about me. There was a long silence. I knew he had. This was what he said:

"I had prayed for you many times after my conversion into the Church, and many more times after my ordination into the Ministry, and was often given a sense of peace about the matter. On Sunday, September 17, 2000, while witnessing the baptism of Brother John Flores here in Atlanta, I questioned the Lord as to when, as a new elder, I would be able to perform my first baptism? As Brother Ken Staley lifted his arm and began to call our brothers name, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me and called in my ear, 'Tina Villa Rich, having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.' At this point I recognized that the Lord truly did have a plan for my sister, and now it was a matter of time for Him to work."

As soon as he told me I remembered the night in the shower when I heard Ronnie would baptize me. I



realized God had given me what I had been praying for. After everything I have done throughout my life, God still wanted me in His Church. Through my tears I asked for my baptism. I don't know why God took my father, but I do know He has a plan and that's good enough for me.

## Questions and Answers

*(Editor's Note: Following are excerpts from the pamphlet Questions and Answers printed by The Church of Jesus Christ.)*

**Do you believe that God the Father, God the Son, and Holy ghost are three separate individuals and one in Spirit and purpose, or do you believe that they are one individual God?**

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

**Do you believe that God has a Spirit body and that Christ is a separate being in the image of His father?**

We believe that God has a body of spirit and that Christ is a separate being from the Father.

**What do you believe about Jesus Christ?**

We believe in God, the Eternal Father and His Son, Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. These three are the great matchless power that rules all things visible and invisible, for it is of Him and through Him that we receive all things both for this life and that which is to come. We believe God the Father, to be a personage of glory and that the Son is the express image of the Father, and that He was with the

Father before the foundation of the world, and that in the fullness of time He came from the bosom of the Father and was born of the Virgin Mary according to the scriptures. He became man, suffered and died for the sins of the whole world, and on the third day He rose again and brought about the resurrection (according to the scriptures) and ascended up on high to sit at the right hand of God. Principalities and powers being subject to Him, who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature; for by Him were all things created that are in Heaven and that are in Earth, visible and invisible, whether they be Thrones or Dominions, Principalities or Powers; all things are created by Him and for Him; and He is before all things and Christ is the head of the body, the Church, the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence; for it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell (see Colossians first chapter). We believe also that He will come again the second time to judge both the living and the dead according to the scripture. We believe the Holy Ghost to be:

- a. The Spirit and mind of the Father and of the Son.
- b. The unseen power and glory, which emanates from God and can, at His will manifest itself in various forms.
- c. The witness of God.
- d. The gift of God.

It is pure and holy, just and good, omniscient, full of light and knowledge, and a discernor of thought and intent of mankind.

### Scriptural references:

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:16.
- b. Matthew 3:16, St. John 15:26, Acts 2nd Chapter, Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 11:11.
- c. 1 John 5:6, Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 28:11, 3 Nephi 11:35-36.
- d. Acts 2:38, Acts 8:15-17, St. John 14:16-26, Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 31:12-13.

### What is your belief about atonement?

We believe that Christ's death atoned for the sins of everyone who will accept His Father's plan for the salvation of their souls in His Kingdom. After the third day He arose to bring us a hope of eternal life, breaking the bands of sin and death. We are reminded of this whenever we partake of Communion in remembrance of Him and His suffering and death.

### Message from the Seventy Continued from Page 4

more than in the past. There is no better compensation than to know that more souls have come into the Gospel, that everyone is seeking to further the work and bring salvation to mankind, and that we have each done our part.

As we begin this new year of 2002, our prayers are for all the locations of The Church of Jesus Christ around the globe. Recent tragic events have pointed out how important it is for all of us around the world to continue to work diligently to bring souls to salvation and to care for each other.

The concern that was felt for the United States was communicated to us from many other nations where the Church has gone, along with their attendant prayers for this land, makes us fully aware of how important it is to be joined together in the Gospel. The sincere universal love of God can be felt regardless of the miles it must travel. How reassuring it is to know and feel that He has joined us together through His love!

### \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Nick Davella and Linnea Freiesleben were united in holy matrimony in the Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, Florida on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

## Children Blessed

India Shian Hammond, daughter of Elbert and Melissa Hammond, was blessed in the Edison, New Jersey Branch on October 7, 2001.

Danielle Marie Carlini, daughter of Brother Gary and Sue Carlini, was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on July 15, 2001.

Isabella Marie Lovalvo, daughter of Barry and Michelle Lovalvo, was blessed in the Saline, Michigan Branch on November 25, 2001.

Levi Alan Thorpe, son of Sister Dawn and Raymond Thorpe was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on November 25, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Daniel McNamara was baptized on August 19, 2001 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother David Catalano.

Brother Jim Burns of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch was baptized on August 19, 2001. He was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother Jonathan Olexa.

Brother Rich Gabriel was baptized on August 19, 2001 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother Bob Pizzaia.

Brother Luis Tenorio was baptized on August 19, 2001 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother Phil Arcuri.

Sister Karen Gabriel of the Edison, New Jersey Branch was reinstated on August 19, 2001 by Brother Phil Arcuri.

Sister Tina Arcuri was baptized on August 26, 2001 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Catalano and confirmed by Brother Tony Vadasz.

Brother Sal Rios was baptized on September 16, 2001 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother Jerry Valenti.

Sister Donna Rios was baptized on September 16, 2001 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother Jim Link.

Brother Nathan Buffington was baptized on September 30, 2001 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Dan Buffington and confirmed by Brother Jim Moore.

## OBITUARIES

### MARIE AZZINARO MCGUIRE

Sister Marie Azzinaro McGuire passed onto her reward on October 29, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Brother Harry McGuire; two sons and two daughters; along with 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

### LORRAINE WEIR

Sister Lorraine Weir of the Rawlings, Maryland Mission passed onto her reward on October 20, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Brother Bob; three sons, Brother Kevin, Robert and Keith; one daughter, Vicki Lynn Preston; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren.

### LARRY N. HECKERD

Brother Larry N. Heckerd, a member of the Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, Florida, passed onto his reward on November 10, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Carol Heckerd; two sons, Michael and Larry Jr.; two daughters, Laurie and Shelley; his mother, Miriam; one sister, Judy; seven grandsons and one great-grandson.

### FRANK ROSATI

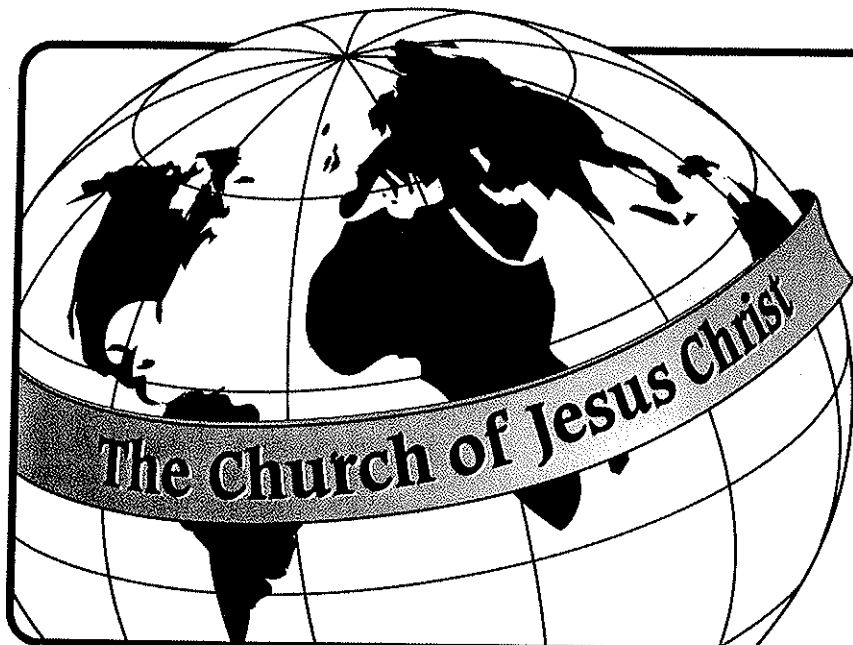
Brother Frank Rosati, an ordained Deacon in the Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, Florida, passed onto his reward on October 29, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Marion Rosati; daughters, Cathy Pearl, Rosemary Campbell, Linda Eggert, Maryann Curcio; son, Frank Rosati; one brother, Anthony Rosati and ten grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 2002

Volume 58, No. 2

## Great Lakes Region Conference

*By Sister Vi Quinlan*

This day was beautiful from the beginning. The sun was shining as we traveled to be together in the Lord. The Lord also bestowed sunshine in our souls as we met this day to be filled with His word in our hearts and souls.

Brother Lyle Criscuolo welcomed us and then recognized our two newly ordained elders, Brother Dino DiMelis and Brother Duane Lovalvo.

Brother Dino spoke first about the good news from the October General Church Conference. He elaborated on the idea of God being our source of security during these tumultuous times. "We have scriptures to give us encouragement and comfort as we fight the author of terrorism who is seeking our afterlife and glory for eternity." Brother Dino shared an experience while fasting and praying before his ordination. He was sleeping and had a dream. As he was walking he encountered a woman putting a child into a carriage. A figure was lurking not far off. Brother Dino's first instinct was to put himself between the figure and woman with child. He inquired from this figure, which had a horribly

menacing and terrifying face, what he was doing. Brother Dino understood that he wanted to take the child and the child's rattle to wear as a piece of jewelry. Brother Dino called out to God to help him protect the child and give him the meaning of this experience. The message for Brother Dino was that Evil wants to not only take our soul but use it as a tool to discourage others and by wearing the rattle, celebrate his victory. He read John Chapter 10, verses 27 and 28: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." He concluded if we follow Christ we will be safe from all harm.

Brother Duane then spoke about feeling the unity of the thoughts mentioned. He asked, "What can we do to help ourselves and save our souls? The evil power is out there from the beginning of time. The restored gospel made the evil one very unhappy. In the beginning as our Church grew the early members had to flee because of persecution. Disruption occurred in the Church after Sidney Rigdon was faithful until his

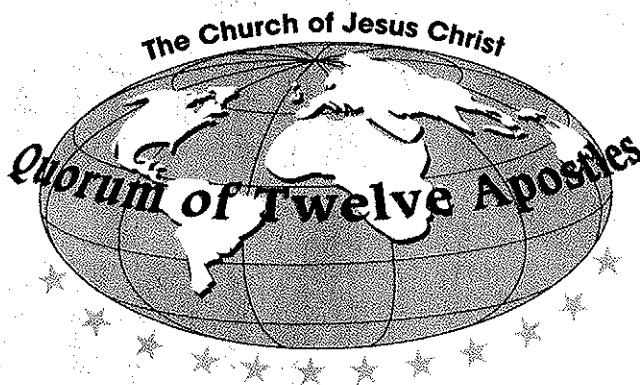
group fell apart and William Bickerton came along and had a vision directing him to preach the Gospel." Brother Duane reflected on the need for us to pray continually with a broken heart. He stressed that we should pray for strength and protection so the evil one will have no power over us.

Brother Frank Natoli continued with the thought that we should rely on God's word. He referred to the same scripture that Brother Dino read. Brother Frank encouraged us to pay heed when the Lord speaks to us. "We have His spirit within us to do well. The Lord wants to hear our voice. We have times of trials and problems and find ourselves in a dilemma like a lamb from the fold, crying for help. We need to call out in prayer, the ways and means to communicate to the Lord." Brother Frank then told us about a dream he had. In this dream he was with another brother elder who was quite troubled. Brother Frank and the brother prayed together concerning this. They realized that sheep sometime only call to the shepherd when they are in trouble. "The Lord wants us to pray continually to Him."

Sister Rosanne Champine then sang a beautiful song she wrote, *Safe Is Knowing the Lord*.

Brother Steve Champine commented on the verse mentioned from

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## What is The Book of Mormon?

*By Apostle Joseph Calabrese*

The purpose of this article is to explain what The Book of Mormon is, to explain through Biblical scripture its authenticity (truth) and to explain how it relates to The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.



**Apostle Joseph Calabrese**

### PART ONE

The Book of Mormon is a record of one of the twelve tribes of Israel and God's dealings with them. The tribe is that of Joseph, the same Joseph of Egypt we read of in the Bible (Genesis 30:24 to Genesis 37:28).

### PART TWO

Following are scriptural refer-

ences: Ezekiel 37:15-17 speaks of "the stick of Judah and the stick of Joseph being one in God's hand. Psalms 85: 10, 13 and Isaiah 45: 45, 48 speak of "truth shall spring out of the earth." Isaiah 11:12 speaks of "setting up an ensign for the nations." Isaiah 29: 11-18 speaks of "the vision of all is become unto you as a book that is sealed." Genesis 49: 22-26—"Joseph is a fruitful bough even a fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over the wall." (Note at one time, man thought the world was flat; God inspired Columbus that it was not). Jeremiah 23:3 and Jeremiah 16:16 speak of "gathering His flock from all countries whither I have driven them." John 10:16—Jesus said, "Other sheep I have . . ." Matthew 15:24—Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the house of Israel." Matthew 10:5,6—Jesus said, "Go not by the way of the Gentiles . . . but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Ezekiel 34:6 speaks of "My sheep wandered through all the face of the earth . . . and none did search or seek after them." Revelations 14:6,7 speaks, "And I saw another angel fly through the midst of heaven." Hosea 8:12 speaks, "The great things of my law—they were counted as a strange thing." See 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 15:13 through 24. It explains who the other sheep are.

There are several Bible references that are used by critics of The Book of Mormon to denounce its veracity. I will refer you to two

popular scriptures that are often used: Galatians 1:8 speaks of "Though an angel from heaven . . ." Revelations 22:18,19 speaks of "If any man shall take away of this Book of Prophecy . . ." (read it all). I would like to draw your attention to a fact. The entire Bible is a book that is compiled of books that writers such as the prophets and the apostles wrote separately. The Bible is a summary of books (39 in the Old Testament and 29 in the New Testament). In the Greek language the word "Bible" is the anglicized (English) form of the Greek word meaning book. In the Webster dictionary it says "A volume containing a literary or musical composition or a series of compositions."

Therefore to recap, the Bible and The Book of Mormon are a testimony or witness to all the scriptures I have outlined. They both make clear that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

I might add while the Bible is the stick of Judah and The Book of Mormon is the stick of Ephraim (Ezekiel 37: 15-17; these are the records that were made known in this dispensation of time) that The Book of Mormon speaks of the records of the other ten tribes that are to come forth in God's own due time. This can be found in The Book of Mormon (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 29: 10,14 and 30: 3,4). Then and only then will we know who any of the other ten tribes are. Presently many have given their personal opinion. They can be Chinese, Indian, African or others, but to convince the Church, a deliverer like Moses or a Choice Seer as he is called, has been appointed or will be appointed to do this work. Is it not reasonable to think that if two of the sons of Israel left a record (Bible-Judah and The Book of Mormon-Ephraim) that the other ten sons of Israel (Jacob) would also leave a record?

As I continue to explain "What is The Book of Mormon," should it be me, I would ask whoever would be introducing the book to me—"What can you explain further that would stand as a *witness* to all you are telling me?"

Witnesses are needed in our opinion to prove all things. Even in the

natural courts of all ages of time, witnesses were called upon to verify the testimonials of the defendants or defense in this case. We still wish to defend The Book of Mormon. Scriptural references for establishing witnesses can be found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:1; Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15; Matthew 18, 16; John 8:17; Hebrews 10:28 and in The Book of Mormon, Ether 5:4. In order to further prove "What is The Book of Mormon," I need to go further into scriptural witnesses. These witnesses will prove along with my previous references that the Book is true. They will prove that an apostasy or what may be termed also as a falling away took place after Christ set up His Church. Again, I will first list the references and elaborate on them afterwards as time permits: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-5 speaks of "A falling away taking place first." Isaiah 24:1-6 speaks of "The earth becoming defiled . . ." Acts 20:29-31 speaks of "Grievous wolves shall enter into the flock . . ." 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1-3 speaks of "Latter times some shall depart from the faith . . ." 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:2-4 speaks of "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth . . ." 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2: 1,3 speaks "There shall be false teachers among you . . ." Matthew 11:12 speaks "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." Revelations 13:6,7 speaks of the time "He shall make war with the saints and overcome them . . ." Amos 8:11 speaks "There will be a famine not for bread, nor a thirst, but for the word of God." Revelations 12:6 speaks "The woman (Church) fled into the wilderness to feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score. In Ezekiel 4:6 that is equivalent to a year. We claim that an angel came to Joseph Smith in 1820.

1820 A.D.

-1260 Years

560 A.D.

(Apostasy started)

Further evidence that an apostasy took place and a history was kept

(The Book of Mormon) is being proved almost daily by archeologists. History proves that Columbus found a people here in the Western Hemisphere. Findings prove that these people were once a highly intelligent race or people. See Question and Answer Book #173, Part 5 and also Part 3 #76 through #85.

### PART THREE

Last but not least, because there is much more I could speak to you about "What is The Book of Mormon," there are scriptural references to prove the Restoration or what is often called the "Restored Gospel." You will probably remember some of the references earlier such as Ezekiel 37: 15-17, Psalms 85:11, Isaiah 11:11-12, Malachi 3:1-2 and Isaiah 62:10-12. Revelations 14:6,7 speaks of "The Everlasting Gospel"—I saw another angel . . . Acts 3:19-24 speaks of a "restitution of all things." Daniel 2 speaks of "kingdoms that have risen and fallen and the last one will stand." Isaiah 2:2,3 and Micah 4:2 speaks of "a gathering and a promise"—"Come 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 path . . ."

Hymn #11, *An Angel Came Down* was truly inspired of God. It speaks of the Gospel being restored by divine means. Hymn #471 *Oh Stop and Tell Me, Red Man* also is an inspired hymn. It was sung in the Gift of Tongues and the interpretation given in English. It speaks of the seed of Joseph and God's dealings with them. There are many more hymns that speak of conditions before, during and after the restoration. All inspired, some already fulfilled and some will be fulfilled. However, to conclude "What is The Book of Mormon," let me quote hymn #11 in part, "It is a heavenly treasure, a book full of merit, it speaks from the dust by the power of the spirit." All that was promised to the saints will be given (hymn #30). The little stone that Daniel saw cut out of the mountain without hands will smite the image at

his feet (Daniel 2: 34,35).

A Peaceful Reign will take place (note—NOT the millennium); Isaiah 11<sup>th</sup> chapter, Isaiah 2:1-5 (all nations), Book of Mormon—1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 22:24-28 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 30:3-28. There are more on the Peaceful Reign, which is a subject in itself. During this Peaceful Reign, a city will be built. It will be called a New Jerusalem (see Malachi 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter and Ezekiel 37:24-28). In the Book of Mormon, see 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 20:21, 21:23-29 and Ether 13:2-17.

We believe God will send a deliverer like Moses to restore Israel and be an instrument in God's hand for all people. His name will be Joseph and also will be called a Choice Seer. See Romans 11:26 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter (all). With all this, we believe that this is only effective as you and I continue to keep God's commandments.

Finally, one last comment, The Church of Jesus Christ is a separate and distinct organization. We have no affiliation with any other group having the same name or similar name. Our headquarters are at Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

More Book of Mormon references on "What is The Book of Mormon?":

2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 27:6 to 16—

Words of a book

1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:32 to 34—

Parts taken out of Bible

3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 26:6 to 12—

Believing Gentiles

3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 21:11 to 22—

Gentiles to believe and know

3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 21:2 to 6—

Work assigned to Gentiles

3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 21:22 to 25—

Gentiles to assist in New Jerusalem

Ether 2:9 and 12—

Choice Land

Meaning of the following words:

Woman—The Church

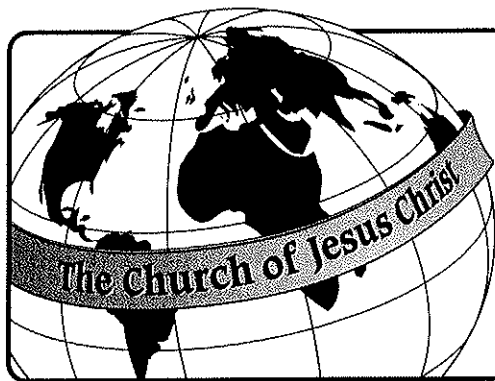
Sun—The Gospel

Moon—Mosaical Law

Stars—Glory of Apostolic Authority

Man Child—The Priesthood

Rod of Iron—Word of God



## A message from the Seventy

### From the Past!

*By Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor*

As the tragedies of this past September 11<sup>th</sup> begin to unfold and the accounts of the seemingly unbelievable activities were being reported by radio, television, newspapers, and other communication means, there was a sharp reality, which quickly focused to us who could recall what occurred on December 7, 1941. What had happened before was happening again, reminding us of the words of Ecclesiastes 1:9 that "...there is no new thing under the sun." Only the setting is different.

The impact for the writer was the same as in 1941. Amazingly, the sequence of shock, sorrow, empathy, concern, bewilderment, unsettlement, and apprehension surfaced. Uncertainty and attempts to formulate what would happen next were identical. Questions were to be answered, plans were to be made, orders were to be followed, safety was to be sought, and solutions to the new way of life were to be probed. The old routine was gone. What were we to do next?

Knowledge that the devil once again was wielding his unwanted and evil designs brought the quick realization that now more than ever our prayers, thoughts, and anxieties were to be turned over to God. He was once again to be our protector, our rock of defense, our refuge in this storm, as He had been in the past.

#### STEPS TO TAKE

Through this unwanted maze of

trouble one could visualize the steps the government would have to take. The leaders would have to decry the actions taken against us, offer national hope, and stir us to patriotism. These were done almost the same as I could remember (even though rather young) occurred after the attack at Pearl Harbor. Precautionary methods would have to be employed and divulged and action plans were to follow as soon as possible. Even though this was a new era, the same kinds of overall dangers, even though involving a faceless enemy, were to be overcome.

Amazingly, the nation turned to God once again, and no one was seemingly hesitant to proclaim His glory and sing patriotic hymns, which mention Him and His power and glory. These were sung over and over again, and the nation had immediately rediscovered God. Those who were hesitant or afraid of asserting their belief in God did not think twice about doing so. How wonderful and reassuring this has become. In times of great need, fear, and uncertainty, where else can we go? To whom else can we turn?

These are many things, which must take place in the future. Prophetically, destructions will occur. Great pain will be inflicted. The same kinds of concerns will be present many times over, and mankind will realize the need for God even more so.

Conceiving how everyone will meet a brother and a friend in the future appears too difficult now; but observing how people seem to be more brotherly, greetings to even strangers have become more cordial, and the spirit of cooperation envelopes practically everyone since September 11<sup>th</sup>, gives us perhaps some insight of how this change will be.

#### CONCERNS FROM ABROAD

Prayers from those abroad have been very encouraging and comforting, as our brothers, sisters and friends from miles away have been very devoted in approaching the Lord for the land of America. Worldwide concern has been rallied to our support in the United States and on behalf of those around the globe who may be facing similar threats and activities in the future. Our nation's leaders have stated this will be a long struggle, but we know that with God's help, we shall prevail.

As the missionary activities of The Church of Jesus Christ continue in 2002, there will be a greater awareness of what may lie ahead for us. Our faith and determination will carry us forward. This is true whether we are laboring domestically or in foreign fields.

At home, our churches have been opened for prayer for the communities in which they are located. The need for this has never been more evident. Our desire to welcome our neighbors can go a long way toward encouraging them about the future and about the plan of salvation, which many surely want. There is no doubt that God will continue to be with us through these labors. Reaching out to those nearby is the very least we can do.

Overseas, our brothers and sisters are assured of our love and our resolve to labor on their behalf. Together our working for God will be very important as the message of salvation continues to go on.

#### EACH YEAR BRINGS CHALLENGES

Every new year brings additional challenges. Two years ago, the world was concerned about Y2K problems. Last year it was the world economic crisis. Today it is more personal. Which is more important? The past is gone and we must move forward. The thing to be remembered is that God is the same as He was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

Searching for additional ways to

(Continued on Page 11)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

If someone asked you to describe yourself, would you say that you felt that you were "wretched?" I'm sure if you were on a job interview, this would not be an appropriate response. Probably if you were on a first date with someone, and they asked you to tell them about yourself, you would not say, "Well, I'm actually pretty wretched..."

*"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?"* (Romans 7:24). These are the words of Paul, the Apostle. It's hard to use the word "wretched" and "Paul" in the same sentence, isn't it? Or how about *"... O wretched man that I am! yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 4:17). These are the words of Nephi, one of the greatest men we ever read about in scripture. Yet, he described himself as wretched. Webster's dictionary defines "wretched" as, "very unhappy; miserable, distressing; dismal, poor in quality, contemptible; despicable." When reading about the life of Paul or Nephi, do any of the words in this definition come to mind? Probably not.

When we consider the good works that we have done in life, or the successes we have had, do we truly feel it was because of our "natural ability," talent, education or the "way we were brought up?" Or do we understand that there is nothing good that can come from within us? The only good we can do, is when God works through us. When we are able to bring ourselves into the depths of humility, and realize our nothingness to the point of calling ourselves "wretched," then we begin to grow in wisdom and understanding. This is the point at which God can use us, because we are willing to be used and molded by Him; not resistant to His will in our lives because of our pride.

Paul and Nephi were able to do as much as they did because they understood this concept. They realized that all they had accomplished for the Lord was because they allowed Him to work through them. They accepted the fact that their natural human tendencies were an enemy to God, and therefore completely "wretched." We are all in the flesh, and the flesh is sinful and unholy before God. When we think of it this way, we can reread Webster's definition of "wretched" and suddenly it makes sense. In our sinful flesh, we can never be anything more than "wretched." In the spirit, we are holy, but only God can give that spirit. So, doesn't God deserve the total honor and praise for anything good that we do? We read that God is a jealous God. Certainly when we redirect any praise we get from anyone, to God, He is pleased, and can use us even more!

Interestingly, Jesus said that we must be perfect, just as He is perfect. How is this possible when we are wretched? The answer is what makes serving Jesus so beautiful. Acknowledging our wretchedness is a sign of strength, not weakness. It is a sign of wisdom, not shallowness. It is realizing that at the cross, Jesus took full responsibility for all of our "wretchedness" and set us free by dying for our sins; something we should have died for, and therefore THROUGH HIM, we are perfect. When we acknowledge our "wretchedness," we acknowledge His "greatness." When we are able to do that, we can truly be called His sons and daughters. There is no greater Father to have than our one in heaven. His power and protection are with us constantly. As long as we continue to avoid pride, and acknowledge ourselves as "wretched," we can continue to be "perfect" in His sight.

So the next time someone asks you to describe yourself, you can say, "Of myself, I am wretched, but because of Jesus Christ, I am perfect." Let us continue in humility, and He will continue in blessing us.

## The Children's Corner

*By Sister Janet Steinrock*

We live in strange and marvelous times. Prophecies that are centuries old have come to pass. God's Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, has been reestablished on the earth after God gave the golden records to Joseph Smith. The *Songs of Zion* have come forth reminding us that we await a miraculous gathering of nations in a city called Zion. A remarkable leader called the Choice Seer, who is Native American, is expected.

Satan knows this too and is trying to trick God's people into believing the wrong way. All sorts of witchcraft, fake magic, and belief in aliens with power, trusting psychics, and wizardry are starting to be popular in the Promised Land. Television and movies with special effects promote this kind of thinking. Millions of adults and children watch and wish they had magical or special powers too.

But we do have special power... the power to love and worship a God who really IS powerful and who does hear our prayers. Our Elders are part of a royal priesthood of God, selected by revelation. They do not preach popular words to make money. They preach words to touch the souls of men, women, and children everywhere. They lay hands on the sick and call upon God in the name of Jesus Christ and the sick are healed over and over. Every one of us knows many people who have had these miracles of God.

Our God is a jealous God who wants to reward us for doing good and being true to Him. We know Him. We must never play around with these



things of fake magic and wizardry. We are God's people, not Satan's. We want God's touch in our lives, not Satan's.

In the Bible there was a famous magician named Simon, who used sorcery and tricked the people in Samaria. He convinced them that he was some great man. From the smallest to the most powerful people, they believed his power and thought it was of God.

But when Phillip came and preached about the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ, they heard the truth and were baptized. Even Simon the magician believed and was baptized. He spent much time watching Phillip do miracles and touch lives with the power of God.

The Apostles Peter and John came to lay hands on and pray on all the newly baptized people. That way they would receive the Holy Ghost to lead, guide, and direct them (the same way we do today in The Church of Jesus Christ). Simon watched and saw the power.

He said to Peter and John, "Give me also this power that anyone I lay hands on will also receive the Holy Ghost." Satan had deceived him into thinking that this gift from God was so easy to have.

Peter told him, "Your money can die with you. The gift of God cannot be purchased with money. You do not have any part with us because your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to God to forgive the thoughts of your heart... you are tied up in sinful thoughts."

Simon repented and asked, "Pray to the Lord for me that none of these bad things will happen to me." And so a famous man of the world who practiced magic and tricking people asked to be forgiven.

We each have old ways of thinking things and doing things that come back to bother us. Every time, we need to ask for forgiveness and remember that our God expects us to serve only Him.

We do not practice magic or witchcraft. We do not believe or pretend to believe in horoscopes, witches, psychics, or wizards. We are the people of God learning about His mysteries in a church of love and power. We trust in Jesus Christ and serve the one, true living God. He is the creator of the Universe and the one true power fighting against the evil of Satan. Call on Him in prayer in your heart over and over, at all times. Trust in Him. His strange and marvelous power will never fail you.

With care and love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

SERVE	AND
THE	BEAUTY
ONE	YOU
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GOD	IN
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## Branch and Mission News

### Two Ordinations in Freehold, New Jersey

By Brother Kenneth Yanes

All gatherings in The Church of Jesus Christ are beautiful and are cherished, but there are always distinct meetings that are embedded in our hearts and minds. It was Sunday the 16th of December, 2001 and the brothers and sisters who attended Freehold that day certainly witnessed one of these memorable meetings. It was the day Brother James Calabro and Brother Mario Morales were ordained into the priesthood. It was the day the Atlantic Coast Region gained its first minister of the Seed of Joseph.

The meeting commenced in song. The opening hymn, *O God, Give Strength*, emphasized the importance of the unity of the saints. The meeting had just begun and the ambience was full of the spirit. All brothers and sisters were ardent for the blessing of the Lord.

Brother Jim Moore, visiting from Imperial, Pennsylvania opened the meeting. He spoke on the theme of "God making a way through the stirring of the spirit!" Brother Jim continued with his sermon bringing out the importance and the responsibilities that come with becoming a minister as well as the blessings that come along with the office. He went on further drawing parallels between our dependency on God just as Moses' by reading excerpts from Exodus chapters 3 and 4.

Brother Jim touched upon the great future of the church: *The Peaceful Reign*. He preached on the Gentile Church becoming great in faith as the Brother of Jared in order to be nursing mothers and fathers to the Seed of Joseph. Spreading the Gospel will be a great work in these the latter days. Apostle Paul Benyola preached on how the Lord chooses those who are meek

and lowly at heart to do His work. The Lord cannot make use of those who will not depend on Him. He preached of the four sons of Mosiah and their attempt to destroy the Church and how they were changed by the grace of God. They then had the desire to preach to the worst of sinners and we the saints of the Church should share the same desire.

Brother Willie Brown gave the first prayer before the ordinations would take place. Brother Rick Calabro washed Brother James Calabro's feet, and he was ordained into the ministry by Brother Joe Benyola. Brother Jim Crudup washed Brother Mario Morales' feet, and he was ordained into the ministry by Brother Jim Sgro.

At the end of the ordinations the families of the two newly ordained ministers were called up to the front to make a circle and pray. After the prayer, the whole congregation began to sing the timeless Spanish hymn, *En La Viña Del Señor*.

Brother James Calabro addressed the congregation for the first time as a minister. He expressed the great joy he felt in his heart that day, giving thanks to the Lord, his spiritual mothers and fathers, and his family. He thought back to the time he rededicated his life to the Lord the day of his baptism. He quoted his father, the late Brother Paul Calabro, saying, "No matter what happens, the work of God must go on." He expressed the great desire he has in becoming a dedicated servant to the Church.

Brother Mario Morales also spoke. He gave thanks to the Lord, the ministry, to his wife and children. He spoke of the power of prayer and the omnipotence of our Lord and Savior. He also expressed his desire to work for the Church. He then expressed himself again in Spanish.

After communion was passed, the children of the Freehold Branch sang a medley of songs including, *It's My Desire*, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*, and *The Way That He Loves*. Then the wives of the newly ordained ministers, Sister Mitzi Calabro and Sister Olga Morales, gave their testimonies of their desires of

working along with and supporting their husbands.

The Lords presence was made evident that fine Sunday and His blessings did fall upon each and every member of the congregation until their cups were overflowing.

### Sharing in the Promises of God's Blessings to His People

Sister Rose Palacios

Christmas has just passed and gifts have been exchanged. We thank God for His gifts throughout the year to His people as we hear of each of the blessings and try to uplift one another. I am sharing with you God's promises that we all will know that God is still on His throne and He is still with all of His people all over the world.

The Lorain, OH Branch has been blessed with healings, baptisms, ordinations and many experiences that we will share with you. Not to anyone's honor and glory, but the honor and glory go to the Holy One of Israel.

At the beginning of the year during a Saturday fast and prayer meeting, Brother Greg Davis was blessed with a vision. As the prayers were being offered, he went to the top of the stairs in the vestibule to see who was coming into the building. To his surprise, he saw Peter, Alma, Nephi and others from the Scriptures. We felt blessed as he related his vision. In another meeting, Sister Kristy Johnson was going through a tough time in her life. She went forward to be anointed. A vision was had where a big shield was covering her as she sat down at the mercy seat. Darts were being thrown at her from all directions, but none touched her. Since that time, events in her life have changed for the better. Truly we must have the full armor on at all times. God has protected our people from accidents. Brother Stirling Tate was ordained a deacon on

(Continued on Page 8)

## Sharing in the Promises

Continued from Page 7

March 11 and has been a blessing to the Branch. As we met for lunch after the ordination, we received a call that Dan Palacios' wife, Tina, was to be baptized in LaGrange, Kentucky. Sister Carla and Gary King's daughter and son-in-law, Tracey and Brian, along with Dan's neighbors, Ron and Beth, Beth's daughter Nancie and Beth's mother, Chelsea, also requested baptism. A month later, Dan Palacios was reinstated after 15 years. At the baptisms in Kentucky, Zack Dziak (Sister Carla's son) asked for his baptism. He was baptized on March 25 in Lorain. As he was being confirmed, an experience was given where the Spirit spoke **"If you serve God in spirit and in truth, I will use you."** At that time, the words were confirmed, **"It is true! It is true!"** During one of our feet washing services, a beautiful spirit was felt. The Spirit spoke as follows **"I am pleased with what you are doing."** In another meeting, we had many visitors in our branch. Brother Ike Smith from Arizona was speaking of the saints of old and that when he was a young man how he saw God's blessings with them. As he said that God is still the same, the Spirit spoke **"I will grant you the desires of your hearts, saith the Lord."** At a Wednesday meeting, our Elders were speaking of what would move the hand of God for the Saints and their families. They read the Scripture, which says, *"These things only go out but by fasting and praying."* The Spirit spoke **"Pay heed! Pay heed! saith the Lord."** The General Church had called for church-wide fasting and praying for the tragedy, which occurred on September 11. The Spirit spoke **"If my people would only know what's coming, they would stop to pray. Fast and pray. Pray for your families. Pray for one another. Live closer to me, saith the Lord."**

Another blessing was received when Brother David Jarrett was reinstated back into the Church. He gave a beautiful testimony filled with

the Spirit of God. Many testimonies were given. We know God was pleased. He spoke **"I have been in your midst, saith the Lord."** Brother Sterling Tate suffered a stroke. Many prayers were offered on his behalf. He went in on a Monday and that Wednesday, he was back with us and doing his deacon's duties. Shortly after that, Brother Sterling's natural brother, Blaine, entered the hospital with a condition which required that he have surgery, otherwise, he would not make it through the night. The Branch went into fasting and prayer for him and he was continuously anointed. That Sunday, an experience was had where the Spirit spoke, **"The Power of God! It is the Power of God! I showed forth my power for a testimony unto him, saith the Lord."** A short time later, Blaine was in church giving his testimony of God's goodness. A handkerchief was anointed for the mother-in-law of Sister Mary Altomare's daughter, Cindy. She was not given much hope yet God saw fit to spare her life. Sister Mary said that she carried her handkerchief with her always.

One Wednesday evening, Brother Greg and Brother Zack were talking outside of the church building. They were talking of their desires, concerns, etc. A man came up to them and started talking to them as if he knew everything they talked about. As the brothers looked at each other and turned to where this man was, the man was no longer there. What joy was with them as our brothers testified of their visitor.

Dan Bowen, Sister Michelle's husband, asked for his baptism on a Sunday evening. About three months prior, he had gone forward to be prayed on for direction. The Spirit spoke, **"I am calling you. I am calling others too."** We have several non-members attending our services regularly. Because Dan had to travel the following Sunday, he was baptized on Wednesday evening, December 5. After the baptism, we met back at the church for his confirmation and we had a testimony and sacrament meeting. Many experiences were related as a confirmation to his decision to become a member of the Church.

On December 12, during the Wednesday night Men's Class, Anthony Calabrese was asking Brother Dan Bowens many questions regarding his baptism. That night after church, Anthony told his parents, Brother Tony and Sister Aileen, that he desired baptism. This is one young man whom many prayers have been offered up to the Lord for. The devil did not want to let him go, yet the Lord had mercy on Anthony. There is power in the blood! Anthony's wife, Kelly, was baptized on April 29 and it was her desire that God would bring her husband in the Church. God has granted her that desire and now they can walk hand in hand in God's services. Brothers and Sisters, this article was written so that we would know and be assured that whatever condition there is and whatever we all go through that as long as we keep His commandments and live closer to Him that He will be there for us. Many times, the evil one wants to remind us of our past, but let us remind him of His future.

## Ring the bells of heaven...

By Sister Martha Gehly

The Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch was rejoicing and the bells of heaven were ringing on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 as two candidates went into the waters of baptism. Sister Carole Diane Allert, daughter of Sister Ellen Larimer, was baptized along with her father, Brother Glenn Larimer. Brother Arthur Gehly baptized the candidates.

Carole was raised in The Church of Jesus Christ in Fredonia when she was a child. The family then moved to Illinois and Carole was away from the main body of the Church. However, the Lord has been working in her life. Brother Glenn has been attending the Gastonia, North Carolina mission for several years and teaches Sunday School there.

After the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon the candidates, Sister

Carole and her husband Mark's daughter, Zoe, was blessed by her great-grandfather, Brother Russell Cadman. Little Zoe is one of God's miracles; she weighed 2 lbs. 3 oz. When born and is now thriving and growing.

Brother Paul Gehly read and spoke from the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm. Testimony and communion followed with Brother Timothy Gehly offering a spirit-filled closing prayer. Many bells of heaven were ringing.

## Blessings in Saline, Michigan

The small church in the Saline, Michigan countryside with a small congregation has been anything but small in the realm of blessings it has received and activities it has placed on its calendar. The most exhilarating is the baptism of "our own," Sister Tina Rich in October.

Then on November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Saline Mission hosted the Second Annual Children's Gathering, for children ages four to fourteen years of age from

Branches 2, 4, and the Harrison Mission. Some 24 children of church families — some, who traveled three hours from mid-Michigan, Windsor, Canada, and Ohio, attended the event. The entire Sunday morning found the children viewing the Living Scriptures videos, working with complimentary activity books, creative crafts, and song.

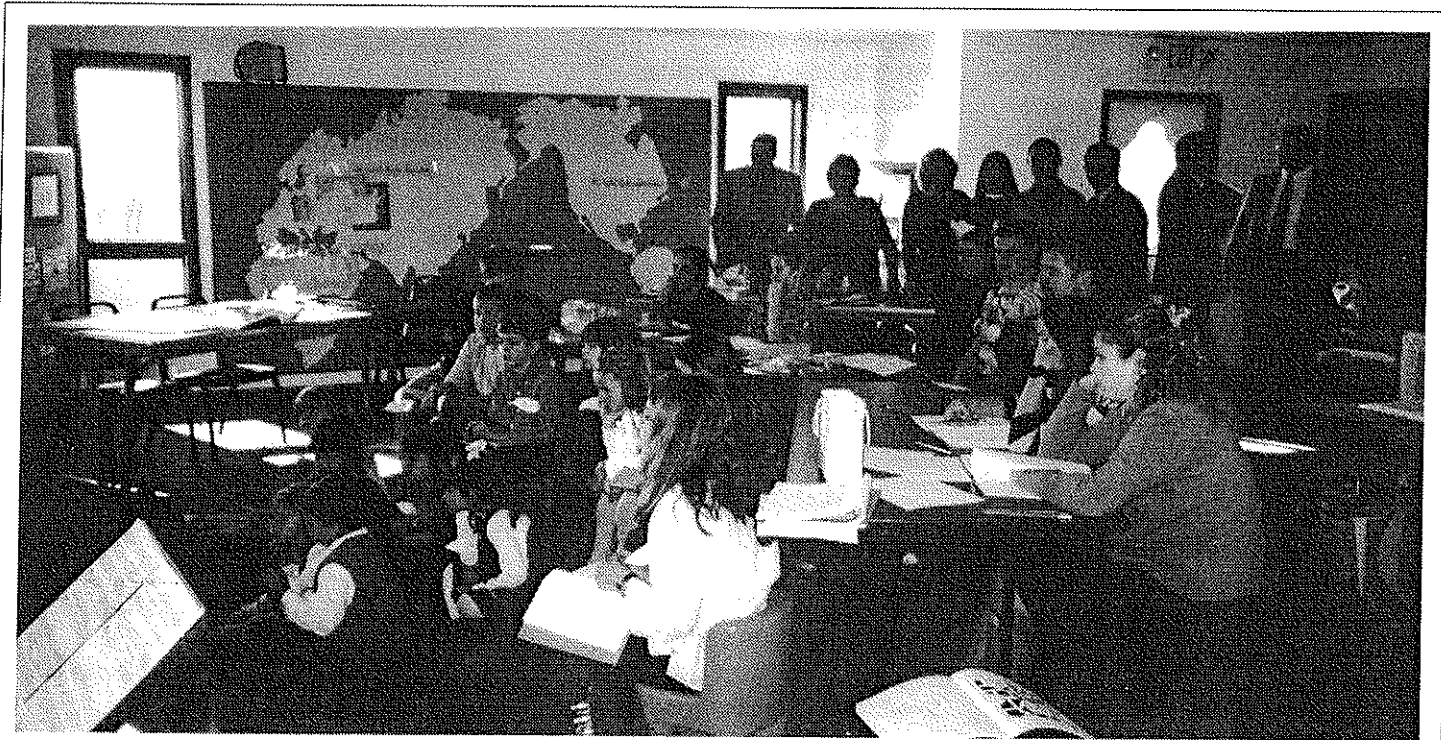
The first story titled "Nephi and the Brass Plates" illustrated the adventure of Nephi and his brothers as they returned to Jerusalem to obtain the Brass Plates from Laban. The second story "Mormon and Moroni" was the final, touching story in the Book of Mormon of a father and son who have kept the faith until the end. The children viewed a handcrafted replica of the golden plates that in time became the Book of Mormon.

The purpose and plan for the special assembly was to enable our children to experience a Sunday "School" event with as many of our children brought together in one place, to unite and encourage a wider scope of friendship within the Church families' children, and to provide in this case a clearer comprehensive study of the Book of Mormon history using

animated stories at a child's level of understanding and how we relate to the American Indian. The morning was so greatly received by the children that we ran out of time. We concluded by singing a song, *The Calendar* (which was sung in Spanish and was a follow-up to an Aztec calendar introduction) to the congregation following prayer.

The next time the church doors were open, November 18, 2001 (following the G.M.B.A. Conference weekend) found the small church again filled to its fullest — this time with the families of Brother Kerry and Sister Salina Carlini. They joined the Saline members for a blessed special day of thanks in celebration of the time of year and in honor of little Johnny Carlini's one year birthday. Visiting elder Brother Sam DiFalco warmed us with his wit and words speaking to us of the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts, 9<sup>th</sup> chapter who "went against the saints" and the theme "Why persecute me?" He identified himself with Paul's and Alma's conversions with how transformed they became. He told of a time when Brother Nick Pietrangelo was preaching on repen-

(Continued on Page 10)



Second Annual Children's Gathering

## Blessings in Saline, MI

Continued from Page 9

tance and Brother Sam, unable to hold back, arose to say, "I want to be baptized." It was told to him later that a white dove was seen over his head" and that "God did the change."

Brother Richard Thomas, also visiting that day, continued with the conversion of Paul and the sons of Mosiah. He spoke of Brother Ishmael D'Amico — of his authority from God revealed by a dream and of the power of God. "We are building Zion today," Brother Richard exclaimed and continued by telling of his conversion. He concluded talking on the "love of God" that is given off by the saints without their fully realizing the love they radiate.

The completion of the "feast" of words for our spirits was followed by a feast for the substance of our bodies — a full course Thanksgiving dinner followed by the celebration cake for one-year-old Johnny. So boautiful was our feast, we were able to share and deliver full platters and trays of the dinner to a local soup kitchen.

Still, not to be underserved with visitors, Sunday November 25, 2001 found us again filled to fullness in the pews with a surprise and delightful visit of families from as far as California with the blessing of three-month-old Isabella Marie, daughter of Barry and Michelle Lovalvo, great-granddaughter of Brother V. James and Sister Mary Lovalvo, and Brother Querino and Sister Isabella Bologna. Brother Querino blessed his great-granddaughter as she was held in the arms of her grandmother, Sister Vera Lovalvo (wife of Dr. Leonard J. Lovalvo). It was, as the song selected to end our service, *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome in This Place*, a special warm spirit that was felt by all. Following the blessing, the sermon was presented by newly ordained elder, Brother Duane Lovalvo, who is certainly a credit to our new young leaders.

We don't want to come up for air. We're planning more. Sister Salina Carlini, president of our Saline Ladies' Circle is planning a second (following

a very successful first) once-a-month Sunday afternoon meeting for those living too far to travel at night. Preceding the meeting will be a spaghetti dinner sponsored by Sister Salina for the sisters and their families. The sisters still meet twice a month and also hold another quite successful night — once a month Friday night prayer service followed by a small social. We feel our prayers are being answered and fully praise God for all we have received. For a small congregation, "We are a very busy people," says our newly transferred member, Sister and Deaconess Valerie Dulisse. We feel so very fortunate for our new family: Brother and Deacon Chuck Dulisse and their two sons, Brandon and Steven from Modesto, California who travel one and a half hours from Ohio every Sunday morning to attend Sunday School and service. We pray the Lord continues to bless us.

## Faith Will Show the Way

In this busy world of ours  
Do not lose your way,  
Stop to pick a budding flower,  
Gather a bouquet.  
Pause to hear a robin sing,  
Let him sing for you.  
Drink the sunshine and the rain  
As the lilies do.

In this age of strain and stress  
Take the time to know  
There is courage, there is hope,  
Everywhere you go.  
There is joy in little things,  
Love which cannot die,  
Sunbeams dancing round the door,  
Rainbows in the sky.

As the days go rushing past  
Take the time to dream,  
Find a quiet hide-a-way,  
Rest beside a stream.  
Guide your soul to sing again,  
Teach your heart to pray.  
Peace will come to those who seek,  
Faith will show the way.

Viola J. Berg

## Passive Faith Says:

I believe it—every word of God is true,  
Well I know He hath not spoken,  
What he cannot or will not do.  
He hath bidden me go forward:  
But a closed up way I see,  
When the waters are divided  
Soon in Caanan's Land I'll be.

Lo, I hear His voice commanding  
Rise and Walk, take up thy bed,  
And stretch forth thy withered member  
Which for so long, has been dead.  
When I am a little stronger,  
Then I know I'll surely stand;  
When there comes the thrill of healing  
I will use with ease my other hand.

Yes I know that God is able  
And full willing all to do.  
I believe that every promise  
Sometime will to me come true.

## Active Faith Says:

I believe it, and the promise now I take,  
Knowing well as I receive it  
God each promise real will make.  
So I step into the waters  
Finding there an open way.  
Onward press the Lord possessing  
Nothing can my progress stay.

Yes, I rise at His commanding  
Walk straightway and joyfully,  
This my hand so sadly shriveled  
As I reach restored shall be;  
What beyond his faithful promise  
Would I wish, or do or need.  
Looking not for signs and wonders  
I'll no contradiction heed.

Well I know that God is able  
And full willing all to do.  
I believe that every promise,  
At this moment can come true.

Brother James Heaps

(Reprinted from the May, 1958  
issue of the Gospel News)



## Note of Thanks

Our family thanks you for your prayers, support and wonderful cards and flowers during our recovery from the severe auto accident we had on Labor Day. Most of all we thank God for His mercy for sparing our lives. Although we spent 10 days in the hospital, our recovery has been progressing very well. Each day we thank God that we are still here to share His love with family, friends and all our brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless all of you in 2002.

Love,  
Brother John, Sister Theresa and Gabriella Cihomsky  
San Diego, California Branch

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Great Lakes Region Conference

Continued from Page 1

John Chapter 10, Verse 28, continuing: "neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Brother Steve reminds us that no one can pluck us except us! "God said our light should be seen. We need to be comfortable with God and show it. We cannot be casual about serving the Lord, work needs to be done."

Brother John Collison shared a dream that he had. There was a man behind him with a ball in his hand, which he threw, and hit Brother John in the back of his head. Brother John threw it back. Brother John made the statement that the world is like that for spite. This was a lesson teaching us to have the mind of Christ in such matters.

Brother Larry Champine addressed the need to be a light onto the world and become serious about our

covenant with the Lord. He strongly suggested that we should be prepared. He referred to Scripture Luke Chapter 16. Brother Larry reminded us that we can do anything with faith and we need to be collectively faithful in the little things of the Lord.

Apostle Peter Scolaro ended the messages and thoughts brought forth by contributing new ideas. "We will know the Lord's voice if we are listening. Nicodemis was told by Christ that light has come into the world but people like darkness. No harm will befall us if we have the mind of Christ at all times. Our job is to stand up for the standard, be a soldier of Christ, be sure of the promises and be a part and function. Our connection with people is crucial." Our meeting was closed and we adjourned for lunch and fellowship.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

reach out now takes on the focus of what mankind needs to know today. Salvation is for everyone. There is no room for the former more casual way of life for anyone. Things have changed even though the impact of the dreadful attacks may be lessened by the passing of time.

So long as we trust that our future is with the Lord, we can live with the confidence so needed today. This is true for anyone and everyone in this world as it has been in the past. The new reality is that we are realizing this even more than in the past.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Jerry Giovannone and Sister Connie Barnes were united in holy matrimony in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on November 24th, 2001.

Brother Anthony Azzinaro and Sister Kristen Bashaw were united in holy matrimony in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on July 13, 2001.

## Children Blessed

David Eduardo Bicelis, son of Brother Raul and Sister Lilliana Bicelis, was blessed in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission on November 25, 2001.

Riley Morgan Paxon, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Jamy Paxon, was blessed in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on November 4, 2001.

Zoe Elizabeth Allert, daughter of Mark and Sister Carole Allert was blessed in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch on November 24, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Justin Paul Everett was baptized on November 25, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Tom Everett and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Sister Jennifer Rose Champine was baptized on November 25, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Gary Champine.

Sister Rachel Leah Natoli was baptized on August 12, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Frank Natoli and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Sister Gina Danielle Bertolo was baptized on September 30, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Frank Natoli and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

Sister Carole Allert was baptized on November 24, 2001 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Russell Cadman.

Brother Glenn Ray Larimer was baptized on November 24, 2001 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother Dan Bowens was baptized on December 5, 2001 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Brother Frank Anthony Calabrese was baptized on December 16, 2001 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tony Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Mark Naro.

Brother Joseph Donkin was baptized on August 12, 2001 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ed Donkin and confirmed by Brother Tony Ricci.

Sister Linda Eutsey was baptized on January 1, 2002 in the Forest Hills, Holiday, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey II, and confirmed by Brother Milford Eutsey Sr.

## Ordinations

Sister JoAnn Niehl was ordained a Deaconess on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Kathy Kirschenpfad and she was ordained by Brother John Ali.

## OBITUARIES

### SABINA D'ANTONIO

Sister Sabina D'Antonio, a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, passed onto her reward on November 10, 2001. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Dominic; three daughters, Sisters Mary Tamburrino, Sarah Palmieri, and Ruth Jumper. She is survived by three daughters; Sisters Joan Gibson, Eva Ondick and Betty Eiler; six sons-in-law, 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 9 great, great-grandchildren.

### ANTHONY COSTARELLA

Brother Anthony Costarella, a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, passed onto his reward on August 29, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Sister Mafalda, one son, one daughter, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

### HARRY TIMMS

Brother Harry Timms, a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, passed onto his reward on November 1, 2001. He was preceded in death by his wife, Blanche. He is survived by his brother, Brother George Timms; one sister, Sister Goldie Hixon; one son, one daughter, eight grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren.

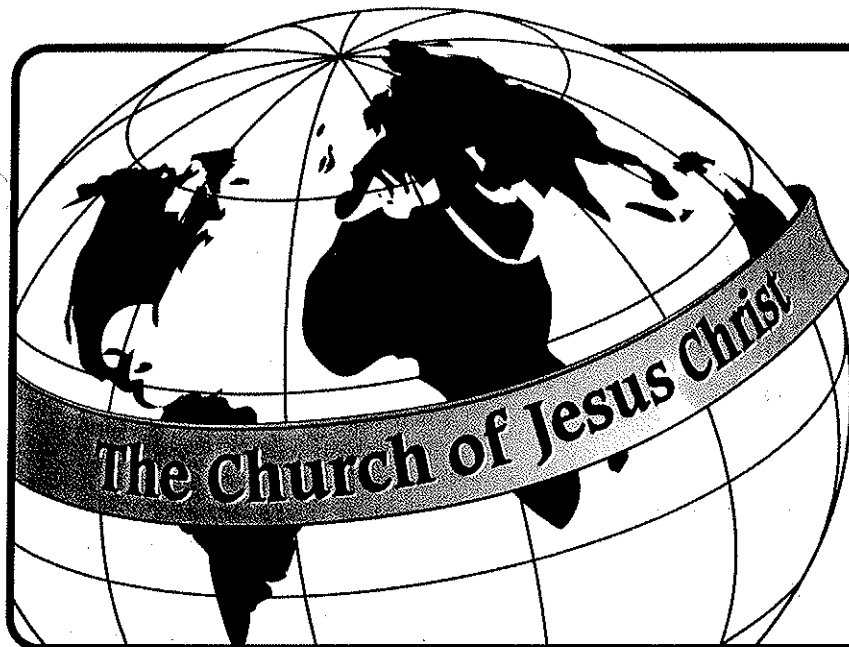
## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

March, 2002

Volume 58, No. 3

## And a Little Child Shall Lead Them

*Isaiah 11:6*

Every nation has produced children with a touch of the divine hand of God. Some have attained great feats of leadership at an early age. If such historical facts could be gathered in one volume, it would form a surprisingly large one. Sometime such greatness of children is to the shame of their unbelieving elders.

There is a written example of Jeremiah. "I knew thee and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Oh, Lord God behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, say not I am a child, for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put words in thy mouth."

Samuel grew under the love and devotion of a great mother. He was very young when God first visited him. The very high priest was found wanting, and there was no vision in Israel at this time. David the shepherd boy reached his God with

dramatic faith, great trust and the assurance within his heart that God would deliver him from all evil. His praises and Psalms to his God are yet the foremost widely used to this day.

Daniel manifested leadership in judgment at a very early age, in setting Susanna free from the evil priests of his day. Such children generally grow in homes where parents take an interest in their children. In most cases a wise and good mother is responsible for such strong and early display of character, and trust in God and themselves. We have such good and responsible parents today; often they are the unsung heroes. It is realistic to think of them as the guardians of our children.

The burden of caring for our children is on us, as they are the nations, the church, the ministers and leaders of tomorrow. Ours is the responsibility of training, teaching and leading them. We cannot take them for granted, neither can we hope that the schools or churches do for them what we ought to do.

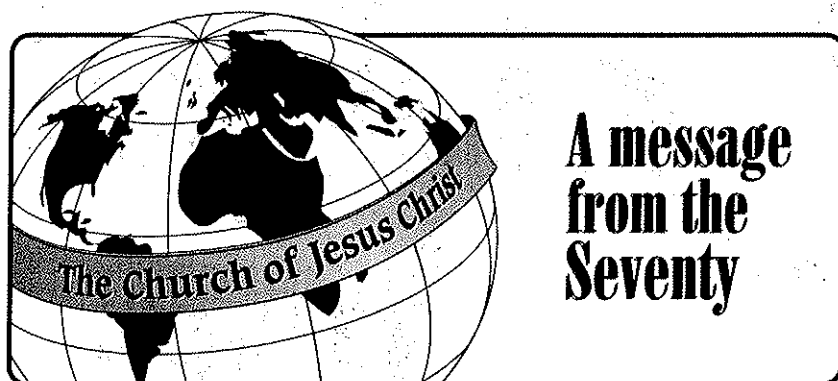
God saw that His Son was born of a woman whose very principle of life was obedience, integrity and devotion. In this was her greatness and her beauty. When children prove

great, the parents are honored.

My brother Michael is a doctor practicing in Sacramento, California. When he was nine years old he loved to go to Sunday School, but I who was nineteen did not want to go, being compelled to go since I was the only driver of the family car. One day I lost the key to the ignition. I was very happy about it because it was Friday night and a good reason not to go to church. But Michael was very sad since it would mean missing his class at church. A Brother who was visiting, when he heard my gladness and my brother's dismay, said, "If you would have the number of the key, you could very easily have it duplicated." I did not know the number. Upon hearing this, Michael went into his bedroom and prayed for the number of the key. A short time later he appeared and said, "I know the number of the key." I shook him in disbelief. "You made it up," I said. My father said, "Leave the boy alone and go to the dealer and give the number which Michael said he saw in a round light as he prayed. If there is such a key and the key fits the ignition, then he did not make it up, but if there is no such number, the boy made a mistake."

The following morning we went to Johns Brothers Ford Dealer in Detroit, and I asked if they had a key

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## Just a Cup of Water

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto  
Americas Missionary Operating Committee Chairman*

Have you ever wondered whether brief missionary journeys to foreign lands do any good? Recently, I traveled to Mexico to visit our missions in Mexico City and Pedernales with Elder Matthew Picciuto, Mexico Missionary Operating Committee Chairman and Evangelist Hector Gastelum, President of La Iglesia de Jesu Cristo de Mexico. Our purpose was to uplift the saints there and, as Christ said to "Give a cup of water to drink in His name" (Mark 9:41). When our journey was completed, I realized just how important it is to sustain the saints, even for a brief time, with cups of spiritual water.

Brother Hector, one of our two Evangelists in the country of Mexico, has the responsibility to oversee all of the work in Mexico. He leaves his family often and travels throughout the Region to minister to the saints. He carries a great burden for those who are without a resident minister. It is not easy for him to leave his natural labors and his family, but he goes willingly, trusting that God will provide for his needs and bless his family, because he knows the saints are without shepherds.

### LIVING CONDITIONS DIFFICULT

For various reasons there are no ministers living in Mexico City and Pedernales. Both missions have their own set of problems. Living condi-

tions in Mexico City are very difficult. The climate is harsh, the environment is oppressive with high crime, crowded conditions and sparse employment, and the saints have been discouraged because the ministers who have moved there over the years were not able to remain permanently. In Pedernales, living conditions are better, but there is no work for newcomers and their shepherd has forsaken the flock.

It is not an easy task to lift up the saints when they can see no immediate solutions for their need to have a spiritual leader. Nevertheless, we ministered to them with all of our hearts, exhorting, encouraging, and praying for the sick and the lost. They smiled when we sang, gave thanks when we preached, and wept when they received the Lord's Supper. It is impossible to describe the longing in their eyes and the desperation of their words as they asked when someone would come to live. Their question still echoes in our minds, "Cuando usted volvera." "When will you return?"

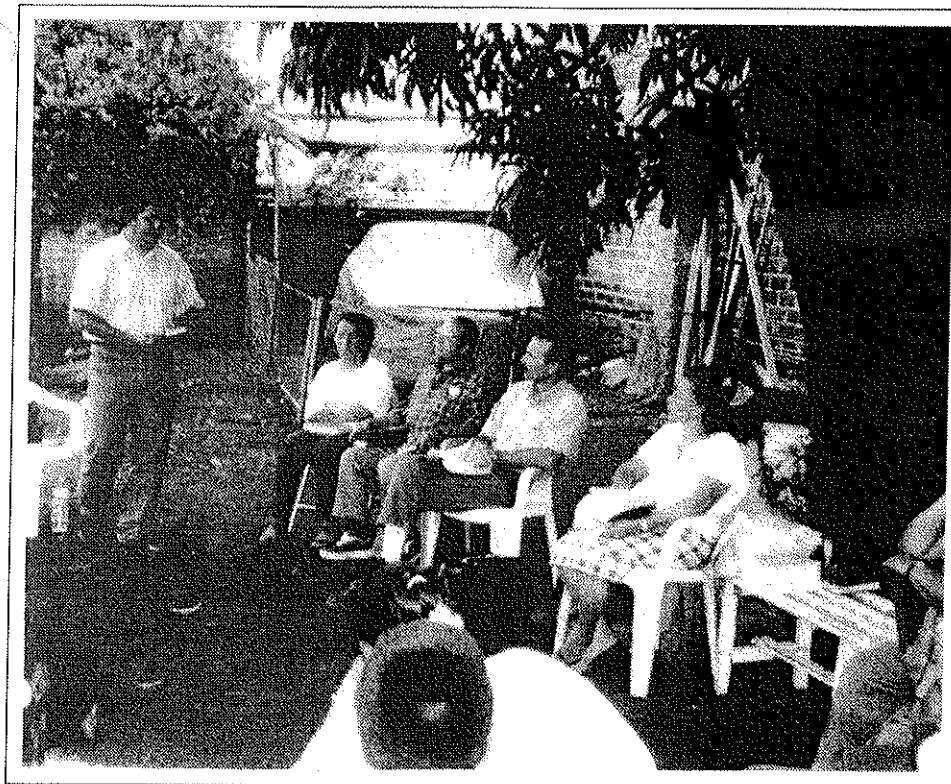
I was touched to witness Brother Hector's love and diligence in ministering as we visited the saints in their homes. The living conditions of some of the saints are wretched by our standards. When we went to visit a wayward sister in Mexico City, we walked through a long, narrow courtyard of perhaps 12 small apart-

ments. There was wash hanging out to dry, dogs and children playing, and only one small community rest room and shower for all of the tenants. We entered the two-room apartment. There was a bed and small dresser in the main room and a tiny kitchen with a table and two chairs, a sink, stove and no refrigerator. The sister's unbaptized husband was sleeping in the bed. He got up and sat on the edge of the bed. The sister brought out a chair for me, she sat on the other; and Brother Hector sat on the bed. It was in this square that he began to exhort her, instruct her, and encourage her to return to the Church. God's Spirit entered in and she wept with repentance. You could see that her husband was also touched. It was just a cup of water but it renewed her soul. We left them with joy in their hearts and a prayer in ours that God would sustain them until the next time Brother Hector returned.

### SIMILAR SCENARIO

A similar scenario was repeated several times over the three days we were there; and then we traveled to Pedernales.

While we were administering sacrament there, we noticed that an older sister, one of the pillars in the Church, did not participate. We visited her in her home and asked why she did not take sacrament. She told us her heart-wrenching story. For several months she was experiencing severe pain in her leg. She had no means to receive medical treatment and there was no minister to pray for her. The pain got so bad that she succumbed to the whisperings of Satan and went to see what we would call a "Witch Doctor" or "Medicine Man." He told her that her own husband had cast a spell on her. Immediately, her mind was enlightened and she knew this was not true. She left repenting that she had weakened and prayed that God would forgive her. The pain was then taken away, but she retained the guilt and felt she was unworthy of sacrament. Our hearts were broken to realize that she had no shepherd to turn to in her



**Brother Hector Gastelum teaching the saints in Pedernales.**

hour of need and we prayed mightily that she would receive peace and be filled with God's Holy Spirit to be with her. It was just a cup of water but it refreshed her and filled our souls.

While there, one of the members asked us to pray for a friend who was afflicted with boils and sores all over her body and could not sleep or find comfort for her body. The doctors could not help her. We went and asked whether she believed God could help her. She responded affirmatively and was anointed. After the prayer, she tearfully exclaimed that she felt a peace she had never experienced. Later, we learned that she slept peacefully for the first time since her illness. It was just a cup of water, but it gave her rest for her body and comfort to her soul.

**CONCLUDED WITH HEAVY HEARTS**

We concluded our missionary journey with heavy hearts, knowing that the saints would not have a shepherd to pray for them, teach them, preach to them and administer the Lord's Supper to them. We resolved that we would do our best to ensure that others would visit as often as they could, for a long time or a short time with a desire to take them "Just a cup of water."

Are brief missionary journeys worthwhile? From the depths of my soul, I can tell you that they are. They are not sufficient to meet the long-term needs of the saints and to promote growth, but they provide sustaining power.

We are very thankful that Brothers Hector Gastelum and Matthew Picciuto, and all who participate on the Missionary Committees of the Church, take time to provide "Just a cup of water," "Just a cup of hope," and "Just a cup of joy" to uplift and sustain the Church. We are also very thankful to all of you, of the Church, who support this work with generous financial donations.

It is important to remember that a major portion of every dollar



**Brother Matthew Picciuto with the children of Pedernales.**

(Continued on Page 4)

## Just a Cup of Water

Continued from Page 3

donated by the General Church provides the means for missionaries to serve the saints and expand the Gospel to new lands. We ask that you join us in mighty prayer that soon there will be resident ministers in every city, every town and every village where the Church is established. May God bless us with a greater desire to take life-giving water to a lost and dying world.

## January 2002 Trip to Peru

By Evangelist Dick Christman

Our January trip to Peru was rewarding in many ways. Although the security concerns of the airlines made traveling a little more arduous, it was well worth the long waits at the airports to be greeted on the first Sunday morning in Arequipa. We renewed our friendship and fellowship with the Arequipa mission group and met those visitors who had recently started attending. Our group of members and visitors numbered 52 souls.

Sister Antonia Cardenas' daughter Erica developed appendicitis while assisting her mother in town about two hours from their home in Arequipa. She brought her home on the bus and went directly to the hospital. The doctor informed them that peritonitis had developed and advised our sister to pray, as he would operate right away due to the gravity of her condition. He later told Sister Antonia it was a miracle that all had gone well. We were enroute to Peru at the time and our heart went out to Erica. She is only 11 years old and consistently attends Church and Sunday School. Evangelist Miguel Bicelis and I visited her at the hospital and she was anointed, along with another child who has muscular dystrophy. Everyone was happy and praised God to see Erica at the Young People's Seminar the following Saturday.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SEMINAR

The Young People's Seminar was conducted by Sisters Melissa Bicelis, Mary Duncan and Patricia Christman and was well attended. The children and young people did arts and crafts and made bookmarks that included a scripture. They also enjoyed scriptural lessons and games, which were taught by Sister Melissa. Brother Miguel instructed the teenagers. Parents and grandparents were in attendance as well. The seminar was concluded with refreshments and prayer.

The following Sunday began with Sunday School taught by Brother Juan Mestas. We continued with our preaching service, centering on the 40<sup>th</sup> Psalm and concluding with requests for prayer, for both natural and spiritual strength and for forgiveness. At the conclusion of the morning service, a short intermission was devoted to

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*"It was good to see the  
faithfulness of our members  
and to enjoy the blessings and  
protection of God."*

---

greetings and picture taking. We then began our communion and feet washing service. We were blessed by the spirit of humility personified by our Savior's example in this precious ordinance.

During the prior week, Brother Miguel held nightly classes based on the Word of God, including one session where he gave an opportunity to the class to choose topics. A young brother, Jose Cardenas who is 15 years of age, requested two subjects: 1) How to become a church leader, and 2) How to become obedient to the Church's teachings. We were gratified to see such a desire by one so new and young in the Gospel. Please pray for Brother Jose, as he was injured by a severe burn as an infant. Scar tissue prevents him from lifting his arm as high as his shoulder, thus causing pain while sleeping and restricting the use of his arm. Surgery seems to be the only solution to remove the scar tissue. He

asked for prayer and healing.

## ECONOMY DEPRESSED

The economy of Peru is very depressed and several of our members have to travel to other locations to support their families, but they traveled to Arequipa for our church service. We ask your prayers that God would bless them and provide for their needs.

During our first Sunday service a young girl of 10 years of age got up in a testimony portion of the service. She stated that she had been given an experience by God in which she saw Jesus Christ weeping over the city, as there were earthquakes and eruptions from the volcano adjacent to the city. She heard Christ sorrowfully stating He had given them opportunities to repent and be saved but they did not. Her mother and father came to church with her after she had this experience. Brother Miguel and Brother Juan, and our visiting sister, went to their home and had a meeting with them and their extended family. We pray this seed that was planted will bear much fruit.

Gianni Cordano, who was at the World Missionary Conference, developed a thrombosis in his leg and was hospitalized while we were there. Brother Dick Christman, accompanied by Alberto Garcia, visited him in the hospital. He was anointed and doing better when we left Peru.

The city of Arequipa suffered much damage in the most recent earthquake, which damaged hospitals, churches, schools, homes and hotels. This occurred last June but the damage was still evident.

We thank God for a good trip, and His blessings and protection. We had a request for baptism and Brother Juan will follow through on this request, making sure no hindrances are present to prevent our sister from being baptized.

In trying times it was good to see the faithfulness of our members and to enjoy the blessings and protection of God in our missionary endeavors. We would like to use the refrain from the hymn: "and above the rest this note shall swell, my Jesus has done all things well."





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In the religious world, there are "professors," and there are "possessors." A professor is one who is able to articulate convincingly their passion and love for the Lord. These are the ones who always seem to be talking about all the great things they have done for God and supposedly for others. They are always the first to speak, but the last to listen. Although they always seem to be in the spotlight, it is difficult to see how they have helped those who are poor in spirit, mourning, sick, and in need of encouragement. Unfortunately, others who hear their words are very impressed with these professors. Others will hang on to every word the professor says, and follow them wherever they go. Do you know of any professors?

Possessors on the other hand never talk about the good things they have done. These are the ones who quietly visit the sick, encourage the weak, help the poor, and sacrifice their own comforts of life to help others. They never brag about anything good they have done. Usually, no one ever knows all of the good that a possessor does. When possessors speak, they usually speak words of encouragement, and acknowledge their own nothingness and complete dependence on the Lord. Do you know of any possessors?

*"... The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn" (Matthew 13:24-30).*

Among God's children, there is wheat (possessors) and there are tares (professors). In the religious world, they co-exist, and many innocent people are deceived by the professors, who are usually the most popular. Sometimes, these professors are full of good works, but their intention is to receive glory and praise; not to do these good works for the sake of helping others. According to the scripture above, professors and possessors would grow together, but in the end, the professors (tares) would be bound and burned. These are those who the Lord will say, "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you." Many are called, but truly, only few are chosen. The scribes and Pharisees who existed in the days of Jesus were a good example of professors, not possessors.

There may be times in our lives when we profess, and really don't possess. It might be because of our own guilt, or because we feel the need to impress others to build up our ego. Whatever the reason, there is never an excuse to profess something we do not possess. The humble followers of Jesus are the ones who demonstrate the character of Him. They help others, expecting nothing in return. They are full of good works because they are full of love. They are the ones who truly possess the love of God in their hearts. The Word says that if we abase ourselves, He will exalt us, but if we exalt ourselves, He will abase us. The world will know we are His disciples by the genuine love we show one to another; not by trying to "out-do" one another, thinking that the Church has some kind of "corporate ladder" we must climb. The only thing we must do, is to possess His love, and if we profess anything, it is that we are nothing without Jesus Christ.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock



## What Do You Do When You Are in the Lion's Den?

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes when I'm praying with my daughter Leah, I'll hear one of us ask the Lord, "Don't let anything bad happen to us," as part of our prayers. Later I'll think about all the great followers of God in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Joseph was sold as a slave and thrown into prison, but God delivered him (rescued him) months, even years later. During the time he was in prison, as we read in Genesis 39:21, "The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." The Lord was with Joseph, and whatever Joseph did, the Lord made it successful. Later, Joseph used everything he learned in prison to run the country of Egypt and save thousands upon thousands of people from starving to death.

Noah spent years of his life working with his family to build a huge boat many miles away from any big ocean. Then he began filling it with every kind of creature that lived upon the face of the earth. We can imagine how people must have laughed at him for being so different. The Bible tells us that the other people living at that time had hearts that were full of evil continually. I can imagine Noah patiently working, encouraging his sons, and praying with his wife.

After all of their work and years of effort, God's plan became clear. The evil people were drowned and swept

off the earth. Noah's family, who served God, was saved. For months they lived in the ark with the animals. Even then they must have worked hard feeding and caring for all the animals. They must have prayed and trusted God as their great boat bumped around in the dark waters. Yet God brought them through safely; God delivered them.

In The Book of Mormon, King Mosiah loved God greatly. But as his sons grew up, they began to do evil things. They let the evil one, that ugly devil, convince them to do wrong things. They even went so far as to try and get other people to follow their evil ways. We can imagine their father and mother's shame and heartbreak as they realized how far their sons had turned away from the good things they had been taught.

As the months passed, this good man of God, Mosiah, fasted and prayed to the Lord to change his sons. The Lord heard those cries and sent a mighty angel to shake the earth and give the young men the choice to stop their evil way or die. They were awakened to the evil they had been chasing and repented. Later, God used all four young men to serve as missionaries and bring thousands to know God.

When Daniel served God, the Lord gave him much wisdom and power. He, like Joseph, worked for a king in a ruling nation. But other people were jealous of Daniel. They tricked the king into making a new law that said no one could pray or ask any man or God anything for one month, or else they'd be thrown into a den (an underground cage) of lions. They knew that Daniel prayed to God openly three

times each day, and would thus break the law. Can you imagine how Daniel felt when he heard of this new law? Sometimes I wonder if he thought maybe he should pray in a hidden spot, or pray in his heart. But Daniel trusted God's will and prayed openly.

When he was arrested and thrown into that dark, smelly hole full of dangerous lions he trusted God. Hour after hour passed and the Lord sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths; they never hurt Daniel. How he must have been rejoicing! The Lord can do all things.

So sometime, somewhere, when you or someone you love are in your own kind of lion's den, your own prison, or on dark stormy waters, remember Psalms 34:17, 18, "The

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### Baptisms, Visitors at Roscoe, PA

After the services on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Michelle Roberts had made her wishes known that she wanted to be baptized the following Sunday. On December 2, 2001, many visitors were in attendance at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch including Brother James and Sister Jean Moore from Imperial, Pennsylvania, anticipating her baptism. Brother James Moore opened the morning meeting speaking from the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> chapters of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi. He began with the words of Christ that were spoken to the Nephites after His Crucifixion, *"Verily, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me ye shall have eternal life. Behold mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him I will receive; and blessed are those who come unto me."*

Brother Moore brought out through the scriptures how we must offer a sacrifice of a broken heart and contrite spirit, repent of our sins and become as a little child; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. He spoke on how we would then receive the Holy Ghost, and how we cannot serve God without His spirit. He spoke on how Jesus came to bring redemption unto the world, and read how the Nephite people came forth one by one and felt the wounds in His side and prints of the nails in His hands and feet and how they worshipped Him. He spoke on how Jesus called Nephi and others there and instructed them how to baptize the people. He told many beautiful experiences and spoke of the joy in serving the Lord.

After the morning meeting, Michelle's husband Charles also expressed desire to be baptized. Following lunch, we all gathered at the Monongahela River in Roscoe. It was a remarkably bright and sunny December day and a beautiful sight to witness

this beautiful young couple fulfill their desires to serve God. Brother James Abbott took both Michelle and Charles Roberts into the waters of baptism. After returning to the Church, Michelle and Charles received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands by the Priesthood. Brother Abbott confirmed Sister Michelle, and Brother Moore confirmed Brother Charles. As we sang, *A New Name Written Down in Glory*, one by one, we all welcomed them into the family of God.



**Brother Charles and Sister Michelle Roberts**

Brother Charles and Sister Michelle were quick to give their testimonies. Brother Charles told how on the previous Sunday (November 25<sup>th</sup>) he wasn't feeling well and was considering not returning to the afternoon meeting with Michelle. As he prayed, he heard a voice say, "Go back to church, your wife is going to ask for her baptism and you will follow." He said he went back to church and Michelle asked for her baptism at the close of the meeting. He said he knew he was going to follow, but didn't know when until he felt God's spirit move upon him.

Brother Charles' mother, Sister Christine Roberts testified the morning

of Michelle's baptism that she wondered if Charles was going to get baptized too. The hymn, *Set Her Free* was given to her and in prayer she asked the Lord if Charles was going to ask for his baptism today, that it would be sung during the meeting. She said when she walked into the church, they were singing it and she knew Charles would ask also. Several testimonies and experiences were told and bore witness of the words of Christ, "Blessed are those who come unto me." Brother Charles and Sister Michelle have already been a joyous addition to the Roscoe Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless them and help us each to live closer to Him.

### Blessings in Miami, FL

*By Sister Betty Gennaro*

On November 25, 2001, we witnessed the blessing of David Eduardo Bicelis, son of Brother Raul and Sister Liliana Bicelis. His grandparents are Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis of Valle Guanape, Venezuela. After blessing the baby, Brother Miguel Bicelis said, "The blessing of God as an infant is God's will for our children, but it is only the beginning to raise Godly children." The saying, "It takes two to bring a child into the world, and a whole village to raise him," is very true if the village is The Church of Jesus Christ.

"All of us are responsible to be the best example we can be to these two little ones being raised under the voice of the Gospel. The child will learn charity through our charity and devotion by seeing us pray and attend church faithfully and consistently. God does His part. He will keep His blessing upon the child until the child is able to discern in his/her adult heart what is good and what is evil. Brother Miguel explained why Christ blessed innocent children and he himself was baptized as an adult. The only thing that separates us from God is sin. God

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## Blessings in Miami, FL

Continued from Page 7

wants reconciliation with Him for mankind to be happy. He wants a broken heart and a contrite spirit and will be your personal God. The Church of Jesus Christ follows the teachings of the Bible and The Book of Mormon."

### SERMON ABOUT ZION

"We are so blessed to be in the 'land of the free' and to hear sermons from the unadulterated Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ! On Sunday, December 2, 2001, Brother George Kovacic read from 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 13. Nephi wanted to include portions from the brass records (Isaiah 4). Repetition is a great learning tool!

*"In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious; the fruit of the earth excellent and comely to them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that they that are left in Zion and remain in Jerusalem shall be called holy, every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem. When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning."*

"Two spirits cleanse the earth. Today another spirit is working among us; the spirit of repentance is still working. We hope that many more than us few will be in Zion that day. We know these spirits will come. The Lord said He would clean out the filth and iniquity in the land. We keep these things in our minds as we have an understanding of where we are going.

*"And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and a covert from storm and from rain."*

"Beautiful promise! What will be left for us so that we can have shelter? He promised us a shelter tabernacle of

cloud of smoke by day, and a pillar of fire by night as a defense... a signal... as it happened before to the people of Israel as they left Egypt.

"The fullness of the Gentiles will come in and that will be the end of their time. It's good that we study the Gospel and understand where we are at, and where we are going. When we have that knowledge, it gives us assurance every day. We want those remaining when that spirit of judgment and that spirit of fire come, so that we can stand as a testimony to the true and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ, so we can see the miracles as in days of old. Think on these things and ponder them. May God bless you in your endeavors and your studies. Our knowledge will increase, as we have a desire to learn these things, God will give it to us"

We sang *A Highway Shall the Lord Prepare* from *The Songs of Zion*. Brother Miguel Bicelis continued.

"Today God has given us the way to go to Zion. Jesus Christ is the door and He is the only one who can make us holy and take away guilt. The first ingredient has to be holiness. Those that receive the blessing of Zion are those that are covered by the blood of the lamb. We rejoice today because of Jesus Christ and that hope of Zion. The spirit of God cleanses every wrong thought, every wrong deed; these are the days of repentance. That is the only way God will bring us back to Him. He cannot give His holiness to a people who are unclean. We have to repent of our sins. We cannot assume that salvation will come to us, we have to work out our own salvation. When you live in the spirit, you realize that God can do all things. You can be translated, you can be instructed by God day or night. Through Jesus Christ we can attend to these things. Do you have your passport, or is it expired? How is your relationship with Jesus Christ? The way of God is the way of Holiness. Alma 5 asks, *'Can you imagine that you can have a seat among Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?'* Many times we have felt that we have been in the presence of God.

"The intention of Nephi was that his people would have everything

available, that the judgment would not come upon them. The spirit gives direction today so you won't miss the opportunity to go to Zion. Even if your life is not extended, that you may find that way of holiness and be ready.

"They lived in the hope of Christ as if Christ had already come, we can rejoice in the holiness of the God of Israel. Once you cross the borders of Zion, you leave the sin outside. As we are baptized, we have to rid the sin, continually... daily. Is your heart right with God? Live each day as your last day. As soon as you are given the opportunity to be holy, that is your opportunity! That is your day. May we not be the ones that have to endure the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning. It would be an awful sight to see that. God has given us enough to have that hope and understanding. There is no need for any of us to say, 'I wasn't warned.'"

A vision was seen during our service of a man holding a child by the hand leading him to an open field.

The beautiful ordinance of feet washing completed the service.

### BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE

On Sunday December 16, 2001, as Sister Victoria Lopez was setting the communion table, the Word of the Lord came forth:

"It is time for the people of The Church of Jesus Christ to stand for what they believe; the time is far short when the chosen people of God will start governing this land."

Brother George Kovacic read from Moroni 8:3, "I am mindful of you always in my prayers, continually praying unto God the Father in the name of his Holy child Jesus, that he through his infinite goodness and grace will keep you though the endurance of faith on his name to the end.

"Throughout His life, Jesus was a Holy person. He truly was an obedient child. Jesus was born and lived a life for a specific purpose and even died and resurrected for a specific purpose. This time of year, it makes us more joyful because we understand and we can carry on throughout the year. Brother Justin Severson spoke about

the spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, that powerful spirit and the desire to be in accord with it. Christ instructs that we must overcome our weakness by coming unto Him first. Matthew 18 tells us to become as little children. The birth of Christ, as recorded, can't be any more humble, as the Prince of the world was born in a stable. If we are to expect great things, we have to be about the simple things first.

We sang, *Come All Ye That Thirst* during Communion. Following this, the Word of the Lord came forth: "Thus saith the Lord, there is sacrament left for one more who has not yet chosen to serve His God."

## It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

I have been requested to write the following article on:

### BEARING TESTIMONY IN A FELLOWSHIP MEETING

*"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee"* (Psalm 22:22).

Praise is the expression of the soul which begins with the exultation in the heart for God and His Holy Son Jesus Christ. It is a declaration of thanksgiving and an affirmation of one's joy of salvation.

Testimony in a church service means to praise the Lord for His grace, loving-kindness, mercy, long-suffering, His everlasting goodness, for restoring the Gospel and, especially, for giving His Son to die for the sins of the world. Testimony of praise is a personal tribute to Jesus Christ who broke the bands of death and overcame the grave, bringing about the hope of the resurrection in one's heart.

Praise in the congregation of the saints is a commemorative testimonial to the Lamb of God who willingly went to Calvary, bearing the cross and shedding His blood that those who believe

in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jesus, at the tomb of Lazarus said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26).

Testimony in the congregation of the saints is not to be considered a duty, but rather a joy, a privilege, a vehicle by which one can exalt the name of the Lord orally. Praising Jesus Christ is giving Him honor and glory belonging to Him exclusively. It is likened to a vassal paying homage to his Suzerain for his love and protection. Testimony is like throwing palms before the Lord, crying, "Hosanna to the Lamb of God."

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*"Testimony in the congregation of the saints is not to be considered a duty, but rather a joy . . ."*

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One should go to a fellowship meeting filled with joyful expectation of praising the Lord. It is not a matter of waiting to be inspired to bear testimony, or thinking, "What shall I say?" Inspiration for subject matter and delivering the same should be in the purview of the Minister who waits upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Conversely, testimony of praise should be in the heart of every member of the Church, grasping the opportunity to give voice to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Testimony is not a matter of telling the congregation what "we should or should not do" or how "we should or should not live." Such exhortation is reserved for the shepherds of the flock to administer. Testimony is a very personal thing. It is an individual's expression of praise, spoken with joy and gladness. It is written, *"I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High"* (Psalm 7:1-2). Also, *"Praise*

*ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation"* (Psalm 111:1).

It is not the length of the testimony or the intent to impress others that's effective or important but it's quality. A few words of praise, spoken from the depth of the heart with simplicity and a spiritual tranquility will be acknowledged by the Lord and blessed by His Holy Spirit. This kind of praise will motivate others to do likewise. Taking one to three minutes should be ample time to praise the Lord in the congregation of the saints. Remember: *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver"* (Proverbs 25:11).

In my early years in the Church, I knew a brother who wrote a lengthy testimony and memorized it, with the purpose of reciting it at the next fellowship service he would attend. The following week he accomplished his desire with interesting results. (Coincidentally, I was present at that particular meeting.)

As soon as the Presiding Elder turned the service to the members, this brother quickly arose and began to say, "Brothers and Sisters," repeating the phrase several times in a stumbling manner and then stopped abruptly, to the astonishment of all present. After a brief, embarrassing moment, he raised his head and began to confess his scheme to memorize a testimony intended to impress the congregation and with the expectation of the glory of God filling the sanctuary. He apologized to God and to those present, and then began to praise the Lord, with the result that God's Spirit filled him and all present. What a beautiful lesson was learned by this brother's mistake! God wants praise that comes from the heart, delivered with humility and meekness, overflowing with joy and gladness.

In the sixty-four years I have been in the Church, I have heard many kinds of testimonies given in a fellowship service, to wit; praise, lamentation, travelogue, complaint et al. Seldom has any of the above, except praise,

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## It Is Written

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ever caused the windows of heaven to open and the Spirit of the Lord to encircle the saints. Permit me to clarify briefly.

**Lamentation:** Telling how sick one is or has been, how much one is persecuted by family or others only creates sympathy in the hearts of the listeners. But if one mixes praise to the Lord, in this category, it develops into a moment of indescribable spirituality.

Example: If one says, "Although I have been [or am] afflicted and am still filled with pain, I glorify the Lord for this opportunity to stand and praise His Holy name, for I know that One greater than I suffered on the cross for my redemption, and to Him I give thanks and honor."

**Travelogue:** Taking five or more minutes telling what a wonderful time one had on a vacation which included a cruise or going on a trip or visiting someone. This may be an interesting story, but it will not cause the blessings of the Lord to be manifested. Of itself, a testimony meeting is not the time and place to recount one's travels. But, if it's told with the intention of praising the Lord, it's a different matter.

Example: If one says, "I am truly grateful to God for the opportunity to have taken this vacation (or trip, etc.) and bringing me back home safely. I praise the Lord also for granting me the financial possibilities to accomplish this, for without His help I could do nothing. He is my helper, my all in all." Now, one is minimizing the travelogue and accentuating the assistance of God in one's life.

**Complaint:** Stay away from this category. Don't even mention it. It will not create good feelings, nor will it bring the blessings of God upon the congregation.

Return with me to the fellowship meeting. The Presiding Elder notifies the congregation that it's time for testimony. No one gets up. A few minutes expires. One person gets up, bears testimony and sits down. No one else gets up. The Presiding Elder calls

a hymn to motivate and/or inspire the members to testify. Nothing happens. More hymns are called. Maybe another member gets up, speaks and sits down. More hymns are called. Nothing much is happening. Is everyone waiting to be inspired?

One should always be inspired (ready) to testify. Home should be left prayerfully, asking God to bless the service, inspire the ministers, bless the congregation and bless oneself when (not if) it's time to arise and praise His Holy Name. A good practice of meditating daily about the Lord and spiritual things also helps to give one freedom to arise in fellowship services and give God the praise He rightfully deserves. The Psalmist says, *"My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches"* (Psalm 63:5-6). Try it, brothers and sisters. It really works.

It is also written: *"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people"* (Psalm 35:18).

In "praise" meetings, the names of God and Jesus Christ are exalted. The Lord speaks from heaven and the glory of His Spirit fills the sanctuary; healings and miracles are received; time flees into oblivion and the spirits of all present are lifted to "higher ground." Testifying vocally is not the only way to exalt God's name. The spoken word is not always necessary. At times, just singing His praises will fill the sanctuary with His Spirit, and the hearts of the saints will be replenished with His glory. Often, the voices of angels have been heard to combine with those of the saints. What melody! What glorious harmony when that happens. No one wants to leave the meeting. No one wants to sever that wonderful tie that binds one to God and to each other.

Permit me to say, "When you are tried by afflictions, go to church. There you will find the Lord. Just praise Him! When temptations assail you, go to church. That's where the Lord will give you strength. Just praise the Lord! When stresses of a

physical or mental nature beset you, go to church. That's where Jesus Christ will comfort you. Just praise the Lord! When you feel empty inside and your heart aches, go to church. That's where the Lord will take away your cares and console you. Just praise the Lord!

"Are you lonely? Go to church. God will be your companion. Just praise the Lord! Are you weary and heavy-laden? Go to church. Christ will take away your burden. Just praise the Lord! Are you grieved at the loss of a loved one? Go to church. God will fill the empty spot in your heart with His love. Just praise the Lord!"

The prophet Isaiah said:

*"And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me."*

*"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."*

*"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."*

*"And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted."*

*"Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth."*

*"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee"* (Isaiah 12:1-6).

Thus, it is written.

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## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank you for all the correspondence and prayers during my illness. God has blessed me and my family during my illness and I have truly felt the prayers of the saints. May God bless you.

Sister Nancy Cartino

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We wish to convey our sincere thanks to all of you for your love and concern throughout my illness in 2001.

Our desire has always been to pray for the sick and distressed in

whatever situation. As you offered prayers and faith for our needs, God began to display His grace, love and power in such a marvelous way to us.

After two brain surgeries (back to back) in February 2001, we know Jesus is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Even though the surgeons were concerned about the cancerous tissue in my brain and back, God's promise was to never leave or forsake us.

Through this ordeal, my family has come together in unity over the reality of disease and the power of God in healing these frail bodies of ours. We're here to tell you, "He can heal the lame and blind and all afflictions of the mind." Praise God for the truth of His Word and power of His spirit!

As of January 2002, I am a recipient of health and healing. My family knows what united prayer can do. We have been allowed to sit in heavenly places and rejoice in Christ our Savior. Every card, phone call and expression of love have been so edifying to our souls and spirits.

Continue to remember us as we remember each and every one of you in our daily prayers. To God be the Glory!

Love in Christ,  
Brother Eugene, Sister Donna  
Amormino and family

\* \* \* \* \*

Sister Carol Heckerd of the Forest Hills Branch, Holiday, Florida and family wish to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls on behalf of the passing of her beloved husband, Brother Larry Heckerd. We will miss him. He touched a lot of lives and will be remembered for his unique humorous personality.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brother and Sisters,

Since I'm not able to thank each of you individually, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your cards, phone calls and especially your prayers during the illness and subsequent passing of my

husband, Brother David Williams. He helped many people along life's way, and will be missed by many. Thank you again for all of your love.

Love in Christ,  
Sister Irene Williams and family

## And a Little Child

Continued from Page 1

by the number 977, which my brother said was what he saw. There was such a number, and a key was made. Upon inserting the key into the ignition, I became very nervous; my thoughts troubled me. If this key really works, then I am an unbeliever. "Turn, turn the key," he kept saying. I finally turned the key and the ignition unlocked; something else also unlocked - my heart. I perspired cold sweat.

Do not send your children to Sunday School - you TAKE them. Your example is greater than your words. Take time to pray with them and play with them. They are our greatest riches, and if they should become prodigals, when in trouble they will remember home and the love they knew therein.

May God bless us to be the fathers and mothers of Godly children, playing our rightful part in their lives. May the Lord be glorified in the lives of our children and that they may live in a reign of peace.

Brother Mark Randy

*(Reprinted from the August 1974 issue of the Gospel News.)*

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

righteous cry, and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles . . . he saveth those who are sorry for what they've done wrong." Call on God, tell Him you are sorry for the things you have done wrong. He loves you and hears your prayers.

\* WEDDINGS \*

David B. Ciccati and Ann M. Moore were united in holy matrimony in San Diego, California on November 10, 2001.

Edward John Stroko and Tina Marie Groves were united in holy matrimony in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on July 21, 2001.

Children Blessed

Zachary Aaron Conrad, son of Larry Todd Conrad and Jamie (Wergin) Conrad, was blessed in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on October 7, 2001.

Logan Michael Ali, son of Brother Larry and Sister Vicki Ali, was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on May 9, 2001.

Noah John Crayton, son of Rena Stroko Crayton, was blessed in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on November 25, 2001.

Katelyn Viola Snyder, daughter of Jeremy Snyder and Rachel Stroko, was blessed in the Vanderbilt Pennsylvania Branch on November 25, 2001.

Christine Michelle Keener, daughter of Fred and Sister Mary Ann Keener, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on July 15, 2001.

Ordinations

Brother Newton McCracken was ordained a Deacon on February 4, 2001 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Pete Darr and he was ordained by Brother Chester Nolfi.

Sister Jewel Baldwin was ordained a Deaconess on January 20, 2002 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Brother Carmen Difede was ordained a Teacher on January 20, 2002 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

MAYNARD (ELMER) DEVORE

Brother Maynard (Elmer) Devore, a member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, passed onto his reward on December 7, 2001. He is survived by three daughters, Nancy Bradshaw, Shirley Devore, and Debbie Mickey; two sons, Elmer Devore and Eddie Devore; three stepchildren, Dareen, Doreen and Michael Grimes; one brother, Richard Devore, and one sister, Sister Edith (Devore) Snyder; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

BETTY DAVIS

Sister Betty Davis, an ordained Deaconess of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, passed onto her reward on November 26, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Brother Bill Davis; and son William Davis.

DAVID WILLIAMS

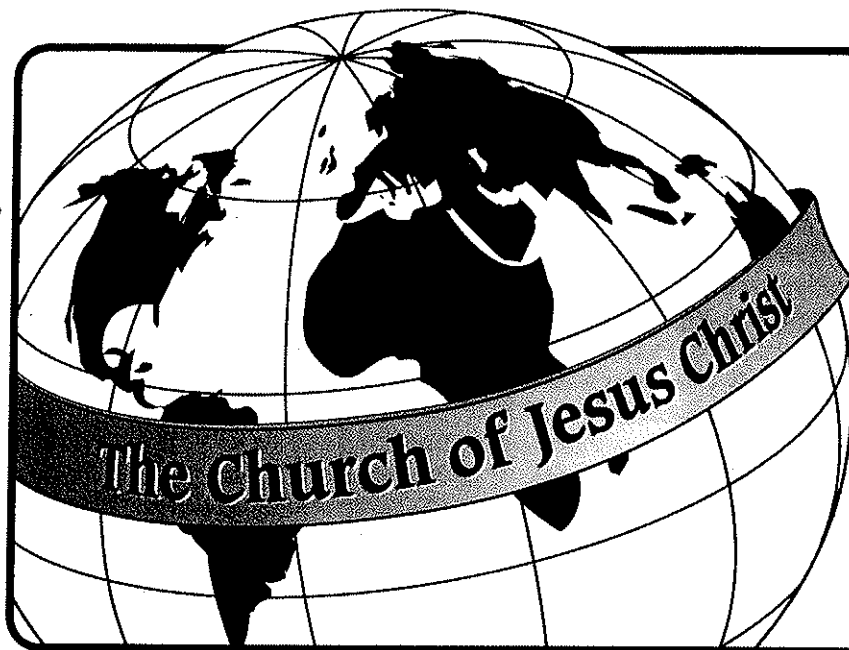
Brother David Williams originally from the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, and now a member of the Maine Mission, passed onto his reward on January 16, 2002. He is survived by his wife Sister Irene; son, D. Craig; daughter, Cheryl A.; a brother, Herbert, and a sister, Ann Taylor.

Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Gospel News

April, 2002

Volume 58, No. 4

## Feet Washing

By Apostle Peter A. Scolaro

The Church of Jesus Christ practices *Feet Washing*, as it does *The Lord's Supper*, after the example set by Jesus Himself. It is remarkable how a pending Feet Washing Service always generates a wonderful anticipation of God's blessing among the brothers and sisters. Moreover, carrying out the ordinance often results in an outpouring of love and fellowship that cannot be compared to any other experience.

### What is Feet Washing?

Some say that it was merely a custom of the times—practical and relevant in the period of the Bible but irrelevant today. On a very superficial level there is some basis for such an opinion. However, as convenient as it might be to gloss over the issue so simply, to do so is to underestimate both the wisdom and the love of Christ. Actually, Feet Washing is an extremely important ordinance instituted by Christ and one which demands spiritual maturity and focus in order to fully commune in love and humility as Jesus intended.

Let us first consider the custom of the period. **Re: Dirty Feet**

In Biblical times roads and paths were dirt—mud when wet. Walking was the primary mode of travel and resulted in feet coated with dirt. Upon arrival, it could be offensive for one to enter a house with dirty feet. An infrequent visitor would particularly avoid doing so.

Scriptural references show that, as a courtesy, travelers were offered water with which to wash their *own feet before or upon entering* a house. In providing water to the visitor, the host facilitated the guest's transition from a dirty "outsider" to a clean "insider." This was both practical and a gesture of welcome. See Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Jud. 19:21. Today in most of the world quite some effort goes into preparing roads and pathways with pavement and landscaping so that the accumulation of dirt on feet and/or shoes as we move about is minimal. Furthermore, walking itself is generally only a short-distance mode of travel. It is true that, where these modern circumstances prevail, the custom of washing feet before entry has no relevancy.

In Exodus we see a ritualized derivation of the period custom wherein God's instructions for the temple included a lavar provided for the Priesthood to wash feet and hands before entering the vicinity of the altar. This was to avoid offense, in this case, to God. The instruction was

based upon a presumption of need to remove filth *before* entering a clean place and was specifically applicable to the Priesthood approaching the altar. We can see that the purpose and specificity of the instructions as well as those instructed precludes relevancy of these instructions to the practice instituted by Christ (Ex. 30:19; 30:21; 40:31).

### Were there other applications of Feet Washing in the Scriptures?

In the New Testament (Luke 7:36-47) we encounter Feet Washing as an expression of love and gratitude. Jesus contrasted the event against the customary courtesy of the times. After dinner, a sinful woman who knew that Jesus was dining at Simon the Pharisee's house sought Him out and tenderly washed His feet with her tears. She kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment. Simon was critical, but Jesus chastised him crediting her gesture to the love she felt for having been forgiven her sin. Jesus recognized that Simon—not having been forgiven of sin such as hers—did not understand her feelings.

Some key observations (Luke 7:36-47):

- Jesus' feet were not being washed upon arrival but after eating. It had

(Continued on Page 2)

## Feet Washing

Continued from Page 1

nothing to do with cleaning before entering.

- Jesus did not wash His own feet, nor did a servant of the house.
- The sinful woman was overcome with gratitude and love for Christ because He had forgiven her. She washed with her tears and anointed His feet with ointment. Again, nothing to do with dirt.
- Jesus clearly understood the gesture to be an expression of love, gratitude, and humility. He was pleased to accept the gesture.
- The Pharisee's failure to extend customary courtesies was an indication of his lack of a relationship with Christ.



**Apostle Peter Scolaro**

This act of love and gratitude had nothing to do with dirty feet. While it was a clear departure from the simple custom of expedience, it was not the institution of Feet Washing as an ordinance of the Gospel. However, it did have some of the elements of the ordinance Jesus later instituted in the upper room.

It might be noted here that some have dared to hint that this incident had something to do with carnal feelings the woman might have had for Jesus or vice versa. This is absurd. Aside from the fact that such a relationship would have been completely inconsistent with everything

Jesus did while He lived on this earth, the scenario described by Luke could hardly be construed as part of any romantic affair.

Actually, the Old Testament does hold precedent for the act of one washing another's feet as a demonstration of humility and gratitude. See I Samuel 25, especially verse 41. Here Abigail, who was being asked by King David to become his wife, expressed her humility by offering to be only a servant to wash the feet of David's servants.

**Can we determine what Jesus had in mind in the upper room? Not dirty feet.**

The thirteenth chapter of John tells us of the example Jesus set as a prototype for the Feet Washing Service we have today. Here Jesus was gathered with His followers for what has come to be known as The Last Supper. As the dinner ended...

**John 13:**

3. Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;
4. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself.
5. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, And to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.
6. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?
7. Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.
8. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

This was not a scenario comprised of travelers with dirty feet. Rather this was a very tight group of comrades having just completed a very special dinner with their Master. Most of the Apostles, being accustomed to Jesus doing things when and how He saw fit, did not resist this

humble, generous act. Peter, stricken by his own unworthiness, rigidly refused to allow the Master to assume such a humble position with respect to him.

If we compare ourselves, outside of the Gospel we would hardly allow any friend to lower himself this way. Certainly we can understand the position Peter took. Jesus was not just another friend. He was the Master. In effect, Peter was saying, "Lord, I love you too much to allow you to lower yourself to wash my feet." When Jesus answered that Peter's refusal to be washed would serve to permanently disassociate him from the Lord, Peter was taken aback and exclaimed his acceptance. At this instant we can see that Peter had to love Jesus even more to allow Him to wash than to refuse Him. The mutual love flowing between Peter and Jesus was the Love of God, the greatest gift that Jesus brought from the Father.

9. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
10. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit; and ye are clean, but not all.
11. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

In fact, Peter went overboard, thinking of the washing as a cleansing—as was the customary purpose—he asked for a complete washing. Again, the Lord set him straight. Peter had been baptized. He was not in need of cleansing. The feet washing was not for cleansing.

So we can see clearly that Jesus used the washing of His disciples' feet as another means to show His love. If He had wanted to clean their feet He would have done so before dinner, not after. If it wasn't a matter of love, He would have offered them water to wash their own feet before entering.

Furthermore, Jesus went on to establish that this sharing of God's love was the experience Jesus wanted to create, for that moment and for future experiences among those who would follow Him. The declaration to

Peter, "thou hast no part with me," should ring in the ears of anyone who would omit this practice from our service to the Lord:

12. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?
13. Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.
14. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet: ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
15. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Clearly, as important as Jesus found it to convey His love to His disciples, He also found it just as important that they should convey the Love of God for each other. Specifically, He prescribed Feet Washing as an essential means of expressing this Love. Not only is humility a necessity to wash another's feet, but as we saw with Peter, to allow oneself to be washed can be an act of humility in itself.

#### Did Feet Washing continue in the Church after Jesus was crucified?

The practice of Feet Washing is evidenced among the early saints by Paul's description of a saintly widow as one who participated in Feet Washing:

*1 Tim. 5:*

9. Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.
10. Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

#### Why is Feet Washing still important today?

In addition to the fact that, in the upper room, Jesus called it an example to be followed, we must realize that Feet Washing is one of the practices that He implemented to

sustain the conveyance of the Love of God from disciple to disciple. In Feet Washing we seek not the love of a man for his wife, a mother for her daughter, or any such. Rather, as did Jesus, we seek to manifest the Love of God. This goes back to the two great commandments that Jesus declared:

*Matt. 22:*

37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
38. This is the first and great commandment.
39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

When we "do as I have done" we must avoid allowing our spirits or intentions to be tainted with a lack of belief or understanding. Hiding in the comfort of our fleshly relationships by regularly seeking family members to wash or be washed by can deprive us of the complete fellowship of the Gospel. Consider the Lord's view on fleshly relationships as compared to spiritual:

*Matt 12:*

46. While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.
47. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.
48. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?
49. And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!
50. For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Let us view each other as Jesus views us. He has already shown how He would behave in a Feet Washing meeting. Let us take pause from our

daily burdens and let the Love of God envelope us so that we can experience the same love and divine fellowship that our early brothers did at the last supper with Jesus.

- Focus on the service. Try to stay engaged by remembering Christ's love for us and considering the love that we have for each other. Avoid drifting into other thoughts during the times that you are not involved in washing or being washed.
- Try to participate fully by both washing someone's feet and having your feet washed.
- Be ready to relieve others. Don't allow someone's physical stamina to become challenged such that his or her spiritual blessing may be jeopardized. Likewise, do not attempt to carry out a marathon. Stamina is not an objective; the Love that was in the upper room is ours to experience through Christ and His Gospel.

Truly, Jesus had tremendous vision when He wrapped that towel around Himself in that upper room. Let us allow that vision to be fulfilled in us, His Church of today.

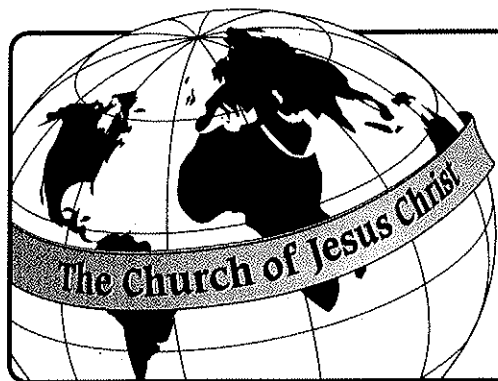
### "Gather My People"

#### CONFERENCE OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS

Friday July 19, 2002 –  
Evening  
Saturday July 20, 2002 –  
All Day  
Sunday July 21, 2002 –  
Morning

Chippewa First Nations  
Community Center  
Muncey, Ontario, Canada

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!!



## A message from the Seventy

*(The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists at the last GMBA Conference made a presentation to primarily young people. Part of it covered information about the objective, the desire, and the role, which must be fulfilled by individuals who are involved in the missionary activities of The Church of Jesus Christ. Following is an outline prepared by Evangelist Eugene Perri, Seventies Vice-President, for that evening – Evangelist Editor's note.)*

### Who Is A Missionary?

A person who is filled with the Love of God, who acts on behalf of the Church to help men and women find the way to salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Do You Want To Be a Missionary? Determination and Dedication Are Keys to Missionary Work!

There is an account of five young men in the Book of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon (Alma, son of Alma, and the four sons of Mosiah) who were converted to Christ from a life of iniquity and rebellion. The change in their lives had such a marvelous impact upon them that they felt committed to become missionaries to the Lamanites who were in sin and rebellion just as they themselves were before they were converted. They could not bear the thought that any human soul should perish and endure endless torment. They were dedicated and determined to preach Christ to them. They went to their father, King Mosiah, with their request and pleaded with him for many days to allow them

to go up to the land of Nephi to preach to the Lamanites. King Mosiah was unsure whether he should let them go because he was fearful they would not survive. He went to God in prayer about the matter and the answer was to "... let them go up, for many shall believe on their words, and they shall have eternal life..."

When they were given permission, they immediately put their plan into action. Here is their formula for success (Alma 17:2-4):

"... They had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.

"But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.

"And they had been teaching the word of God for the space of fourteen years among the Lamanites, having had much success in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth..."

They converted kings and queens along with their servants and many of the common people. Read their success story in Alma 26:1-8:

"And now, these are the words of Ammon to his brethren, which say thus: My brothers and my brethren, behold I say unto you, how great reason have we to rejoice; for could we have supposed when we started from the land of Zarahemla that God would have granted unto us such great blessings?

"And now, I ask, what great blessings has he bestowed upon us? Can ye tell?

"Behold, I answer for you; for our brethren, the Lamanites, were in darkness, yea, even in the darkest abyss, but behold, how many of them are brought to behold the marvelous light of God! And this is the blessing, which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work. Behold, thousands of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God.

"Behold, the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your might, yea, all the day long did ye labor; and behold the number of your sheaves! And they shall be gathered into the garners, that they are not wasted.

"Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them.

"But behold, they are in the hands of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his; and he will raise them up at the last day.

"Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever."

### Paul, the Apostle, Another Great Missionary

Paul the Apostle, was converted to Christ from the ranks of the antagonists and became one of the greatest defenders of the faith. When he met Jesus, he found the reason for living and dying, and he committed his life completely to Him. Paul then used his energy to proclaim Jesus Christ to the known world of his time, not by word alone, but by the spirit of God. He fasted and prayed, preached and taught, sang and rejoiced in the hope of glory, and brought many souls to Christ. His life is an inspiration to all true believers in the entire world.

(Continued on Page 11)



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it" (Numbers 12:1-2).*

The Lord "heard it" and guess who got in big trouble! Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because he had married a woman from another country and race. He married a woman from Africa. This seemed to surface two horrible fruits of sin that still run rampant today: **jealousy** and **prejudice**. Clearly, jealousy was at the root of Miriam and Aaron's comment about Moses. God had spoken to Moses as a man would speak to another man. God had not done this with Miriam or Aaron. God had demonstrated mighty miracles through the hands of Moses; God had not done this to that extent with Miriam or Aaron. When jealousy exists, there becomes a need to take any opportunity to attack, embarrass, accuse, or criticize. This is exactly what they did to Moses. Their attack on Moses took the form of prejudice. Once they saw an opportunity to put Moses down, they did. Obviously pride had made them feel "better" than this African woman, and by Moses marrying her, it gave them the opportunity they were waiting for. If Moses could marry a woman who they felt was inferior, then Moses must not have been the great man of God it appeared he was.

I enjoy writing editorials about the love of God. This scripture, however, is an example of the "wrath" of God. Yet, you'll see that in the end, His "wrath" only occurs because of His "love." God appeared in a cloud to them, and asked Aaron and Miriam step forth. Doesn't this remind you of a parent saying to their children, "Get over here, I want to talk to you. You are in big trouble!" God compared Moses to a prophet. He explained that Moses was greater than a prophet, because God speaks to prophets through dreams or visions, but spoke to Moses face to face. Based on this, He then asked Aaron and Miriam, "...were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" Sometimes because of jealousy, men and women of God are criticized. It is a fearful thing to criticize one of God's servants, yet it seems to happen all the time. We should ask ourselves the question, "Do I criticize God's servants, who are my brothers, sisters, elders, missionaries, apostles, etc.?" If we do, it seems plausible that God would direct the same question to us, "Aren't you afraid to speak against My servants?" It's easy to criticize others when we never walked in their shoes. When we finally do walk in their shoes, we are able to understand and love them.

Jealousy can breed many kinds of sin. In this case, jealousy bred prejudice. What an awful tool of the devil prejudice is! The Zoramites were prejudiced against the poor who had built their synagogue and wouldn't allow them in. Even Peter was prejudiced against the Gentiles until the Lord revealed to him that they were not "unclean" as he had once thought. Today prejudice is the main cause of racial conflicts around the world. Miriam and Aaron were prejudiced against this African woman, and couldn't believe Moses would actually marry her! Unfortunately for them, they paid a dear price and learned a great lesson about jealousy and prejudice. One portion of scripture states not to call that which is good, evil, and that which is evil, good. Sometimes mankind makes up his own rules regarding righteousness, but it is not the righteousness of God. Because of God's anger, Miriam was struck with leprosy. Moses, having great compassion and love for his sister, begged God to heal her. God did restore her, but only after seven days. The entire camp of Israel was thus held up for seven days. We have to ask ourselves the question, "Just like Israel was held up seven days, are we holding up the progress of the Church because of any jealousy and prejudice we possess?" If so, we must weed it out.

In the end, God caused this to happen because He wanted to show His love and impartiality to the African woman, to Moses, to Israel, and to all of mankind. He loves us all, and is not a respecter of persons, and will defend His servants. So even though God showed His wrath, in the end, He did it to show His love for all of mankind.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Can you imagine how you would feel if your own brothers hated you so much that they wanted to kill you? Nephi was attacked over four times by his two older brothers Laman and Lemuel. He also forgave them each time.

Their father Lehi was a great man of God. He was warned to take his family and others and leave the great city of Jerusalem before it was destroyed. The two oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel were furious; they did not want to go into the wilderness. They doubted their father, Lehi.

But Nephi and Sam believed their father; Nephi prayed to God and God showed him all the vision his father had. Nephi became a strong follower of God. His older brothers hated him and accused him of trying to be their boss and leader.

The first time they attacked him and started beating him with a rod (big stick) was when God sent them back to Jerusalem to get the ancient brass plates (records) from an evil man named Laban. They were afraid of rich Laban but Nephi was willing to face him. God sent an angel to stop the beating (1st Nephi 3:28). Even after that, they still complained and doubted but they went along and God gave Nephi the brass plates. They returned to their parents waiting in the wilderness.

Then God sent the three back again to ask a man named Ishmael to bring his family of sons and daughters and journey to the Promised Land. But after traveling in the terrible wilderness, two of Ishmael's daughters and two of his sons wanted to turn back. Laman and Lemuel agreed. They tied up Nephi and were going to leave him



where wild animals would kill and eat him. But Ishmael's wife, and one son talked them out of their murderous plan (1st Nephi 7:16).

As the months passed into years, the children of Lehi married Ishmael's children. But the complainers became more angry. When Ishmael died, his daughters sent up a great cry, saying how hard it was in the wilderness and wanting to return to Jerusalem, now so far away. Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael said "Let us slay (kill) our father and our brother Nephi, who had taken it upon himself to be our ruler and teacher" (1st Nephi 16:37). This time the voice of the Lord came strongly and spoke to them. They became sorry and were willing to continue their journey. Lehi and Nephi forgave them again.

They traveled on. The women became strong like the men. New babies were born and the complaining was less. But when they reached the end of the wilderness and saw the great ocean, all the doubting started again. Laman and Lemuel realized they'd need a ship to cross the ocean and none of them were trained shipbuilders. Nephi told them that God would teach them to make tools and build a ship.

They refused to help. They became even angrier with Nephi (1st Nephi 17:48) when he reminded them how God had guided His people from the earliest times. They decided to grab him and throw him into the depths of the sea! But God had another plan. He filled Nephi with such great power that no one could touch him without a huge shock that would kill them. Nephi told them not to touch him. After several days the Lord said "Touch them now Nephi. I will give them a great shock,

but it will not kill them. Then they will be convinced of the great power and plan of God!"

Nephi did and they were greatly shaken. They fell down to worship him but he said, "Only worship God and honor your parents." And Nephi forgave them again as they all started building a beautiful ship.

And so we see how every time something great was going to happen – get the ancient records of brass from Laban, find wives to start a new nation, complete the journey to the seashore and build a ship – Satan sent opposition. But God won every time, and something good came every time from Nephi standing up for God. And every time Nephi forgave his brothers for their hatred.

God preserved these men because they were part of a greater plan. They were to populate the lands of North and South America. They were to become a living and righteous nation

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

NEPHI	MANY
FORGAVE	TIMES
HIS	BECAME
BROTHER	HUGE
LANAN	NATION
AND	FOR
LEMUEL	GOD
MEN	

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



## Blessings at the Windsor, Canada Branch

It was a memorable day for the Windsor, Canada Branch as we gathered together. Many visitors including extended members of the Vitto family were in attendance.

Brother Dick Lobzun began our meeting by recalling his 29 years in the Gospel and what an impact Brother Frank Vitto had on his life. He elaborated on the "father image" Brother Frank portrayed to the Windsor Branch.

A history of a ten-year period, when Brother Frank first came to Windsor in 1962, was reviewed. Records show that at that time, Windsor was down to six members and the district was going to reduce the branch to a mission. Brother Frank volunteered his service. During those ten consecutive years as Presiding Elder, we were truly blessed and our membership increased to 35, most of whom he baptized. The Lord blessed Brother Frank's efforts and saw his desire to do His work.

Brother Tony Gerace recalled several events that transpired in the years that he has known Brother Frank. One in particular was when Brother Gerace was called to anoint a woman he was acquainted with. While he was there, he felt the need for help. He called Brother Frank at his barber-shop. Brother Frank closed the shop and went to meet him. God blessed him and the portals of heaven were opened through his prayer.

Brother Don Collison was overcome with feeling towards Brother Frank. He recalled many years of fellowship they had together. The years of camaraderie continue even today. Brother Collison recalled the years of working together and praying together while trying to build the Windsor Branch. The Lord blessed those efforts and Windsor grew. The Spirit of God prevailed in many of those meetings.

Brother Mike LaSalla also recalled some of his experiences with Brother Frank and how deeply he felt that the Lord had used Brother Frank in helping Windsor recover from those early years of discouragement. All honor and glory goes to God for using him.

Brother John Collison reflected on how Brother Frank affected his life. As a young lad he remembered how his voice echoed in the building and in his heart, which made a lasting impression.

Brother Lou Vitto, Brother Frank's natural brother, mentioned how happy he was to have had examples set for him from his brother Frank and his late brother Paul. He told us how proud he was of Brother Frank and how the Lord had used him throughout the years. Brother Lou recalled his father saying to him "Now I have my three sons preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now I am ready to go home". The two brothers embraced in love. They sang, *He's my Friend*. They were then joined by Brother Frank's son Brother Perry, Brother Lou's son Brother Gregg, and Brother Paul's son Brother Gary, to sing *Without Him*. It was the first time the five had sung together. It was very touching.

There were many beautiful enriching testimonies. Brother Gary Vitto, who was recently baptized, recalled a most momentous time in his life when his brother was gravely ill and the doctors informed the family that he could be in a coma for 3 months or perhaps 3 years. That night Brother Frank anointed him. Brother Gary will never forget the following morning when upon visiting his brother, he found him sitting up in bed waving to them. To God goes all the praise and glory. What an impact this experience had on Brother Gary's life.

What a wonderful event for Evangelist, Brother Frank, to celebrate 55 years in the service of our Lord, 49 years in the ministry, and during that time Presiding Elder of 3 branches.

In closing, Brother Frank thanked God for his mercies. He thanks the brothers and sisters for their comments and praise. We formed a circle and

held hands in love for one another as his son Brother Perry closed our service in prayer.

We met in the basement of the church for lunch and had wonderful fellowship with one another. Everyone that attended this special day was truly blessed. What a day to look forward to when we all meet in heaven for that most celebrated day that God has planned for us.

## The Spirit in Muncey

By Sister Linda Snake

The spirit of God and His heavenly mercies were felt today in Muncey, Canada. Our Sunday School started out with the lesson, "The foundation and what it is." We read from Hebrews 6:1 and Helaman 5:12. Much was discussed. God was in charge of this day as we continued into our service. The theme for the day was "Love."

Brother Nephi DeMecurio came that day feeling very ill, having had a root canal done to a back molar, which was causing spasms. As Brother Nephi was receiving his anointing from our visiting Brother Kerry Carlini, Sister Shirley Grosbeck heard a voice tell her to come up front and tell Brother Nephi that she must hug and tell him she loves him and that the congregation must follow suit. The beauty of it all overwhelmed Brother Nephi and he related his experience. He thought to himself that he will wait to be anointed later, but a voice told him, "No, do it now."

Sister Karen Deleary was then anointed and following was Sister Veronica Kechego Barrett. Sister Marie Lunham had an experience that she heard a voice say, "No greater gift I have given you than the gift of love. Show it to others and your day will be well spent."

Brother Nephi then remembered a few weeks prior that he was going to preach on the subject in Ether 12:33. The subject was about love and now he

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## The Spirit in Muncey

Continued from Page 7

knew why he didn't, because it was to be read on this day. During testimony Sister Mona Ogden related an experience from our feetwashing service the week before. While she was contemplating whose feet she was going to wash, a voice told her, "Sister Irene Snake." A feeling of love overwhelmed her. She began to cry and said she wanted to tell Sister Irene so badly that she was going to wash her feet and when the time came, she did. What a blessing!

Sister Irene mentioned another display of God's love in her testimony. She said the week before, Sister Karen Deleary had a funny feeling and her face was numb. She was disoriented and was anointed and went to the hospital. She had a slight stroke and had to remain in the hospital. During the meeting, Sister Irene was so distraught over this, she prayed to God these words, "I want to hear something good right now!" Right then, Brother George Grosbeck was called to the phone to find that his sister, Sister Karen was sent home! We rejoiced in tears; what love! Sister Joyce George testified that she noticed whenever we prayed as a group, things happened. Brother George Grosbeck stood and told us of his conversation with a man who came to plow our driveway at church today. He would not expect any money. Brother George told us of a time long ago that this man, Virgil Wilson's mother came to church when he was young and begged the brothers to pray for her son who had a broken back. He was healed and we all agreed that Muncey had received so many miracles in the past and still is.

Sister Marie again had an experience that she heard a rushing wind as if someone had come in. All these testimonies and experiences were had in just one day at Muncey. We thank God that these are the kind of Sunday services we experience frequently. Experiences were had of beautiful voices of angels singing with us, and while the piano was being played for sacrament. We are so filled with God's

beautiful blessings and we thank all the brothers and sisters for their diligent prayers for us. Because of Jesus Christ, we are so blessed with His love.

## Being the Best You Can Be

By Sister Karen L. Progar

The New Year brings most of us many resolutions. What follows are very specific instructions given to us by brothers visiting the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch in the last few weeks.

Brother Phil Jackson reminded us on his recent visit from the Kinsman, Ohio Branch that the boat on which we ride is not as important as the shore on which we land. Using the brother of Jared as an example, he advised of the importance of having the light on your vessel, which will lead you to the proper shore.

He continued by telling us that while we have trials, we can never feel the anguish, which Christ felt at His crucifixion. In addition, the example of those who endure is a testimony to all of us. He admonished us to give the Lord the stones of our heart and he will return to us light, so that we may be a light to others who will see Christ through us.

When Brother Tony Ricci visited from the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch, he told us that it is important that we become the *one in the crowd*, who the Lord can use, just as Christ used Simon when he met him on the way. Later, Simon and his sons would be the ones to assist Christ as He carried His cross to Golgotha. When Christ first saw Simon in the crowd, He chose him to be the one in the crowd who would follow the Lord. We must not be one in the crowd; we must be *the one in the crowd*. The only way we can be *the one* is to repent and be baptized. God told us to do what we can do to further the Gospel. Some will go on missionary work, but others may just be responsible to open their home to the saints, pray or provide other

support. He told us that if we have love and compassion, God would use us.

Even though Brother Don Ross from Monongahela, Pennsylvania visited the Aliquippa Branch a full week later, he continued on the subject, allowing ourselves to come under the influence of God. He used as his topic the parable of the Prodigal Son, who when he had no other means, came back to his father. We must also come back to our Father by being baptized and God will change our lives and use us. He stated that what is important is how we live our lives.

These three visiting brothers gave us a clear plan of what we must do to please our Heavenly Father. We must allow the Lord to enter our hearts, light our lives and share that light with others in whatever means he gives us to do so. Our testimonies may draw others into the service of God.

## Seasons Refreshing in Omaha, NE

By Sister Joyce Mahl

The Saints of the Omaha/Bedford Mission came together for a season of fasting and prayer on Saturday morning, January 12, 2002. It was also a joy to greet our visitors, Sister Norma and Brother Al Tepperman from New Jersey. It had been Bro. Al's desire to bring Sister Norma to meet the brothers and sisters of Omaha/Bedford from the time of his first visit here in August 2001 when he attended the Mission's annual Mini-Conference.

The meeting was opened with the song, *In the Land of Love*. This song had been the theme of the August mini-conference. Sister Norma requested anointing because she was experiencing a lot of discomfort in her ears from the airplane flight to Omaha the day before. A season of prayer was followed by a season of song and testimony.

One sister testified that she was inspired with Psalms 102 in answer to a question that had been put to her earlier in the week; "Where are you spiritually?"

Sister Norma testified to the goodness of God and that her ears were no longer bothering her. The meeting was closed with *He Lives*, and Brother Al offered the closing prayer.

The Saints then broke their fast together and enjoyed a season of fellowship during a luncheon served at the church.

Gathering again that same evening, the brothers and sisters enjoyed a season of singing. Brother Al shared some songs that he had been inspired with over the past few months. One that really fit the attitude of the mission was *Few Heed, Many Need*. One of the verses says, "Let those you have called be examples of salt and light that they would show the love, the love of Jesus Christ."

Brother Clifton Wells, the mission's presiding elder, opened the evening preaching service with these words, "We serve a living God and that 'the Word would be preached in power' is a truth." Using Romans 3 starting at the 19th verse he expounded on how the law made us all sinners but was a "school master" that led us to Christ. Now our righteousness comes from Jesus that we may be a witness. Thus we become not servants but heirs. "A carnal mind cannot serve God. He had to change your mind." Through that change He could remove our doubts, fears and unbelief and let in hope, faith and love.

Brother Todd Wright, the mission's teacher, followed using John 15:10-13 saying, "Here are the tools we have been given to kick doubt, fear and unbelief out of the vineyard. The meeting was opened for testimony and one of the sisters related an experience that she had when she arrived to the fasting and prayer meeting that morning. When she entered the church and took her seat she saw Brother Clifton and Brother Todd and another person on the platform. She thought at first that it must be Brother Al but then she saw that he was sitting in the pews. She asked "Who is it, Lord?" Then she thought it might be Brother Cal Matthews but not seeing Sister Dorothy in the church she did not believe it could be him. Then she recognized the personage as the Spirit of God and as

she realized this fact, the Spirit began to blend in with Brother Clifton and Brother Todd. What a joy to know that God through the Holy Spirit is guiding our priesthood as they strive to bring the Word to the little flock of the Omaha-Bedford Mission.

The Saturday evening meeting closed with singing *How Great Thou Art* in English and Spanish and Brother Clifton offered the closing prayer. Sunday morning brought the brothers and sisters together again for Sunday School. The lesson was from John 14 and Ether 12:32-33. "Your gift will manifest in power if you keep His commandments." This is because he has taken up His abode in us and we have become the disciples of Jesus Christ. The lesson concluded with John 14 Verse 27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." The world knows only the peace of compromise and agreement which when broken there is no peace. But the peace that comes from Jesus Christ is unbreakable and passes all understanding.

Sunday services opened with #256, *Revive Us Again*. Sister Valarie Wells set the Sacrament table while Brother Al softly and reverently played *Is it Nothing to You* on the piano. Following Brother Todd Wright's opening prayer, he addressed the congregation using Romans 12, Paul's address to the Love that we should manifest. Brother Clifton Wells followed summarizing the book of Romans. He said, "Romans 1-5 addresses the law, Romans 6-10 addresses Israel, and Romans 11-16 addresses the Body." He exhorted us with Ephesians 6:14-18. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

A beautiful spirit reigned through-

out the serving of Sacrament and the testimony meeting that followed. *Zion's Borderline* brought the meeting to a close. The saints formed a Circle of Love and Brother Todd offered the closing prayer.

A delicious lunch was served at the church immediately after the service and the brothers and sisters continued to enjoy the sweet spirit of fellowship. Not wanting that spirit to depart and not knowing when we would meet our visiting brother and sister again, those who were able met again that evening in the home of Sister LaVerne Harris. It was a season of drawing closer together through the sharing some of the more personal aspects of our testimonies and our love of the Gospel. The final good-byes were filled with love for one another, longing for the time when we can meet again and hope that someday we will meet to part no more.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Salaried Ministry

My Dear Brethren in Christ,

I am writing you this article (in part) on Salaried Ministry with intentions that it may clarify or make plainer to you this subject that we so often discussed while I was with you; furthermore, I hope it will help you to prove to the world that salaried ministry never has been, nor is, the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

We of The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., believe in preaching the Gospel without purse or script according to the Saviour's instructions: *"Freely ye have received, freely give,"* (Matthew 10:8). The language is of supreme importance as containing the full force of both Christ's authority and example (see Faith and Doctrine No.1, Article 7). In regard to a salaried ministry, as prevailing in this age, we regard it as entirely unscriptural, having no authority whatever in Scripture, when correctly understood and applied. On the other hand, it degrades the Ministry of Christ to the level of an earthly occupation or profession, and men seek to attain proficiency therein, with precisely the same object in view, as in any other worldly business; of course they make a profession that their principal object is the salvation of man, but when men have a double object in view in a ministerial life, the one being (they think) of a spiritual character, and the other temporal. Observers know that the latter interest predominates so decidedly, that the former is almost entirely lost sight of, and man's nature is such that it cannot be otherwise (Faith and Doctrine paragraph 6, pages 14 and 15).

The question of money comes in here, in which all religious bodies should certainly exercise great care, that it shall not be an object in the performance of any religious function, especially in the matter of preaching the Gospel. As a highly respectable authority (our ancient Brother Paul), in his First Epistle to Timothy 6:10, declares, *"The love of money is the*

*root of all evil,"* and this species of love is very easily cultivated.

Our Elders (The Church of Jesus Christ) when at home, earn their living in their regular occupations, as all other honorable people are supposed to do. When they are sent away from their homes on special missions for the purpose of preaching the Gospel, their traveling expenses are paid to their field of labor, and their families are cared for (until they are called to return) by the Church.

The Saviour gave instructions to the ancient disciples, adapted exactly to these circumstances (see Luke 10th chapter), *"And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, peace be to this house: And if the Son of Peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it; if not, it shall return to you again. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give; for the laborer is worthy of his hire."* What is their hire in this case? I say their food by the plain teachings of Jesus Christ; and a man who would torture or twist the words of Jesus Christ from their legitimate meaning would steal. We are told sometimes that *"We must not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn,"* (see First Corinthians 9:9). Certainly not, but what has that to do with a Modern Hireling Ministry? Not anything. It simply proves, as before stated, *"That the laborer is worthy of his hire,"* or his food: and that only in the circumstances described and nothing farther in that line can be proven by the passage (Faith and Doctrine #1, page 14, paragraph 5).

Missionary expenses with us are provided by voluntary contributions; wherever we have a church (or what we call a branch) organized, one person therein is authorized to receive voluntary contributions from the members of that branch, or any other person inclined to assist our cause, and they are regularly required at each conference, to pay over the same and present a written account of the amount received, and so paid over. Special efforts have sometimes been made to raise money in emergencies, but we always confine ourselves to the voluntary principal. In regards to its

distribution to the families of missionaries, we made arrangements many years ago, which I am certain were just and God-like; said arrangements since made were never deviated from, nor ever will be (in regard to the principal of equality contained in them) while I live, by my consent. The Church appointed a committee of three to make arrangements on that matter, which were adopted, viz.: *"That when any Elder was sent abroad by proper authority, to preach the Gospel, his wife or other dependents should be paid by the Church the sum of four dollars per week, and also one dollar per week for each child under twelve years of age, until such time as he shall return, the amount of allowance subject to change in varying times, but always equal as to persons"* (Faith and Doctrine #1, page 15, paragraph 2, also Law and Order, page 23, paragraph 3).

In the Book of Mormon salaried ministry is referred to as priestcraft, very well defined in 2 Nephi 26: 29-31, which reads as follows, *"He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion. Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love, And except they should have charity they were nothing, Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish, But the Laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish."*

In 3 Nephi 16:10 and 21:14 to 19 the Saviour in referring to the Gentiles (in the latter days) after the Gospel would be restored and preached among them, among the many evils He condemns is also priestcraft. Please notice that priestcraft is classified among lyings, deceits, mischiefs, hypocrisy, murders, whoredoms etc. The Saviour pronounces a "Wo" upon the Gentiles except they repent of these things and if they reject the fullness of His Gospel.

Let us be reminded that the Son of God left His glory to come upon earth



to do the work which His Father gave Him to do, (John 17:4). *"Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich,"* (2 Corinthians 8:9). He came to serve and not to be served, (Luke 22:26-27). He established His Church and finally gave His life a ransom for many.

He said to His Apostles, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,"* (John 15:13). The Apostle John had this to say to his brethren, *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren,"* (John 3:16). Was the Apostle John thinking of salaried ministry when he said these words, the answer is NO!, rather he remembered the words of His Master which are, *"This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you,"* (John 15:12).

The Apostle Paul among other things tells his brethren this, *"I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel, yea ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me, I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive,"* (Acts 20:35-36). This is plain language that Paul supported himself as much as possible by working with his own hands. Paul felt the love of Christ in his soul to the extent wherein he stated, *"...and I will gladly spend and be spent for you,"* (2 Corinthians 12:15).

The Apostle Peter also in speaking to his brother Elders had this to say, *"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind,"* (1 Peter 5:2). In other words, Peter tells his brethren among the things they were not to do, they were not to do it for profit or riches, but of a ready mind. *"And their reward would be given them when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, then they will receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away,"* (verse 4).

In conclusion Jesus said, *"If a*

*man love me he will keep my words and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings; and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me,"* (John 14:23-24).

To all who read let me add that if we love the Lord we will keep His words and examples. The Church of Jesus Christ is, of which I am a minister, proud to state that our ministers work with their hands to support themselves, their families, etc., and to support the work of the Church. Much more could be written about salaried ministry but it sufficeth what I have written to prove that it is an evil thing before our God. Finally we, The Church of Jesus Christ, believe the church of Christ in this age (in order to be worthy of the name) must be molded substantially and minutely after the pattern left us by Christ, that any important variation positively betrays a false origin and clearly exhibits a spurious character, of which all men should be aware, (Faith and Doctrine #1, article 5).

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## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Anyone who wants to be a missionary will learn from his example of determination and dedication.

The Church of Jesus Christ has had many inspiring examples of spirited missionaries who have given their best for the promulgation of the gospel. At the present time, we have many brothers and sisters who are involved with carrying the Restored Gospel to many different parts of the world with unselfish dedication. We must hold up their hands by prayer and fasting.

Is it your desire to do missionary work? Where will you begin? Are there any of your family or friends who have not yet obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ? They may be waiting for you to give them an invitation! They need to

hear the message of the gospel as much as anyone else. You can start by talking to them about what you have found and feel. Souls are precious in the eyes of God no matter who they are or where they may be. Give them the invitation to come and hear. You will be blessed as a Missionary! Think of the words of *Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling*, Hymn #303 in the *Saints Hymnal*:

*"Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white, and harvest's waiting,  
Who will bear the sheaves away?  
Loud and long the Master calleth,  
Rich reward He offers free;  
Who will answer gladly saying,  
Here am I, O Lord send me?  
If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all;  
If you fail to rouse the wicked,  
With the judgment's dread alarms,  
You many lead the little children  
To the Saviour's waiting arms.  
If you cannot be the watchman,  
Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
Off'ring life and peace to all;  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
You can do what heav'n demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet's hand."*

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

that will bring forth a Choice Seer. Nephi could have fought back, killed them, or even shocked them to death. His forgiveness allowed the great plan of God to go forth.

And we too, must forgive others who mistakenly or on purpose, harm us. God knows all and sees all. Forgiveness allowed a new nation to be born. Forgiveness keeps this Church alive and powerful. Ask God to give you the wise heart that forgives.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their cards, flowers, gifts and kind remembrances at the time of my wife's passing.

Brother Alex Robinson

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Matthew Gehly and Sister Tabitha Nardozzi were united in holy matrimony in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on January 5, 2002.

## Ordinations

Brother Timothy Gehly was ordained an Elder on December 16, 2001 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Joel Gehly and he was ordained by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother James Calabro was ordained an Elder on December 16, 2001 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Rick Calabro and he was ordained by Brother Joe Benyola.

Brother Mario Morales was ordained an Elder on December 16, 2001 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Crudup and he was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Children Blessed

Javon Nathaniel Spruill, son of Sister Sheneisha Spruill, was blessed in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on January 20, 2002.

## OBITUARIES

### LOUISE (ELSIE) ROBINSON

Sister Louise (Elsie) Robinson of the St. John, Kansas Mission, passed onto her reward on November 22, 2002. She is survived by her husband, Brother Alex Robinson; three daughters, Madelyn Bales, Alicia Risko, Sister Marietta Schroeder; and four sons, Brothers David, Charles, Paul and Stephen Robinson; twelve grandchildren and one great-grandson.

## Salaried Ministry

Continued from Page 11

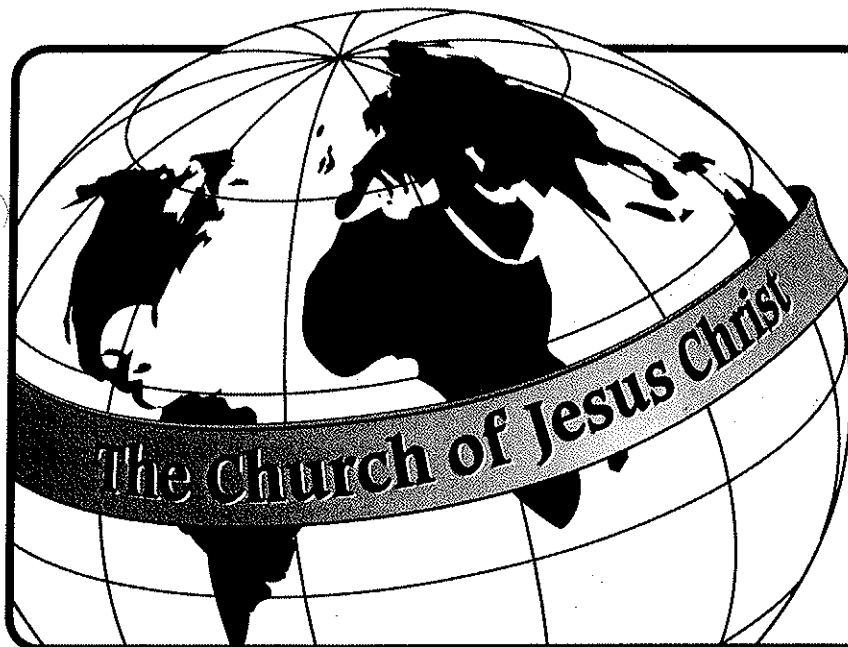
We believe there has been a gross and widespread apostasy among men from the true order and doctrine of the early church as set up by the Saviour. We believe that this apostasy from the true Gospel was so widespread and complete and general, that man himself was utterly unable to provide a remedy, (Faith and Doctrine #1, article 18).

Therefore it was necessary for God to intervene by bringing about a Restoration of the Gospel of Christ in the latter ages of time, in the hour of God's Judgements. See Revelations 14:6-7, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the Everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgement is come, and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water."

As the Gospel was given freely to the Apostles, the Apostles gave it freely to the world, and because of the apostasy, paid ministry came into existence. And as the Gospel has been restored and given to us again by God via the angel freely, we give it to the world freely.

God bless you, I am your Brother in Christ,  
Elder John Ross

(This letter was written by Evangelist John Ross, Sr., deceased, some thirty years ago to the Brothers in Nigeria, The Church of Jesus Christ - Editor's note).



# The Gospel News

May, 2002

Volume 58, No. 5

## Message from the Apostles

Greetings to our Brothers, Sisters and Friends in Christ,

The apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ salute you in His glorious gospel.

Through the restoration of the gospel and the authority given to the Church by Jesus Christ we have enjoyed God's blessings when we follow His commandments. We have seen many healings and experienced the "peace that passeth all natural understanding" living in these spiritually exciting and also troubling days.

We are in the midst of conflicting worldwide political, economic and evil religious ideas that continue to threaten the peace and safety of the world. As you know the United States of America suffered a great loss of life within our borders for the first time in our history from terrorist acts in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania, including those who were exposed to anthrax. As fellow citizens we were moved upon to petition God to help the thousands of families that were directly affected. We are grateful for your prayers for all who were affected by these tragedies. We also thank you for responding to our request to fast and pray for the leadership of our country. God has answered our prayers to a degree. Now we see an immediate and ongoing need to cry out again in mighty fasting and prayer by the entire membership for the world in general as we enter into the year 2002 so that afflictions and terrorist activity will be eradicated.

By virtue of the restored gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ we have faith and hope that we will continue to enjoy the blessings of love, peace and healing amongst our members. Therefore let us petition God not only during times of adverse conditions but cry out to Him at all times. As Alma said, "Therefore, blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble."

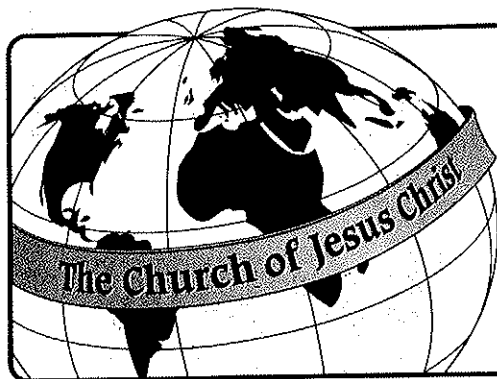
Moreover, it is very important to fast and pray more often throughout the year that God will increase our love for one another and that He will send His healing power upon the Church in greater measure than ever before. The Bible and Book of Mormon teach us that peace comes through love.

May God's richest blessings and peace rest upon every family in the Church and the world as well is our prayer.

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles  
Brother Joseph Lovalvo, President

General Church  
Brother Dominic Thomas, President

Apostles: Russell Cadman, Quorum Vice President; Paul Benyola, Quorum Secretary; Paul Palmieri, First Counselor General Church; Thomas Liberto, Second Counselor General Church; V. James Lovalvo, Joseph Bittinger, Joseph Calabrese, Peter Scolaro and Issac Smith.



## A message from the Seventy

### Dominica

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti*

It had been nine months since the last visit so the brothers and sisters of Dominica were very happy to be visited once again by Church missionaries. Brothers Jerry Valenti and Paul Ciotti, Sr. traveled to Dominica from February 22-26 to renew contacts, hold a communion service with the members and seek God's will in moving the Church forward in that land.

As has been reported previously, the primary focus of the Church in Dominica is among the Carib Indians who live in a section of land known as the Carib Territory. The brothers once again visited with several families in the Carib Territory and even received an invitation to attend a special conference which was being held on Sunday evening (more on that later).

Brother Raphael Auguiste, who lives in Concord with his family, spent a good bit of time with the brothers, bringing them around the territory. Brother Raphael is currently building an addition onto his home. One reason is that he and his wife, Sister Helena, have five sons so they will be needing the additional space. But another compelling reason is that it is their sincere desire to be able to have the visiting brothers and sisters from the United States stay at their home some day instead of having to go to a motel. Based on the progress being made, it would appear to be an attainable goal.

Sister Helena, as always, was a perfect hostess, preparing special

meals for the brothers and making them feel at home. Brother Terri Auguiste, the oldest of the five sons at age 16, is in his first year of college (the school years line up differently than they do in the U.S.) and communicates pretty regularly by e-mail with other young people in the Church.

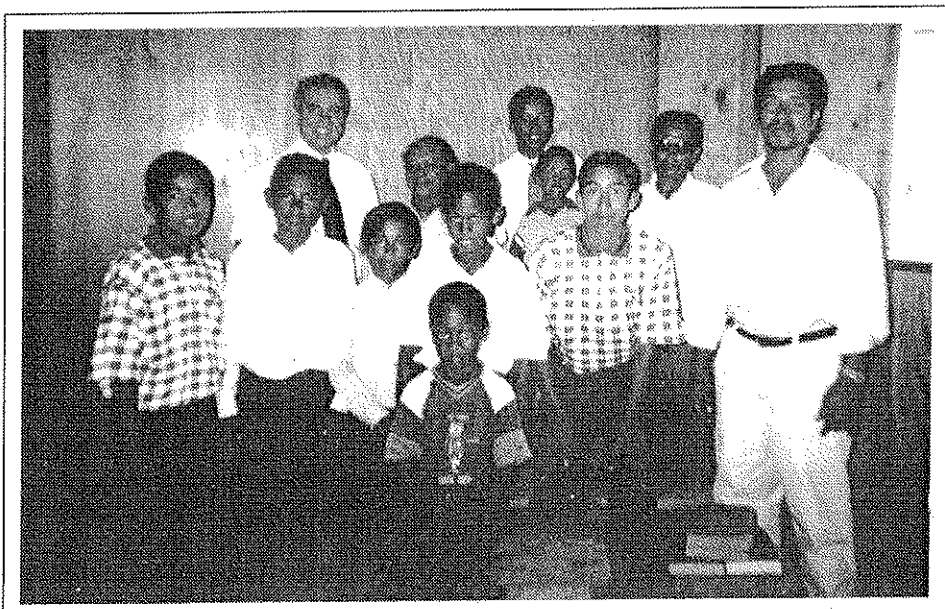
#### OTHER MEMBERS

The other members of the Church in Dominica are Brother Malcolm and Sister Kathleen JnoLewis, who live in Bataca. They were unable to attend the Sunday service this time but the brothers visited them in their home. Sister Kathleen is afflicted and in quite a bit of pain. She was anointed and noticed that she was feeling quite a bit better as each day went by after that. Sister Kathleen, formerly a school

teacher and recently promoted to school principal, was very excited to receive the gift of a "Hooked on Phonics" set from Sister Sandy Smith in the United States as this will be very helpful to the children in her school.

A home meeting was held on Saturday evening. The singing of the brothers and sisters and young people filled the house and was heard throughout the Concord neighborhood. Questions from the membership were answered and suggestions were generated on how to move the Church forward in Dominica. A request was made for scriptural training to be made available on audio cassette so the members can get together for scripture study on their own with the teaching from the ministry available on demand. The Dominica Committee will be looking into making these types of cassettes available to them.

It was also mentioned that the Church needs to look for ways to help the Carib people in order to be accepted in the territory. Of particular interest was the possible establishment of a center to counsel victims of drug and alcohol abuse, possibly similar to the one operated by Brother Panfilo DiCenzo in the United States. This and other suggestions were written down to be followed up on in the future.



Brothers and young people of Dominica with Evangelist Jerry Valenti.

## SUNDAY MEETING

The Sunday meeting was held in Concord because of the amount of planning going on for the special Carib conference, several of the usual attendees were not available for the Sunday service. However, a good spirit was felt by those who were in attendance and the members received communion for the first time in quite a while.

On Sunday evening, Brothers Jerry and Paul attended a pre-conference session of the Carib conference. Discussion groups were set up to allow the Carib people to identify problems and concerns in various

areas as well as potential solutions. Although the discussion groups were intended for the Carib people, the brothers felt prompted to participate so they entered the room and joined one of the circles. It turned out that the focus of that particular group was "Health" and one of the primary problems identified by the group during the discussion was the high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse among the Carib people! When the brothers were offered the opportunity to speak, they described the type of center which could potentially be established on the Carib Territory to deal with this problem. The modera-

tor of the group, who is a coordinator of health services for the territory, stated that she felt that this was the answer to her prayer. The brothers met with this woman on Tuesday morning and will remain in contact to see whether something can be done along these lines.

The brothers returned home on February 26, encouraged that God appears to be making His will known for the work in Dominica. There is much work to be done but hopefully the brothers and sisters who have dedicated themselves to this effort will be used by God to help the Church move forward in that land.

## "Labor for the Lord"

*By Sister Lorraine Rose*

**"I have told you to go and preach my word saith the Lord God of Hosts: Therefore you must go to the right and to the left, to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south. You must do your part and I will do my part, go and the gifts and blessings shall go with you"** (tongues spoken by Brother Joseph Astin and interpreted by Brother John Dixon at Wheeling, West Virginia, November 8, 1861, *The Church History*, page 32).

This was the theme for this wonderful weekend Feb. 2 and 3, 2002 at the Forest Hills Branch, Holiday, Florida for the AMOC Annual Conference. The Committees for the various missionary works taking place, met for meetings commencing on Saturday. We had an open meeting Saturday evening and received the Lord's blessings as the representatives of the mission's spoke of the work being done in the Americas.

The countries being represented were: Colombia – Brother Alan Metzler and Brother Robert Nicklow Jr.; Dominica – Brother Jerry Valenti, Brother Carl Huttenberger and Sister Cheryl Cervone; Guatemala – Brother Dennis Moraco, Brother George Kovacic and Sister Karen

Progar; Mexico – Brother Joseph Ciarolla, Brother Pete Gianetti Jr. and Brother Sam Hemmings; Native American Outreach – Brother Larry Watson, Brother Tom Everett and Brother Tim Scolaro; New Works – Brother Paul Palmieri, Brother Isaac Smith and Brother Carl Huttenberger Jr.; Peru – Brother Miguel Bicelis, Brother Richard Christman and Sister Marie Cihomsky; Venezuela – Brother Don Ross, Brother Fred Olexa and Brother Bryan Griffith.

The brothers spoke of the interest of our youth to get involved in the missionary work and how wonderful it is that they want to be able to help in this work. Several questions were addressed with the congregation's participation, relating how the Lord has blessed those going to various countries and the people who live there. The hunger for the Lord in those countries is so great that the Lord has directed our people to bring forth His gospel to them.

The Sunday service was devoted, to the visiting brothers and sisters that felt the inspiration to speak to us. After opening the meeting with song and prayer, Brother Pete Gianetti sang the hymn *My Tribute*, after which the young brothers sang, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*.

Representing the AMOC were Brother Paul Liberto, Chairman; Brother Richard Christman, Vice-Chairman; Brother Jerry Morle,

Secretary; and Brother Isaac D. Smith, Apostle Liaison, as well as each country representative.

Brother Paul Liberto read from I Nephi 18:1-6, when Nephi was instructed to build a ship, not by man's way, but the way the Lord so instructed him to do so. There is much reference to guide us in doing the Lord's work both in the Book of Mormon and the Bible as well as by the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit.

Brother Larry Watson followed, reading I Nephi 15:13, "And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed."

When the spirit of the missionary work is strong in the branch, it is strong in the field.

Sister Cindy spoke concerning the importance of women in helping spread the gospel to the people. The seeds must be planted to bring forth fruit. We must remain faithful to see

(Continued on Page 4)

## Labor for the Lord

Continued from Page 3

the blessings abound.

Brother Jerry Valenti told us that God blesses our efforts and uses people at any age to show the way. His daughter had a dream concerning people that were lined up from their house to Kentucky. When asked what they were lined up for, they said they were waiting to see Jesus. It was a puzzle at the time. Prior to the dream, his wife had been trying to locate some of her family members and having a difficult time of it. Shortly after, she located one of her sisters living in Ft. Knox, Kentucky. By the end of 2001, she had located all her sisters, thus rejoicing in the Lord. When we put things in God's hands, nothing is too great for Him. He provides for us according to our faith.

Brother Miguel Bicelis read I Nephi 18:6, "And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had prepared all things, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children." We need to support our branches and do our part. We need to bring meat to the Church, bring honey to use to feed the people of God and plant seeds to bear the fruit.

Brother John Genaro elaborated on the scripture brought forth, concerning the Lord showing Nephi exactly how to build the ship. Today we are building a ship by the inspiration of God, to bring the people to Zion. God will bring Israel home.

Brother Bob Nicklow said that we don't know what the future has in store for us. Those that are true, steadfast and sure, will reap the promises of the Lord. We should never give up.

Communion was served in remembrance of Jesus as we meditated upon His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.

Our meeting was brought to a close by singing *Praise God From*

*Whom All Blessings Flow*, and Brother Richard Christman offered the closing prayer. No matter where we go, we have the love and support of our spiritual family. It was a blessed weekend filled with information concerning God's never-ending work.

## RMOC Meeting in Mid-Georgia

The RMOC met in Mid-Georgia for their business meeting on January 26, 2002. It was a wonderful time to conduct business and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. After our business was finished, we had a wonderful meal provided by the Mid-Georgia Mission.

The evening service conducted by the Region Quorum of Seventy was devoted mostly to singing by various groups throughout the area. The meeting was being brought to a close at 8:30 PM when the windows of heaven were opened wide. Someone asked for prayer and the Spirit of God overwhelmed the brothers of the Ministry with the spirit of prayer and singing as the congregation joined in. We were led by the Spirit to continue until 9:30 PM as several others requested prayer for a closer walk with the Lord. As the meeting was brought to a close our cups were filled to overflowing when we least expected it.

On Sunday we gathered together in unity with anticipation to hear the word of God delivered to us by the Priesthood. We were not disappointed as the word was delivered by the inspiration of the Spirit of God to the edification of everyone. Just before sacrament was to be served the Ministry attended to an anointing and the heavens opened wide again. The same spirit that prevailed the evening before began to bless us again. Several asked to be anointed and hymns of praise were sung to the glory of God for His tender care of the saints. There were some who were not doing their duty as saints of God who came down into the spirit of repentance and asked for the

Ministry to lay hands upon them to be renewed in spirit. After the anointings, the Spirit of God led us to join hands and offer a prayer to bind us together in unity and the love of God before sacrament.

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MOTHER'S  
DAY





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers" (Deuteronomy 8:1).*

God swore he would give Israel the bountiful land of Caanan. Moses exhorted Israel to keep the commandments of God, and to continue living (multiplying, etc.) and when the time was right, they would go in and take the land of Caanan. This actually happened. Unfortunately, those who started the journey into the wilderness never lived to see Israel take possession of Caanan, but their children did. Moses went on in this beautiful chapter to remind Israel of how the Lord humbled and tested them in the wilderness to see whether or not they would keep His commandments. God chastened them as a man would chasten his son, but still provided food, water, clothing and all their needs. God provided these things only after they were brought down in humility, to show Israel that they must depend completely on Him.

What an amazing type and shadow this is to our day and time! We in The Church of Jesus Christ are looking forward to possessing this land of America for the righteous sake once again. This Peaceful Reign, or Zion, is like the buds of a fig tree; ready to bloom. We are, like Israel, at the shores of the river Jordan, ready to cross into Caanan, a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil, and honey; of bread without scarceness. This bounty we await is more spiritual than natural, although in Zion, I'm sure God will bless this land with even greater natural bounty as well.

But like Israel, we too are being tested before we can go in to possess the land. The decree of Moses to Israel in that day, is the same decree for us today. We must observe all the commandments of God to an even greater extent than ever before. In order to reach that higher spiritual ground, a "chastening" must occur, just like it did to Israel. Sickness, problems, obstacles, etc., has touched us all. Each time, it has brought us to our knees and we find ourselves communing more closely with the Lord. This is why we should never view problems in our lives as the Lord "leaving" us, but instead realize the opposite is true. Problems in our lives allow the Lord the opportunity to bring us closer to Him. God is purifying us, pruning us, weeding out sin, all because He loves us like a father and wants to give us the land He has promised. Those who were alive at the beginning of the Restoration are gone now, but we the children have the opportunity to go in and "possess the land." How marvelous and exciting!

Let us live closer to Jesus. He is not an angry schoolmaster or prison guard. He is not our enemy. He is our friend. We will never find a friend as faithful, forgiving, understanding, empathetic, sympathetic or loving as He is. Each time we break the commandments of God or view our blessings as a result of our own doing, we insult and hurt Him. When we put Him second, it is like putting Him last. He should be first in everything we do. We should want to go to church, not look for ways to stay home. We should be full of good works, not too tired from our natural labors to do anything for God. We should be quick to be a peacemaker, to show love to someone, to set a holy example of purity. We should demonstrate true charity; not do things for others because we expect something in return. We should not murmur and complain about our problems, but realize our problems bring us closer to Him. We should remember, like Israel, that God has provided our every need, and by His power, we will go in and possess the land for the righteous sake. *"Won't it be pretty there in early spring?"* Ah yes, it will be.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes we complain. We think life is hard, or we have moments of jealousy that we don't have as many toys or things that someone else does. But laws that send people to jail for hurting others protect us. We have food, warm houses, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Can you imagine what it would be like to leave everything behind and flee (go quickly) to the wilderness because God told you to? What would you eat every day without cans or refrigerators, or grocery stores? What would you do if guns weren't invented to protect you and you only had sticks or bows and arrows to fight off animals up close, or kill them for food?

How would you carry enough water to drink? How would you build a campfire without matches? Jacob's family had to eat raw meat often, so the Lord touched it and it tasted sweet for them. Everything you needed would have to be carried on your back. What would you bring? How would you wade or swim across rivers where there were no bridges?

What if you were carrying your mother's newest baby on your back because she was older and you were younger and stronger? Can you imagine constantly watching out for a tiny, curious child so he did not touch spiders or poisonous plants, fall off a cliff or wander off?

Jacob was that tiny baby carried on someone's back. His older father Lehi was a prophet of God who was warned to take his family, a man named Zoram and the big family of their friend, Ishmael, and leave the city



and their riches behind. Jacob was born in the wilderness.

Jacob's four older brothers were young men when he was born. Some of them had married and had babies at the same time he was a toddler. Can you imagine how it felt to a little child to see the hate and anger of part of his brothers against the others?

In the ship coming over to the Americas, Laman and Lemuel and the others hurt Nephi and tied him up. Their parents, Lehi and Sarah, were so heart struck over their sons that they nearly died. Little Jacob cried with Nephi's wife and children begging them to stop but they wouldn't listen. Finally, God sent a powerful storm, and then they freed their good brother Nephi. Jacob never forgot God's power.

Jacob grew up thanking God for all He had done for them. He chose to live with Nephi and the people who loved God. As he grew, he constantly prayed for his relatives that hated him. In his late 20's, he became an elder and teacher in the temple (church) Nephi built.

It is written that he had seen angels that helped him and heard the voice of the Lord. He had many revelations and the spirit of prophecy. He was so close to God that he truly could "command in the name of Jesus and the trees,

or the mountains, or the waves of the sea would obey him" (Jacob 4). He loved his people; he fought wars for their freedom.

As a wise man in his 50's, Nephi gave him the plates of metal to record on and asked him to guide the Church. We can see how this little boy raised in the wilderness, became a loving and powerful man of God. He never complained; he prayed. He said "Our lives pass away like a dream . . . but I hope many of my brothers may read my words."

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

JACOB	TWO
WAS	BROTHERS
BORN	NEPHI
IN	YES
THE	SAM
WILDERNESS	LOVED
HIS	GOD
MOTHER	LAMAN
WAS	LEMUEL
OLD	NO
SOMEONE	MANY
CARRIED	WARS
HIM	RUN

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B	O	R	N	O	R	U	E	I	E
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J	I	G	N	S	N	W	L	N	R
W	A	S	R	E	H	T	O	M	B



## A Weekend in Harrison, Michigan

*By Sister Rachael Natoli*

The Great Lakes Area MBA made a trip to the Harrison Mission the weekend of February 9 and 10th, 2002. We enjoyed the fellowship of the saints from the various branches and missions around the region, including Harrison, with a total of about 40 in attendance. Saturday many of the brothers and sisters drove towards Harrison and spent the day skiing or tubing with the saints. That evening was spent together at the hotel enjoying each other's company. Early the next morning we all headed for the Harrison building amidst a mild snowstorm. After reaching our destination, we enjoyed a morning that was filled with love and blessings from the brothers and sisters.

After a few songs Brother Tom Everett opened the meeting by asking Sister Rosanne and Brother Larry Champine to sing *We're Getting Ready for a Wedding*. After the song, Brother Tom began by quoting Revelation 19:7-9 when John talks about a wedding and the clean and white garments. Then following he referenced Matthew 22, the parable of a certain king who made a marriage for his son and sent forth servants who invited both good and bad. Despite this, none are good enough to meet the standards of God except through the way and mode of baptism. He then referenced Genesis 3:7; Adam and Eve were given one commandment which they broke. When they realized they were naked, they covered themselves with fig leaves. After the consequences of their disobedience, the Lord clothed them. If you were invited to a wedding, you were given a garment. The Lord provided the blessing, the stain remover is the Blood of Christ.

The garment is made available whether you are good or bad. Someday there will be a wedding and you cannot rely on the fig leaves to cover yourself. You need the garment that was provided by the shedding of the blood of the Lord.

Brother Frank Natoli followed and relayed a dream that he had the night before, confirming Brother Tom's message. He opened to Matthew 22:14, "For many are called, but few are chosen." All are given the opportunity but it is our decision to put on the garment. We do not want a stained garment before the Lord! For each time you ask, He will always remove the stains in your garment.

Brother Larry Champine followed speaking about a cure for sin that the Lord offers us. God says that we are born in the flesh, and that he has offered His Son. Repent of your sins, go to the waters of regeneration, and be baptized with hands laid upon you. Everyone has this opportunity, and those who have received it, must maintain it. It has been offered to us by a great sacrifice. We know the "cure" for the natural man, but by following the Word of God through Jesus Christ, we will find a spiritual cure.

After sacrament was administered we had a beautiful testimony service in which a sister related that as Brother Tom asked if he had missed anyone that she felt her heart pounding, that she could not help but feel love for those who were not yet baptized. She expressed that she wanted them to have what we as the saints of God share – the blessings of the Lord. Sister Lucy Tagliamonte then expressed herself, with asking for a special prayer for those who were passed by not partaking in the Lord's Supper. Brother Lyle Criscuolo conveyed that the message this morning stirred his heart. "What is keeping you from putting on the garment? Your work? Your family? You cannot clean anyone else's garment, but your own. Declare you want the uniform of righteousness." The meeting was truly a blessing. We all hope that one day all those in the room who were passed by, will be able to reap the benefits of a clean garment.

## Notice – Youth in Action Dates for 2002

The Youth in Action Committee has finalized the dates for the 2002 tours. The four activities for this year are as follows:

1. **ITALY** – Due to very high airfare costs within the country of Italy, the Italy committee has decided not to have a campout in Italy this year. However, Youth in Action will still have a tour in Italy which will consist of weekend conferences on consecutive weekends in Northern and Southern Italy as well as visits to many of the church families in Italy. The dates for the tour will be May 30 through June 11.

2. **MEXICO** – The dates for this tour will be June 15-23 and will take place in the Sinaloa area of Mexico. The Mexico committee has decided to schedule the Mexican Conference for the final weekend of the tour so the tour participants will enjoy considerable exposure to our Mexican brothers and sisters.

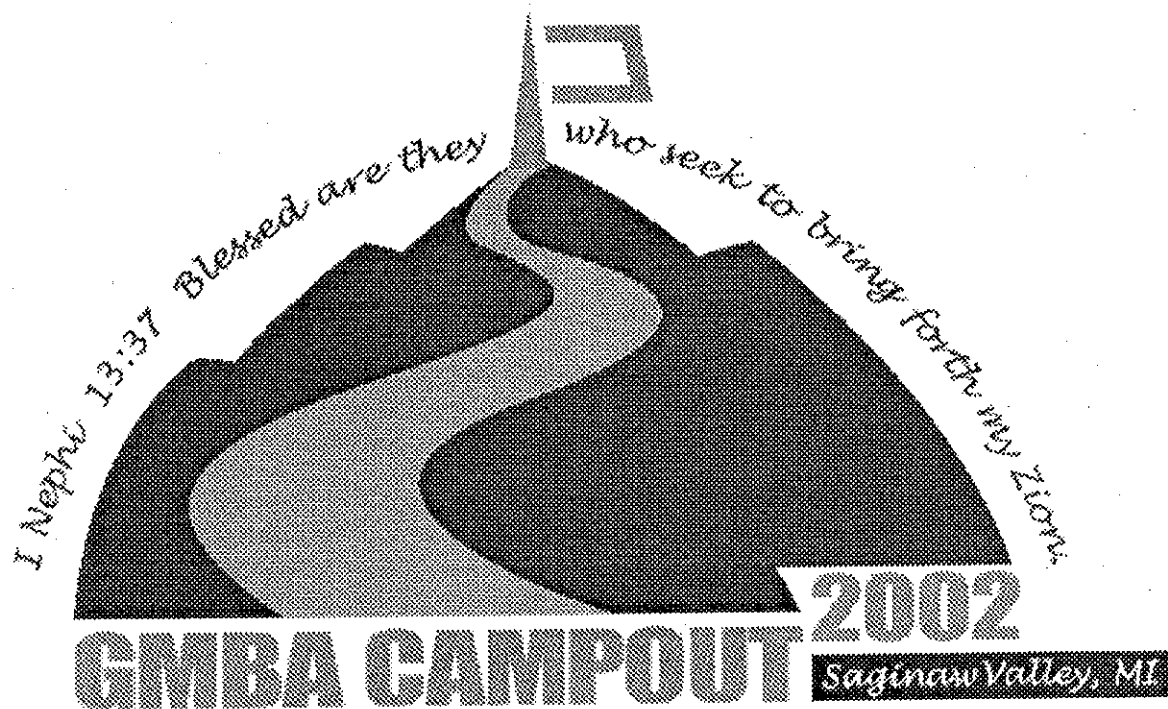
*Note:* For the two international tours (Italy and Mexico), participants must be 18 years of age or older. Younger participants may only attend if accompanied by at least one parent.

3. **MUNCEY** – This tour will begin shortly after the GMBA Campout, either with the Sunday meeting of July 14 or later that day. July 15-18 will be spent on the Muncey reserve and July 19-21 will be the Native American Conference.

4. **CINCINNATI / KENTUCKY** – Cincinnati has a new building and Kentucky has a new mission. YIA participants will try to promote these new activities during the week of July 20-28. Depending on the number of participants, we will either have the one team spend time in both locations or we will form two teams, each of which would focus on one of the locations with some joint activities.

(Continued on Page 8)

**The Church of Jesus Christ**  
**GMBA Camp 2002**  
**July 6-12, 2002**  
**Saginaw Valley State University**  
**Saginaw, MI**



See the GMBA Campout website at: [www.gmbacampout.org](http://www.gmbacampout.org) for more information.

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**Youth in Action Dates for 2002**

Continued from Page 7

Here is a summary of tours, dates and coordinators:

	Dates	Coordinator
Italy	May 30 - June 11	Sister Dee Nuzzi (330-652-6360)
Mexico	June 15-23	Brother Tom P. Liberto (858-566-9407)
Muncey	July 14-21	Brother Larry Watson (505-371-5500)
Cincinnati	July 20-28	Brother Jerry Valenti (215-702-9591)

Applications will be mailed to the branches next week along with posters. Applications may also be obtained electronically from YIA Secretary Brother David Lovalvo ([david.lovallvo@sisconet.com](mailto:david.lovallvo@sisconet.com)). Completed applications should also be returned to Brother David, either via e-mail or to the address indicated on the form. Note that the deadlines for applications are April 20 for Italy and Mexico and May 31 for Muncey and Cincinnati.

Please pray along with us that all YIA participants, young and old, visitors and hosts, will be blessed by this year's activities and that the young people will continue to grow spiritually and that this program will continue to be a blessing to the Church.

Brother Jerry Valenti  
Youth in Action Chairman

## Southeast Region Conference

The Southeast Regional Conference took place at the Forest Hills Branch in Holiday, FL the weekend of Feb. 16, 17, 2002. The business commenced on Saturday morning and continued into the afternoon. Saturday night we had an open meeting. The newly appointed officers were introduced: Brother Sam Risola, Region President; Brother George Kovacic, First Counselor and Brother Ron Morle, Second Counselor. The meeting was devoted to singing hymns of praise and hearing from a few sisters involved with the Ladies' Circle. The branches that sang included Atlanta and Mid-Georgia, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*; Miami-Dade, *He Changed My Life*; Forest Hills, *Because He Lives*; Ladies' Circle representatives, *It Is No Secret*.

Sister Joann Romano, Regional President of the Ladies' Circle, spoke a few words concerning the work the sisters in the Circle do and what they have accomplished over the years. The aim of the Ladies' Circle is to assist in the Church and missionary work. They promote closeness among the sisters by reading scripture, discussions, helping with problems, prayers and sometimes advice. They have two area meetings per year, one being a Spiritual Gathering (this will be held March 16, 2002 in Lake Worth). The Circle is a source of strength not only

among the sisters, but also to the work of the Church. Sisters Betty Gennaro and Kathy Kirshenpfad also spoke a few words of the wonderful work the Ladies' Circle does for so many and how rewarding it is.

The Conference continued Sunday morning with the singing of hymns, including our young brothers singing *The Valleys Are Green, Sir*. The meeting opened with the hymn, *Jesus, Use Me*, which led to the theme of the day. Brother Richard Santilli offered opening prayer. Apostle Paul Benyola, Apostle Ike Smith, Sr. (Region Representatives) and visiting Apostle Tom Liberto were among the many gathered here for this conference.

Brother Tom Liberto opened the meeting and spoke of how we can stand for Jesus and let Him use us. Many seeds are planted throughout the Church with visitors seeking the true Gospel. We don't know where the Lord will lead us. We have to be ready when we ask the Lord to use us. When we go in faith, God will be there. He read from 2nd Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." We must be diligent in our service to God. Brother Tom also read Joshua 1:6, "...be strong and of a good courage..." and also Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or

the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We shall follow from our forefathers who stood on the promise of God. The Gospel will go out to the seed of Joseph and to foreign countries. This is possible with God's help. There are many ways to stand for the Lord: testimony, missionary work, and branch support for all work. We have the Lord behind us, "...upon this Rock, I will build MY church..." The hope of the world is Jesus. He provided in Lehi's time and He provides today, but we also have to do something. As a group, we can show the world the Gospel. Thank God for the senior members that kept steadfast for us and thank God for the youth that will follow us and keep this Gospel going.

Brother Ike Smith, Sr. continued by saying he had the song, *Jesus Use Me* come to him yesterday. We are a family of God. He spoke of Jared and his brother. It is time to go forward—He'll use us.

Brother Paul Benyola also spoke a few words and also thanked God for healing Erika Rooney. He prays for her daily. Erika has had several medical conditions (she is 3 1/2) and the Lord has cleansed her of these illnesses that she suffered through.

Brothers Paul Benyola, Gene Perri, Tom Liberto, Miguel Bicelis, Tom Jones, Scott Griffith, Ron Morle, and Sam Risola sang *Do You Know My Jesus and His Name is Wonderful*.

What a wonderful spirit prevails when we unite together in His name.



### Ordination in Miami, FL.

By Sister Betty Gennaro

On Sunday, March 3, 2002, Brother Justin Onorato, was ordained a Deacon in the Miami-Dade Mission. He transferred here from the Maine Mission a year ago. Our Presiding

Elder, Brother George Kovacic, welcomed everyone, including Brother Justin's parents, Brother Darryl and Sister Kathy Onorato of Maine. "Our liberty comes from Jesus Christ. When we do the Lord's work in preaching, teaching and praying, we are helping to build up the Kingdom of God." The duties of a Deacon were then read. Brother Miguel Bicelis continued—Deacons and Deaconesses are called of God. The things of God are not done by might or strength, they are done by the Spirit of God. The Church of Jesus Christ was organized by God and He

called all the officers.

Brother Justin's feet were washed by Brother George Katsaras. Brother Dennis Moraco offered the prayer before ordination. Brother Justin was then ordained by his father, Brother Darryl Onorato. The Spirit of God prevailed strongly as our brother was ordained. We then sang *The Valleys Are Green, Sir* from the *Songs of Zion*. Continuing the service, Brother Darryl thanked God more for His Spirit today, than for the ordination. We are all the

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## Ordination in Miami, FL

Continued from Page 9

children of God. Those called are not just of good report, but have the Spirit of God. Most important is our calling on the day of our baptism. Not only are we His children, but we are His friends. Ordained officers have a difficult job serving the Spiritual needs of the Church. He has chosen us to be His servants. Most important is to love one another. He doesn't give us something to do, and then let us alone. He is there to help us. Ask God sincerely – Is this the true Church of Jesus Christ? Allow His Spirit to answer and work in your lives.

Brother Dennis Moraco expressed his joy to see another person step up and work for the Lord. He read the first verse in The Book of Mormon, regarding Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, and taught in the learning of his father. Though highly favored of the Lord, he endured many afflictions. Our walk with the Lord is sometimes difficult, but through these afflictions, we experience the goodness of God when we walk in the attitude of service, as we walk through life. I am convinced today, that through the power of the Holy Ghost, I am committed. I have experienced the power of forgiveness. How wonderful it is today to be in the service of Jesus Christ.

Brother Miguel Bicelis continued from 1 Nephi 3:7 “For I know that the Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.” God requires only a broken heart and a contrite spirit. He gives us a commandment to repent and be baptized. He has prepared a way that we may follow Him. His spirit tells us to get rid of everything that keeps us from God. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way.

Brother Milford Eutsey, Forest Hills Branch, spoke on “compassion.” Where your heart is, that is your treasure. God looked into the heart of Joseph, David, and Saul. He looks into the heart of those called in the Church, and called into offices. Don't

let your own vision get in the way of your spiritual site. Watch the way we walk and talk. We need to be strong. These are the last days and we will see wonderful things, but our hearts have to be right. Let your heart, your treasure, be in Jesus Christ. The service was closed by singing *The Standard of Liberty*.

A dream was related after the ordination that Brother Justin Severson had to confirm the calling of Brother Justin: We were all gathering into a meeting place and Brother Miguel Bicelis was up front. It was a large group of people, unorganized, and moving in various ways. Brother Miguel said, “Let us all gather together while our Deacon, Brother Justin Onorato brings us in.”

## Lake Worth, FL News

By Sister Josie Jasmin

As we gathered together for our mid-week service, it was with great anticipation for what the Lord had in store for us. This was our respite from our daily work schedules. Our lesson was in Acts, chap. 16. Brother Gene Perri taught the lesson this evening which was spirit filled and indeed good instruction for each one present. We learned how the churches were established in faith, and increased in great numbers daily. We learned how the apostle Paul was used by God to spread the gospel throughout his travels. Of how Paul was a visionary man and did cast out devils. And how he took Timothy and many of the other disciples under his wings for instruction. We received blessings for our souls this evening much more than was expected. I quote the 17th verse in thanksgiving to our Lord, “Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Sunday, February 24th, the spirit met us as we gathered together for worship and praise. Brother Mike Radd opened the service, he read from

Alma chapter 17. Brother Mike expounded on the importance of reading and searching the scriptures. The word of God being the most important thing in our lives. Alma and the four sons of Mosiah had both the authority and power to preach the gospel to the people. They gave themselves unto much fasting and prayer, and, were given the spirit of revelation. Brother Mike said how we need the youth of the church in this day also to carry on the work of the gospel.

Once again we were filled to capacity with the love of God and the wonderful word of life.

## Doing the Lord's Work

By Brother John Bourdeaux and Sister Sylvia Smith

The Lord has given us a desire to visit with the saints whenever possible, especially those who cannot get to church because of physical infirmities.

On February 9, 2002, Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. and some of the saints from Herndon, Virginia visited with Sister Marie Prescott. Brother Art opened the meeting with prayer and was followed by singing some of the sister's favorite hymns. He then read and explained the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, emphasizing to us that truly “The Lord is our shepherd we shall not want.” We then bore our testimony with Sister Marie thanking the Lord for the many blessings he has given her. She related how she was immediately healed as a child after Brother Joe Corrado anointed her. She had scarlet fever with a very high temperature, and her skin was peeling off. Brother Joe asked the Lord to remove the affliction from her and it was done. She was never bothered by the problem again. (See page 145 of the Church history.)

Sister Marie has been invited to other churches, with transportation provided, but told us she belonged to The Church of Jesus Christ for approximately 70 years, and will not go elsewhere. Her faith is strong and enduring.



Brother Art anointed Sister Marie and administered sacrament. Sister Iva Bordeaux then washed Sister Marie's feet.

The meeting was closed with prayer and the hymn *God Be With You*. We did not want to leave, because the presence of the Lord in our midst was so very strong.

A week later Brother George Timms and two sisters visited Sister Esther Andrews, a pillar in our branch, who resides in a nursing home in Leonardtown, Maryland. The visit rekindled many happy memories. There was singing of hymns, prayer and reminiscing about the early years when the branch was only a mission in Washington D.C. Brother George administered the sacrament and closed the meeting. Sister Esther was overjoyed by the visit and introduced her visitors to fellow residents at the home.

Though recent memories may be dim, Sister Esther's love and dedication continue to shine brightly.

During the visit to Leonardtown, the sisters and brother visited Brother Joel and Sister Edna Calabrese, who recently transferred to our branch. We welcome them and their family and thank God for sending them to us.

## Ordination at Forest Hills, Holiday, Florida

By Sister Lorraine Rose

"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea. That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also" (Romans 16: 1,2).

The day was filled with a beautiful blessing in so many ways, as Sister Lorraine Rose was ordained into the office of Deaconess.

The meeting was opened by singing *Where He Leads Me*. Brother John Griffith offered opening prayer. Sister Debbie Gonzalez sang *The Old Rugged Cross*. Brother Dominick

Rose opened the meeting by giving testimony of the Power of Prayer and the Love of God keeping him through all his trials in the preceding months. He read John 15:1-14. Without God we are nothing. We need to be attached to the vine, which is our Lord, to bring forth fruit. Through Christ all things are possible.

Brother Tony Calabrese continued in the same scripture. The Lord molds us. We need workers to do the Lord's work. We need to let His light shine.

Brother Scott Griffith quoted scripture from Romans, telling us the calling of a sister as a Deaconess has a special place in the Gospel. He also read John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit..." After Brother Scott read the duties of a Deaconess from the Law and Order of the Church, Sister Linda Benyola sang *The Lord's Prayer*.

Sister Coco Eutsey washed Sister Lorain's feet and Brother Scott Griffith ordained her. The Lord manifested His acceptance with the gift of tongues. Brother Tony Calabrese gave the interpretation, "I have ordained you, thus saith the Lord."

Brother Jim Speck had a deep spiritual feeling while the prayer was being said. "The Lord bless her. I know the power of God. She was blessed this day." Sister Debbie Gonzalez also felt the spirit of God during the prayer, the words, "You already are," went through her mind. She then realized it was a message from the Lord for Sister Loraine.

I (Sister Loraine) have been baptized over 40 years in this Gospel and the Lord has never left my side. Through many trials and tribulations, I am thankful my faith never left me. He led me to this part of the vineyard, and found a need for me, for which I am thankful. I have been blessed so much and today testimony was given on how the Lord works.

Sister Coco Eutsey's testimony to me: "The very first time I set eyes on you, the Lord gave me a feeling that swelled in my heart, and he allowed me to feel and know that you would be called to the office of Deaconess. I

was so blessed in meeting you and in this knowledge. How could I ever ask Him for more than this beautiful feeling every time I saw you? I also received this concerning your ordination: When the announcement was made about you being ordained and the date was not yet set, I had such an overwhelming love for you and a great desire to wash your feet to set you apart. When the date was set for 1/27/02 and I found out my surgery was on 1/23/02, I felt very discouraged and decided that the most I could hope for was to be in the Cry Room (set aside for our children), wearing a mask so I would not pick up a cold. (Sister Coco had surgery to correct a serious problem in the sinus area close to the brain.) I asked the Lord to at least spare my life that I may see you ordained. I would be satisfied with that. When the date was reset for 2/10/02, I was excited because I would be in a little better shape to be there. I told no one of my desire to wash your feet, not even my husband. This is my way to wait upon the Lord so I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, it is what he has for me to do. Well, pray and wait I did. Driving home from Sister Heylan's shower Saturday, together with Sister Hope and Sister Shirley, Sister Hope asked me if I had a desire to wash your feet. I immediately smiled and crying, I told her and Mom that I had a great desire to wash her feet. I did not think I was well enough, but when Hope asked me, I said yes because the Lord takes all my symptoms away when I am doing His work in His Church. I told Mom later that I never even thought I would be considered because I am the Baby Deaconess in our branch. So once again the Lord has moved in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. I kneel before you this day, my Sister in Christ very nervous and very humble and feeling not worthy of such a blessing but thanking God for allowing me to be a small part of your special day."

We closed our meeting singing, *Sheltered in the Arms of God*. Brother Sam Risola offered the closing prayer.

I thank God for sparing my Dad's

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**\* WEDDINGS \***

Robert L. Pizzaia, Jr. and Pamela Illes were united in holy matrimony in Edison, New Jersey on October 12, 2001.

**Children Blessed**

Alyssa Giana Fallavollitti, daughter of Johnathan and Jennifer Fallavolitti, was blessed in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on February 17, 2002.

Tessa Rane Parry, daughter of Brother Dave and Sister Yvonne Parry, was blessed in the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch on March 10, 2002.

Jacob Cadman Gehly, son of Brother Arthur, Jr. and Sister Mary Gehly, was blessed in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on February 10, 2002.

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Brother John C. Bordeaux, Sr. was baptized on December 9, 2001 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chatman Young and confirmed by Brother Rich Scaglione, Jr.

**Ordinations**

Brother Justin Onorato was ordained a Deacon on March 3, 2002 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. His feet were washed by Brother George Katsaras and he was ordained by Brother Darryl Onorato.

**OBITUARIES**

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

**MARJORIE E. BEACH**

Sister Marjorie (Margie) Elizabeth Beach of the Herndon, Virginia Branch, passed onto her reward on January 9, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Donald. She is survived by her son, Clayton; sister, Cora Lunsford and brother, Albert Barnes.

**MARY WELCH**

Sister Mary Welch of the Edison, New Jersey Branch, passed onto her reward on December 31, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Edwin Welch Sr.; one daughter, Carol Racz Greene and son-in-law Michael Greene; one son, Edwin Welch Jr.; one daughter-in-law, Maryann; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**ANTHONY JOSEPH PITTMAN**

Anthony Joseph Pittman of the Edison, New Jersey Branch, passed onto his reward on March 7, 2002. He is survived by his mother, Lisa Pittman; maternal grandparents, Vernon and Sister Rose Pittman; father, Alex Kneller; paternal grandmother, Lois Reese; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Address Change**

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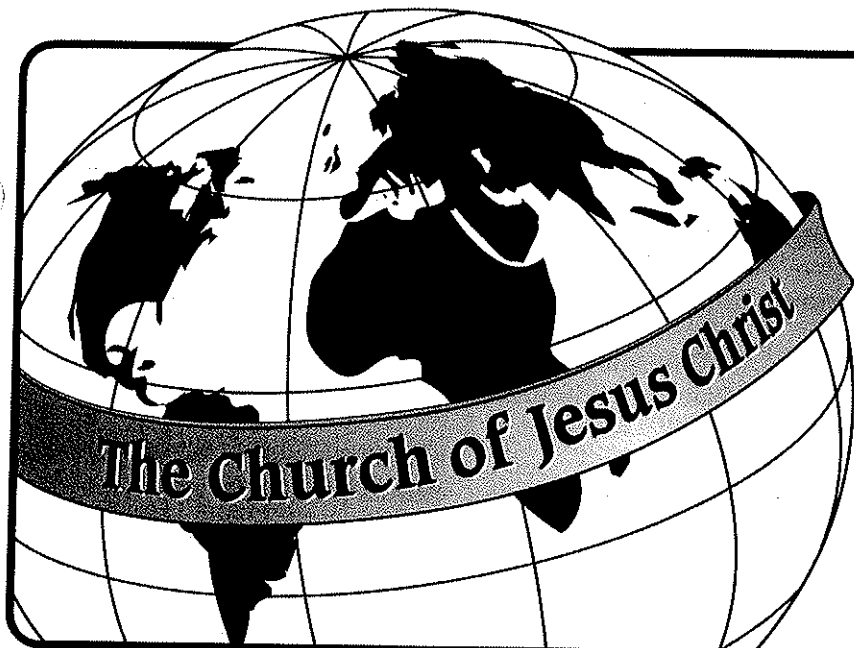
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**Ordination at Forest Hills, Holiday, FL**

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life (Brother Dominic Rose) to be here with me, and sparing my Sister Coco, allowing her to fulfill her desire, and that He has found me worthy to be called to this office to serve. He has blessed me with His loving Spirit. I truly feel sheltered in the arms of God. May God bless you all in my prayer.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monroeville, Pa., U.S.A.

June, 2002

Volume 58, No. 6

## What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

By Evangelist Jerry Valenti

Do you know what the word "saved" means, as it is used in the scriptures? It actually means different things in different verses so it's important that we can distinguish between these meanings in order to truly understand what God is telling us we need to do in order to be saved. A general one-word definition of the word "saved" would be "rescued" as used when Jesus saved the disciples from perishing in the boat (Matthew 8:25) and saved Peter when his faith wavered while walking on the water (Matthew 14:30).

However, the same word "saved" can also mean "preserved" as when it was prophesied that the seed of Joseph will be saved (Zechariah 10:6) and indeed the entire house of Israel will be saved (Isaiah 45:17 and Romans 11:26). So, we already have two scriptural definitions of the word "saved" – and we haven't even begun talking about heaven or hell yet.

Of course, the traditional definition of the word "saved" is "allowed to dwell in heaven after death" or, to put it another way, "rescued from hell." Here are some verses for which this definition applies:

*"But he that shall endure unto*

*the end, the same shall be saved"*  
(Matthew 24:13).

*"...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..."* (I Nephi 13:37).

*"And I would that all men might be saved. But we read that in the great and last day there are some who shall be cast out, yea, who shall be cast off from the presence of the Lord"* (Helaman 12:25).

Each of these verses (and there are many other similar verses in the scriptures) describe what will happen at the end of our lives – note the references to "enduring unto the end" and "the last day." However, there are also many verses in the scriptures which seem to indicate that we can be saved while we are still alive. For example, I Corinthians 1:18 reads: *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."* How can this be? How can some verses tell us we must endure to the end to be saved while other verses seem to indicate that we can be saved before the end of our lives? The

answer is that we have come across yet another definition of the word "saved." Read these verses to get an idea of what this definition would be:

*"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

*"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace"* (Luke 7:48,50).

*"Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin. Therefore, whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved"* (III Nephi 9:21-22).

Clearly, these verses refer to being saved from sin. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, to rescue us from a life of sin. Until we are saved from sin, we have no chance to be saved in the kingdom of heaven at the end of our lives. It may sound confusing to say we must be saved now in order to be saved when we die but since the scriptures use the same word "saved" to describe both events, this is an accurate statement.

(Continued on Page 2)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Conference of Native Americans

#### Dates:

July 19, 7:00 pm.  
July 20, 10:00 am.  
July 21, 10:00 am.

**Location:** Chippewa Community Center, Muncey, Ontario, Canada.

U.S. citizens need a birth certificate and photo I.D. Those coming from other countries need a VISA and/or passport. Check with your Canadian consulate.

Lunch and dinner will be served on

Saturday, pay as you go donations.

The following motels are within 30 minutes from Muncey: (\$1.00 U.S. is presently worth \$1.55 Canadian)

- Days Inn – 1100 Wellington Road South London, Ontario; 519-681-1240; \$89.00-\$115.00 Canadian
- Strathroy Motor Inn – 28540 Centre Road, Strathroy, Ontario; 519-245-4480; \$60.00-\$100.00 Canadian
- Howard Johnson – 301-730 Wonderland Road, South London, Ontario; 519-681-1550; \$90.00-\$120.00 Canadian (we have 25 rooms blocked here)
- Marriott Residence Inn – 383 Colborne Street, London, Ontario; 519-433-7222; \$108.00-\$170.00 Canadian

- Fanshawe Conservation Area – Campground; London, Ontario; 866-668-2267

If you plan to attend please contact the following sisters so we can plan for meals on Saturday, or if you need transportation from the airport:

Christine Flanagan 586-899-0410 or [sischrisf@aol.com](mailto:sischrisf@aol.com)

Laurie Whitton 586-777-2375 or [lwhitton@mediaone.net](mailto:lwhitton@mediaone.net)

**Directions** – Exit Highway 402 at Interchange #86 (Hwy 2 west). Go west (Melbourne) 4 miles to Sutherland Road (#8 sideroad). Turn left and go 2 miles, and Chippewa Community Center is on the right in the complex.

## Saved

Continued from Page 1

Mark 16:16 states, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* So, belief and baptism constitute being saved from our sins. Then, in II Nephi 9:23, it says: *"And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God."* Since we just said that belief and baptism mean being saved from our sins, another way of saying the same verse would be: *"And he commandeth all men that they must be saved from their sins, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God."* Do you see how the same word "saved" is used in both ways?

Alma Chapter 5 uses the word "saved" in both ways in the same chapter. Alma says that those who can sing redeeming love are saved. He later refers to others who were *"faithful until the end; therefore they were saved."* In the first instance those who are saved are alive; in the second instance, the people couldn't be saved until they were dead. Obvi-

ously, the two references to the word "saved" cannot mean the same thing.

Why is it important to know that the same word "saved" means different things in the scriptures? Because if you think this word means the same thing all the time, you will draw incorrect conclusions. For example, if you assume that "saved" always means "saved in the kingdom of heaven," then when you read a verse like "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," you will think that if you just believe that Jesus is Lord, your eternal salvation is already assured.

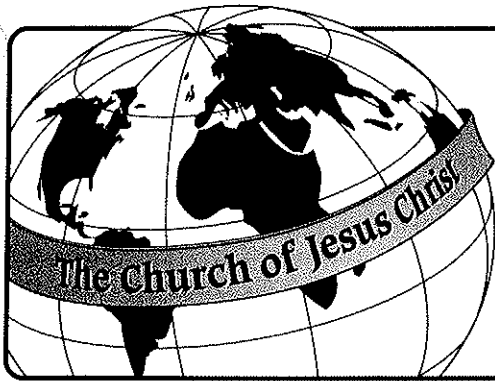
There are many in the world who do believe this way. This doctrine is commonly referred to as "once saved, always saved." It's a nice thought and you can see why it would be attractive to believe this way. It almost seems self-defeating to teach that it's possible for people who accept Jesus to still lose their soul. Yet, if this were not the case, why would the Apostle Paul have said in I Corinthians 9:27: *"I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway?"* He was acknowledging that anybody can be a "cast-

away" if they don't continue following the Lord's commandments. He delivered the same message in I Corinthians 15:2 which reads, *"By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain,"* and also in Romans 8:1 which reads, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* In both of these statements, there are conditions attached to being saved in the kingdom of heaven. It's another way of saying that you must endure to the end in order to be saved.

Please understand that we cannot earn our salvation by good works. However, God expects us to do the best we can even after we are saved from our sins through baptism. If we stay with Jesus for the remainder of our days, then our salvation in heaven is assured. However, if we return to our sinful ways after we have received the Holy Ghost, it becomes very difficult, if not impossible, to come back from that. Consider these verses:

*"For if we sin wilfully after that*

(Continued on Page 8)



## A message from the Seventy

### Philippine Mission – March 2002

By Evangelist Joel Gehly

*"For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith" (2 Nephi 27:23).*

I am very humbled and privileged to have had the opportunity once again to work in the foreign mission fields and witness the fulfillment of the scripture quoted above. God is the great "I AM," and He is a God of Miracles! And there has certainly been a miraculous working of God among the Filipino people.

Evangelist Ken and Sister Sharon Staley, along with my natural and spiritual father, Art Gehly, Sr., traveled with me to the southern island of Mindanao at the end of February. We arrived tired, but happy and thankful after approximately 22 hours in airplanes, to be greeted by an enthusiastic group of the saints at the Davao City airport. It was the start of a very busy and spiritually fulfilling ten days with the saints and friends of this new mission field.

#### RECAP

Let me just briefly recap many of our activities and the results of our trip. A total of 39 souls were baptized, and 19 children were blessed. We performed 16 ordinations, including one Elder, which gives this new mission field five Elders. We dedicated the first church building in the

Philippines at an area called Pantukan. We conducted the first conference or general assembly of the Church in the Philippines with over 120 people in attendance. We spent three days conducting training and giving seminars with all the ordained brothers and sisters. We attended numerous services at four of the five

member, this has all occurred within the past 1½ years! Is God a God of miracles? I certainly believe that He is! Is God working among the Filipino people "according to their faith"? I testify to you that He is!

Problems on a missionary trip? Yes, life is full of problems and missionary work is not without adversity. We had sickness and some difficult situations while we were there as well. The scripture says that "...for it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things" (2 Nephi 2:11). The miracles and blessings of God are more fully recognized because we see and experience the opposition to truth and love.

During the trip, we all had severe sinus problems and head colds. After a long day of training and talking, Brother Art fell asleep but awoke after a few hours with a severe sore throat and cough. As he lay awake, he thought to himself that he should get up and try to find some medicine to alleviate his suffering.



Saints in Pantukan

established congregations in the area. We performed a wedding. On the final day as we were leaving, we obtained a complete membership count of 148 souls in this mission field, with numerous additional people ready and requesting baptism. Re-

Immediately he said to himself, "No, I will wait and be anointed in the morning by my brothers." As he consciously made that decision, God healed his throat immediately. On

(Continued on Page 4)

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 3

another day, a very dedicated young Filipino sister was severely afflicted with a high fever. She was anointed and the next day was back with us and completely well. I suffered for 2½ days with intestinal problems after eating something that rebelled in my system. I was so sick and weak that during the glorious morning of 20 baptisms and the subsequent confirmations, I could not even stand or participate. Upon completion of the confirmations at the ocean's shore, the elders surrounded me and Brother Malaquias offered a powerful prayer of anointing. Immediately the sickness left my body and the saints and I rejoiced at God's miraculous power and love. Is God a God of miracles? I certainly know that He is!

### A SISTER ON MISSIONARY WORK

I must also comment on the inclusion of a sister to missionary work. I cannot adequately describe the blessing and the impact upon a mission field when a sister is involved. In every single instance, the sisters in the mission field are given a love, respect, and honor that surpass anything that I have ever witnessed. Sister Sharon was required to participate in every

service and she was always applauded for the comments that she would make to the saints. I know that the saints were happy to see us (the brothers), but they were delighted to see and hear Sister Sharon. She taught the Deaconesses during our training days and she was a wonderful example to the sisters in many ways. Naturally speaking, the Filipino sisters also loved Sister Sharon's beautiful red hair and frequently were curious enough to ask to touch. I believe that Sister Sharon's life has been forever changed by this mission field experience and I know that the saints there were forever changed as well. Is God working among the Filipino people "according to their faith"? Sister Sharon will tell you that He is!

The Filipino people are a humble and loving people. Most of the saints are very poor, especially by standards held in the United States. However, they recognize that they too have received great riches through the Restored Gospel. The Philippine nation is a Christian nation with almost every possible denomination and Christian faith available. Partially because of this diversity, the Elders and ordained officers are very diligent to the faith and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. They are students of the scriptures and have a very sincere desire to know and understand the

Restored Gospel. Frequently, we received questions and had in depth discussions on scriptural topics.

### PHILIPPINE LOCATIONS

The Philippine mission is currently comprised of the following areas:

The **Davao City** congregation has 60 members in four separate locations around the city limits. A second floor meeting room in the center of the city is rented for Sunday services. The room is large enough for 50-60 people and they have decorated the walls with scripture verses from the Bible and The Book of Mormon. We now have two Teachers, two Deacons and three Deaconesses in this area. Throughout the week the Elder (Brother Rommel) visits the saints, and on Saturdays he holds services in the four different areas of the city. The tremendous effort that is being made for the gospel was evident in this city. This is also the area that initiated a youth group for the Philippine mission. They have organized a young peoples' group (Missionary Benevolent Association) and are conducting meetings to encourage the many young people throughout all the locations. We visited the home of the young man who has been elected president of the MBA. He is a very dedicated young man and expressed himself to us that someday he hopes that the Lord will call him into the Ministry because he has a great desire to work for the Lord.

Located one hour from Davao is the city of **Panabo**. Panabo currently has 37 members who meet in a small rented room on the second floor above a local store. One elder (Brother June) along with one Teacher and two Deaconesses serve this location. The saints here, as everywhere in the Philippines, love to sing. We certainly let the entire street know that we were praising God during the service held here.

**Tagum City** is the home of Brother Malaquias Galing, and is another half hour drive from Panabo (1½ hr. from Davao). Brother Malaquias, the Elder-in-charge of the



Tagum Ministry

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

For those of us who have committed our lives to Jesus Christ, we can never forget the day of our baptism. I remember standing at the water's edge with the sun blazing in my face, and making a promise to serve God all the days of my life. Never before, or since, have I ever been more serious about something I said I was going to do. Often times when the storms of life arise, I think back to that day, and can feel God's pleasure in that deeply sincere promise I made, that no matter what, I would never go back on that promise.

*"Wherefore, my beloved bretheren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism - yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel" (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 31:13).*

Since giving our lives over to Jesus Christ, we declared war on Satan. Many times we find ourselves fighting powers and principalities of evil. Sometimes we find ourselves falling into sin, discouragement and despair. But we can pull ourselves back up when we think beyond the problems of life, to that sincere promise we made to Him that NO MATTER WHAT, we would endure to the end. When we think about this simple basic commitment, and our seriousness about it, it seems to dissipate or diminish the trial we are going through. Isn't it beautiful as noted in the above scripture, when we follow Jesus with a FULL PURPOSE OF HEART, not with other intentions or motives, how He consumes us with His love, support and forgiveness?!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ matures us well beyond our years to realize the important things in life - God, family, happiness and peace. Usually those who don't know Jesus Christ reach this realization during the last years or moments of their lives. We, even as young people, who know Jesus Christ, can decipher what is important in life, and what is not. What is NOT important is what the world places major importance on: wealth, fame, looks and natural success. Realizing the difference and living by these standards is a witness to God that we are truly living with a full purpose of heart, and are sincere about wanting to spend an eternity with Him. The terrorist events in the United States of late have propelled many to re-prioritize their lives, with more importance being placed on being a good father, mother, brother, sister, or friend, not making the most money. Some have even turned their lives over to Jesus Christ because of it. The Book of Mormon states that it is good when people turn their lives over to God when compelled to be humble, but there is a greater blessing to those who convert without having to be humbled. I'm sure many of our readers fall into the latter category. We can truly say we have been blessed immensely because of that commitment we made to the Lord, with no other reason or motive but to save our soul.

As the scripture states above, we can speak with a new tongue now. We understand more fully the purpose of life, and the purpose of our existence. We can glorify and praise God because of how He has changed our lives completely... in a moment! If you haven't made this beautiful commitment to Him, try taking a few quiet moments to look up into the sky. With the sun shining in your face, ask with all the sincerity you can muster, if God is there and if He truly loves you. If you are sincere, you will soon be standing at the water's edge looking up into the sky with the sun shining in your face, and will say, "Yes. I promise with all my heart, to serve Him all the days of my life." And you'll never, ever turn back!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock



## Redemption: The Plan That Never Goes Out of Style

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever look at a picture of your mom and dad when they were young and laugh at the funny way their hair, or sideburns, or the styles of their clothes looked? Has anyone ever given you a present that was "in style" or cool last year but not this year? Or have you ever really begged your family for a special new toy that was really in style and then a few months later felt like it was boring and you had wasted your time and money?

The "things of this world" – toys, cars, clothes, even houses – do go in and out of "style." The sad fact is that sometimes people spend years of their lives working and rushing around to earn money to buy those things. And then they go out of style. So people rush around more, working and wishing for newer things.

People sometimes forget that the most important thing to have, the one thing that never goes out of style, is the wonderful peace they can have from loving God. And they don't have to pay anything for this peace and love! Jesus paid for it already by sacrificing His body on the cross. The Bible tells us in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world [you and me] that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Whether you are or aren't the prettiest girl in your school, or the best or worst athlete, or the worst singer, or the shyest, scariest kid, or the richest with fancy clothes, or the poorest with

plain clothes, Jesus loves you. The Lord knows just what is special deep inside you. He doesn't look at just what's in style today in your country. The Lord looks at your heart and mind, not how you're dressed or where you live.

He cares whether you keep on trying. He cares when you make big mistakes and will help you learn from them and be forgiven.

The Lord teaches us in the Ten Commandments that He gave to Moses that we should not covet. To covet means to be jealous, deep in our hearts, and to wish we had something somebody else has. The Lord said not to covet other people's things. He included not to covet their family, or their house, their property, their servants or their animals. (They never had cars for transportation like we did; they often used animals.)

See how well God knows the way our human side gets confused?

What is real then, love and peace, cannot be paid for with your money. It is given to you through the love of God and His Son Jesus.

Just think how much happier you feel at your house

when everyone there is happy. Think about how nice it is when the peace of God is there and no one is fighting, or arguing or being mean. Think about how safe and good you feel at church when people that love you tell you more about God's ways. These are the things that never go out of style.

When Jesus died for us, He paid for our sins by being the last living sacrifice. Our sacrifices now aren't doves or goats. The sacrifices we make are the bad thoughts we have, the pride inside that puffs us up and make us think and act like we're better than someone else.

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### WORD SEARCH

REDEMPTION	STYLE
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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Southeast Area MBA Campout

Leesburg, Florida  
March 22-24, 2002

*By Sister Jan Humphrey*

Inspired through God's direction, the theme of this year's Southeast Area MBA Campout was "Picking Up the Pace" in our service to God, and bringing the Restored Gospel to the world. The spirit of the Lord was clearly evident from the fast and prayer service on Saturday morning to the closing prayer on Sunday.

The thought provoking seminars on "Picking Up the Pace" asked the questions: Why now? What preparation is necessary? How specifically can I accomplish this goal?

The Saturday evening service was opened in prayer by Brother Scott Griffith. All in attendance felt great joy in their hearts when our beautiful young children blessed us with singing. Brother Dennis Moraco recounted experiences from his recent journey to our mission in Guatemala. The very enthusiastic members of the mission were eager to learn what transpires at campout in the hope that some day they too could participate in their own campout. Some of the sisters in the mission raised funds, by selling homemade cakes to pay for English lessons. Their desire is to sing to the American brothers and sisters in English when they visit there. Brother Dennis was inspired to preach about Joshua leading the Jews into the promised land. God had given them an order and specific pace to follow to cross the river Jordan. Brother Dennis said that the Lord is setting a quicker pace to spread the Gospel in these latter days and we must follow the marching order. The Lord is counting on us to set the pace in our homes.

We've been enjoying the blessings of God, and now it is time to step up the pace. The Lord will see to it that obstacles will fall away.

Our new Region President, Brother Sam Risola also made reference to the Book of Joshua and spoke about young Joshua having to carry on after Moses had emancipated Israel. Joshua had to step out on faith and take on enormous responsibilities. Joshua was concerned, but he was able to achieve the task because he knew God was with him. Today as we pick up the pace and step out on faith believing, He will also be with us and will not let us down. We must wait on the Lord for His timing and pacing. Brother Sam quoted Brother Rocco Benyola, "If not now, then when? If not us, then who?" Everyone has been called for God's purpose and everyone must step out to do His work. We cannot look to the left and right. It is on our shoulders and we must be up to the task. It is a privilege to be a part of this glorious Gospel.

There were several confirmations concerning the theme and the references made to the Book of Joshua by our brothers. Brother Isaac J. Smith confirmed the message brought forth stating that he was studying this scripture during the week and that he believes we were visited during the weekend by a Heavenly Host – just like Joshua. Brother David Checchi also confirmed the message, as he had also been studying the Book of Joshua just the prior evening, and that morning the children's chapel had studied the same scripture. The evening service was closed in prayer by Brother David Checchi.

Brother Phil Benyola opened Sunday Service with a heartfelt prayer. Brother Jim Speck quoted from Isaiah chapter 29 to acknowledge The Book of Mormon and how it was brought forth. Brother George Kovacic spoke on the stick of Judah and the stick of Ezekiel being one, but asked us if they are one in our hands? The power of God is in The Book of Mormon and He has blessed us with the privilege of being a part of spreading its message. God is blessing us as a Church with many avenues to spread the Gospel.

Brother George directed us to pick up the pace and keep it steady. We should not slow down to reflect too much, but keep moving. He likened us to a farmer and harvest; don't just stand by and watch the fruit on the vine wither and die. It is important even as parents to set an example for and teach our children because the schools aren't going to teach them about God, morals or prayer. Speak to them with love and kindness so that some day they will take over the work that we have started.

Brother Rocco Benyola read from Romans chapter 1:16. Thank God we are a part of the Gospel restored. Now is the time for it to go forth at home and in the Missions abroad. He reminded us that we are the restoration of Jesus Christ and are not like any other faction out there. The prophecies of Ezekiel and Isaiah, which tell about the two sticks, the Bible and The Book of Mormon, cannot be omitted. Brother Rocco quoted from Mosiah 2:41 (which was also printed on our campout material), "And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven and thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it."

Brother Frank Rogolino said God provided for all man a marvelous work and a wonder. "It's not our work but God's. God must open a man's heart and mind and make him a child of God and give him understanding of the Word." He told of a very educated man to whom he gave The Book of Mormon, but the man could not understand it. Brother Frank had been given the knowledge that this man had not been given understanding by God. He must call you to be a worker for Him because Zion must be built. Great things are to come. Depend upon Him. His language has to be understood by the Holy Spirit within.

(Continued on Page 11)



## Fort Worth, Texas Branch

*By Brother David Casillas*

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, the Fort Worth, Texas Branch held a business meeting, electing brothers and sisters to hold positions to do their part to help the Church. The meeting was a blessed success, but just when we thought our blessings were full, visitor Manuel Garcia requested his baptism, which was quickly held on Sunday. His wife Sister Roxanne Garcia was baptized not too long before this. To top it all off, at the waters, a frequent visitor, Amistad Jimenez, was called by the Lord to be baptized as well. The spirit of the Lord was definitely felt at the waters that day. Brother Manuel and Sister Amistad were later confirmed and became a new brother and sister in Christ. This is definitely a terrific way to start off the new year of 2002!

## Baptism in Cape Coral

There was a beautiful setting for the baptism of Maria Plazos. The sun was sparkling on the water and the birds were singing. With a nice gathering of brothers and sisters. Brother Richard Santilli from Ohio offered prayer at the waters edge. Brother Alvin Swanson took Maria into the waters of baptism and the spirit of God was felt by everyone.

At the church building Brother Miguel Bicelis confirmed Sister Maria by the laying on of hands in the Spanish language, since Sister Maria only speaks Spanish. Brother Miguel's Mother, Sister Bicelis, presented Sister Maria with a Spanish Book of Mormon. Sister Maria is such a sweet loving person and we are happy to have her as our Sister in Christ.

## Two Baptisms in Russellville, Alabama

On March 24, 2002, the saints and family and friends of Lupé Gonzalez (numbering over twenty adults), gathered at the edge of Lake Mon Dye near Russellville, Alabama to witness her baptism. Sister Lupé is the wife of Brother Osvaldo Gonzalez.

This story goes back to September 1999, when Brother Mark and Sister Kelly Kovacic and Brother Malcolm and Sister Shirley Paxon from Atlanta first visited Russellville by request of Brother Paul Liberto of California. They were invited into the home of Brother Osvaldo and Sister Lupé, and held services there, even though Sister Lupé had never met them.

Since that day, however, she has been seeking God's blessing and she wanted more in her life; she wanted Jesus Christ to fill her heart with love and faith. We can truly testify that we are witnesses of her desire being fulfilled.

Sister Lupé's most recent experience (she has had many) was on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, when she saw her young nephew healed. She was so thankful that she decided she needed to make herself right with God, and not only for her own soul's sake, but for her husband and daughters. After their study and prayer meeting Wednesday evening, Brother Osvaldo called Brother Mark Kovacic to say that Sister Lupé wanted to be baptized. Plans were made to travel to Russellville to have a Saturday evening dinner with the saints and families there and to perform the baptism on Sunday. But Sister Lupé was disappointed that Brother Osvaldo would not be there Sunday morning, as he would have to work, according to his schedule. Even though he had the past two Sundays off, she prayed, asking God for this little confirmation of her desire to be baptized that he would get it off. He went into work Thursday and checked his schedule and to his amazement, he was off. It is the first time he has ever had three Sundays in a row off.

Sister Kelly and Sister Tava Jones

began to prepare for the evening dinner, while Brother Mark and Brother Tom Jones went with Brother Alfredo Mora to the baptismal site. It was a large lake, called Mon Dye in the city of Phil Campbell, Alabama (about 20 minutes south of Russellville). While on the shore of the lake, the brothers offered prayer, asking God to bless the site for tomorrow's baptism.

Back at the Winwood Motel, fifteen adults and 10 children gathered for the dinner the sisters had prepared, after which Brother Mark discussed the why, when and how of baptism, using various scriptures. He also asked a number of the members to express how their baptism was performed and the blessing they felt. After a few songs, we closed in prayer and dismissed until Sunday morning.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

*In the May GN we incorrectly posted a new address for the Carradi's. Their address is:*

Carradi, Ron and Marilyn  
2488 Atlantis Dr.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

French, Samuel  
189 Dundas St. #4  
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 1G4

Piacentino, Michael and Theresa  
586-777-8951

Onorato, Justin  
1595 SW 112th Ave., Room 406  
Miami, FL 33174

Tenorio, Luis H. and Lydia M.  
237 Sylvan Dell Ave.  
Edison, NJ 08817  
732-985-6678

## Saved

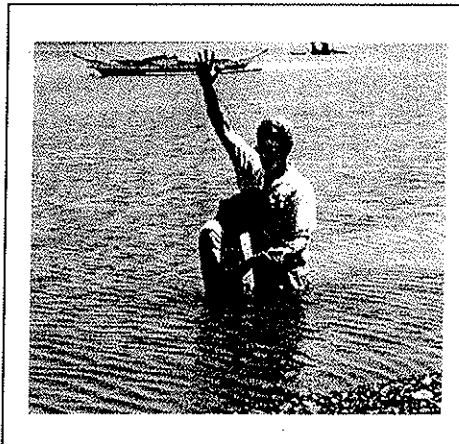
Continued from Page 2

*we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:26).*

*"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-6).*

*"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning" (II Peter 2:20).*

I hope you now have a good understanding of the different meanings of the word "saved" and why we need to not let our guard down as we do our best to serve the Lord for the remainder of our lives. Don't let others fool you into thinking that you can be eternally saved while you are still living and thereby be "free" to do whatever you want. If you wander back into a sinful condition, your end will not be a happy one but if you can endure to the end, you will experience all the joy that God has planned for us in His eternal kingdom. May God bless and keep you.



**Pantukan Baptism**

banana plantations. Finally turning away from the coast we traveled about 4 miles up into the foothills of the mountains. Here, along a dirt road, is the congregation of Pantukan. The saints here are "native" Filipinos, and the local tribe has leased the Church a lot upon which we have built the first church building. The building is cement block with wooden framing on three walls. The floor and rostrum are cement and the roof is galvanized steel. There are large open windows and two doors that are normally kept open to help with ventilation during the service. The dedication service was attended by approximately 100 people packed inside the building and with 50-60 outside around the doors and windows.

Two Elders live in this area (Brothers Aurelio and Benjamin) and Pantukan has 20 members.

Brother Aurelio travels further back into the mountains (2-3 hours) and services our fifth congregation at **Sapang Tin-aw** (or Clear River). There are currently 19 members in this area and they, like each area, are constantly growing in number. Although this place is very remote, the saints here are extremely interested in being part of the Restored Gospel. We assisted many of them in traveling to Tagum for the conference held during our visit. Currently, the Saints in Sapang Tin-aw meet in a home or outside under the coconut trees. They also wish to build a church building, a request being prayerfully considered.

#### GREAT WORK

God is certainly working among the children of men in this nation, and we see that it is a great work because of their faith and diligence to the Lord, Jesus Christ. We ask for your prayers regarding this new mission and all the work of God around the world.

If any branch or auxiliary would like to see a slide show of this most recent Philippine trip, please contact the FMOC Philippine team coordina-

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## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Philippine mission, is the individual who initiated contact with the Church. Services are held in his very humble home for the 12 members currently in this city. The congregation is looking for a meeting room to rent, as they are quickly outgrowing the small room in his home. The saints here wish to have a public meeting location in order to place a Church sign on the building for all to see. The saints in the Philippines are very bold in declaring the gospel and they always had a sign or banner that welcomed us at every location.

Traveling another hour (2½ hr from Davao) takes you along the coastline and past acres upon acres of



**Pantukan Meeting**

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 9



**Tagum Meeting**

tors (Brother Art Gehly or Brother Ken Staley). Presentations are also available by the FMOC for other foreign mission fields. For information contact Brother Joel Gehly or Brother John DiBattista.

## AMOC Annual Conference

By Brother Jerry Morle  
AMOC Secretary

The Americas Missionary Operating Committee (AMOC) held its annual conference in Florida during the weekend of February 2 and 3, 2002. Attendance was good with every sub-committee chairman present, and at least one representative from each General Church region. There was also a nice showing of young people with a desire to get involved with the missionary efforts of the Church throughout the Americas. Needless to say, all felt God's blessing as the business of His work was put in order.

Evangelist Paul Liberto, Chairman of the AMOC welcomed everyone to the Forest Hills Branch, and extended special greetings to our guests: Evangelists John Griffith and Eugene Perri, President and Vice-President respectively, of the Quorum of Seventy

Evangelists, and Evangelist Phil Jackson, Chairman of the Missionary Operating Committee (MOC). A short season of prayer followed to open the conference to invite God's spirit into the meeting and inspire the hearts and minds of the participants. Throughout the conference, there was harmony and a willingness to work together among the brothers.

### ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE IMPORTANCE

The morning session was filled with business reports. Three items stood out of significance importance:

1. Missionary trips were planned to Peru, Sinaloa, Colombia, Dominica, Guatemala and Venezuela for the first quarter of 2002. Furthermore, a proposal has been submitted to the MOC and Quorum of Seventies for an exploratory trip to Ecuador later this year. It is becoming clear that God is opening another door to this South American country, and our brothers are excited for the opportunity to preach the Restored Gospel.

2. The highlight of the Native American Outreach Committee this year will be the first Conference of the Native Americans. This conference is scheduled to be held in Muncey, Ontario, Canada the weekend of July 19-21, 2002. Evangelist Larry Watson, Chairman of the NAOC, detailed many of the plans for this weekend, including the sincere hope that this conference will bring together Native Americans from North, Central and South America, and that they will take the lead in many aspects of the conference.

3. General Missionary Benevolent Association's Youth in Action Committee is planning a tour to Muncey just prior to the conference to help promote the activity on the Muncey reserve.

### REPORTS FROM THE FIELDS

Also during the morning session, each sub-committee gave a brief report of activity in the field. Brother Alan Metzler, newly elected chairman of the Colombia sub-committee, reported that there are now 15 members there and Brother Juan Carlos, an ordained

teacher, is conducting meetings regularly. Since eight others have expressed an interest in becoming baptized, Brother Alan was anxious to return.

Evangelist Jerry Valenti, newly elected chairman of the work in Dominica, reported that they have five members on that Caribbean island, and we were all blessed when he called Brother Raphael Auguiste during the evening meeting and gave him an opportunity to express himself to the conference over the telephone.

Evangelist Dennis Moraco reported that the work in Guatemala continues to grow with 41 active members and a newly established MBA local. This has sparked a renewed awareness in the Church among the young people, and they have been organizing activities to encourage this interest.

Brother Joe Ciarolla reported that the Mexican work is stable in most areas and growing in others. He reported that Tijuana has recently added 28 new members to their rolls. He re-stated a familiar call when he said that missionary work in Mexico is easy, but finding the missionaries is difficult.

In Peru, Evangelist Miguel Bicelis reported that the 19 members are being serviced by Elder Juan Mestas. Their current focus is on finding a permanent meeting location and finalizing the incorporation of the Church in that country.

The Venezuelan work, under the direction of Brother Don Ross, is stable despite the lack of a resident minister. The seven members there are working together to grow spiritually and study the Word of God in regularly scheduled meetings.

Each Brother expressed his sincere desire and excitement about returning to the field as soon as possible to service the saints.

The afternoon session was geared toward looking forward and making plans for growth within the AMOC. It is becoming clear that as in other parts of the world, God is opening doors for His Church in the Caribbean, and in Central and South America. A discussion of wisely utilizing human resources and the general philosophy to



missionary work was filled with the Spirit of God. Apostle Isaac Smith, Sr., urged the AMOC to be more proactive when establishing works. Brother John Griffith extended this discussion reminding us that the primary mission of the Church is to spread the Gospel to the seed of Joseph so that it can be confirmed by the coming Choice Seer. As he made these comments, the Word of the Lord came forth as "True, true, true!" The message to the missionaries was to be more faithful in establishing and developing the works God has opened for us. The afternoon session concluded with several young people, including some young people, being elected to the various sub-committees.

#### TRANSLATORS NEEDED

The issue of translators was an underlying theme running throughout this conference. It is becoming clear that the Church needs to not only identify current members who are in a position to assist missionaries in this regard, but to also find ways of encouraging young people to develop these skills. The young people in attendance were asked their opinions about this issue, and they gave some positive feedback. Needless to say, their suggestions were not lost on the GMBA President and Chaplain who were in attendance, and the AMOC plan to work with the GMBA to implement initiatives geared toward raising awareness among the young people of the missionary needs.

The evening session was dedicated to updating the conference about the spiritual development of the various missions. Each committee was allocated eight minutes to present the current condition and needs of their work. While eight minutes may not seem like very much time, each presenter gave a very enthusiastic and focused picture of his or her mission. It is clear that God has inspired and blessed our Elders, their wives, and the missionary support staff of each committee.

The call goes out for more laborers to share in the blessing of the vineyard work. There are more oppor-

tunities now than ever before to get directly involved in missionary work both at home and abroad. Young and old alike with a desire to spread the Gospel can find a variety of ways to put that desire to work. The AMOC encourages everyone with a missionary heart to pray for direction and to contact the officers of the AMOC or FMOC to volunteer their time and talents for the Lord.

### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Jesus doesn't agree that one is better than the other because of their things. He says that being loving and forgiving are the best things. It's not always easy to fight against our human side or the evil one. But Jesus, who really does know your heart and love you, will help.

He can help you get over wanting "things." He will help bring peace and love to your families. He died to redeem us, and He can give each of us a life without fear and sadness. Just pray, be thankful for all that you have, and ask Him how you can show His love to others...because love never goes out of style.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### SE Area MBA Campout

Continued from Page 7

Brother Eugene Perri spoke and told us to come to God with a sincere heart. He has left an inheritance to all those who would love and serve Him. Be sure we are worthy of this inheritance the Lord has left for us. For some, the natural inheritance took a great deal of blood, sweat and tears. For our soul, the price was paid for our inheritance on Calvary.

It was a very blessed weekend and the Southeast Area MBA officers did a very wonderful and inspired job.

## Children in the Mission Field

By Sister Bethany Smith

(Taken from *Fence Post*, the GMBA Newsletter)

For Thanksgiving of 2000 I had the opportunity to visit the Church's new work on the island of Dominica. What a shock for me, I was only seventeen at the time. The poverty there, is like nothing I have seen in the United States. The children ran around with no shoes on, yet they all had smiles on their faces. They know nothing else.

For the first four days we went around the reservation visiting many different Caribs and their children. The brothers, Jerry Valenti and Isaac J. Smith carried around candy to hand out to the kids. When the children received it, they looked at it as if it were gold. They would give each of us a hug of thanks.

Then came Sunday and many of the children we had met came to Sunday School, there were about 25 in all. I passed out the GMBA coloring books and boxes of crayons we had taken for them. As I went around, a couple of them asked, "is this whole box for me?" Then, on the first page of the coloring book it has a blank for children to write their names, and after telling them to put their names in the books, they all asked, "are these ours? To keep?" My heart broke. They wanted to know what the pictures meant and we explained while they colored. They have nothing, but yet they're eager to learn.

I learned the true meaning of thanksgiving that year. I've been blessed naturally, but more importantly spiritually with a loving family in and out of the gospel. I hope I get the opportunity to go back someday, but in the meantime I pray for the poverty of the island and that those children will be able to grow up under the sound of the gospel like I did, with the love and prayers of the saints.

\* WEDDINGS \*

Jeffrey Wright and Rose Childress were united in holy matrimony in Lorain, Ohio on March 9, 2002.

## Children Blessed

Colby Joseph Munson, son of Ron and Melissa (Ross) Munson, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on March 24, 2002.

Destiny LaShawn Williams, daughter of Arthur and Crystal (Hogue) Williams was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on February 10, 2002.

Noah Reigns Calabrese, son of Anthony and Kelly Calabrese was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on March 31, 2002.

Aria Sapphire Altomare, daughter of Sam and Melody Altomare Jr., was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 7, 2002.

Spencer Patrick Bartel, son of Scott and Wendy Bartel, was blessed in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 14, 2001.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Chelsea Gianetti was baptized on August 19, 2001 in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Brother Guy Karelli was reinstated on March 3, 2002 in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

### 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.*

### MARTHA (STOYANOVITCH) PROHM

Sister Martha (Stoyanovitch) Prohm of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed onto her reward on February 18, 2002. She was preceded in death by her mother, Sister Santa Stoyanovitch and her son Lance. She is survived by her husband Clare Prohm; three daughters, April, Allison and Claire; two sons, Chance and Sean; two step daughters, Shelley and Renee; one brother, three sisters and 10 grandchildren.

### NICHOLAS A. ZINZI, JR.

Brother Nicholas A. Zinzi, Jr., of the Forest Hills Branch, Holiday, Florida, passed onto his reward on March 24, 2002. He is survived by his mother, Sister Pearl Zinzi; sister, Sister Gelsa Zinzi; brother, Ralph Zinzi; two sons, Nicholas III and Matthew.

### MINNIE MCDONNELL

Sister Minnie McDonnell, of the Bell, California Branch was laid to rest on June 5, 2001. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Debbie McDonnell, and one son and daughter-in-law, Brother Bob and Sister Diane McDonnell and two grandsons, Brother Robby and Brother Ryan McDonnell; four sisters and one brother.

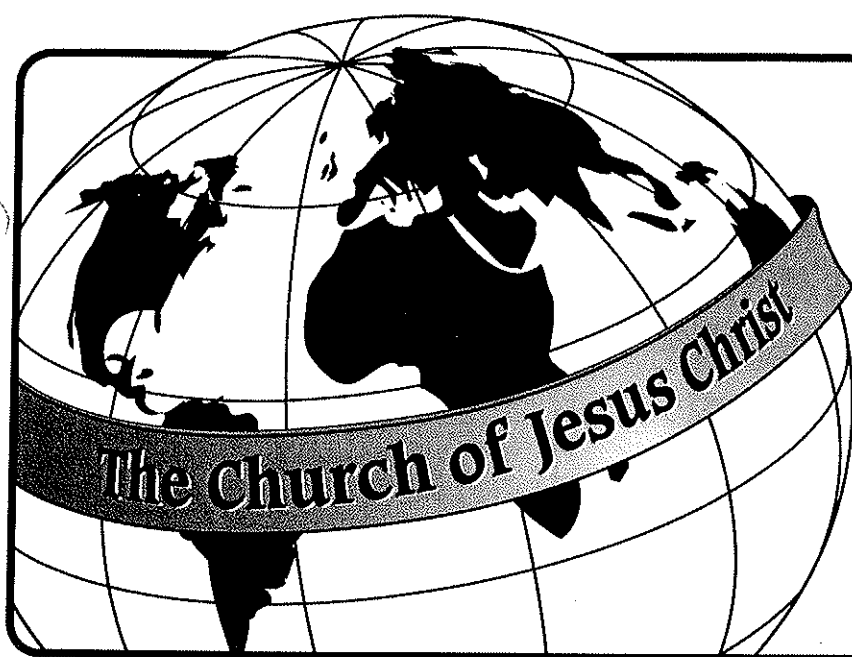
## Note of Thanks

I would like to send a special thank you to all the brothers and sisters of the Church for their many years of love and prayers on behalf of my son, Nicholas, who recently passed away. He felt the prayers and God's love within them. God granted him the courage and strength to endure the suffering and pain of MS for many years.

I also wish to thank all who expressed condolences by calling, sending cards, flowers or donations. He will be missed by all. God blessed him by allowing him to be part of His Gospel and worship with a great spiritual family.

May God bless you and your families,

Sister Pearl Zinzi and Family  
Forest Hills Branch  
Holiday, Florida



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monrovia, CA, USA

July, 2002

Volume 58, No. 7

## Bendiciones en Sinaloa

*By Brother John Genaro*

Last February 15, Apostle Paul Palmieri, Evangelist Phil Jackson and Elders Joseph Ciarolla and John Genaro left Los Angeles, California airport for the state of Sinaloa in Mexico. Sinaloa is 1,400 miles south of Tijuana, and has two branches, Ahome and San Isidiro, and two missions, Macapul and San Jose, with a total membership of about 220 members.

For Brother Ciarolla, the co-ordinator of Sinaloa and the Chairman of the Mexican Mission Operating Committee, this was a familiar trip. He has made it at least three times a year since 1975. Brother Genaro has been there five times, but for Brothers Paul and Phil, even though they have traveled the world extensively for the Church, this was their first one to Sinaloa, and they were unaware of how excited and anxious the saints of Sinaloa were to receive them.

### TRIP ITINERARY

Evangelist Hector de J. Gastelum Carlon, the President of the Church in Mexico and his son warmly greeted us at the airport. Brother

Hector prepared a trip itinerary, which included home visits and services at each branch and mission. These home visits, a norm for Brothers Joe and Hector, would provide some of the most blessed moments. Among the services held, one Sunday, and a weekly service were dedicated to each branch. The branch visits offered an opportunity for each brother to open a service and, with the spirit of God unifying the visiting brothers with the Mexican elders, the blessings of God were felt in the meetings.

Saints who lived in the area stopped in for a visit at Brother Hector's house. A Deaconess from the Ahome branch related a dream she received six years earlier in which she saw a man with framed photographs wrapped in cloth. The man unwrapped the photographs and our sister recognized Brother Paul Palmieri as being in one of the photographs. The man pointed to Brother Paul's picture and said, "I will use this man to increase the work among the seed of Joseph."

On Saturday evening, Brother Hector planned a question and answer meeting with all the elders, teachers and deacons in the Sinaloa area.

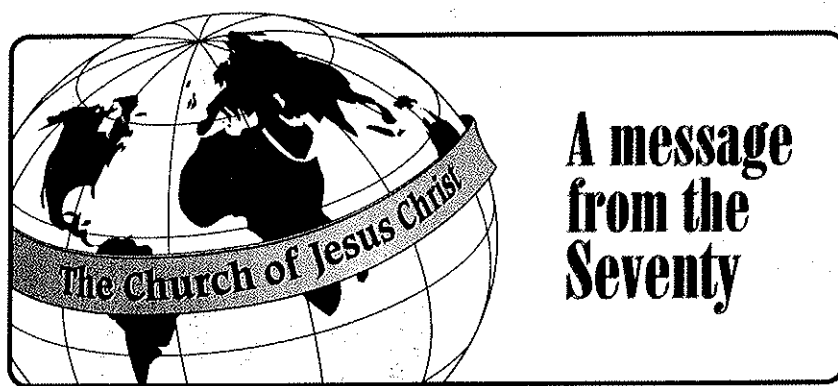
During a pause in the meeting, the visiting brothers sang a hymn in English in response to the hymns our Mexican brothers had been singing. After they finished their rendition, the Mexican brothers sang the same selection in Spanish. After they completed their hymn in Spanish, the visiting brothers sang another hymn in English, which again was followed by our Mexican brothers singing the same one in Spanish. While we were exchanging hymns in our native languages, the spirit of God gently entered our group and the spirit of unity and love fell upon all who were present.

Brother Jackson felt a desire to administer sacrament and have feet washing at our next question and answer meeting. Brother Phil's thought was immediately confirmed by another brother who had the same thought at the same instant, and immediately there was an anticipation of what God's blessings would be in that meeting. After our meeting, it was apparent that a bond had been formed.

### AT AHOME BRANCH

A warm greeting was extended to the brothers at the Ahome Branch and they were treated to hymns prepared by the children's Sunday School. Brother Paul opened the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup>

(Continued on Page 10)



## A Miracle, Some Sadness and More Blessings. All from the Missionary Field

*By Evangelist Mark Kovacic*

Often times we are recipients of beautiful messages from our brothers and sisters in the mission fields. The following are examples of such. They were taken from e-mails received from Brother Stephen Osaka, Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya, East Africa.

Brother Stephen wrote, "On Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2001, God delivered me from a terrible accident. I was driving from Ogembo at 6:00PM and I was alone in the car when a pick-up driver lost control ahead of me and left his lane and crossed to my side of the road before rolling several times as I watched in disbelief. I became helpless, but the Lord gave me the courage to drive to Kisii town. Indeed it was the protection of God!"

Personally, I would like to note that besides the usual problems with traffic and the need to drive defensively, the roads through the villages of Kisii District, Kenya, are very treacherous, as they are quite narrow, unpaved, and mountainous, with steep drops from the shoulders of the road. Brother Stephen wrote, "We had a week of mourning due to the sudden death of our beloved Brother Gilbert Moreka Ratemo, who was ordained a Deacon in 1999. He comes from Itibo village. We grieve with sorrow because of the loss of our brother. He was attacked with a short illness and died as he was being taken to the

hospital. We did the burial service on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2001. We will all miss him."

In addition to the sorrow, can we add something about our brother receiving God's promises of being in the paradise of God. It is a bitter-sweet event.

I wrote back to Brother Stephen confirming that our faithful brother will receive God's promises and he is now in the Paradise of God. I then inquired about burial customs in Kenya and among his people. I did not want to suggest anything that would be offensive. His response was, "Be free to discuss anything, because those of us who have come into the knowledge of our Lord Jesus are beyond our cultures. Most distinctively, we have the culture of Christ." What a beautiful response.

Brother Stephen wrote, "The Church was especially blessed to conduct its first wedding ever since the establishment of the work in Kenya. The government granted me, as the Director of the Mission, with a license for marriages and the ability to issue marriage certificates. The wedding was between Brother Andrew Ontomwa, an ordained Elder of the church and his wife, Sister Joyce.

I would like to note that until the government provides licenses to a church, a minister can't perform wedding ceremonies. In Kenya, the government is very strict about

providing such licenses. Brother Andrew wanted to set the example among the saints of the need and importance of having a Church wedding with one of our Elders performing the ceremony instead of a tribal one. We thank God for their dedication and diligence.

Finally, Brother Stephen wrote, "I have good news for you and the FMOC. Finally yesterday, I was able to receive the Land Title Deed for the Mission Headquarter land. The whole transaction is complete and we will try to send you a copy by scan on the e-mail. It has been a long process but finally now we officially own our **first land** as a Mission in Kenya. This is a big asset for the Church. We praise God and look forward for the development of the Headquarter."

The transaction took over 12 months to complete. Now comes the really difficult part, finding the funds to build the chapel and school on the property.

## Venezuela

Venezuela is a land rich in natural resources. It is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of oil. The natural wealth is concentrated in cities such as Caracas and Barcelona. The greatest wealth is in its people, of whom, eighty percent are impoverished.

Some of our members live week to week. Their existence is based on meager wages and earnings. However, they smile, dress in the whitest blouses and dresses ever seen, are very attentive to the preaching and teaching, and do their duty in serving God under the sound of the Restored Gospel. They have experienced and are experiencing the Spirit of God, the mercies of God and His goodness in their lives. They love The Church of Jesus Christ and Her people!

In spite of the poverty, the people are kind, loving, friendly and easy-going. The Venezuelan people are beautiful, generous, full of love and hospitality. You can tell it in their

smiling faces, dark glittering eyes and symbolic open arms of affection. The Venezuelan people we have come to know are looking for spiritual fulfillment in their lives. Their testimonies are they have found spiritual fulfillment in The Church of Jesus Christ.

#### RECENT VISIT

During our recent visit, from March 21 to April 2, 2002, one man shared his feelings. He is not a member; however, he thanked us for the change The Church of Jesus Christ has brought into his wonderful family. His name is Raphael Quiaro. He states that in his family, there are no more arguments, they have gotten closer together and are showing love, humility, patience and kindness. We advised him to thank God, not us, for the marvelous change in his family. He was told that this is what happens when one has faith, repents, is baptized and receives the Holy Ghost by the authority of the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ and serves God daily by keeping His commandments.

Our days were filled with the goodness of God. We visited the sick, anointed the sick, visited homes and invited them to the services. Besides the seven baptized members, many unbaptized from the surrounding homes and community came to the services. The average attendance at the meetings was fifty-five people of whom many were young people and children. It is important to note that fifty percent of Venezuela's population is twenty years of age and younger. It is our humble belief that God has a wonderful work for these young people in their country. That "work" is for preaching and teaching the precepts and beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ. That "work" includes bringing repentant souls to Jesus Christ under His doctrine.

#### FIRST SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday Service was held on March 24. There were fifty-two (52) attendees, which included seven (7) members of the Church and approxi-

mately twenty-five (25) children and teenagers. We asked Brother Raul Bicelis of Venezuela to introduce the service and welcome everyone. He spoke by inspiration, with tears of joy. He set an excellent tone for the meeting. He was wonderful. The Scripture was III Nephi 27.

Brother Don Ross opened the preaching service. It was noted that all three (3) brothers, Brothers Bicelis, Frank Palacios and Don Ross, had opened to the same Scripture without conferring with one another. It was emphasized what the name of the Church should be and why, what doctrines and ordinances are followed in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Frank Palacios served as translator and eventually followed with the same thoughts and similar words. There were beautiful testimonies. Souls have been healed, babies have been healed, and the sick and afflicted have been healed. Sister Fidelia Antonia-Leal shared her testimony. She stated that since her baptism in July 2001, her migraine headaches are gone and her family has changed. There are no more arguments; they all get along. Dreams by old and young members and non-members were shared during testimony.

We anointed several individuals. One young man, a teenager, requested hands be laid upon him that God would direct his life and help him in his life. We passed communion to baptized members. Three (3) children were blessed during the service.

The process of registering The Church of Jesus Christ in Venezuela is underway. It began on Tuesday, March 26. It was a very good and very eventful day during this trip. Brother Bicelis, Brother Palacios, Freddie Hernandez, a neighbor of the Bicelis family and Brother Ross spent the day together. We drove to the small town of Clarines, Venezuela. We went to the government offices of the City of Clarines to begin the registration process for the Church in Venezuela. The Spirit of God was there. An apology was extended for not being able to speak Spanish. The administrator answered and her response in perfect English was, "No

*apology is necessary when the Spirit of God is present!*" She called the Civil Engineers and all three immediately and quickly approved and stamped the "draft" building plans "approved." The plans are necessary for the registration of the Church. One had even called out to a colleague on his way to the office, "Bring the stamp of approval," and none of them had as yet seen the plans. What a wonderful spirit was present. Our day was very blessed because as we journeyed to Clarines for this important meeting, our wonderful wives and sisters in Jesus Christ, Sisters Joyce Ross, Rose Palacios and Alicia Bicelis were praying for a successful meeting and us. Their prayers were answered. The engineers who approved the plans are Jose Arredondo, Hector Garcia and Elias Abdalah. They were extremely gracious, kind and accommodating to us and our request to register The Church of Jesus Christ.

#### FEET WASHING

A feet washing service was conducted during Wednesday after-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Acknowledgement of Many Years of Service

### Brother George (Rusty) Heaps

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists and the General Church acknowledged the recent passing of Evangelist George (Rusty) Heaps just prior to the semi-annual conference held at the World Conference Center in April.

Brother Heaps had been ordained an Elder on November 3, 1957, and an Evangelist on June 1, 1975. He had served in many capacities in his home Pacific Region and had traveled extensively throughout the United States as an Evangelist. He had also made trips to Mexico and Europe.

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 3

noon. It was a wonderful meeting. Visitors attended this service. They stated they had never seen or experienced anything like our feet washing ordinance. It can be noted that the Spirit of God, the love of God was present during this service. A few attendees from the congregation were anointed. They truly rely on the Lord. Kindly note that our members and friends are some three (3) hours from the nearest medical facilities in Barcelona, Venezuela.

After the service, we spoke with Carmen Lamo. She wants to serve the Lord. There are others, Freddie Manual Hernandez, his wife Sonja and Ramona Zurita, who have a strong desire to serve the Lord. Our prayer is that God will move upon them, that they will experience the spirit of repentance and very soon, request their baptism. That is their sincere desire. Daily instruction on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ was conducted. The membership and visitors were very receptive to the instruction. They are building a solid foundation. The brothers and sisters have embraced The Book of Mormon, the Bible and the teachings of the Church. The many visitors fully understand that we are a separate and distinct religious organization with no affiliation with any other religion or group.

Saturday morning, March 30, we reviewed a number of Scriptures to study and provided instruction on them. The Scriptures focused on the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel.

That afternoon, we held a meeting with the members and visitors who desired to attend. We encouraged them and instructed them on communion, feet washing, prayer, the importance of serving God and keeping all of His commandments. They were very receptive to our instruction.

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

We held Easter Sunday services on March 31. Once again, there were

fifty-five (55) or more attendees. Of these, approximately thirty-five (35) were children and young people. Our Scripture was John 11:21-26, the resurrection of Lazarus and then on to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We had wonderful liberty. We blessed two (2) more children, anointed many, young and old, passed communion and enjoyed a blessed meeting.

This entire visit was blessed. We blessed five (5) children, anointed many adults and children, visited the sick in the community, started the process to register the Church, witnessed healings, heard many experiences, and conducted classes on the Faith and Doctrine. Several are interested in becoming members of The Church of Jesus Christ. We wish to express our thanks to Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis for their generosity and hospitality. As Brother Raul always says, "Our home is your home."

Our humble request is that all readers remember the Venezuela work in your prayers. God's ears are always open. He is waiting to hear from you.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I've always heard and read the many testimonials about how people of the Church rally to the aid of someone who is afflicted. Like so many things, after you experience them yourself, you can really identify what they have gone through. This heart condition and surgery was totally unexpected by me, but obviously, God was in control from the beginning.

I was blessed with the counsel from my primary care doctor to follow up on an EKG stress test that I had as part of my annual physical exam. I had no idea of the extent of my heart situation and wasn't spared from either the ordeal of surgery or the slow healing process. But through it all, God blessed the doctors and medical staff with the knowledge and resources to keep me alive. The saints gave me the

encouragement and hope with their cards, letters, calls and visits. And God gave me the personal knowledge to know that He is a living God, giving me the personal experience to be stronger in my faith and belief and to actively seek out the reason why He kept me alive when...for all reason of science, I should be dead.

I'm excited, motivated and very, very thankful for God's mercy and grace on me, my family and our future. Part of the peace that I felt through the surgery and recovery came from the calls, letters and prayers of so many people throughout the Church. Thank you for your love, concern and kindness. Thanks also to several ministers, Brother Tony Vadasz, Brother Rudy Meo, Brother Jim Huttenberger and Brother Jim Sgro who made different trips to Denver to help the Denver Mission maintain normal Sunday services while I was recuperating. Now that I'm well, however, I still extend the invitation to anyone who would like to visit also. The snow is gone!!

I love you all. God bless and keep you safe.

Brother Walter Jankowski

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your cards, phone calls and especially your prayers during the illness and subsequent passing of our father, Brother Jim DiTomaso. May God continue to bless you is our prayer.

Sister Brigetta D. Craft, Sister Donetta Walker, Jamie Petrof, Dandie Hulteen, Nanette Warholic.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their cards, support, and prayers at the time of my grandson's passing.

Vernon Pittman





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Independence Day is here once again. It is a time we as Americans reflect on the liberty and freedom we enjoy living in the most powerful and blessed country in the world. This year, celebrations will be especially pronounced, as we have endured heartless acts of terror upon our soil. The many innocent victims who died as a result of this destruction will be remembered, as will the many who tried to save them. Since that time, many have moved a little closer to God, even if it was temporarily. While this is happening the entire world is being thrown into wars, rumors of wars and battles that seem impossible to solve. In these countries, too, many innocent people are losing their lives, and loved ones are sending up cries of despair and sorrow in remembrance of the dead. The Bible and Book of Mormon predict that the last days would be perilous and that hatred would abound because love would "wax cold."

In the past, this nation has won wars that seemed impossible in the eyes of the world. God blessed our forefathers with one victory after another, despite the fact that often times they were the underdog. It reminds us of the wars in The Book of Mormon. The 2,000 stripling young soldiers conquered the enemy despite the fact that clearly they were less experienced and inferior to their enemy. David was clearly inferior to Goliath, yet he slew him. There are hundreds of examples in the Word of God regarding how God allowed the "underdog" to win a battle or prevail in a disagreement. God allowed this because the love of God was rooted deep in their hearts. When this love "waxes cold" as is pointed out in Matthew 24:12, then massive tribulation, confusion and destruction occurs. No longer will God defend a person whose heart has waxed cold. Keeping this in mind, the fact that we as Americans are not as strong as we used to be, and the fact that worldwide conflict is increasing at an alarming rate, makes it obvious which ingredient is missing: LOVE.

There is coming a day in this life when LOVE will return to the hearts of men and women. This kingdom of LOVE will be established upon this land of America, and many people from many nations will look to this kingdom for the solutions to their troubles. Out of this kingdom will this doctrine of LOVE be preached to the whole world. This kingdom, or Zion, is the greatest hope and vision we as saints of God have while in the flesh. America will be strong once again, except that our strength will lie in the fact that LOVE is the only law that will exist.

As we think about God's great plan, we must consider the application of this to our individual lives. With LOVE rooted deep in our hearts, there isn't anything we can't conquer or succeed at. There isn't any problem, sickness, discouragement or sin we can't overcome when we utilize the greatest weapon of all: LOVE. Love will make someone act against his or her nature. Love will make you do things that no one else would even consider. Love will cause you to win each battle even though you are the underdog. If love should wax cold in our hearts, then tribulation, confusion and destruction will abound in our lives. With love alive within us, we will face each battle with courage, knowing we will be victorious in the end. Just like we look forward to love abounding everywhere in Zion, we as individuals look forward to love abounding eternally in Heaven with Jesus, our Father and friend. LOVE NEVER FAILS!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

## God's People Sinned Against Great Knowledge

Did you ever wonder about the hundreds of thousands of people living in the Americas who were destroyed at the time of Jesus' crucifixion? Did you ever wonder what they had done that was so bad? Or wonder why The Book of Mormon says, "Only the most righteous were saved?"

What was unusual about these people is that they sinned against great knowledge of God and His goodness.

These were the people who had been under attack by the secret band of the Gadianton robbers. Their governor, Lachoneus, was a great man of God and leader. He preached boldly and told the people to repent and ask God to save them. They did. He gathered them together in a huge city with walls to protect them. Tens of thousands of them gathered their families in the city.

The Gadianton robbers then had no one to rob for food. Tens of thousands of them attacked God's people in a fierce battle. But on the day of the big battle, all of God's soldiers put on their battle gear, marched out of the city walls and fell to the ground first, begging God to preserve their lives.

The approaching Gadianton robbers screamed with joy, thinking they'd already scared God's people. But after their prayers, God's army rose to their feet and began to fight with enormous strength from God!

They won! They won the next



huge battle too and captured the fleeing Gadianton robbers! The robbers either promised to never attack again or were put to death! There was peace in the land.

Great freedom ruled. People went back to their abandoned cities and homes. For three years there was peace everywhere. But then, Satan, with great power, began to work on people. Those who had more money, or a better education began to be lifted up in the pride of their hearts, thinking they were better. The Church began to break up.

Crooked lawyers and judges began to be popular. Only the converted Lamanites were firm, steadfast, and immovable in being willing to keep the commandments of God. The others became puffed up with pride, wanting to be rich and important and rule over their brothers and sisters.

People lost their love for each other; God sent preachers and prophets to warn them to stop or be destroyed. Instead, they secretly killed the brave preachers. Only a few people remained righteous. Yet each of them had been raised to know God. Each of them had gone through terrible times and been delivered from the Gadianton robbers. Many had seen the prophecies of Jesus' birth come true. Every one of them had great knowledge of God's real love and power.

But they still sinned. Even while looking for signs of Christ's crucifixion, they tried killing the prophets and preachers who came to warn them. All of them were destroyed in the great destruction after Jesus' death. Only the most righteous were saved.

We too have great knowledge of God's plan, power and love. Satan wants to destroy us like he did the people in those days. We must each watch ourselves, pray for love and the willingness to change. Amazing prophecies are coming true in our lifetime; we want to be among the most righteous who are there to love them.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

GODS	TO
PEOPLE	POWER
SINNED	OF
AGAINST	SATAN
GREAT	BUT
KNOWLEDGE	NEPHI
FOR	WAS
THEY	GOOD
YIELDED	SAKE

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

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Langford, Mary  
P.O. Box 162  
Dorset, OH 44032



## Our Women Today

### Living in the Promised Land

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Appropriate that the Liberty, Ohio Branch should be the setting for our April 27th General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference, which had the theme of "Living in the Promised Land." After our President, Sister Arline Whitton, welcomed the group, Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, shared the scripture in Luke 10: 38-42 where Mary is commended for choosing the better part.

Sister Arline then reviewed the Circle's aims, stressing promoting a close fellowship among the sisters, a fellowship which was clearly evident during the meeting. In addition, a number of Biblical women were mentioned and it was noted how they used their gifts to glorify God. To name a few; Deborah, the patriot; Ruth, a woman of excellence; Elizabeth, a humble woman; Dorcas, the benevolent seamstress; Lydia, the businesswoman; and curious Eve.

In the past six months, two new Circles were organized, those being Columbus, Ohio and Omaha, Nebraska. The sisters were delighted to report that many of the members were young women who had not previously belonged to the Ladies' Circle.

As is the order of our meeting, we then continued with the officer's reports and concluded the business portion of our meeting with the following donations:

FMOC	\$4,562.00
AMOC	\$2,797.00

It never ceases to amaze this writer that 631 members can provide such marvelous financial support to The Church of Jesus Christ in a six month period. May God continue to bless the members of the Circle for their continual support of the missionary work of the Church.

We were reminded that our last president, Sister Mabel Bickerton, will turn 100 years old on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The sisters were encouraged to send Sister Mabel a birthday card.

After a wonderful lunch provided by the Liberty Local, we enjoyed a marvelous afternoon of fellowship. Using patriotic songs and sharing the testimonies of many of our nation's founders, the Ohio Midwest Area Circle members presented an inspiring devotional program on "The Promised Land." We were caused to recall the founding of our nation and its principles as a Christian Nation, a nation on which would be built the Kingdom of Zion. It was amazing to hear some of the statements made by our founding fathers, from Christopher Columbus to John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and Abraham Lincoln.

The balance of the afternoon was spent hearing the testimonies of our sisters and hearing the presentation of a number of beautiful hymns. Prior to closing our meeting, Sister Arline shared the following:

*"Let us rejoice in the privilege we have of knowing whence our freedom truly comes, and give thanks and glory unto God for the liberty He has bestowed upon us. Above all, let us do our utmost to serve Him, knowing that whatever may befall this land in years to come, the Lord will preserve His people, and allow them in the end to help build that city of Zion upon this blessed land of America!"*

Our next Circle conference will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2002 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. Plan to attend so that you can share in the blessing.

### Youngstown, OH Ladies' Circle Hosts Tea

By Sister Theresa Pandone

On Saturday, April 13, 2002, the Youngstown, Ohio Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted a Founders Day Tea at

The Piccadilly Victorian Tea Parlour. Twenty women responded (friends and family) and our sisters were thankful for this blessing. Brother John Genaro was our guest speaker. He recreated a typical day that an elder may have in India. We were introduced to a new culture, our brothers' daily activities, and heard a small portion of the many blessings that our Indian brothers and sisters have been experiencing.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Brother John was presented with a check to aid in the education of an orphan child. Brother John then presented our Circle President, Sister Eva Berardino, with an ornate, gold neck adornment that is used to greet visitors to India. He thanked our sisters for their enthusiasm and support to all of our missionaries throughout the globe. Added to the evening's festivities was the recognition of Sister Dorothy Damore for being our oldest active Circle sister, and charter member of the Youngstown, Ohio Circle. She is 89 years old. She was presented with a china tea set.

The Youngstown Circle is an active group, which enjoys studying God's Word. We enthusiastically involve ourselves with fundraising activities to aid and support the missionary endeavors of this beautiful Gospel.

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Organized at the Omaha- Bedford Mission

By Sister Joyce Mahl

On April 6, 2002 Sister Arline Whitton and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio representing the General Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered with the Sisters of the Omaha-Bedford Mission for the purpose of organizing a local Ladies' Uplift Circle. The meeting was opened with prayer and hymn # 103, *Keeping Step*. Sister DeMercurio read II Timothy 3:15-17 which exhorts

(Continued on Page 8)

## Ladies' Circle Organized

Continued from Page 7

us to stay in the Word.

Sister Whitton related a short history of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and provided suggestions for the welfare of the new Circle as they begin to meet together and grow as an organization. The aims of the Circle were read. Under the direction of Sister Arline and Sister Lorraine the sisters were asked to stand and read the Circle pledge together, thus confirming them as members of the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

The new Circle members studied the by-laws regarding Local Circle meetings. Then Sister Whitton conducted the election of officers. All the members stepped up willing to fill the necessary offices, each one according to their gifts and talents.

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**The Omaha-Bedford Ladies' Uplift Circle is glad to be a part of this auxiliary...The members are ready to "do with their might what their hands find to do."**

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Even though this meeting was organizational and very businesslike in tone, those present felt the Spirit through the unity and oneness of purpose that was displayed. The love and hospitality continued for the remainder of the weekend. The Mission held a Saturday evening preaching service and testimony meeting as well as Sunday services.

The Omaha-Bedford Ladies' Uplift Circle is glad to be a part of this auxiliary of The Church of Jesus Christ. The members are ready to "do with their might what their hands find to do."

We wish to express our gratitude to Sister Arline and Sister Lorraine for coming to Omaha to give of their time and experience to get the local Ladies' Uplift Circle started. As the Omaha-Bedford Ladies' Uplift Circle begins to meet and grow and develop we would ask to be remembered in your prayers.

## In the Service of the King

*By Sister Jan Cornell*

The Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Ladies' Uplift Circle met at beautiful Linden Hall, near Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania on March 22nd through the 24th. Sister Karen Progar chaired our fellowship weekend, the theme of which was, "In the Service of the King." The Friday evening meeting brought the deaconesses together for an informal session of ways to better our service and a discussion of different ways to serve in this capacity. One new project our area is doing is preparing sacrament sets for the missionary work of the Church.

The next day we conducted our business meeting, presided over by Sister Becky Tarbuk, Area President. We discussed our upcoming Mother/Daughter Banquet, which will be held May 11th at the Findlay Township Community Building in Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Our devotions, presented by the Monongahela, Pennsylvania local, reminded us of our aims and goals as a Circle, and some of the many experiences had by our membership. We donated to orphans in Ghana, India and San Carlos, \$330.00 respectively. Letters were read from representatives of these areas relating what our funds mean to the children there, and what need these funds finance. We also brought layette items to this meeting, which will be distributed in the Meaford, Ontario area.

The afternoon activities included a seminar on our service to God and a tour of the mansion located on the property. After dinner, we enjoyed a time of fun, playing some games and concluding our day with a time of fellowship around a blazing fire in the lobby of the hotel.

Our Sunday meeting was conducted by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., Penn Mid-Atlantic Region President. Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, General

Circle Vice President, shared some experiences she has had attending Fellowship Weekends, regarding prayer. Our sisters enjoyed many testimonies and those who attended will remember the blessing of a time well spent for some time.

## Message from God

I am your God; today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember, I do not need your help.

Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years?

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it is to love and be loved.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair.

Should you find yourself at a loss, pondering what is life all about asking, What is my purpose? Be thankful... there are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be them.

Author unknown.



## Branch and Mission News

### Basking in God's Love

By Sister Patty Kerby

As the morning of Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002 began, we didn't know the extent of the blessings we would share, as God poured His wonderful spirit upon us. Saints gathered from all over our region in Bell, California, on this day. There were visitors from Anaheim, Yucaipa, San Diego and Lindsey branches. A full day was planned, with a morning, afternoon and night service. We had Brother Ken Staley and his family from Atlanta, Georgia visiting. They had made a recent trip to the Philippines, and had a slide presentation planned for us.

We opened our morning by singing, *It Is Well With My Soul*, after which opening prayer was offered. Brother Ken Staley opened our morning service. He had gone to God in prayer to ask what he should speak about. The spirit told him to speak on "the love of God." He said how God's love surpasses all other kinds of love. His text was taken from 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 8:5-12. He talked about Lehi's dream and the fruit that is more desirable above all fruit, which is the love of God. Without the love of God, we find ourselves in a dark and dreary waste. He also continued how Nephi desired to see what his father saw, which God granted him. He was shown the tree of life, more desirable than anything else; the interpretation being, "the love of God."

Brother Ken then asked the question, "Do you know the love of God? Have you been to the tree? Do you desire to partake of the fruit?" He spoke on how God's love carries us through our problems and related how God has been with him through many recent trials in his life.

The Zioneer's sang, *I Believe*, with a few additional verses written by Brother Ken Jones and Sister Nancy Buck.

Brother Lou Ciccati continued

speaking on the theme of "the love of God." He related how God had been with him lately with his recent trials in his life.

We ended the morning meeting with the Staley family singing *It's My Desire*. We then closed in prayer.

We enjoyed a nice lunch in the kitchen and patio prepared by the dear sisters of Bell. More blessings were to continue.

We opened the afternoon meeting singing *Mansion Over the Hilltop*. After our opening prayer the youth sang *Taste the Grass on the Summit*. Brother Randy Lee opened by saying a few words about God's love and the beautiful peace it brings in our lives.

The sisters and brothers then sang a beautiful hymn in Spanish. We then shared a beautiful season of testimonies. Brother Ken Jones spoke to us, and as he was speaking, God's spirit poured on us, and Brother Owen spoke in tongues for the first time. What a wonderful blessing we felt! The interpretation was given to two brothers. God was telling us, "If we love him, keep My commandments." Space limits writing all the details of this blessed day, there were so many.

Brother Justin Paxton and Sister Christina Benyola sang *Amazing Grace* after which our sacrament service continued.

Brother Jim Huttenberger ended our service with a few words telling us that there is nothing like the "love of God," it is unconditional, bigger than anything else. The meeting was closed in prayer. The sisters had prepared a beautiful dinner for us, which we enjoyed with more fellowship. But still there was more to come. We gathered once again for a beautiful time of singing as we continued "basking in God's love."

We enjoyed the slide presentation given by Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley, which was very enjoyable.

We thanked them for their dedication in their missionary efforts and their desire to come and share the beautiful brothers and sisters of the Philippines with us.

Praise God for the wonderful blessings shared by all as we truly felt God's love and presence with us!

### Two Baptisms in Russelville, Alabama

(continued from last month)

Sunday morning, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002; we re-gathered at the Winwood Motel just after 9:00 am. to form a caravan to the baptismal site. Twenty adults (plus the five from Atlanta) and numerous children attended the baptism.

At the site, Brother Mark Kovacic welcomed all and after a hymn, Brother Tom Jones offered prayer. It was a special blessing to have Sister Lupé Gonzalez's parents and brother and sisters at the baptism. (Their attendance was another answer to a prayer of Sister Lupé.) It was a beautiful morning to be gathered at the waters.

Brother Mark took Lupé into the waters and performed the baptism. Upon returning to shore he asked if there was anyone else. No one responded, so he asked Brother Osvaldo Gonzalez to offer prayer. After the prayer, Luis Lopez said he wanted to be baptized. So Brother Mark took Brother Luis into the waters and performed the second baptism. Then we all headed back to the motel for the confirmation service.

Brother Tom opened the service with prayer and then spoke a few words about being born again in the water and the spirit and the importance of the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Brother Mark then asked our new members to come forward. After offering a prayer, Brother Tom laid hands on Sister Lupé and bestowed the Holy Ghost upon her. Brother Mark then did the same with Brother Luis.

Brother Tom served communion. Then our two new members and their spouses were called up front to share their testimonies. It was so wonderful to hear them express how God worked in their lives. Brother Luis said that one time while living in North Carolina, his wife, Sister Febe, told him he really needed to be baptized. He told her someday he would get baptized in

(Continued on Page 10)

## Two Baptisms in Russelville

Continued from Page 9

Alabama. He thought to himself that he liked his worldly life and that he had no plans to move back to Alabama and so he felt safe. But God had another idea!

There were two children anointed and then a special song by Sister Lupé's natural sister Claudia and a friend of Brother Alfrédo, Deonocio. They both played guitars and sang a duet for the new members. Sisters Kelly and Tava Jones had prepared a lunch for all, and so we continued to fellowship a long time after the closing of the meeting.

For the Sunday services there were 26 adults and 16 children in attendance! Praise God for the increase from the first meeting in 1999, where there were only five in attendance. We now have six members, with a few more transfers pending and many wonderful visitors who are seeking the Lord through the Restored Gospel.

## Notice

**The New Edition Book of Mormon is available!**

The Deluxe Limited Edition is genuine black leather, thumb indexed, red letter, and gift boxed for the price of \$75.00. The Standard Edition is bonded black leather, and red letter for the price of \$24.95. If you purchase 1 or 2 cases (12 per case) the cost is reduced to \$22.50 each. If you purchase 3 or more cases, the cost is reduced to \$19.95 each. We are requiring payment with your orders to help finance the printing. Shipping charges will be invoiced with your order.

To order, call the Print House at 734-429-5080.

## Seasons

*By Sister Patty Kerby*

Life has it's seasons,  
That we must go through,  
Sometimes the dark skies.  
And sometimes the blue.

We must hold on, and endure  
With a smile.  
For Jesus is with us,  
As we travel each mile.

This life is so short.  
As time passes fast.  
The winters may seem long.  
But they surely won't last.

A better day awaits us,  
Where everyday is spring,  
Where flowers are always blooming.  
And Jesus is our Lord and King.

We must never give up,  
And fight the good fight,  
For someday these  
Earthly bodies will perish,  
And our spirits will take flight.

## "This Earth Is Not My Home"

*By Sister Patty Kirby*

This earth is not my home,  
I am just passing through,  
This earth is not my home,  
my home is there with you.

My Jesus, my Savior,  
You have reserved a place for me.  
You promised, if I serve you  
my crown I would receive.

If I prove faithful, and  
endure as you have said,  
Your precious life, you gave for me,  
you suffered died and bled.

Yes, this earth is not my home,  
for I am heaven bound,  
I am just a traveler  
with my sights on higher ground.

## "Obeying His Voice"

*By Sister Patty Kerby*

The winds and the waves obey Him,  
The mountains, give heed to His voice.

The birds fly to the words of  
His direction,

But He gave you and me a choice...

I want to obey the voice of Jesus,  
and walk in the paths that He directs.

With His loving arms around me,  
resting on His bosom of rest.

I want to follow where He leads me,  
and not on my flesh rely,

Trusting in His promises, and to  
Him I daily cry...

Obeing the voice of Jesus, and my life  
completely absorbed in Him.

If I could only follow this path,  
my light will glow brightly  
and my candle will not grow dim...

## Bendiciones en Sinaloa

Continued from Page 1

Nephi 11:7, "Behold my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name, hear ye him."

The other brothers followed Brother Paul's topic. Many offered testimonies and many prayers were offered for the sick before, during and after the meeting.

Our first home visit was an afternoon birthday party for Sister Eloida, a deaconess of the Ahome Branch. While there, we heard a testimony about Sister Eloida's son-in-law. Sister Eloida told us she had invited him and his family to Church. Renaldo and his wife said they did not have time to attend church, but he could take their son. Soon, the eight-year-old boy was singing songs he



heard at Sunday School. The favorite of the boy includes, "If you know Jesus came to save you, why don't you serve Him now?" The father questioned his son about the song and the boy explained the song and invited his dad to church; but still they had no time for church. Renaldo and his wife took a trip and, while away, a car struck and killed their son. When Sister Eloida called to inform the parents of the tragedy, they asked her to make funeral arrangements with The Church of Jesus Christ while they returned home. Renaldo and his wife described their sadness at the funeral yet they felt so comforted by the elder's sermon. The weeks following the funeral, the father said he could still hear his son singing his favorite hymn, and after mentioning this to his wife, she also could still hear their son singing that hymn. After some discussion, they agreed to attend church and soon they were both baptized. As I looked into our Brother Renaldo's eyes, I could see the tears of sadness from losing a son and the joy of finding salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ.

There were many family members and neighbors at Sister Eloida's home including many who are not members of the Church. Sister Eloida asked the brothers to anoint her niece who had rheumatic fever as a child, which left her legs, turned inward, making it difficult for her to walk more than 30 to 45 feet. Brother Paul anointed the woman after which he spoke a few words on behalf of the Church and Brother Phil offered a prayer of blessing on the home, the family, an all who were gathered. The next day while visiting another home, we encountered Sister Eloida and her niece and others who were visiting there. Sister Eloida told us that while Brother Paul was praying, her niece felt God's touch. After the prayer, the niece was able to walk farther than before. Many later exclaimed they could not understand Brother Paul's words in English but they felt something in the prayer they had never felt before. The niece was even able to walk unassisted to the home where we were visiting. All rejoiced for the goodness of God!

At Sister Belina's home, she told

us she saw us and another personage in a dream who led her to a peaceful place where birds were singing and this personage illuminated the people and the place. Before we left, she asked for prayer, after which she told us that as we placed our hands on her head, she felt an additional pair of hands placed on her head and, as the prayer ended, she felt those hands being removed from her head.

#### SAN ISIDIRO BRANCH

At the San Isidiro Branch, we were greeted by a very excited 32-year-old Sister Matilda, a mother of three. Our sister had been under doctor's care because her blood pressure and diabetes were out of control, and the doctor told her she could die at any moment. She was one of the saints we anointed at our first Sunday service in Ahome. When she went to the doctor's office, the next day he could not find any irregularities in her blood pressure or diabetes. Also, as we were entering the building, a sister was coughing uncontrollably and asked for prayer. Immediately after the prayer, the woman ceased from coughing and was able to enjoy the meeting.

At our second question and answer meeting, Brother Paul continued answering questions and instructing our brothers, with Brother Phil assisting him. After the question and answer period, Brother Paul passed sacrament.

After sacrament, one of the deacons said that, when the wine was presented to him, he looked into the glass and saw gold instead of the wine. As we continued with our feet washing service, a spirit of humility entered into our meeting but it wasn't until Brother Paul asked us to greet one another that we felt the blessing we anticipated when we planned our feet washing service. The spirit of unity and love filled our hearts as we greeted each other and expressed our love in our own language.

Many changes have occurred in Sinaloa since the first service in 1973. At that meeting, Brothers Edward Perdue and Ciarolla met with a few saints in a six by ten foot shelter they

constructed of bamboo and a thatched roof. God has blessed the work in Sinaloa and it has spread even to Durango, a 12-hour trip. This work has also grown and God has called men to be ordained and the saints there are struggling to finance the building of a church there.

As we boarded the plane and waved good-bye to all the saints, we couldn't help but wonder what the Lord had in store for the work in Mexico.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Norma Cross was reinstated on January 27, 2002 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Ordinations

Brother Jeffrey Kattan was ordained a Deacon on August 26, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother John S. Manes and he was ordained by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Sister Susan Ciotti was ordained a Deaconess on August 26, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Mary Nardozzi and she was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Brother Robert Bradwell was ordained a Deacon on August 26, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Albert Giannetti and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother Patrick Monaghan was ordained a Teacher on August 26, 2001 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by his brother, Brother Jason Monaghan and he was ordained by Brother Carl Frammolino.

\* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Luis Tenorio and Sister Lydia Zaino were united in holy matrimony in Edison, New Jersey on March 30, 2002.

Brother Manuel Garcia and Sister Roxanne O'Duma were united in holy matrimony in Fort Worth, Texas on October 20, 2001.

Brother Joel Monsivais and Sister Rita Montemayor were united in holy matrimony in Fort Worth, Texas on January 12, 2002.

Christian Ortega, son of Jorge Otega and Ordalis Velasquez was blessed on February 10, 2002 at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Samantha Rose Licata, daughter of Brother Angelo and Lori Licata was blessed on March 10, 2002 in the Cincinnati, Ohio Branch.

Angela Anastasia Nation, daughter of Regina Nation was blessed on March 31st, 2002 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Alexandria Marie Benyola, daughter of Scott and Theresa Benyola was blessed on May 5, 2002 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Children Blessed

Ricardo Arroya, son of Arturo Arroya and Rebecca Escamilla was blessed on January 6, 2002 at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Guaualupe Arroya, daughter of Arturo Arroya and Rebecca Escamilla was blessed on January 6, 2002 at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Arturo Arroya, Jr., son of Arturo Arroya and Rebecca Escamilla was blessed on January 6, 2002 at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Carmen Arroya, daughter of Arturo Arroya and Rebecca Escamilla was blessed on January 6, 2002 at the Inner City Branch.

Steve-Micheal Escamilla, son of Rebecca Escamilla was blessed on January 6, 2002 at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

GARY VITTO

Brother Gary Vitto, of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, passed on to his reward on December 9, 2001. He was preceded in death by his father, Brother Paul Vitto. He is survived by his wife, Maria Vitto; his mother, Sister Mary Vitto; his sister, Sister Paulette Griesbaum, and her husband, Brother Dan and their children Dan and Kari; his brother, Ron Vitto; and a host of extended family and friends.

PAUL DiRADO

Paul DiRado of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2, passed on to his reward on March 1, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Sister Philomena DiRado; his daughter, Sister Lisa Keenan, and her husband, Brother John and children Elizabeth and Emily; his son Joe DiRado, and his wife Diane and children Melissa, Nick, Nathan, and David; his daughter Susan Merritt, and her husband Mark and children Marky and Michael; as well as a host of extended family and friends.

NICHOLAS RITZ

Brother Nicholas Ritz, an ordained Teacher of the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission passed onto his reward on April 29, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Sister Pauline; one brother, four sisters, six daughters, one son, 25 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

LAWRENCE C. LENHART

Brother Lawrence C. Lenhart of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto his reward on April 3, 2002.

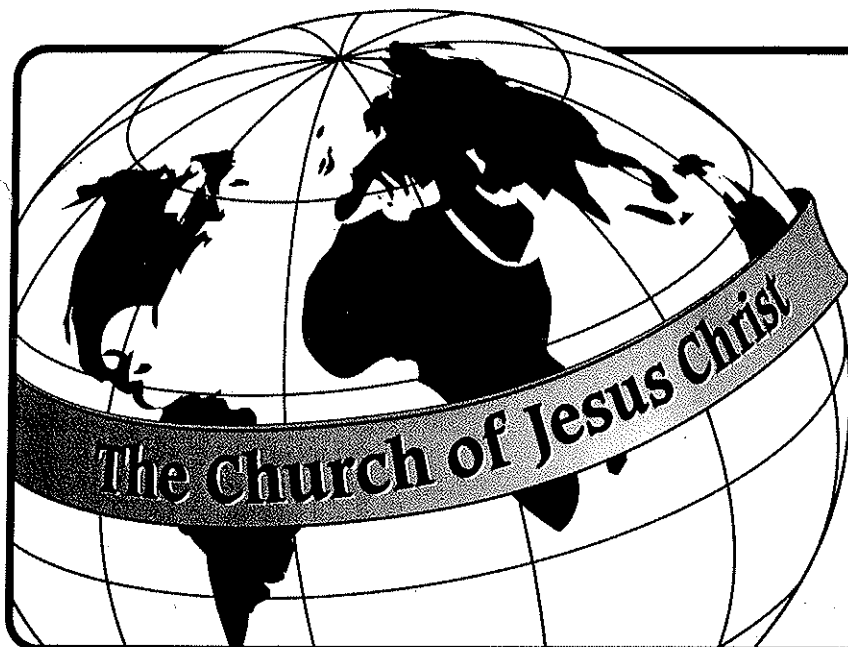
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monroeville, PA, USA

August, 2002

Volume 58, No. 8

## The Church of Jesus Christ Missionary Fields

Matthew 28:19-20 states: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the World. Amen."

This commandment is the focus of The Church of Jesus Christ. The responsibility to carry out this commandment is assigned to the Missionary Operating Committee of the Quorum of Seventy. It is chaired by Evangelist Phil Jackson and is comprised of the Americas Missionary Operating Committee chaired by Evangelist Paul Liberto and the Foreign Missionary Operating Committee chaired by Evangelist Joel Gehly. These committees and brothers work with members of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Apostle Thomas Liberto is the Apostle Liaison for the MOC, Apostle Isaac Smith is the Apostle Liaison for the AMOC and Apostle Paul Palmieri is the Apostle Liaison for the FMOC.

The Missionary Operating Committee also works with the Missionary Foundation of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Missionary

Foundation was established in 1991 to meet the humanitarian, spiritual, and educational needs of people throughout the world. From the secondary educational school and orphanage in Nigeria, to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona, financial resources are used to provide food, clothing and shelter to needy children and adults. The Foundation also provides the Word of God through the Bible and Book of Mormon, which is the bread of spiritual life. Donations go directly to missionary endeavors. This is accomplished as follows:

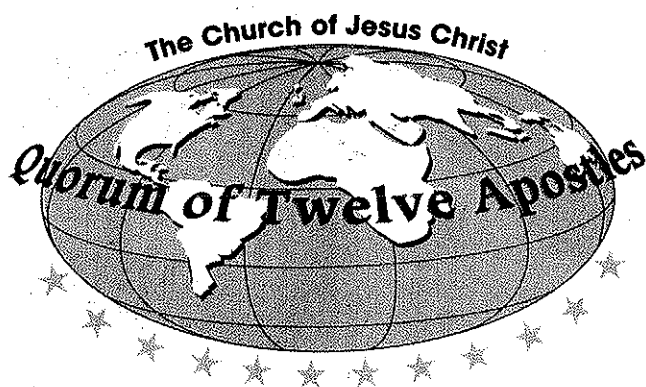
1. You can donate to the perpetual missionary fund from which the interest is donated to the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. The principal amount of your donation continues to earn interest in perpetuity.
2. You can designate that your donation be sent to a specific missionary location. The Foundation will then send your donation to that missionary area.
3. The Foundation also receives donations made in memory of a loved one.

We are also reminded of the following experience: "...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 that knowledge unto you, and all the world shall know that I have loved you saith the Lord God of Hosts'..."  
Apostle Benjamin Meadowcroft,  
November 9, 1862.

The missionary efforts and fields of The Church of Jesus Christ are rapidly expanding with letters of interest constantly being received from around the world. Missionary fields exist as follows:

**AMOC:** Colombia, Dominica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, San Carlos, AZ, Tse Bonito, NM, and Venezuela. New Works are being considered and planned for Ecuador, Guadalupe and other countries within the Western Hemisphere. There are long established works in Muncey and Six Nations, Canada. These particular works have been and continue to be

(Continued on Page 9)



## Quotable Quotes

*Submitted by Apostle Joseph Calabrese*

"We as a Church should not have to ask God to forgive us our sins, but to keep us from the appearance of evil. Sin should be so far behind us that it should never come to mind! Let us exercise the faith of the brother of Jared, let us put away the appearance of sin, and we shall see the glory of God and we shall go to the mountain of the Lord's house.



**Apostle Joseph Calabrese**

Then will Jacob's face no longer wax pale. Let us make ourselves clean and spotless before God so that we can lead the Church to the glories of Zion..."

Apostle Russell Cadman

"Throughout this conference I listened carefully and the message was

clear to me that we must continue to struggle to bring the "waters of life" to the thirsty. I believe that in spite of the problems we face as a Church and ministry to convert people we must keep persistent in our goal and God will intercede and will remove the obstacles from before us. We must lift up our heads and be of good cheer for the day will surely come when many people will line up for the waters of life..."

Evangelist Joseph Milantoni

"I feel I captured the essence of conference: Action. What can we do tomorrow morning? Let us commit ourselves that beginning now, we shall pray more, we shall fast more, we shall spend less time in recreation and more time searching the scriptures. Let us set our home and families in order. Let us access our resources and say to God: 'This is what I have. Lord bless it for your use. We are committed now. We can not go back, we must go forward!'"

Evangelist Richard Christman

"The devil has already started to work. Do not be discouraged. We will be tempted sorely to let down our efforts. We must overcome the devil. Let us return next April in the same spirit. Many want to do so much for the Church. If you have money to give, give it with all your heart. If you have no money, give of yourself. Continue to fast and pray every month or more frequent if you can..."

Apostle Dominic Thomas

"The most important thing in our lives is the love of God because it is love that will carry us across the desert. It is love that will carry you across the ocean. It is love that will carry you to the seed of Joseph. It is love that will carry you to the Gentiles. It is love that will carry you across the mountains and the valleys. It is the love of God that will destroy sin and transgression in this world and cause this world to be on top of the mountain that the entire world will say, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord up onto the mountain of God.' It is the love, my brothers and sisters, that will cause us to overcome until we stand before God and before Jesus and He will say to the Father, 'It was love that brought these to me.'"

Apostle V.J. Lovalvo  
(spoken in the spirit)

"One of the greatest things that has happened since the birth of Christ has been the birth of the Restored Gospel."

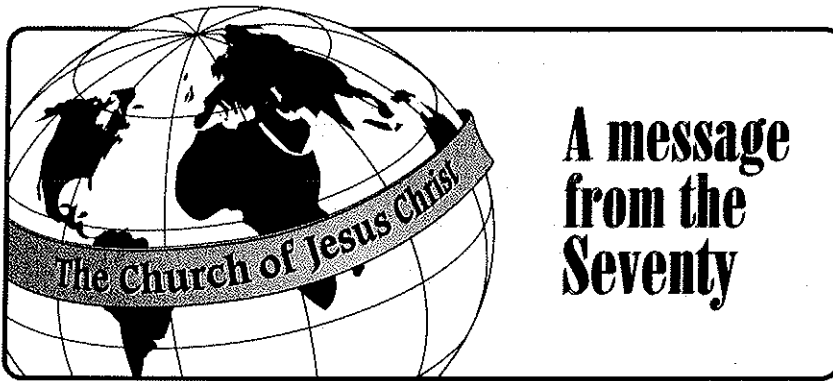
Apostle Joseph Calabrese

## An Experience

January 6, 1980

A sister had the following dream: She was at a Sunday meeting and saw a little boy walking in the middle of the aisle and he was reading from Ephesians 6:10 which says: "My brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." The following Wednesday night, Brother Frank Calabrese used this as our lesson where it speaks of putting the whole armor on. Then on Sunday, Brother Joe Calabrese (who had been on vacation in Arizona and had returned back home that Friday) brought out the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Ephesians and started reading from the 10<sup>th</sup> verse, and this was his main theme. He even stated that he didn't know why he had

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## God Has a Plan for the Work in Guatemala!

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto  
Americas Missionary Operating Committee*

Brother Luis Marroquin and Brother Isidro Dominguez were boyhood pals growing up in Guatemala City, Guatemala. They were carefree and happy with their lives and had no desire to leave their country. But God had different plans for them. Neither of our brothers knew much about the United States, and when they had an opportunity to emigrate together they weren't sure they wanted to go. In fact, Brother Luis testifies that he had to hunt down Brother Isidro the night before they departed to convince him to go! Both brothers were torn between their desire to stay and enjoy the worldly pleasures they knew and loved or to explore new opportunities they had only heard about in the United States. As many of our forefathers did before them, however, they chose to seek the promises of wealth and easy living and immigrated to California in 1980.

They soon learned that the United States offered the same worldly pleasures they enjoyed in Guatemala and they most probably would have continued their same, carefree life styles; but, as was said, God had different plans for them. The brothers lived together with Brother Isidro's family and through the invitation of Sister Santana Mecuri, a public school teacher of one of the Dominguez family's children, they attended a service at The Church of Jesus Christ in Anaheim, California and were touched by the spirit of God. Soon,

both Brother Luis and Brother Isidro were baptized.

As time went by they married, had families, and enjoyed living with the securities, comforts and conveniences they never had in Guatemala. In 1984, they were ordained as Elders and worked diligently at the new Santa Ana, California mission. They could easily have remained in the United States, but again, God had different plans for them. As their understanding of the Gospel increased and they were nurtured by the Church

and led by the Holy Spirit, they began to feel a burden for the spiritual welfare of their people in Guatemala.

MOVED THERE IN 1987

In 1987, after months of preparation and planning, Brother Luis and Sister Darlene Marroquin and their children, Brother Isidro and Sister Maricela Dominguez, and Sister Rose Anderson, moved to Guatemala City, Guatemala to establish the Church. There were many experiences to confirm God's approval and in several months six people were baptized into the fold. Over the years, there has been success, regression, some sadness, continual opposition, but always much joy among those who make up The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala. It is not easy to live in Guatemala because of the poverty and poor economic conditions. Because of economics, the others eventually returned to the United States and only Brother Luis and his family remain in Guatemala as resident missionaries.

It has now been 14 years since Brother Luis and his family moved to

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The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala

## Message from the Seventy

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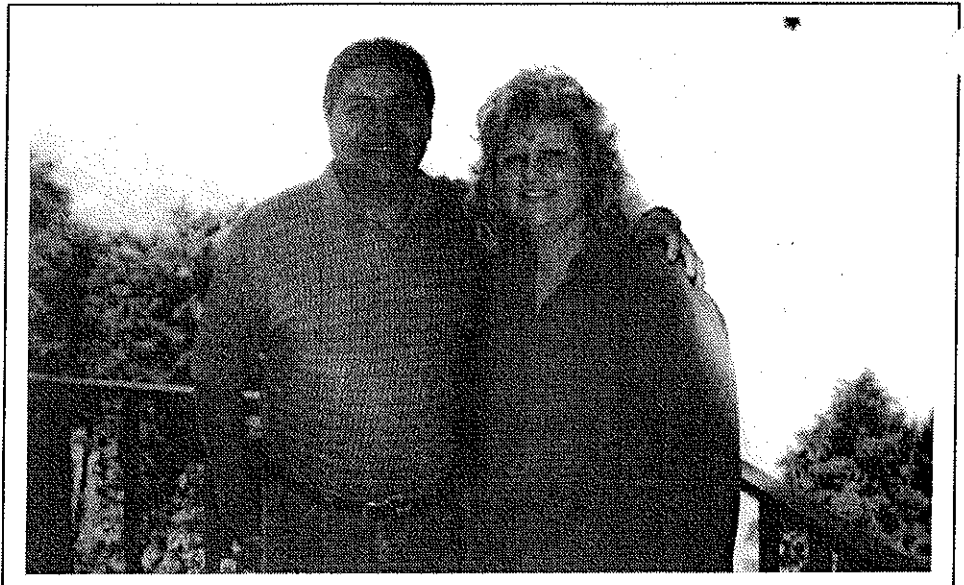
Guatemala; and, after many years of opposition and discouragement, God is truly blessing them with great success. It was a privilege to visit our location in Guatemala recently, along with Evangelist Dennis Moraco, Chairman of the Guatemala Operating Committee, to witness how the country has changed and to see the growth of the Church.

### GROWTH IN THE PAST 20 MONTHS

In the past 20 months, there have been 11 new baptisms, five reinstatements and four inactive members who started attending again. Eleven young people have been added to the Church with an average age of 16 or 17. There are now 35 members in Guatemala. This revival started in October, 2000, when the Guatemala Committee conducted their first Vacation Bible School in Guatemala. It was continued when the GMBA sponsored a Youth In Action tour there in June, 2001.



The Church in Guatemala



Bro. Luis and Sis. Darlene Marroquin, resident missionaries in Guatemala

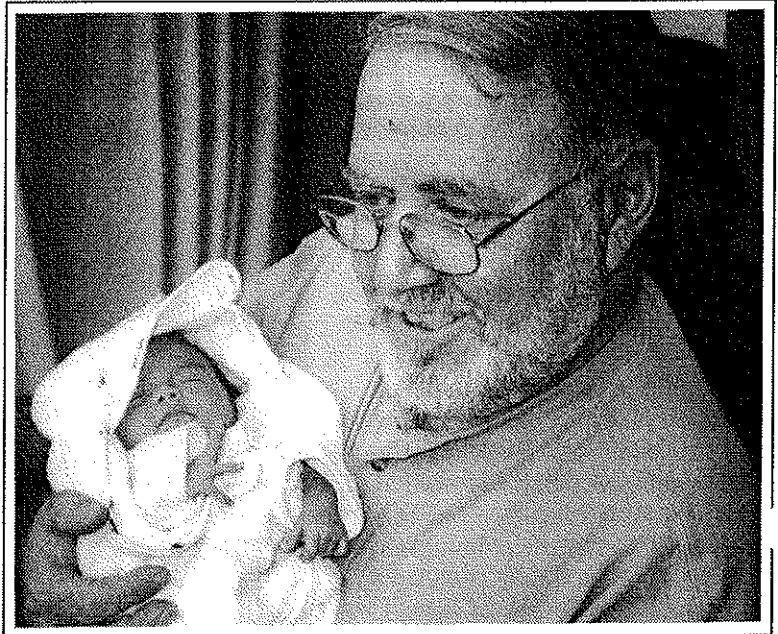
A local MBA has been established and it was a blessing to attend one of their meetings and see the young people presiding over the service. The young people love to sing and have regular fund-raising projects to pay for a professor of music to give them group singing lessons. It was a wonderful blessing to hear them sing!

Brother Luis and Sister Darlene meet with the young people weekly

to nurture them and develop their abilities to some day take over the operation of the Church. They understand that the future of the work in Guatemala will be in the hands of the young people.

It is impossible to describe the joy we had in seeing how God has blessed the work in Guatemala. We visited the homes of the members, prayed for the sick, encouraged the weak in spirit,

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Bro. Dennis Moraco holding one of the children of Guatemala.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

This year, the first ever Conference of the Native Americans was held in the location where The Church of Jesus Christ first established itself among the Native Americans – Muncey, Ontario, Canada. Aside from the commission we have to tell everyone around us about the Restored Gospel, the Church has been commissioned specifically to tell the Native Americans, or seed of Joseph about the Gospel, and about the record we have of their ancestors, The Book of Mormon, and the important role they will play in the last days in establishing God's kingdom upon the earth. The Church has had marginal success in converting those of the seed of Joseph, but has had tremendous success in "planting seeds" among them over the years. The Book of Mormon says that the day would come when they would be convinced of the Word, which has **already gone out among them**. In this respect, the Church has told tens of thousands of Native Americans about The Church of Jesus Christ. Because of their traditions of a "Great Spirit," and hatred for the "white man," convincing them is quite difficult, but planting seeds is easy!

Especially in recent years, the Church has had many Native Americans from Central and South America migrate to the United States, and move into our own towns and cities. The Church has taken the opportunity to tell them the message, and now every Region is involved in some way in working with the seed of Joseph. In our branch alone, much of our congregation is Native American from Mexico, Guatemala, and still others have Cherokee ancestry. The Church now has open doors to many Central and South American countries as well as the Caribbean. On my recent trip to Dominica, an obscure island in the Caribbean, I was amazed at how much the Native American (Carib Indian) population there is interested in hearing about their "roots."

Although many are interested in their "roots," the message of our precious Savior, and His truth is difficult to teach a people who still believe in a "Great Spirit." Even in the days of Ammon, his main objective was to convince the King and Queen that there was no "Great Spirit," only our God. The King and Queen as well as many people were powerfully converted (read Alma Chapters 17-19). We also must not lose sight of the fact that the promises made to the seed of Joseph for the last days (they would be convinced, they will convert the other tribes of Israel, they will build Zion, etc.) mean nothing as long as they are unwilling to accept Jesus Christ with a full purpose of heart. In addition, we also must remember that the Gentiles (those not part of the House of Israel by blood) become adopted in when they accept His Gospel. When we understand these points, then many of the questions we think of regarding the work among the seed of Joseph are answered. I've never known of a time when God lost control of His plan and purpose. He is in complete control of the work with the seed of Joseph.

*"And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands" (Genesis 41:57).* Joseph's brothers, who abandoned Joseph, came back to him begging for food in the time of famine. The day will come when the other tribes of Israel will come to the seed of Joseph, begging for "spiritual corn" because of the spiritual famine they are in. What a glorious day that will be! Remember when Joseph's brothers embraced him in love when they recognized him in Egypt? Remember how Joseph was full of forgiveness for his brothers? This beautiful type and shadow of love is what will propel Israel and The Church of Jesus Christ into the fullness of the Peaceful Reign. It is what will launch the message of the Gospel to the whole world. If you are a part of His precious Gospel, you are part of the promise, regardless of your blood ancestry. Together, with God's help, we will feed the world from the bounty of His storehouse.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

*(Dear Friends, the Lord worked a wonderful miracle in my life and I just married by best friend, Brother Jim Bork.)*

## Who Fights For You? (2nd Kings Chapter 6:8-32)

Dear Friends:

There are going to be many times in your life when you are all alone, facing a terrible problem that stabs you with fear. Where will you go? How will you escape and who will fight for you?

In The Church of Jesus Christ we serve a living and powerful God. We also have a precious Saviour named Jesus. This is who will save you. This is what you shall do.

Hopefully you will lead a clean, free-from-sin life, everyday praying and talking to God. Hopefully, anytime you realize you've let yourself be "too busy" to pray, or too "upset" you will tell God you're sorry and start fresh quickly. That way you will be ready when the hard times come and the old devil shoots fiery darts at you.

In the years after King David was dead, the people of Israel continued to be attacked by the armies of neighboring countries. In those days, there were no telephones, telegraphs, cell phones, airplanes, bicycles, cars or quick ways to bring news back and forth. If an enemy was approaching, the best thing was a fast horse and chariot or camel that could endure the deserts.

But God had a special way to protect the armies of His people. He had a marvelous prophet, Elisha that He spoke to. God saw every move that their enemy, the Syrian army made.



When they sneaked up to attack the army of God's people, He told Elisha. And Elisha sent a quick message to the King, "Beware that you don't pass or go near this place, for the Syrian army awaits you." And the armies of Israel were saved over and over.

Now the King of the Syrians was furious. He called his advisors together and asked, "Who is it that's a spy and traitor? Who is on Israel's side secretly telling them our plan?"

And one of his servants answered him, "None of us king, but Elisha the prophet in Israel. He tells the king of Israel the words you speak secretly in your bedchamber."

So the king of Syria said, "Go, spy out where Elisha may be that I may send and fetch [capture] him." And when he heard where Elisha was, in Dothan, he sent a huge army out at night. And the soldiers with the chariots and horses surrounded the whole city.

And when Elisha's servant woke up early and saw the huge army surrounding the city he asked Elisha, "Oh no! What shall we do?"

And Elisha answered, "Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." And Elisha prayed and said, "Lord, open his eyes that he may see," and the Lord opened the eyes of the young man. "And behold, the mountain was full of horses, and chariots of fire from heaven round about Elisha."

And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed, "Lord, make them blind," and the enemy soldiers were made so (6:18).

Then Elisha tricked them. He said, "This is not the way, or city. Follow me and I will bring you to the man you are hunting for."

And Elisha led them out of Dothan to Samaria where they were then surrounded by the great armies of the King of Israel. And Elisha prayed that God would open their eyes. The king asked him, "Shall I kill this band of soldiers?" But Elisha told him, "No, feed them and send them back to their master." And the bands of Syria came no more unto the land of Israel.

Can you imagine the testimony they brought back about the powerful and forgiving God of Israel? Can you see how God sent invisible armies to protect His servant Elisha, and how fearlessly Elisha walked among his enemies? Did you see how Elisha forgave and fed those who tried to hurt him?

Do you realize that this is the same powerful God we serve today, a

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

ELISHA	IN
THE	FIERY
PROPHET	CHARIOTS
OF	GOD
ISRAEL	SAVED
WAS	THEM
PROTECTED	BLINDED
BY	FREED
INVISIBLE	FOES
ARMIES	

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



## Great Lakes Area MBA Campout – Greater Things

*By Sister Rachael Natoli*

Over 150 brothers, sisters and friends gathered at Saginaw Valley State University for our annual Great Lakes Area MBA Campout on May 31 to June 2, 2002. Brother Joe DiBattista was Camp Director. On Friday evening we had a singspiration, with the theme for the weekend introduced by Brother Larry Champine as "Greater Things."

As with many campouts, early Saturday morning we had a prayer meeting in which the brothers and sisters present prayed for the camp and prepared the way for the blessings of God to be felt. Brother Tom Everett was asked to introduce the morning Chapel, and although he was not one of the seminar leaders, he spoke under the inspiration of God, as though he had the material in front of him. Seminars then followed with each age group focusing on a formula:

**DESIRE + DEDICATION + DETERMINATION = GREATER THINGS.**

During seminars, we were each asked to consider our spiritual *desires* such as, knowing and following God's will in our lives, experiencing greater manifestations of the gifts of God and the fruits of the Spirit, and also to resisting temptations. We were also asked to consider how we could be more *dedicated* in our service to the Lord, such as yielding to God's will through fasting and prayer, purifying and sanctifying ourselves, and by studying the scripture. Lastly, we were asked to consider how we could be more *determined* in our service to the Lord. Examples such as, keeping our focus, establishing realistic goals, not

being content but striving for more, being an active participant in The Church of Jesus Christ, and regularly testifying to the honor and glory of God, were offered and discussed throughout the seminars. Because Brother Tom's morning Chapel message was so similar to the seminars, he was asked after the seminars if he had seen the material before morning chapel. He replied that it was simply the inspiration of God, because he had not seen any of the material until he attended his own age group seminar.

At the evening meeting Brother Kerry Carlini and Brother Lyle Criscuolo preached about "Greater Things." Each seminar class either sang or presented a short skit. The meeting was opened for testimony and many shared blessings and experiences that the Lord had so mercifully given them. We then partook of the Lord's Supper. As the night came to a close, we spent time in fellowship with the saints.

Sunday morning brought an additional 25 into attendance from nearby branches and missions, and with a beautiful gathering of the saints, Brother Frank Natoli opened the service encouraging both young and old to be a vessel of honor that the Lord can use. "...*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work*" (II Timothy 2:20-21).

Brother Peter Scolaro followed, commenting that these were the exact verses that he had shown Brother Dominic Thomas that he had been directed to focus on before the morning service. Brother Peter, inspired, reinforced the message with wonderful examples of being a vessel of honor. Brother Lyle relayed later that the Lord had given him a short dream the previous night, where he saw Brother Frank open the service and Brother Peter follow after him. It was a wonderful confirmation that the Lord inspired the meetings and blessed all

those in attendance. Beautiful testimonies and singing made those present realize that applying the formula, and doing a little better each day, will bring us one step closer to the "Greater Things" that God has in store for His people.

## Youth In Action Extended Tours – Coming in Summer 2003

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti  
YIA Chairman*

At the May 2002 GMBA Conference, the Youth In Action Committee of the General Missionary Benevolent Association presented a plan for building upon the success of the Youth In Action program by organizing what will be known as "Extended Tours."

Many Church locations across the nation (and even a few in other countries) have experienced the effect of a Youth In Action tour. In just 7-10 days at a site, YIA teams have been instrumental in increasing missionary zeal, inviting thousands to the Church and even having some souls come to the Lord. The objective of an Extended Tour will be to multiply that effect many times over, especially in the area of bringing new souls to the Church.

What is an Extended Tour?

Basically, it will consist of two young people being assigned to a specific Church location for a period of 2-3 months with the sole assignment of presenting the Gospel to the surrounding community. The young people selected for such an assignment will be past YIA participants who are at least 18 years of age and are active, baptized members of the Church. A committee of officers from the GMBA, YIA, Domestic Missionary Operating Committee and the Missionary Operating Committee of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists will participate in

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings in Rochester, NY

By Sister Bette Panfile

It was a beautiful spring day when God blessed the congregation of the Rochester, New York Branch with His presence and with visitors; brothers and sisters from Lockport, New York; Hopelawn, New Jersey; and Perms Creek, Pennsylvania. In addition to enjoying fellowship with our brothers and sisters, there were three children blessed that Sunday.

Brother Leonard Benyola was in attendance and spoke of some of his experiences in the Church and the impact God has had on his life.

Brother Tom Banyacski recalled the story of David and Goliath, and how David put his trust and faith in the Lord when he threw the stone that struck the Philistine. Brother Tom told of the many trials he and his family overcame by putting his faith and trust in God, and that we too can conquer the Goliaths in our lives by trusting and praying to the Lord.

Three young children were then brought forward by their parents, Paula and Matthew Woerner, to be blessed. Noah Patrick Woerner was blessed by Brother Andrew Locci, Alexander Matthew Woerner was blessed by Brother Leonard Benyola and Adam Joshua Ledtke Woerner was blessed by Brother Tom Banyacski.

Our meeting continued with the blessed sacrament and many touching testimonies, after which we met downstairs for lunch and continued fellowship. We thanked God for a wonderful and blessed day!

On another Sunday, visiting Elder, Brother Leonard Benyola in his sermon referred to the mighty conversion of Alma, the son of Alma, and how the prayers of the father moved the hand of God in behalf of his son. Brother Leonard said this account

reminded him of Brother Julius Sipos, who at the end of his sermons always asked the saints to pray for his children who did not belong to the Church. After his passing from this life, his three daughters, in their fifties, and their families, joined the Church.

During our testimony meeting Sister Belle Panfile, Brother Julius's youngest daughter, arose and asked to be reinstated into the Church. Presiding Elder Andrew Locci and Brother Leonard reinstated Sister Belle and all the saints welcomed her back singing *Ring the Bells of Heaven There Is Joy Today*. Surely joy was felt this day in heaven by two fathers, our Heavenly Father and Sister Belle's late father, Brother Julius Sipos, who would have been celebrating a natural birthday this very day.

### It's Good to Be a Saint

By Sister Karen L. Progar

I could feel the excitement Sunday morning June 9, 2002 as I approached the waters of baptism. Even though it was early, I viewed nearly 100 people, not only many members and friends of the Aliquippa Branch, but also numerous visitors from all over The Church of Jesus Christ, who wanted to be part of this blessed event. Two weeks prior to this day, four women requested their baptism while visiting the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. In a meeting where our new sisters were able to search their souls, Jocelynn Giannetti, Brittany Giannetti, Stella Sharatz and Amanda Gula requested baptism.

We have a wonderful view of the proceedings from a bridge over the creek. It was delightful to look at our sister's faces as they made their covenant with God and were immersed in the rapidly moving stream. Her fear of water forgotten, Sister Stella was the first to enter the water. Her nephew, Brother Jeff Giannetti, from the Dallas-Forth Worth, Texas Branch, had the privilege of baptizing his aunt. At the conclusion of the planned

baptisms, Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. was afforded the opportunity to address the group. It was evident that others were being touched and a blessing to see the struggle of one young woman end, when Sister Trisha Trimbath requested her baptism. Her conversion was followed by the requests of Sister Liz Ondik and Sister Desiree Palmieri. Our converts were diverse in age, but all had attended the Church all their lives.

In addition to the baptisms, we celebrated the 52 years Sister Martha Christman Buffington has spent as a member of the Church. Brother Tom Everett, from Detroit Branch 1, sister Martha's grandson who came to honor her opened the meeting, using the outcome of Alma's confrontation with an angel in which he states in Mosiah 27:24 that "I have repented of my sins, and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold I am born of the Spirit." Brother Tom concluded by reminding us that the good aren't good enough, the Lord says that all must be born again. If this were not true, Jesus would not have had to die for the sins of mankind.

Brother Ike J. Smith, currently residing in Ohio, spoke regarding the different types of service. He also reaffirmed that, if Jesus was baptized, all men need baptism. In conclusion, he noted that the work is just beginning for those who were baptized today. Our final speaker was Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, who spoke of the feast to which we have been invited. He discussed that the menu included the Spirit of God, the Lord's Supper, blessings unbounding, to mention a few. He asked, "What holds those back who don't accept the invitation?" The next portion of our meeting was dedicated to sharing Sister Martha's history in the Gospel. In addition to hearing the testimonies and thoughts of her children, Sister Martha had the rare privilege of seeing two of her great-granddaughters baptized today. Surely it was a glorious day in the service of God.

Confirmations were the day's next activity. It was joyous to hear as the brothers requested that special gifts be bestowed on each of our new sisters.

During the confirmations, the gift of tongues came forth, the interpretation of which was, "Ye have not seen and yet believed. Your faithful heart has made you a witness to the plan of salvation. I will never forsake you, Thus saith the Lord."

A brief season of testimony concluded a joyous service. At the conclusion of the meeting, the nearly 200 in attendance enjoyed a time of fellowship and wonderful dinner prepared by the sisters of the Branch.

## Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway  
a long time ago,  
one day I saw a sign that read  
Heaven's grocery store.  
As I got a little closer  
the door came open wide,  
and when I came to myself,  
I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels,  
they were standing everywhere,  
one handed me a basket and said,  
"My child, shop with care."  
Everything a saint needed  
was in that grocery store,  
and all you couldn't carry,  
you could come back the next day for.

First I got some PATIENCE,  
LOVE was in the same row,  
further down was UNDERSTANDING,  
you need that everywhere you go.  
I got a box or two of WISDOM,  
a bag or two of FAITH,  
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST,  
for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and  
COURAGE to help me run this race.  
By then my basket was getting full,  
but I remembered I needed some  
GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION,  
for salvation that was free.  
So, I tried to get enough of that  
to save both you and me.  
Then I started up to the counter  
to pay my grocery bill,

for I thought I had everything  
to do my Father's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER  
and I just had to put that in,  
for I knew when I stepped outside,  
I would run right into sin.  
PEACE and JOY were plentiful,  
they were on the last shelf,  
SONG and PRAISES were hanging  
near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel,  
"Now how much do I owe?"  
He smiled and said,  
"Just take them everywhere you go."  
Again I smiled at him and said,  
"How much do I really owe?"  
He smiled again and said,  
"My child, JESUS PAID YOUR  
BILL A LONG TIME AGO."

## Missionary Fields

Continued from Page 1

handled by the Great Lakes Region of The Church of Jesus Christ. The responsibility of the AMOC is to preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Native Americans throughout North and South America.

FMOC: Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, and the Philippines. New works are being considered for Egypt, Malawi, Romania and Vietnam. The responsibility of the FMOC is to preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia. There are members of The Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We have one or two members in countries such as Japan, Ecuador, Guadalupe, United Kingdom, Germany, Nepal, Poland, Spain and China to name a few.

As The Church of Jesus Christ expands throughout the world, this brings added responsibilities and identifies needs of people. It is necessary to continue to send missionaries as often as possible to established works and new works. It is also necessary to provide financial assistance to our worldwide mission fields.

Needs currently exist for new church buildings, maintenance of current church buildings, school properties, and new vehicles for transportation throughout the respective countries. It is recognized that financial resources are limited. The brothers who are responsible for the missionary works of The Church of Jesus Christ are very diligent in their management of our limited funds. They are mindful of the needs of our mission fields. The brothers bear a tremendous responsibility in overseeing the many missionary works of The Church of Jesus Christ. They counsel extensively with one another, and with the officers of the Quorum of Seventy and Apostle Liaisons. Above all, the brothers make it a matter of prayerful consideration and ask the Lord for His direction and guidance on allocating finances based on critical and urgent need.

Despite the limitation of financial resources, there is significant progress being made around the world in The Church of Jesus Christ mission fields. This is the direct result of your contributions and the financial planning done by the brothers in charge of the works. We wish to point out to our readers what is being done with your donations and what more can be done with the continued generosity of the brothers, sisters, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Missionary Operating Committee receives interest money on an annual basis from the Missionary Foundation for capital improvements in the mission fields. This year the Missionary Operating Committee received \$42,000 in interest money. These interest funds were allocated to a number of missionary works for new buildings, maintenance and vehicle requirements. Dominica and the Vicente Guerrero, Mexico Mission were each allocated \$3000. Colombia, Durango, Mexico, and Peru were each allocated \$5000. Kenya was allotted \$6000, Ghana was allotted \$10,000 and \$5000 was allotted to the Philippines. More is needed. More could be done. For example, Kenya actually needs approximately \$20,000 and the

(Continued on Page 10)

## Missionary Fields

Continued from Page 9

\$6000 allocated is a significant step in reaching its goal of \$20,000. The Missionary Operating Committee is confident it will reach this goal in Kenya and all goals around the world. The funds that were extended to the Philippines will allow our brothers, sisters and friends in that country to build their 'second' Church building! What a blessing this will be to see that beautiful name, The Church of Jesus Christ on another building in the Philippines! This is only possible through the generosity of the members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Other needs exist throughout the mission fields of The Church of Jesus Christ. There are requirements in the Muncey and Six Nations, Canada Reservations, Italy, India, Mexico, Venezuela, and elsewhere. As you might imagine, there are needs in all of our missionary fields around the world. The Lord is looking to the members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ to help fulfill the needs of people around the world, both spiritually and naturally.

Psalms 116:12 states, *"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"* Have you ever asked yourself this question? Remember, the Lord loves a cheerful giver. It is not the amount you give, it is how you give. The widow who gave her last two mites gave her all. It was counted by the Lord as the most generous of all the donations received on that day. When you give from your heart, the Lord will reward you and multiply your substance. He has a way of multiplying what is offered to Him. On more than one occasion, He was given a few loaves of bread and a few fish. With those few loaves and fish, He fed thousands!! The Lord will do the same when you donate your finances to His Church.

All of us have been blessed by the Lord. It is incumbent upon us to share our blessings. It is important for us to share our substance and riches with those who stand in need of help. In the Book of Mormon, Jacob re-

minded the people that they were to share their benefits to help those in need. They were instructed by him in Jacob 2:19, *"clothe the naked, feed the hungry and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted."*

This is what is done in the mission fields with your donations.

Your donations can be sent to The Church of Jesus Christ, Missionary Foundation, P.O. Box 80, Fairless Hills, PA 19030. You can help clothe the naked, feed the hungry, liberate the captive and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted. When you do, the Lord will bless and reward you. When you are kind and generous to others, the Lord will compensate you. He will increase your substance, provide for you and care for you.

In Matthew 10:42, the Lord states, *"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."* Allow the Lord to fill your cup. Once your cup is filled, please share that cup with those that stand in need. He will never forget what you do for Him and the human family.

The Missionary Operating Committee thanks you for what you have done and for what you will continue to do for The Church of Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

## An Experience

Continued from Page 2

brought this scripture out. When testimony started, this sister testified of Brother Joe bringing out the same chapter and verse of Ephesians and there must be a reason why God is telling us to put on the whole armor of God. At that time, a brother rose under the spirit and spoke the following:

"The reason why my sisters and brothers and priesthood is because God is seeing what is coming before us. Unless we are armored with the armor of Christ this afternoon my brother and sisters, we won't be able to stand the things that are coming before us. I feel

at this time God is constraining me to say, pray on, pray on my brothers and sisters. The bloodshed is going to cover the earth and such sorrow is going to be. Unless God will give us strength, we shall fall."

The spirit was still upon him and he said:

"Oh my God! My God! Hear our cry. Cause this to be a short one (tribulation) and cause Heavenly Father, that you may bring peace and joy."

Since that meeting we have heard several times at different branches in which Ephesians starting at Chapter 6:10, has been brought forth concerning the whole armor which we praise God always for His love toward His children and for His revelations.

We felt as the ministry of Lorain, Ohio where this experience took place that in view of what has been experienced in all these branches and missions that it was indeed necessary to share with the entire Church this experience which seems to be more than a coincidence.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

laughed with them, cried with them and embraced them in the love of Christ. It is good for us to realize that the work of the Lord is the same wherever the Gospel is established.

We thank God that Brother Luis and Sister Darlene persevered and never gave up. Their dedication has borne fruit and there is much hope for the future. We thank God that He had a plan for the work in Guatemala and that He has a plan for all of the work of The Church of Jesus Christ in these the latter days! May we never grow tired of being used as His instruments in furthering the Restored Gospel throughout the world.

Speak out for the Lord!  
Remember, silence isn't always  
golden, sometimes, it's  
just plain yellow.



## YIA Extended Tours

Continued from Page 7

the selection of the participants for Extended Tours.

Training for Extended Tours will be extensive as well. Participants will spend 1-2 weeks with an assigned trainer, either an Apostle or another designated Church officer to receive in-depth training regarding the Church and Her beliefs. In addition to topics such as Apostasy, Restoration, Organization of the Church, Future Expectations, etc., the training will also include study of key passages of scripture to build a solid understanding of the Church and our beliefs and the ability to explain these things to others.

### FURTHER TRAINING

Further training will be performed by a Youth In Action representative to cover the program and techniques to be used when presenting the Gospel to strangers. Included in this part of the training will be topics such as Planning a Daily Schedule, Presenting the Gospel Door to Door, Conducting Follow-Up Visits and Record Keeping.

Upon arriving at the assigned location, participants will need to secure suitable housing. As of now, the plan is that the Church will cover the cost of the housing and that all other expenses (food, transportation, telephone, etc.) will be borne by the participants.

During the period of their assignment, the pair of young missionaries will be working five days per week on presenting the Gospel. A typical day will consist of door to door presentations in the morning and afternoon and follow-up visits in the evening. It is virtually impossible to effectively present the Gospel in a short encounter at somebody's door so the purpose of the initial presentation is to interest the person enough to schedule a follow-up visit. A very specific program of six follow-up visits has been designed, many of which will be able to be conducted with the assistance of a Power Point presentation on a laptop computer. The topics to be covered, by visit, are as follows:

1. The Restored Gospel
2. The Book of Mormon
3. Questions in Welcome Book (followed by an invitation to attend Church)
4. Follow-up from first Church visit
5. Baptism
6. Future Expectations

### SITES TO BE SELECTED

In order to maximize the potential for success in this program, the sites for Extended Tours will be selected from locations which have previously hosted Youth In Action tours. In addition to past YIA participation, the following will be considered when selecting sites:

- Ministerial support for such an effort
- Regular meeting place and meeting schedule
- Active Sunday School and MBA
- Suitable surrounding neighborhood

A pilot of the Extended Tour program is planned for the summer of 2003. What is needed now are young people to volunteer to be participants in this program, whether for 2003 or a future year. It will require some sacrifice on the part of the participants as they will be giving up an entire summer, meaning no summer job and no other summer activities (with the possible exception of GMBA Campout). However, it is anticipated that the blessing will be great—the opportunity for unparalleled learning and practical experience as well as the likelihood of being used to bring souls to Christ.

Young people who are interested in being considered for this program are requested to pray for the Lord's direction and then, if so directed, contact YIA Chairman Brother Jerry Valenti to be added to the list of candidates for the Extended Tour program.

All members of the Church are encouraged to pray for this effort that we may be successful in bringing souls to salvation and in building up our domestic base which will in turn better position us to bring the Gospel to the world.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

God of revelation and protection, a God of strength and forgiveness, a God who can surround His people with invisible chariots of fire, to protect them. Love God, thank God, call on the name of Jesus. He will fight for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## OBITUARIES

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

### GLEN MISKOV

Brother Glen Miskov of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on February 21, 2002. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Lena (nee DeCredico). He is survived by his sons, Glen, Michael and James; five grandchildren and a sister, Zora Barnaj.

### J.B. (JAY) ARMSTRONG

Brother J.B. (Jay) Armstrong of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on March 14, 2002. He is survived by his four children, John (and Dora) Armstrong, Mrs. Bruce (Shalimar) Fanning, Steve Armstrong and Dan Armstrong, one grandson Eric, and a sister Nemo South.

### JESSE CARR

Brother Jesse Carr of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto his reward on April 4, 2002. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Ruth; daughter, Sister Janice Brown; granddaughter, Sister Linda Brown; and his sister, Dorothy Jonsef. He is survived by three children; Paul Carr, Timothy Carr and Wilma Osterwise, along with their spouses, 16 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Albert Giannetti and Sister Diane Ciotti were united in holy matrimony on May 25, 2002.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Stella Sharatz was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, and confirmed by Brother Joe Ross.

Sister Jocelynn N. Giannetti was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Isaac J. Smith.

Sister Brittany R. Giannetti, was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Sister Amanda M. Gula, was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Chuck Jumper and confirmed by Brother Paul A. Palmieri.

Sister Trisha R. Trimbath was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother James Gibson.

Sister Elizabeth R. Ondik, was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Anthony Ross and confirmed by Brother David DeLuca.

Sister Desiree R. Palmieri was baptized on June 9, 2002 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Brother Bob Loughner was baptized on May 5, 2002 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Dick Lawson and confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo.

Sister Jessica Bradwell was baptized on June 2, 2002 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ralph Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti.

Brother Gene Szufnar was baptized on March 24, 2002 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Apostle Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas.

Sister Lisa Capone was baptized on March 4, 2002 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

Brother Daniel Robert Bertolo was baptized on April 14, 2002 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Frank Natoli and confirmed by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

Sister Donna Keener was reinstated on October 14, 2001 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Sister Elizabeth Julia Panfile was reinstated on February 3, 2002 in the Rochester, New York Mission.

## Children Blessed

Tracey Eugene Harper, son of Tracey and Michelle Harper, was blessed on May 19, 2002 at the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Pablo Nunez, son of Brother Gerardo and Sister Francis Nunez was blessed on May 19, 2002 at the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Grace Julia Gibson, daughter of Brother Brett and Sister Julie Gibson was blessed on May 19, 2002 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Kevin Michael Crump, son of Frank and Janice Crump was blessed on June 16, 2002 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

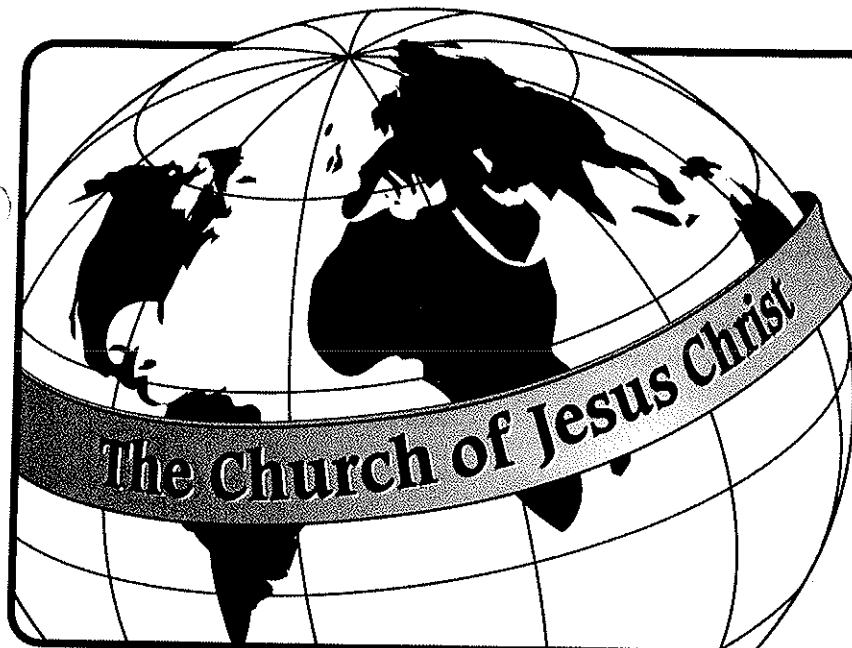
Garret Anthony Ostrander, son of Craig and Sister Renee Ostrander was blessed on June 9, 2002 in the Saline, Michigan Mission.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 2002

Volume 58, No. 9

## Conferences in Italy

By Sisters Becky Rogolino and Deanna Nuzzi

(Editor's Note: This is the Message from the Seventy article.)

Over the past few years we have brought several of the younger non-baptized members of the Church in Italy to the states so that they could participate in the GMBA campouts and the World Missionary Conference and enjoy the spiritual fellowship. Last year we were led to do just the opposite and take several American brothers and sisters to Italy to hold a conference there. We held our first conference in a beautiful little village in Northern Italy called Lecco. It was there that two young people gave their lives to Jesus Christ and entered into the waters of regeneration. We repeated the process this year with the help of the GMBA and YIA adding to the venue a second conference in Southern Italy ( San Demetrio Corone) which turned into the painting and repair of the church building inside and out, canvassing the city passing out fliers, evening meetings and Sunday service. This trip four additional young people have asked for their baptisms and the date is set for the fall. Following is a travel log of the trip:

Conferences were held in both northern and southern Italy the period from May 30 to June 11 where the Lord richly blessed all the efforts.

Brothers and sisters who attended from America were John and Caryl DiBattista, Paul Liberto, John Buffa, Paul and Karen Pezzenti, Nina Diconzo, Cameron Staley, Robby McDonnell, Deanna Nuzzi, Lisa Gray, Joyce Ross, Brian Alessio, Becky Rogolino, Dennis Buck, and Stephen Cihomsky.

From all over the USA, we arrived in Milan on May 30<sup>th</sup> where we were met by saints; then took two nine-passenger vans to Lecco, an hour from Milan. At Lecco, other Italian brothers, sisters and friends, another wonderful turnout, pleasantly greeted us.

There was a Friday night orientation meeting where we went around the room and told who we were and how long we had been baptized. We had our first installment of the prepared lessons and seminars. Brother Brian Alessio presented a slide presentation on a time line from Adam to the Apostasy followed by fellowship together.

The American contingent opened

the Saturday service by singing *Just For Me*, quickly becoming an Italian favorite. Several gave their testimonies. Brother DiBattista presented a time frame from Abraham to the Restoration after which Brother Liberto showed a few slides of last year's trip to Italy and an overview of the work in Central and South America. Brother Paul thus introduced the Italian brothers and sisters to the work of the America's and explained the Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ to the Seed of Joseph. Afterwards, some of the brothers and sisters of Italy requested to be anointed. There are many needs among the saints. The evening service was spent in review of the previous lessons and there was some singing.

The Sunday School was led by Brother Cameron Staley and concluded by Brother DiBattista who spoke about the importance of love in our lives. Prayers for natural and spiritual strength followed. Brother DiBattista then spoke on the significance of Communion and the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross.

Brother Rosario Scragliari, President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Italy, read and spoke from Isaiah 55:1-6. *It Is Well With My Soul* was sung in English and Italian while Communion was served, after which

(Continued on Page 10)

## The Founding and Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ

*(Editor's Note: This is only a small excerpt taken from this article.)*

We must first establish the reasoning in a true and unadulterated Gospel, and The Church of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel according to Matthew, we find the words of Christ setting up His Church.

*Matthew 16:18:* "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter [true interpretation in Greek, is petra, which is by interpretation, rock], and upon this rock [not Peter] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." With this quotation we must bear in mind, that since these words were spoken by Jesus, no church or religious organization has remained intact on their doctrinal beliefs. Ours has not deviated in doctrine from its initial entry of the Restored Gospel. Hence, we notice a drastic contrast between the religious world today and the true followers of Christ.

*1 Corinthians 3:9:* "For we are labourers together with God: Ye are God's husbandry [or field], ye are God's building."

*1 Corinthians 12:27:* "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

*John 13:35:* "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

As we now have vision unlimited, let us accept the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy in searching the truth of the authenticity of the words of Christ.

*2 Timothy 2:15:* "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word [Christ or revelation] of truth."

Also the words of Jesus:

*John 5:39:* "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are them which testify of me."

In Acts, we find a similar incident:

*Acts 17:11:* "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Let us compare the above words with those of The Book of Mormon. Jesus names His Church.

*3 Nephi 27:8:* "And how be it my Church save it be called in my name. For if a church be called in Moses name [symbolic of so many names today], then it be Moses church. Or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my Gospel [Rock]."

*Moroni 10:4:* "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." (We see the results of the diligent seeker.)

Jesus was precise and exact in all things. Lest, any one individual find either fault or discrepancy in His doctrine, we then in all fairness must see how He set up His Church. Jesus knew by revelation that His appearance on earth was but for a short duration. Therefore, He calls His workers to labor in the field after His baptism.

*Matthew 10<sup>th</sup> chapter:* Read the whole chapter.

*Luke 10:1-12:* Calling of Apostles and Evangelists.

*Titus 1:5:* Calling of Elders.

*Acts 6<sup>th</sup> chapter:* Calling of Deacons.

*Romans 16:16:* Deaconesses (Editor added).

*Ephesians 4:11:* Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers.

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

*Matthew 7:7:* "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

*Mark 6:13:* "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

*Mark 16:17-18:* "And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

*Luke 9:2:* "And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."

*Acts 2:4:* "And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance."

*Hebrews 2:4:* "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will."

One of the most important facets of His doctrine was to be not only readers or hearers of His word; but also doers of it. Jesus commands His ministry to perform, and observe these ordinances as follows:

*Matthew 3:13:* "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

*Mark 1:4:* "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance, for the remission of sins."

*John 3:5:* "Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

*Acts 2:38:* "Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

*Acts 8:38:* "And he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him."

*Ephesians 4:5:* "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

*Colossians 2:12:* "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead."

#### FEET WASHING:

*John 13:15:* "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

#### LORD'S SUPPER:

*Matthew 26:26-28:* "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

#### LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR RECEPTION OF THE HOLY GHOST:

*Acts 8:17:* "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

*Acts 19:6:* "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

#### ANOINTING WITH OIL:

*Mark 6:13:* "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

*James 5:14:* "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

## Do Babies Need Baptism?

By Evangelist Frank D. Giovannone

I have been asked this question many times. I would like to answer this question by giving some scriptures and references that will prove according to the word of God, that babies do not need baptism.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus was 41 days old when his parents brought him into the temple. There was a man by the name of Simeon there who was just and devout waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was upon him. He took Jesus in his arms, and asked God's blessing on him (St. Luke 2:25-32).

Jesus never gave instruction to baptize little children. When Jesus was 30 years old he went to John the Baptist to be baptized of him. John forbade him saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him" (Mathew 3:13-15 and Mark 1:9).

These scriptures and references show that an adult with a sound mind is to repent of his sins and be baptized. Apostle Paul said to the Romans, "All have sin and come short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Children have no need of repentance or baptism. In the book of Moroni, it is very clear as to why babies are not to be baptized. Mormon said, "There have been disputations among you concerning the baptism of your little children" (Moroni 8:5). Mormon wrote an epistle to his son Moroni in which he told his son, "that this gross error should be removed among you" (Moroni 8:6).

Mormon went immediately and inquired of the Lord concerning this matter. And the Power of the Lord and by the Holy Ghost, spoke to Mormon on this wise; in Moroni chapter 8 verse 8 Christ said, "I came into this world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin: wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; and the law of circumcision is done away in me."

In Moroni chapter 8 verse 9,

Christ said, "I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children." In the 10<sup>th</sup> verse Moroni was told to "teach repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children."

In the 12<sup>th</sup> verse Moroni says, "little children are alive in Christ," therefore children need no repentance or baptism. Moroni goes on to say in the 12 and 13 verses, "Even from the foundation of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism! Wherefore, if little children could not be saved without baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell."

"Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity; for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity; wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to

(Continued on Page 4)

## Do Babies Need Baptism?

Continued from Page 3

hell. For awful is the wickedness to suppose that God saveth one child because of baptism, and the other must perish because he hath no baptism" (verses 14-15). If you continue to read the rest of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Moroni to the end, you will see what will happen to those who think that children must be baptized.

"And the first fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins. And the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God" (Moroni 8:25-26). A child does not understand all that is said in these verses. Therefore they cannot repent and give themselves to God with lowliness of heart.

The last command that Jesus gave his disciples as they departed is explained in the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew verses 18-20. It reads, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." I ask you, can a child observe these things which we have discussed? I believe the answer is, NO!

In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark verses 15-16 he wrote that Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." John the Baptist told the Pharisees and Sadducees to "bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance," in Matthew chapter 3 verse 8. The children would have to show their humbleness by coming to the Lord with

a broken heart and contrite spirit. Can a baby do this? No!

In the above paragraphs, Matthew wrote that Jesus told them to go and **teach** and Mark wrote that Jesus said to go and **preach** to everyone. The words are different, but the message and command Jesus gave to his disciples is the same.

Peter in his writings said, "*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (1 Peter 3:21). Can a child answer with a Good conscience toward God? No!

There could be much more said on this topic of baptizing babies. I am thankful that we of The Church of Jesus Christ, whose headquarters is in Monongahela, PA, observe and keep all of the commandments and keep all the doctrine in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Ezekiel explains in chapter 37, verses 15-19 that the Bible is a record of Judah and the Book of Mormon a record of Joseph. We keep all ordinances such as Baptism, Laying on of Hands for Reception of the Holy Ghost (Act 19:6), Communion (bread and wine), Feet Washing (John 13) and anointing the sick (James 5:14-15).

May God Bless every one of you and your families. Ask God to give us more understanding of the truth of His word. I ask you to search the scripture and study more to the enlightenment of your mind, heart, and soul. Amen.

## A God of Miracles

On June 20, 2002 the Atlantic Coast had an All Regional Officers Meeting. Our meeting included testimony, singing and a wonderful spirit of unity. During our dismissal we all joined hands in a circle and sang *Blessed Assurance*. During our closing prayer Sister Rose Bonaduce had a vision in which she saw a bright light come through the church window followed by an army of angels. The angels came in, stood behind each of

the brothers and sisters and the Lord spoke and said "My army, My people I will walk with you and guide you."

This was a great blessing to us in the meeting as well as a preamble to what would happen later that evening.

For the last 8 months I have been driving nearly two hours each way into New York City for work. This week didn't seem any different except several brothers and sisters had told me in our Wednesday night meeting as well as this night how tired I looked. In addition, at the end of this Thursday meeting I spent more time, till approximately 10:45 PM, speaking with various people and then left to travel home, which is approximately 60 miles.

While traveling I was listening to a talk show on the radio and about half way home I fell asleep while driving. This was not just falling asleep a few seconds or drifting off. I fell asleep for approximately 30 miles. I know this to be a fact as the last thing I remember was getting on route 78 in New Jersey which is milepost 20 and opening my eyes 10 miles into Pennsylvania. At the point where I opened my eyes I was just short of the exit that would take me home. If I had missed this exit I would have traveled another 10 miles before I reach the next exit.

Our God is truly a God of miracles.

The road I traveled on has many curves, hills, bridges, and a toll plaza going into Pennsylvania. I don't remember any of it. I was not injured, nor my car damaged, but God truly had to be guiding my car. As I said the last thing I remember was a talk show on the radio, but when I opened my eyes I was singing along with a CD playing, "Come we that love the Lord and let our joys be known." I was singing *We're Marching to Zion*.

As I awoke I didn't stop, I just continued driving till I got home. When my wife, Lynda, arrived home shortly after me (we were both at the meeting this evening but had separate cars) and saw something was troubling me; she asked what was wrong? All I could tell her was that the Lord just drove my car for 30 miles and that

(Continued on page 10)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . . .

One of God's greatest gifts to humankind is the ability to choose. Being able to make choices in life can easily change a person's future happiness or misery. Choosing allows us to decide how we will handle each storm, obstacle or temptation we will inevitably face in life. Choosing also determines our daily attitude. Did anyone ever say to you, "You always seem so happy! What is your secret?" Or, do people talk behind your back and say, "He/she is always in a bad mood! Stay away from them!" One of the greatest witnesses that Christ is in our heart, is the attitude we portray to others each day. Some of the older brothers used to say, "You can't keep a bird from landing on your head, but you can keep him from building a nest!" We face trouble, trauma, temptation, sickness, heartache, and hurt just like everyone else in the world ("it rains on the just as well as the unjust"). However, it is our choice in how we react.

*"Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself" (2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 2:27).* A few verses earlier proclaims:

*"Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy" (verse 25).*

Satan wants us to be miserable. God wants us to be joyful. If we find ourselves miserable, unhappy, and finding fault with everyone around us (miserable people tend to blame others for their unhappiness), then we are probably not being led by the spirit of God, but by the spirit of Satan. Fortunately, these feelings can be turned around, simply by CHOOSING to turn them around. No one can twist our arm or threaten us to be unhappy. We can decide how to deal with each obstacle in life. The choice is ours.

God promised He would never give us more than we can bear, but if we CHOOSE to fall apart with every problem we will face, then it FEELS like the situation is more than we can bear. This is a lie that Satan whispers to us, because surely, God WILL NOT give us more than we can actually bear. Being a new father, I can say that I would never think of burdening my one-year-old son with anything! I would rather take all his illnesses and problems (that seem so traumatic to him right now) and bear them myself instead of him. Just like Jesus, the greatest father of all, He bore all our problems and sins at the cross. He does not want to see us down and discouraged; He created us to have joy!

They say every cloud has a silver lining. When we are disciplined for doing poorly on our job or school, we can view it as a learning experience (we are learning how to better ourselves). When we face sickness or injury, we can view it as a way to improve our prayer life. When we face marital problems, we can view it as a way of surfacing and dealing with hidden hurt and pain, and by confronting it, we overcome it, and can be happy again. When we have to face someone with whom we have major differences or disagreements, we can take the opportunity to just show them love (love never fails!). When we face temptation, even if we give in, we can view it as a learning experience on how to avoid it in the future and will commune more closely with the Lord when we repent. When we are discouraged at church and finding fault with others, we can take the opportunity to get to know those we are finding fault with. In every case, if we do this, we understand that person better and sometimes discover wonderful things about them that we never knew before. A brand new relationship emerges.

Sometimes our pride prevents us from CHOOSING to see the silver lining in each cloud. But we can CHOOSE to swallow our pride, and CHOOSE to act and react with happiness and joy. There is nothing in this life worth worrying or being depressed about, when you compare our short time here, with the time we will spend in Heaven. The CHOICE is up to you.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

Dear Friends,

In the Bible and Book of Mormon, God used dreams to warn and guide His people. For example, He told Lehi and Nephi to pack up and leave the great city of Jerusalem before it was destroyed. In the Bible He warned the Pharaoh that seven years of starvation were coming, so he could store food in preparation.

Later on God told Joseph to take baby Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt because Herod wanted to kill him. And in the day that Jesus allowed himself to be crucified, the ruler of the land of Pilate listened to his wife's dream. She told him "Have nothing to do with [judging] that just man for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him." So Pilate tried to talk the mob out of killing Jesus. And he washed his hands from being responsible for falsely judging Jesus.

Today God still guides His people in dreams. Sister Marge D'Amico (of Branch #2 Detroit) was sleeping soundly when she heard, "Help me!" She woke up; it was 1:30 in the morning, and no one was there. But the desperation and fear in the voice brought her out of her bed where she kneeled and began to pray for people in need.

She thought of her nephew with cancer, and prayed for him and his family. She remembered others who were sick or lonely and begged God to help each of them. At the end of her prayers, she also asked God to bless her twenty-seven year old son, Brother Pete Prechel, who works nights at Ford's automotive plant. Finally



feeling peaceful, Sister Marge thanked God and went back to bed.

Later that morning she visited Brother Pete at his home. He brought out a handful of broken steel pieces and told her, "Mom, an amazing thing happened to me last night." He was working as a mechanic, underneath new automobiles that passed over his head. His job is to install and remove parts. As he was using a heavy air-operated wrench to tighten a steel nut, the socket that fits over the nut exploded in his face. Chunks of broken metal flew around his head. But none of them struck him!

Sister Marge asked him quietly, "Pete, what time was that?" "About 1:30 Mom," he answered.

The voice crying with desperate need for prayers and help from God came from her own son. Our diligent sister, awakened by her dream had called upon God, who protected Brother Pete.

The God of miracles spared him from any serious injury. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He hears the cries of His people and answers them. Let us praise our holy and high loving God. Let us pray for one another. The God of miracles and dreams is still alive today.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## Note of Thanks

In October of 2001, Evangelist Frank and Sister Ina Giovannone celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with over 100 family members, brothers and sisters of the Church and friends in attendance. This was their last celebration in which everyone saw Sister Ina. She went to be with the Lord on July 3, 2002.

Brother Frank and family would like to thank the many brothers and sisters and friends who have called, sent cards or visited during the passing of Sister Ina from the Liberty Branch, Ohio. Your prayers helped Sister Ina keep her spirits up and have continued to help Brother Frank find strength in the difficult times.



## Roscoe, Pennsylvania

*By Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky*

On May 26, 2002, Mary Llewellyn became our new sister and member of The Church of Jesus Christ at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. She was taken into the beautiful Monongahela River by Brother James Abbott and after returning to the Church received the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by the priesthood with the prayer being offered by Brother Abbott. Sister Mary was welcomed into the fold by all the brothers and sisters and many testimonies were given. We thank God for calling Sister Mary as a laborer in God's vineyard. She became a member of our Ladies' Uplift Circle at Roscoe earlier this year and already has made several baby blankets, booties and comforters to be sent to the different branches and missions of the Church where they are needed. Her enthusiasm in serving God is a great blessing to our branch. The following article was written by Sister Mary to be shared with the readers of The Gospel News.

### My Testimony

I have always been a lost soul and put myself in some very terrifying places just to figure out where I was going in my life. I joined the United States Air Force Reserves and volunteered for every overseas assignment I could get. Like I said, I wanted to find out where my place in life was. I had been shot at, had scud missiles launched at me, flew over enemy territory while they launched missiles at us, and in the line of fire many times. I could never figure out why I was saved. Then in December of 2001 my uncle died. While standing at the casket in the funeral home, I felt a tap on my shoulder and heard someone say, "You need to go back to church."

When I turned around no one was anywhere around me, then I was looking at my uncle in the casket and I felt someone tap me on the shoulder again saying a little louder this time, "You need to go back to church," and still there was no one there. Shortly after this happened, Brother Buck Bilsky asked me when I was going to start coming to church. I knew I had to go to church to find out where this was going.

I went to church and enjoyed hearing the teachings and joined the Ladies' Circle. Each time I went to Ladies' Circle and to church services I could feel myself getting closer and closer to the Lord, but I wasn't sure if I was good enough to be baptized. Then I went to a Mother's Day dinner in Imperial, Pennsylvania, and one of the sisters and I were talking and she said the Lord can help you if you only ask. After thinking about this for a few days I asked Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky how would I go about being baptized and asked her not to say anything to anyone, because I didn't want to disappoint anyone if I changed my mind. May 12, 2002 I asked Brother Jim Abbott if he would baptize me. He asked me if I was sure. I answered yes. I prayed that I would be a good servant to the Lord and I am still trying to be the best servant I can be. Sometimes I fall short and I have to stop and ask for forgiveness.

I was supposed to be baptized on May 19<sup>th</sup>, but the river had a lot of debris in it and was swollen. At first I thought this was a sign that I was not good enough to be baptized, but only for a brief moment. I was baptized May 26<sup>th</sup> and I felt a weight lifted from my shoulders. When I came out of the water, I felt that I was walking on air.

I had migraine headaches for a few weeks and was not sleeping much. I was anointed and still the migraines were hitting me every night. I prayed and asked the Lord to please take these migraines away from me. My friend asked me why I was praying because it wasn't doing any good. I told her if she didn't have something nice to say don't say anything. I prayed for about two weeks for the Lord to please take away the headaches and finally when I said

for the devil to get behind me in the name of Jesus Christ, the migraines stopped and I did sleep well. I have not had a migraine since and I praise the Lord every day for the peace and rest I have received since.

Now I know why I was saved from all the danger overseas. I was saved so that I could and would open my heart and soul to our Heavenly Father. I'm so grateful for all I have been blessed with, and I pray that I will always have faith in the Lord. Amen.

## A New Servant in Cincinnati, Ohio

*By Sister Christine Maddox*

October 21, 2001 brought reason for the angels in heaven to sing. Rhiannon Clark, after attending The Church of Jesus Christ for a little over a year, recognized that without Jesus in her life, she was nothing.

In May of 2000, Rhiannon visited the Cincinnati, Ohio Branch as my friend from school, and her joyous walk with Christ began. All in the Cincinnati Branch were very excited to have this new young person become a regular in the meetings.

Rhiannon accepted an invitation to attend the 2001 Ohio Camp held in McKeever, Pennsylvania during October. After a wonderful weekend of singing, fellowship, and prayers for guidance, Rhiannon expressed her wishes to become a member of the church. Brother Chuck Maddox, Brother Bob Batson, and Brother Phil Jackson counseled her on behalf of her desire. They stressed the fact that getting baptized is a life altering experience, something that requires commitment, dedication, and above all a pure love for God. Rhiannon said she understood the magnitude of this decision, and she was ready to "be dunked."

On the chilly morning of October 21, about thirty people set out to

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## A New Servant

Continued from Page 7

witness the first baptism to be held near Cincinnati's new building. From the banks of the Little Miami River, a beautiful chorus of singing echoed up to the heavens. Rhiannon's mom, sister, and her mother's fiancé were all in attendance for this blessed event. Brother Chuck held Rhiannon's hand and walked her down to the water's edge. Rhiannon's mom stayed as close to Rhiannon as possible, as if to feel a portion of the peace on Rhiannon's face. Brother Chuck led her into the waters of regeneration, and Rhiannon walked back out completely innocent.

Brother Chuck confirmed Rhiannon later that day. Thus, the word "Sister" was placed in front of Rhiannon's name, and the Cincinnati Branch has been abundantly blessed with our new addition.

### DOUBLE BLESSINGS

The cups of the Cincinnati Branch were overflowing on Sunday, November 18, 2001. The day started off near the water's edge of the Little Miami River. Mallory Batson had requested baptism at the 2001 November GMBA Conference. The beautiful picture of her running up the aisle freed from all chains of sin is a memory we will never forget. Brother Bob Batson, Mallory's father, happily escorted her into the chilly water's of rebirth. There was a beautiful spirit felt by the large crowd, and everyone knew that it was the beginning of a spectacular day.

There was a large number of people in the branch that weekend for two reasons. One reason was to celebrate Mallory's baptism. The other was to commemorate the dedication of our new church building. After many, many years of holding services in the saint's living rooms, and later a one room rented music hall, Cincinnati finally had a place to call home.

The blessings of Sister Mallory's baptism did not end at the water's brink. When we returned back to the building, the elders encircled Sister Mallory. Brother Joe Genaro, an ordained Evangelist and Sister

Mallory's grandfather, felt God's Spirit direct him to bestow upon Sister Mallory the gift of the Holy Spirit. During his powerful prayer, he was moved to speak in the gift of tongues. The interpretation, had by Brother Russ Martorana, was as follows: "The spirit of the Lord, be with you always. He will lead and guide you in paths of righteousness." It was a glorious confirmation!

There were numerous visitors from surrounding Ohio branches such as Columbus, Kinsman, and Youngstown. We also were blessed to have brothers and sisters from Florida, Michigan, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Apostles Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmeri, and Peter Scolaro were the three Apostles to visit this memorable event.

Brother Dominic opened the service. He spoke on the importance of missionary work in our own neighborhoods, and how to continue to grow in God. Brother Paul offered the touching dedicatory prayer. Hence, the Cincinnati Branch had an official address. After a delicious luncheon, we began to say our goodbyes. And while this was a sad moment in the day, it was a rejoicing moment as well. For the Cincinnati Branch had been lit on fire with a burning desire to spread the Gospel, and that desire continues to blaze.

### ORDINATIONS

Jesus said that the greatest among us are servants. On January 27, 2002 two sisters were ordained Deaconesses, a.k.a. servants, in The Church Of Jesus Christ. Sister Dianne Maddox and Sister Ruth Batson accepted a higher calling.

The morning of the ordinations, Brother Ron Genaro spoke on Jesus descending to greatness, in Matthew 20. Following him, Brother Alan Metzler used the same piece of scripture to talk about seeking the kingdom of Heaven. Next, Brother Paul Pezzenti explained the role of a Deaconess, and the blessed ordinations took place.

Sister JoAnn Catalano washed Sister Dianne's feet, and Brother Paul Pezzenti ordained her. Sister Cathy

Genaro washed Sister Ruth's feet, and Brother Joe Genaro ordained her.

There were many wonderful singing selections that day as well. Sister JoAnn sang *I Surrender All* as this was the song playing when Sister Dianne decided to accept her calling. Sister Jessica and Sister Mallory Batson sang *When I'm Humbled Down*. Sister Rhiannon Clark, Sister Christine Maddox, and Alyssa Maddox sang *I Love Him Too Much To Fail Him Now*. Brother Chuck Maddox Jr., Brother Eric Baez, Brother Mark Cotellesse, Brother Jordan Champine, and Brother Justin Cuomo sang *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Everyone was incredibly blessed to witness the many saints use his or her talents to honor and glorify Jesus Christ. It was another unforgettable day in the Cincinnati, Ohio Branch.

## Fun and Fellowship in San Diego, California

By Sister Patty Kerby

On Saturday morning, June 8, 2002, we gathered for a much anticipated MBA fundraising event, sponsored by the San Diego, California Branch. It took place at a beautiful baseball field at a local college.

The brothers played a great game of baseball while the sisters watched and cheered them on.

The admission price included lunch and a door prize awarded to the brother or sister with the winning ticket. We also held a silent auction with great items donated by brothers and sisters.

We were also blessed to have the Zionees with us. They sang *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* for us. A volleyball net was also set up, which was also a lot of fun. Young and old alike shared a great day of fun and fellowship while raising money for the MBA and missionary fund.

We again give all praise to our God for all His blessings while in the company of our dear brothers and sisters.

## Various Experiences

*(Editor's Note: These are various experiences taken from the article Restoration by Brother Spencer Everett.)*

In 1845, William Bickerton was baptized by an Elder of Sidney Rigdon's following and later was ordained into the Priesthood. In William Bickerton's own words he testifies, "I 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 was afterward 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 Jesus Christ without divine commandment from the Lord, for it would only be sectarianism, and man's authority." "But the Lord did not leave me; no, He showed me a vision, and in the vision I was on the highest mountain on the earth; and He told me that if I did not preach the Gospel, I would fall into a dreadful chasm below, the sight thereof was awful. I moved with fear, having the Holy Spirit with me. Here I was, none to assist me, and without learning, popular opinion against me, and the Salt Lake Mormons stood in the way. I could not turn back unto Methodism again. No, I knew they had not the Gospel. I stood in contemplation. The chasm was before me, no other alternative but to do my duty to God and man. I went ahead preaching repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

In conference, the word of the

Lord was given to the Church as follows: "Hear O my people, this is the word of the Lord unto you today, The Church must be one, and my people one, for unto you is committed the work of God in these last days, and you, my servants, feed the flock of God, over which I have made you overseers, for great is the responsibility that rests upon you; for unto you are given the Keys of this last ministry, and to lift the last warning voice to the world; therefore, be faithful to the end of your calling." This last ministry has preached the Restored Gospel for over one hundred years now.

Again in Conference, July 5, 1860, during a fast and prayer meeting, the power of God was made manifest in our midst and a vision was given to one, which we relate. "I saw in a vision a woman, dressed all in white, come into the house, with a crown in her hand. In the crown were twelve stars; and she laid the crown upon the stand and said, 'This crown belongs to this Church,' and then disappeared." Just previous to this vision, the following word of the Lord was given.

"Hear ye the word of the Lord God of Hosts today, I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I sent forth my servant, Joseph, with a message of glad tidings to this generation; Him have they slain saith the Lord, my people have they persecuted, scattered, and driven out, yet once again I have raised up another like unto Joseph, to lead forth my people; Him shall ye hear in all things. I decreed that I would set up an ensign, and raise up a standard; that ensign has been lifted, that standard raised, and now I have called forth my servant William Bickerton to lead forth my people and they shall go in and out and find pasture, and the world shall know that there is a God in Heaven; therefore touch not mine anointed; saith the Lord." We wish it understood that this Church will only hearken unto the things that are presented by man, inasmuch as they are consistent with the teachings of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; as He is our great Law-Giver.

It was also revealed what direction and program was to be followed to

achieve the ultimate goal of the Church. "Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my Church, and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go, saith the Lord, and I will go with you. Therefore you must go to the right and to the left, to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south. You must do your part and I will do my part. Go and the gifts and blessings shall go with you. When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them. Tell them they are the Seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their fore-fathers when they were carried away captive into Babylon, how that I brought them again into their own land and tell them that I will again gather them to their own lands for I the Lord have spoken it."

In the July Conference of 1863, the word of the Lord was given as follows: "Verily, verily, thus saith the Lord unto my servants, go ye forth and preach my Gospel unto all this Continent; and when you return, I will give you power to preach my Gospel to all Nations. And the records which I have given are to be preached unto them, for there are no other records to be given unto the Gentiles. The records which are hid are for my covenant people, which I will give unto you to gather them from all nations, for my word is Yea and Amen."

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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A good exercise  
for the heart:  
Bend down  
and lift another up.

## A God of Miracles

Continued from Page 4

I had no recollection of that period time or of the road. In addition this was not my normal route home. Had the car gone the normal way I would have passed through six traffic lights. Then I remembered the experience my sister had that evening, when the Lord told us **"My army, My people I will walk with you and guide you."** Jesus Christ was truly with me and I praise his wonderful name. But this was not the end.

A few days later I called Brother Scott Griffith to discuss the upcoming seminar we are doing at camp. I then related this experience. The Spirit of God just touched us and we rejoiced together seeing how the theme of our camp was going to be about Zion (I Nephi 13:37). Then, Brother Scott asked me a very interesting question, "How did you feel when you woke up?" I thought about this for a moment and said, "I did not wake up startled, afraid, or wondering where I was. I woke up as if I slept peaceful for a whole night."

The next day as I was driving to work I found myself singing a song about publishing peace and how our God reigns (Isaiah 52:7), which ties into the verse we are using for the theme of camp. God's spirit overcame me as I realized the tremendous blessing He had bestowed upon me the night before. Not only did he protect me, but he gave me the added blessing of peace.

The scripture for the GMBA Campout is *"And blessed are they that seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they 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; whoso shall publish peace, yea tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be."*

The Lord is reminding us of the great blessings He has ready for us within the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of God is entering into this world the same way it

entered into our hearts on the day of our baptism. And although we are challenged as individuals, as branches and as a Church concerning our beliefs, we need to hold fast to the Rod of Iron, which is the Word of God, continue in our testimony of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for us and have more love for one another than ever before.

The scripture tells us in Galatians 5:6, "... but faith which worketh by love." I believe it was the love of God within the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ that helped provide the faith that saved me that night.

God Bless You All,

Brother Jim Sgro  
New Brunswick  
Atlantic Coast Region

## Conferences in Italy

Continued from Page 1

testimonies were given.

At lunch, one of the brothers saw one of the young ladies crying. As he approached her, she told him that she was struggling with her baptism. The Elders prayed for her. Her sisters were called over as well and they said they had a desire to be baptized but that they were afraid. The evil one has such a hold on young people; we shared with them that this is the same in every land, including America.

Being directed by the spirit, we went back into the meeting room. Georgio, a young man, testified that he wanted to be baptized, but requested it take place in Sardinia so that his family and friends could be there. He told of a dream that he had last year after the conference. He saw an illuminated figure standing in the water with his arms outstretched, and he was telling Georgio to come. He knew he was called and he answered the call, after many years of prayers were offered for him. He will be baptized in September.

A young lady, Chiara, shared an experience that she had. She saw her

sister Marta coming out of the waters of baptism and she was dressed in a white garment. As she looked to the right she saw her mother crying with joy.

Lucia, another young lady, had an experience in Saturday's meeting that she felt as if a light of knowledge came into her and her mind was open to the Gospel; she immediately knew that she had to follow Jesus.

The brothers and sisters gave their testimonies, giving assurance and strength. The Lord's spirit was felt by all. We felt sorrow in saying good-bye to the brothers and sisters who were going home that day.

Monday morning, we left Lecco for the 17-hour drive to San Demetrio. Before we left, we all held hands in a circle in the parking lot of our hotel and said a prayer. We were saddened to leave our brothers and sisters. In the words of one of the Italian brothers, "I will keep all of you in my heart." Our arrival was very late that night.

When we awoke on Tuesday morning, we were amazed at the beauty around us. Our hotel was on top of a mountain and overlooked the valley below and the Mediterranean Sea.

We had a small chapel service at the hotel. Sister Deanna read from Acts 3:1-14, 4:13 and Psalms 35:14. The scripture is of the Gate Beautiful. Each of us expressed our desires for the land of Italy. Then we visited Brother Salvatore Olivia, one of our strong pillars who is 96 years old, where we sang to him, shared testimonies with him and he with us.

Next, it was on to the church building to sing and pray. When Brother Oliva walked in the building, he hung up his hat and knelt and prayed. It was beautiful to see his love for the Lord and the saints while he petitioned God for the Church in this area. There was a period of prayer and singing.

Now we began working on the building in San Demetrio. There was much to do, including plastering, painting and cleaning. We accomplished this in two days, so blessed to be working on this humble little House of God. Directed by the spirit, the brothers felt inspired to hand out fliers



for a singspiration. There was no copy machine nor computer so we hand-wrote the flyers to pass out. When the local brothers and sisters arrived, they were amazed and thanked us for all that had been done.

That evening, our hotel manager, Salvatore, and his daughter attended. Brother Oliva stood up and thanked God for the spirit he felt and for the zeal and desire he has to see the Church grow. Although he cannot speak at length, his enthusiasm and love for the Lord is amazing. He preaches as if he were a young man.

Brother Paul Liberto then stood up and said if you have the spirit of God in your life, it doesn't matter where you live. He read from John 3:3. To have joy in your life you must have a special relationship with Jesus Christ, which comes through baptism.

The young people testified and then sang *We're Marching to Zion* in English and Italian. Elder Pasquale Rosi spoke and thanked God for The Church of Jesus Christ and for Jesus and His gifts of contentment and joy. More testimonies were given.

On Friday morning, the thought was to hold Chapel Service in the hotel dining room; however, Brother John Buffa felt it should be held in church. Later, it was realized this was really an inspiration from God because at the church there was more liberty to let the spirit of God in. Brother Brian spoke from Jacob 5:8,22. Sister Deanna read from Alma 5:6-9. She was given these scriptures which coincide with Brother Brian's verse that he was given.

We knelt down and had a season of prayer. We sang *Come All Ye That Thirst*. Sister Becky didn't feel well and asked to be anointed. After she was anointed she was immediately healed. Sister Lisa had a headache. She was anointed and immediately healed. Then one by one each of the brothers and sisters who were there came forward to be anointed for natural or spiritual strength. There was a wonderful spirit of healing and the presence of the Lord. We closed the meeting by standing in a circle, holding hands as Brother DiBattista petitioned God to bless us as we knocked on doors to pass out flyers to

invite people to come to church.

The evening meeting was opened by singing *Wonderful Words of Life*. A nice group of people was in attendance. Brother Pasquale spoke briefly. *Primo Amore (First Love)* was sung. The service was opened to testimony and several in attendance asked for prayer. Brother DiBattista spoke in Italian on the Restoration. The Italian members sang a couple of songs.

After the meeting was over, two visitors drove up. We went back into church and sang a couple of songs for them.

At the Saturday evening service, Brother Buffa spoke briefly, thanking God for the opportunity to be back in Italy. He read Matthew 22:36, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind, and love thy neighbor as thyself. These two commandments encompass all the laws.

Brother Oliva stood and asked those who are not baptized to open their eyes to the Gospel. Brother Paul Liberto spoke on II Nephi. He said that Adam fell that men might be and men are that they might have joy. God wants us to be happy no matter what the problem. We should rejoice, because Christ died for our sins. He read and discussed Matthew 11 and John 9:1. He concluded by saying that Christ is the light of the world.

After the service, we visited Bombinas Buonfiglio's home to see her

husband, Umberto. We sang some songs to him and their daughter Angela was anointed.

Sunday morning, *Because He Lives* was sung. Brother Robby McDonnell opened Sunday school, asking "What does it take for you as a individual to serve the Lord?" and read Romans 5:1, Moroni 10:20-23 and Alma 13:29-30.

At the worship service, Brother DiBattista read Matthew 6:33-34 and spoke of his conversion. Brother Oliva followed, expressing the importance of baptism and following Christ. We were all saddened to say good-bye to our brothers, sisters and friends.

After lunch, we drove seven hours to Rome. That evening we were met at the hotel by some of the young people from the Northern Italy group.

While many of the brothers and sisters departed for the US, the YIA group stayed Monday and spent time visiting Rome. Tuesday, we returned to America.

Throughout the entire trip, we visited in homes and spent time with the brothers and sisters and their families.

We all felt like we left a little piece of our heart with the brothers, sisters and friends that we met and had grown to love in such a short period of time. Our desires are that God's richest blessing will rest upon them and The Church of Jesus Christ in Italy.



The Church in Italy

## Children Blessed

Jacob Michael Miller, son of Brother Brandon and Sister Christina Miller (Piazza), was blessed on March 31, 2002 at the Mid-Georgia Mission.

Julian Gabriel Ramey, grandson of Sister Betty Crudup was blessed on July 21, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Robert Evan Ramey, grandson of Sister Betty Crudup was blessed on June 23, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Joseph Benjamin Murillo, son of Brother Juan and Sister Lucy Murillo was blessed on April 4, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Ayanna Cathleen Wells-Crudup was blessed on June 2, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Alexis Ebony Williams, granddaughter of Brother Willie and Sister Emma Brown was blessed on April 28, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Elijah Brown, grandson of Brother Willie and Sister Emma Brown was blessed on April 28, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Jay Francis Clark, grandson of Sister Florine Drummer was blessed on March 31, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Otis Jabari Edwards Jr., grandson of Sister Florine Drummer was blessed on March 31, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Chalimar Shree Ramey was baptized on April 14, 2002 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Calabro, and confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri.

## Obituaries

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

### FRANK DIANTONIO

Brother Frank DiAntonio of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on June 23, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Sister Ann DiAntonio; daughter, Sister Carol Monaghan and son-in-law Leo Monaghan; daughter, Sister Cindy DiAntonio; grandchildren, Brother Jason Monaghan, Brother Patrick Monaghan and his wife Sister Tonia; great-granddaughter Carly Monaghan; and two brothers, Brother Fred DiAntonio and Brother Anthony DiAntonio.

### EDITH TERRILL

Sister Edith Terrill of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on July 19, 2002. She was preceded in death by her parents, the late Apostle Alma Cadman and his wife Sister LaVena Cadman. She is survived by one daughter and two sons; one brother, Apostle Russell Cadman and one sister, Sister Eleanor Sproul.

### LILLIAN FURNIER

Sister Lillian Furnier of the Detroit, Michigan Branch #4 (Redford) passed on to her reward on May 4, 2002. She is survived by one son, Richard; two grandsons, Glenn and Kenneth; one great-grandson, Grant; one sister, Elizabeth Damore; and one brother, Brother Carl J. Frammolino.

### MAUDE BUDGE

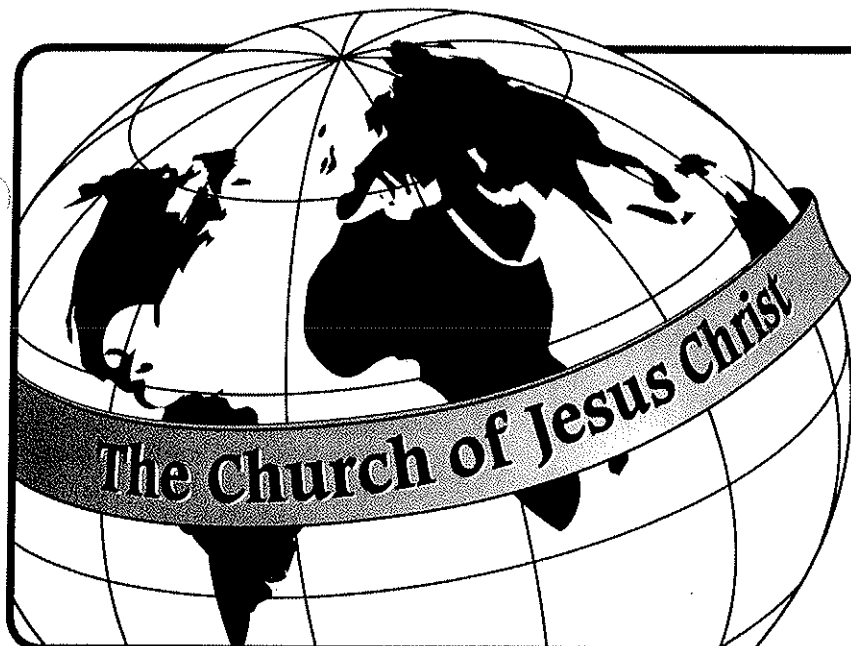
Sister Maude Budge of the St. John, Kansas Mission passed on to her reward on April 16, 2002. She is survived by her sister, Voyne Gros; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 2002

Volume 58, No. 10

## News from Peru

*By Evangelist Richard Christman*

The May 2002 trip to the Arequipa, Peru Mission was highlighted by the first-time visits of Brother Matthew and Sister Martha Picciuto, Sister Donna Eskut and her daughter, Emily. The Picciutos had come with my wife, Sister Pat, and me from the United States, while the Eskuts are currently residing in Peru.

Seminars were conducted by the new visitors, assisted by Sister Christman. Brother Christman and Alberto Garcia prepared lunch while the seminars were conducted. The Spirit of God was present. Many young children, teens, and adults were present.

There was a reward spiritually, as Pedro Montesinos was baptized by Brother Matthew. His wife had journeyed to Argentina in hopes of gaining employment and was stranded with no work.

Mother's Day was celebrated with flowers for the mothers, and the Montesinos children had to give their flowers to their father. It was a nice day, nevertheless, but we all felt sorry for the children. Thank God, the children's request to God that

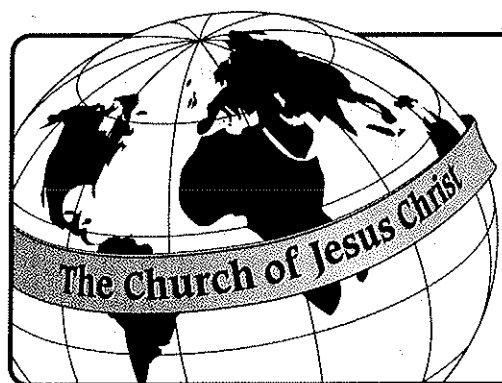
their mother would be able to return home was made possible shortly after a prayer was offered in conjunction with the laying-on-of-hands for the children. As we were leaving Peru, word came that their mother was on her way home and she attended the next Church service.

The brothers and sisters in Peru need your prayers. The economy is very weak.

We wish to thank all of you for your many prayers and efforts to meet the missionary needs of the Church. May God multiply you with His many blessings.



From left to right: Sister Donna Eskut, Brother Matt Picciuto, Sister Martha Picciuto and Mrs. Ana Cordona



## A message from the Seventy

### Greetings and News from Nigeria

*By Evangelist Joseph Perri*

Recent correspondence received from Evangelist George F Arthur, Director of the Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, requests greetings be sent with love and regards to the Parent Church in America, and to all mission fields around the world.

Although economic conditions in Nigeria have caused many of our brothers and sisters to fall on hard times and have also contributed to other serious matters, God has and continues to bless The Church of Jesus Christ in that part of the world.

Through the evangelistic efforts of the National and District Priesthood with financial assistance given by the Parent Church in America, two new branches have been established and 80 new members added to the Church. Each of the eight Districts have instituted an evangelism program, as they call it, where several weeks in advance, printed tracts are handed out with personal invitations of days, place and time with the theme of the program, posters placed in conspicuous areas, radio announcements, written newspaper articles, and, in some areas, a public address system rented to make verbal announcements of the evangelistic event. One District reported having over 1000 people during the three days of activities. Preaching the Gospel is the main activity with choir and group singing, prayers offered, and the anointing of those who are sick. Healings and casting out of evil spirits have been experienced. Invitations

have been extended to various religious denominations, and we received word that an ordained minister from another faith was converted and now attends our Church services. Attendance has increased in many branches who report visitors. What has attracted a number of visitors is the name of the Church. They admit never hearing of a church using the name "The Church of Jesus Christ."

Since the MBA was organized several years ago, young people are teaming up with their District Priesthood members in canvassing the nearby villages inviting people to attend not only the Evangelistic program, but also our Church services. One young brother wrote a personal note, expressing his concern, along with other young people of the 36 states in Nigeria, that there are only four states where the Church is established. He made mention of the youth of the Nigerian church wanting to embark on a program to visit as many states as possible to expose the Church to all interested persons.

We have noted there are brothers of the Priesthood who are able to read and understand English and are using the Book of Mormon in preaching their sermons. Brother George Arthur, with assistance of others, has been holding seminar classes on the Apostasy, Restoration, Faith and Doctrine, reasons for and why we use this sacred record, how it came into existence etc., to whom God used in restoring the Gospel and the Priest-

hood authority. By impressing upon Brother Arthur the need for the priesthood in Nigeria to receive a greater understanding of the Restoration and the Book of Mormon by holding seminars, it has raised an awareness, especially among the Elders and young people of the importance of this sacred record, what it contains, and the future hopes of the Church and the work of God in the latter days. Members of the Priesthood who are able to understand the Apostasy, its causes, the Restoration and how it came about bring back to their districts this information and hold seminar classes with brothers who only understand or speak in their native vernacular. The Book of Mormon has been translated into the Efik language with a committee currently made up of Elders and school teachers reviewing its contents while funds are being raised to proceed with printing. There are two other tribes (Yoruba and Ibo) represented in the Church and a need for translating this record into their language. Nigeria has approximately 210 million people with over 250 ethnic groups. English is the official language but Hausa, Yoruba and Ibo are also spoken. Requests are coming to us from all eight Districts of the Nigerian church to provide the Book of Mormon and other related material that will help in their gaining better knowledge of the Restoration and Faith of the Church.

Time and space will not permit us to include each experience related, but the one following is a must for the *Gospel News* readers:

Because the city of Lagos has more opportunities for employment, a number of our Church members have left the interior parts of the country for the big city for this reason. Periodically, visits are made to family members who choose to remain in their village approximately 450 miles away. Several months ago, Brother Nsikan Udoh traveled back to his villages and, after a pleasant visit with the family, he began his return trip to Lagos. The bus he was a passenger in

(Continued on Page 4)

## The Fields Are White

By Brother David Nolfi

The time, it is during the reign of the last king of the Nephites. Mosiah, son of Benjamin, is in the closing years of rule. He is a king that governs the Nephites in righteousness. He has four sons: Ammon, Aaron, Omner and Himni. The voice of the Nephite people call for the monarchy to continue and they choose Aaron. Aaron and all his brothers refuse the kingship. Mosiah now institutes a new form of government, the reign of the judges. The Nephite people will now be governed by elected judges in all levels of their society.

The sons of Mosiah and Alma (son of Alma the high priest), were a short time ago the very worst of sinners. They went about among the people and flattered many to commit evil. Their actions caused a great hindrance to the work of the Church. The Lord, hearing the fervent prayers of their parents, sent an angel to Alma and the sons of Mosiah to reprove them for their wickedness and to convince them of the power and authority of God. So great and terrible was their divine visitation that they were brought very low into bitter repentance. Prayers were answered, the Lord moved his Almighty Arm in the lives of these young men and they experienced a great conversion by faith in Jesus Christ who was to come.

Now with such a miraculous conversion Alma and the sons of Mosiah labor to repair the damage they had done to the Church. Alma receives the appointment of High Priest and Chief Judge. The sons of Mosiah, refusing any and all responsibility to govern, go to their father and plead with him for many days for his permission that they would go to the land of Nephi to preach the Gospel to the Lamanites. Mosiah counsels with the Lord concerning his sons' desires to preach to the Lamanites. The Lord reveals to Mosiah that they should go up among the Lamanites and that many would believe on their words.

This wonderful account of the

conversion of Alma and the sons of Mosiah and their change of heart is contained within the book of Mosiah, chapters 27, 28 & 29, recommended reading for the hungry soul. Although the departure of the sons of Mosiah to the land of Nephi is not recorded in the book of Mosiah they departed in the first year of the reign of judges on their missionary expedition never to see their father again in this life.

While they traveled in the wilderness they gave themselves over to much fasting and prayer and they searched the scriptures diligently. The Lord blessed their good desires with the spirit of prophecy and the spirit of revelation thus enabling them to speak with the power and authority of God. They would face many afflictions; hunger, thirst, fatigue, nevertheless they were comforted by the Lord and were perseverant in their labors. The work undertaken was indeed great because the Lamanites were a wild, ferocious and hardened people, lazy and loathsome: A people that hated the Nephites and delighted in murdering and plundering them. The account of the sons of Mosiah in the land of Nephi is recorded in the book of Alma, chapters 17 through 27 and is indeed wonderful reading for a hungry soul.

The first question at hand for one and all to consider is: Was the wickedness of the Lamanites worse than the wickedness of our present domestic society? Granted we do live in very wicked times, filled with all manner of abominations, blasphemies and whoredoms that infect every aspect of our society. But is it worse than the conditions among the Lamanites? The answer could very well be debated. However, the very important point to realize is that the sons of Mosiah undertook what appeared to be impossible! They went among their mortal and very wicked enemies to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In that regard we are given a distinct advantage in our present day task "to carry the pure and true Gospel under the banner of The Church of Jesus Christ to this nation"; law and order still prevails and freedom of religion is constitutionally

protected. Furthermore, if the sons of Mosiah were granted the Lord's protection and the blessing of missionary success, what then would hinder us from the same success? A strong believing faith that the Lord will use us as He did the sons of Mosiah to bring souls to Christ is the bridge that will carry us to harvest souls from this very sinful society! The journey of the sons of Mosiah through the wilderness to the land of Nephi was more than an arduous expedition, it was a time of soul preparation! They fasted and prayed much for a specific purpose, to be used as instruments in the hand of God to bring souls to Christ! Although we hope for missionary success in our foreign mission fields yet the greatest vineyard is right here in the United States of America. Jesus said in III Nephi 16:13, "*But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they will be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.*" The "But if" is left to our efforts and labors for the Gospel! Each and every member that has taken upon them the name of Jesus Christ has a part to play in our own locale. But, **we must be united** in approaching the work, first with faith believing that the Lord will grant us a harvest, then in a sincere effort of specific fasting and prayer to be prepared for the work and most important the work of extending the invitation to one and all to "Come and see"!

We must not let the degree of wickedness that thrives within our society cause us to be disheartened! How many times have we said openly and silently that "Nothing is impossible with God"! Do we possess that strength of faith coupled with the willingness to apply our faith into works? And above all do we hold a genuine love for the souls of men and women, trusting in our God who can do all things? James 2:18 says, "*Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.*" The

(Continued on Page 4)

## News from Nigeria

Continued from Page 2

met with an unfortunate accident where many people were killed and injured. The branch membership had no word of the accident or his whereabouts for some time. It is not only the testimony of Brother Udoh but also that of the National Church membership thanking and glorifying God, through his mercy and grace preserving his life from sudden death and for a greater work in the Church. Brother Nsikan is an ordained Teacher and an energetic worker for the branch of Ejigbo.

In addition to this unfortunate accident, he had no employment to provide for his wife and children. Plans were made to sell what little possessions they had and move back to the village. He visited the District Superintendent (a Regional Church President) and told him of his plans and asked him to appoint another to the position he held as a district officer. Brother Nsikan was encouraged by the District Superintendent to fast and pray and there would come a time when God would solve all of his problems. One day a short time latter while visiting the office where the Elder worked, he came across a newspaper and began to read the help want ads. There was an advertisement of a company seeking help, so he applied. Fifty people applied, and of this group brother Nsikan was the only person hired. He relates, "The pay package is fantastic and I have great reason to thank and worship God." He recounted the blessing of being the only person hired to Brother John Ojo, the Lagos District Superintendent, and both felt it to be the will of God for him and family to remain in Lagos to assist in the work of the Church. Brother Nsikan closed his letter to me saying he has a vision of 1200 people baptized before the year 2006. A great vision that we pray becomes a reality and comes to fulfillment. What a blessing that would be for all of us to hear!

The present membership in Nigeria is 3,105. There are 55 established branches, 1 Evangelist, 77 Elders, 40 ordained teachers, 70 deacons and 124 deaconesses. The

brothers and sisters of Nigeria are in dire need of God's hand of providence and His care. Prayers are being requested for The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, that God may place a hedge of protection around each one of our beloved saints and that He may bless them spiritually and provide for their temporal needs also.

God bless all our *Gospel News* readers.

## The Fields Are White

Continued from Page 3

works of faith found among the sons of Mosiah was to leave home with all its comfort and security and step out in faith to carry the Gospel to their enemies. Have we the same determination of faith to be willing to work within our own branch? No ocean to cross, no international flight, no passport, no luggage, just the love of God to share with others! Willing to be part of an outreach to hurting sinners held captive by the power of evil! Jesus said, *"No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."* Christ empowers his servants with the Gospel, which when a sinner listens to, believes and tastes the sweetness of the fellowship of Christ they are moved upon by the workings of the Spirit much like king Lamoni! We are then used as instruments in God's hand to bring a soul to Christ. We see the reality of "spoil the goods of a strong man" by being used of God to activate the power of faith in the Gospel in a sinner's life thus the devil looses his captive, **Praise God!**

Jesus said in St John 4:35, *"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."* Jesus and His disciples were not deterred from harvesting souls because sin was rampant in that day! It is the very condition of sin that provides a ripe field! The challenge to carry forth "The Great Work of the Lord" is set before us. With God's grace, we must rise to the challenge in a amalgamated effort to fulfill the theme of the Re-

stored Gospel, *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."*

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Did you ever hear the expression, "practice what you preach?" There is a story in the Old Testament that clearly shows the outcome for a man who didn't follow a law that he, himself, had put into place.

*"...And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land" (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 28:3).*

Samuel had died, and all of Israel mourned over his death. Saul, who was now in charge, was faced with an attack of the Philistines upon Israel. He also knew that the favor of the Lord was not upon him, so he banned the witches and wizards, who Israel deemed to be satanic, out of the land. Perhaps he thought he would regain the favor of the Lord by doing this. His motivation for enacting this law seemed more selfish, than a true desire to do something holy and right.

*"And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul to his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor" (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 28:5-7).*

When Saul's back was against the wall, he panicked, and decided to go see the witch of Endor. He cleared Israel of the witches and wizards, yet he himself, went to one for help. Because of embarrassment, he disguised himself when he met her, but she eventually recognized him as Saul. He wanted her to bring Samuel back from the dead so he could ask Samuel's advice on what to do about the Philistine invasion. Samuel did indeed come back, momentarily, to condemn Saul for what he had done, and to tell him that he and his sons would die the next day during the battle with the Philistines. This came to pass, and what an awful punishment it was!

Do we say things like "I would never..." or "I always..." Making statements like this is what God wants us to do, but it means nothing if we don't practice what we preach. Many parents today tell their children not to do this or do that, yet they themselves, are doing it! The punishment for them is that their children grow up to have all the same bad habits and troubles that they had. And then parents ask themselves, "I don't understand why he/she turned out this way?" By banning all witches and wizards out of the land, Saul was saying he would never go to one, but then he did.

There are times in life when our backs are against a wall. Sometimes we pray to get out of a situation, and God doesn't seem to answer us. We'll never know why God does what He does in this life. But in the life to come, we'll see things clearly. Our minds cannot comprehend His ways. However, we should stop and think that maybe God isn't answering us because He wants US to make the next move. How do we react? Do we maintain our faith, or do we give in to temptation or sin (as Saul did), and reap a horrible outcome? We can all say that God has ALWAYS answered our prayers, even if His answer was not to respond, but to wait for us.

What is our motivation for saying that we'll never do this or do that? Is it because we really want to live a righteous life, or is it because we want to impress others? Saul was interested in gaining God's favor back not because he really wanted to be righteous, but because he wanted the power that comes with having God reveal things to him. But God wouldn't do it.

Our motivation for making proclamations about our actions should be that we really want to live a holy life. We should always say, "With God's help... I'll do this or do that." But the most important thing, is that WE DO IT (or not do it). The world respects us, and will see Christ in us, when we "practice what we preach."

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## Let God Fight Your Giant Problems

Dear Friends,

Part of life is overcoming problems. We, in The Church of Jesus Christ, have a huge secret weapon to fight for us; it is called prayer. We call on God in the name of Jesus for help and He does help us. He helps us with the small problems and the giant ones.

In the ancient bible days, David was a music player called an armour-bearer for King Saul (1 Samuel 16:21). They lived in a country called Israel today. Their enemies, the Philistines, constantly surrounded and attacked them.

In those days there were no guns, bombs, helicopters or trucks invented. Armies of men fought hand to hand using sharp swords, spears, knives and rode chariots pulled by horses. The Philistine armies also had several giants to lead them in war and fight for them.

The first giant soldier that David had to fight was named Goliath. David was just a young man, too young to even grow a beard. But his heart was right. He loved and served the one, true God. And he had faced a wild lion and a bear alone, and with the help of God killed them both.

When David saw Goliath standing before the army and yelling mean things about God, he asked, "Who is this ungodly man that he should defy the armies of the living God? Let no one's heart fail [be afraid] of him, for I will go and fight with this Philistine."



As he faced his giant enemy, he called to him and said, "You come to me with sword and shield but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts...this day will the Lord deliver you into my hand...that all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel." Then he added, "All these men watching shall know that the Lord doesn't have to save with sword and spear, because [every] battle belongs to the Lord, and he will deliver you [our enemy] into our hands."

Then David ran quickly toward the giant, slung his weapon, a stone, and killed the giant enemy.

God can and will do this for each of us too. What fear is giant in your mind? God can get rid of fears. Is there something you wish you were brave enough to try? God can and will help you. Is there someone mean to you that you need help to get along with? Are there problems in your family that need God's help?

Sometimes when things are too giant to handle by ourselves we need others to fight for us. For example, years later during another fight with the Philistines, David wasn't well. He was faint (weak) but the giant Ishbubenob needed to be fought (2 Samuel 21:15). His soldiers who supported him said, "You are not going to battle. You are the light of our country..." (meaning leader) and so his soldier friend and warrior fought the giant and killed him.

Three more times, David's men fought giant warriors related to Goliath. One had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. They carried huge spears made out of enormous beams of wood. All of them hated God's people and wanted to

destroy them. All lost their lives.

We too may need the help of others to fight giant problems or heartaches. The brothers and sisters in Church and the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ have great power to reach God. Maybe all we will be able to do is stand to the side and quietly pray while they fight the battle for us. Maybe we will be faint, weak, like King David and hardly be able to pray. We may need others to fight and pray for us.

But we can always praise our precious God. He will help us overcome ALL the giant problems in our lives. He will send others to help us. He will help us with the small problems and the great ones.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

BIG	GOLIATH
PROBLEMS	HATED
ARE	GODS
LIKE	PEOPLE
GIANTS	DAVID
GOD	DID
CAN	KILL
OVERCOME	HIM
THEM	

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



## Our Women Today

### Spirit-Filled Ladies' Circle Retreat in California

Over 80 sisters gathered in Ontario, California, in anticipation of spending a spirit-filled weekend being sheltered in the arms of God. We were not disappointed! Our first speaker was Sister Sarah Watson who expressed delight in seeing many young women attending.

She started by giving a brief history of how the Pacific Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle came to be. She told us how her husband, Brother Bob, encouraged her to start a ladies organization and related her experience to start something for the sisters. "This Circle is a gift to me," was placed on her heart as she read the scripture depicting the Last Supper with the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine.

Have you ever wondered about Peter, who lived with Christ for three years and witnessed His miracles? How could he deny Jesus? Is Jesus

there when you suffer? She asked us to look in the eyes of Jesus, and never look away for we will surely drown. She went on to say how God has blessed her with brothers and sisters in the Church, and read Romans 28:3. No matter what we go through, we are conquerors. Sister Sarah ended by saying "When I gave my heart to Christ, I didn't want it back. If He gave it back I would not know what to do with it." She also asked for prayer for her husband.

Sister Cherly LaVella followed by taking us on a journey of her life. She said that when she was a small child she was unusually responsible. At the age of eight she became introverted, as a result of her sister's battle with cancer and eventual death. But by the age of 10 she had been told she had a work to do – to work with the Native Americans.

Some time ago, our sister came down with an illness and the surgery she was to undergo gave her only a 20% chance of survival. Today, she now works with the Native Americans, and she stands before us, proof of God's love for her and without a doubt His sheltering arms were wrapped around her.

Our next speaker was Sister Bennie Jones who told us that every

time there is a blessing, there is a price to pay and related her many experiences regarding the book binding business her family owned. She told us how God has protected her family and related the many dreams she was given to take one more step of faith until finally in one dream she was at the top of the mountain and had to step into nothingness and let Jesus catch her in His arms.

We were surely blessed this day for the words spoken by our sisters gave us cause to reflect on how much God loves us.

Sunday morning arrived too soon and in keeping with the theme of the weekend, Brother Thomas P. Liberto spoke to us using 1 Peter 3:12-13, where we read about the eyes of the Lord watching over the righteous and His ears listening to their prayers. However, the face of the Lord is against those that do evil. Who will harm us if we follow good? If we are in the right frame of mind, God will protect us. He allows trials to draw us closer to Him. We touch His heart when we draw closer to Him. Brother Tom went on to say that Jesus gave His life so that we can experience eternal life. Our names are written in the Book of Life. We are indeed sheltered.



## Branch and Mission News

### McKees Rocks Branch visits Rochester, NY

By Sister Bette Panfile

On July 14th, 2002, our proximity to Hill Cumorah in Palmyra, New York, brought us a most welcome busload of saints from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania to worship with us on Sunday morning. As you approached the Church building, one could hear the loud and beautiful singing by the brothers and sisters of *I Surrender All* through the open windows.

Opening prayer was offered by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., after which the congregation sang *He Lives*. The opening sermon was preached by Brother Tony Ricci from the 14th chapter of St. Matthew, when the disciples were on the boat and Jesus came toward them walking on the sea. Then Peter spoke to the Lord. Jesus bid him "Come" and Peter stepped out of the boat and out of his comfort zone to walk on the water toward Jesus. But Peter became afraid and he began to sink and he simply cried "Lord, save me!" Three simple, powerful words. And the Lord replied, "Oh, thou of little faith." We too should get out of our comfort zone and we also can do great things as did Peter, if we call out to the Lord.

We sang the chorus of *To the*

*Work* several times after which Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. continued on Brother Tony's theme. Jesus sees us through our struggles and He never leaves us alone, just as the disciples were not alone on the stormy sea. We should keep on toiling and rowing through the storms of life and God will see us through, for there is nothing He cannot do. Brother Paul went on to say it is our responsibility to help others who are in distress and sinking in sin.

Brother Bill Colangelo also made reference to Peter and that we should cast our nets in deep water, not in shallow water, and become fishers of men.

Continuing on with the lesson of Peter, Brother Dick Lawson said that

(Continued on Page 8)

## McKees Rocks Visits Rochester

Continued from Page 7

after Peter stepped out of the boat and looked down at the waves, he lost his focus and began to sink. We should all be concerned about loosing our focus and to remember Christ's promise to us, that if two or three are gathered in His name, He will be with us. We in Rochester are very small in number and we should always remember to keep focused and remain strong and the Lord will be with us and bless us abundantly.

Brother Ralph Ciotti spoke briefly about the prodigal son and the elaborate preparations for his return and the open arms and rejoicing of the welcoming father. So do the angels in Heaven rejoice when a soul comes to Jesus. Brother John Manes emphasized the importance of praising God and giving testimony as to the blessings in our lives.

Our elder from Rochester, Brother Andrew Locci, gave his testimony as to how prayer helped him when he was spiritually drowning years ago, and more recently through a very serious illness.

While Sacrament was served, by Brother Tony and Brother Paul, the congregation sang *Break Thou the Bread of Life*. Singing continued with *Amazing Grace*, after which Brother Andrew invited all to testify, including nonmembers. We heard many inspiring and emotional testimonies as to God's grace and blessings. Our visiting brothers and sisters spoke of the Hill Cumorah Pageant they saw the night before and how happy and blessed they were to worship with us. The feeling was definitely mutual.

At the end of the service we were introduced to the bus driver of the charter bus who was going to sing for us. He told us that he is not just a bus driver, but that he is also a minister with the Assembly of God Church, and with his beautiful, rich voice he sang *Nearer My God to Thee*. He asked if we were a blessing to those around us and spoke of his experiences as a Christian School teacher. He then sang, *Make Me a Blessing* and we all

joined in on the chorus. Sandwiches and refreshments were served in the basement of the Church after which we wished our brothers and sisters a safe journey back to McKees Rocks.

Brothers and sisters, every year during the month of July, the Hill Cumorah Pageant is held in Palmyra, NY. So why don't you plan on attending the pageant next year on Saturday night and then worshipping with us on Sunday morning. We are very small in number here in Rochester, but our doors are always open and we welcome everyone with open arms.

Thank you, brothers and sisters from McKees Rocks, for visiting with us, and God bless you all.

## The Holy Waters of Baptism—Glory Stand Still

To gather at the waters of baptism only intensifies the supremacy and magnificent display of nature... of God. It solidifies the mighty performance of executing God's will. The command had been given: "Arise and be baptized." Here, at the beautiful waters of Mormon, as they are to us, the saints of God stand unified in purpose to watch the manifestation of heaven and earth in communion one with another. Our elder, Brother Oliver Cowdery so eloquently expressed: "What joy, what wonder, what amazement! While the world was [is] racked and distracted—while millions were [are] groping as the blind for the wall, and while men were [are] resting upon uncertainty, as a general mass, our eyes beheld and witnessed the glory that prevails with obedience."

We stood, we watched, we listened, our souls singing as we were being nourished with all the ingredients heaven provided for this occasion. Who wouldn't bow the head was the reverence of holiness prevailed.

Then as the deep penetration of thunder roaring across the heaven, came the voice of one having the Divine Authority. It echoed throughout the elements: "Gertrude Dziko, having authority given me of Jesus Christ,

baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost..." into the watery grave of baptism. This soul came forth gloriously arrayed by the power for the elements that surrounded her, the power of nature, the power of God.

There she stood, we all gazed upon her, beholding her glory. Silently, reverently she raised her right arm toward the upper world, no doubt capturing a smiling moment from the Lord.

The curtains of heaven began to close slowly and quietly on this awesome display of sublime glory. They didn't close completely, for its glory continued as Brother Mitchell Edwards confirmed Gertrude into the Church. Gertrude's children, Omega and Lisa (whom we call "angel face"), were blessed along with Alphonso Hopkins the third newborn of Brother Alphonso and Sister Consuella Hopkins.

This day, June 23, 2002, surely, the performance of God's will and His works caused the windows of heaven to open unto His people and all the powers of nature glorified. Thus is the joy of the saints of God in South Bend, Indiana.

Through the powerful manifestation of God's sweet glory, again, July 21, 2002, the saints gathered at the holy waters of baptism, to us, the beautiful waters of Mormon. At each visitation to this place, we are totally captivated with a striking vivid picture of nature... of God. A tranquil spirit was presented, insomuch seemingly the waters stood still as Brother Alphonso Hopkins so gently guided and instructed LaTrice Martin into the water. As the divine authority was being declared, a vision was opened up to her. She stated: "I saw at first, a tremendous light like I had never seen before. Then I began to see red. It was redder at the bottom than at the top. The red at the bottom began to grow darker until all I could see was dark red. Then I was baptized into the watery grave."

At the church, Sister LaTrice testified that the Lord told her: "The light that I saw meant that I had stepped out of the darkness and into the

light. The red that I saw was the blood of His Son Jesus Christ covering my sin and now I am a new creature in Christ Jesus."

Brother Mitchell Edwards asked God to inscribe her name in the Lamb's Book of Life... "How marvelous are thy works, oh God! What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

## Plumbrook, Michigan Branch Ordinations

*By Sisters Vi Quinlan  
and Laurie Whitton*

It was a beautiful day Sunday March 10, 2002. This day was set aside to ordain two Teachers and two Deacons in the afternoon service. As you walked into the church you could feel the spirit of God. We had many visitors from various Regions of the Church. The morning service was opened by singing *Blessed Assurance* and Brother Lyle Criscuolo, Great Lakes Region President, offered the opening prayer. Several came forward to be anointed with oil and receive the healing of the Lord.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio was our first speaker, telling us how optimistic he is about the Lord and what He can do. "God can do anything in our lives if we have faith in Him."

He continued by referring how in Psalms it is recorded that David was on different plateaus, sometimes in the valley and other times on the mountaintops. "David searched out the Lord and praised Him in both good and bad times. David knew the Lord when he was a sinner and recovered because of God's great love for him. This is true for each of us and God knows all about our lives. We give God all of our lemons and He makes us lemonade. When we need the Lord it is important for us to ask in order to receive His blessings. Often times we don't ask the Lord because we are afraid of his answer. Even when we turn away from the Lord, He is quick to respond to all

of the Saints needs. We must know that God gives us salvation each day we live and he gives us hope. Our hope was expressed this day with the many anointings." Brother Nephi referred to the hymn, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness," saying that we must Praise Him for every day that we live and be thankful for the gift of salvation, faith, repentance and baptism.

Brother Nephi related his own experience of having health problems and when he was at a desperate point, the Lord spoke to him and said I will not heal you at this time, but my grace is sufficient for you.

He asked, "Do we thank Him for everything that we have?" Sometimes we are greedy and feel justified. The work of Nephi in the Book of Mormon relates to us the power of God that Nephi was shown on the mountaintop. It was then he became concerned for his soul. He then asked himself why he sinned and was given it was because of the flesh, but he has seen the power of God.

We sang the hymn *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* as we prepared for the ordinance of Sacrament, after which we dismissed to partake of lunch together.

More brothers and sisters of the Region joined us in the afternoon. Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, then addressed the congregation, speaking about the woman who had the issue of blood. He continued by telling us "When we kneel before the throne of God, He knows our heart and how much we love Him. Our total support is needed by the Missions. That is financial, spiritual and fasting and praying. We are faced with an awesome job in our service to the Lord."

Brother Dominic continued saying that since coming to the church February 28, 1943 time has just flown by. "Knowing that our Church is everything to us, and as we reflect on the life of Jesus and His suffering on the cross, the Spirit overwhelms us." Brother Dominic had a dream of Jesus on the cross and asked the question, "Who is our family?" He was given the scripture 1st Corinthians Chapter 12 verses

27 through 31. "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you more excellent way."

After reading these verses, Brother Dominic said that our membership is the most important credential we have and that we must follow after Christ. "Since we have the fullness of the Gospel our focus should be on the gifts and blessings." Brother Dominic then read to us 1st Corinthians, Chapter 12, verses 7 through 11, regarding the diversities of gifts, but same spirit. He stressed the importance of having a discerning spirit, telling us that Brother William H. Cadman asked everyone to do his or her best in every way for the Lord. "We should present the light of this restored Gospel to others and our prayers would be that God would spare the world."

As we prepared for the ordination of our four brothers, the duties of a Teacher were read by Brother Rick Loffredo and the duties of a Deacon presented by Brother Gary Coppa. The spirit of God was present as the brothers came forth to have their feet washed and hands laid on for strength, guidance, love, patience and direction to fulfill the calling of God. The ministry encircled the four brothers and knelt in prayer as Brother Larry Champine offered a prayer that God would direct those that would ordain the four Brothers.

Brother Kevin Coppa was ordained a Deacon. His feet were washed by his father, Brother Gary Coppa and was ordained by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Brother Johathan Krumpke was ordained a Deacon. Brother David Haley washed his feet and Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

## Plumbrook Ordinations

Continued from Page 9

Nephi DeMercurio ordained him.

Brother Michael Capone was ordained a Teacher. Brother Tim Capone washed his feet and he was ordained by Brother Lyle Criscuolo.

Brother Mark Palmieri was ordained a Teacher. His father, Brother Sela Palmieri, washed his feet and Brother Richard Loffredo ordained him.

The four brothers were asked to give their testimonies. Brother Michael said he was called the "polite Deacon." Since being told of his calling as a Teacher, Satan had provided much opposition to him and he knew there had been many prayers in his behalf. He asked for our continued prayers.

Brother Mark thanked God for helping him through life. He continues to need the prayers of everyone to fulfill his duties.

Brother Kevin said he was concerned when the Brothers wanted to talk with him. He is willing to work for the Lord as much as possible. Kevin related the experience that Sister Mary Coppa had during a fast and prayer meeting. She heard Brother Jonathan Krumpe praying for Kevin, but looked around and Jonathan was not in the meeting. His illness has come under control, but when driving to help a sister with her computer a severe pain attacked him so bad that he had to pull off the road. After a prayer, the pain went away and he was able to fulfill the commitment.

Brother Jonathan said he had been conversing with God all day long. He then recited the song "*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*"

Our Region President, Brother Lyle Criscuolo, told us that these young men will be following the footsteps of many brothers of the past. The Deacons as they prepare the church building and visit the sick will need God's direction and strength. The Teachers will need the inspiration of the Lord as they visit the saints to

encourage and pray with them.

As this beautiful day was being brought to a close Brother Nephi said that truly the Spirit of God was in our midst and that these brothers are Holy men. We concluded by singing *To the Work* and Brother Tom Everett offered prayer.

## Touching the Lives of Others

*(Editor's Note: This is a wonderful editorial written by Brother Anthony J. Scolaro in the September 1989 issue of the Gospel News.)*

As much as it is important for each of us to contribute to the overall unity of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must also face the individual challenge of leaving a positive mark on the lives of the people around us. One indication of a true servant of God is that he or she makes the world a better place to live, and by touching the lives of others brings them to a closer understanding of the Lord.

We cannot depend on the Restored Gospel continuing only through our children and our children's children. In order for the Church to thrive and grow, it is important that we look beyond the circle of family and friends as we seek for those who would join in the work of the Lord and pick up the mantle when we leave this earth. While a portion of our labors are directed toward the forward motion of the Church, we must also direct our sights outward from time to time, toward those sincere of heart in the world who would want to be part of the Lord's army.

In seeking to bring the Gospel to others, we learn that there is no prescribed routine, no prepared script to follow. We discover as we speak with one another concerning our own conversion experiences, that the Lord calls each one of us in a different manner. Like those of us in the Church, every man and woman in this vast earth must come to terms with the

Gospel in his or her own unique way. As we strive to be instrumental in spreading the Gospel, we come to realize how important it is to be prayerful, observant, and sensitive to the workings of the Spirit, which directs us in all that we should say and do.

Just as no two of us were called into the Church in exactly the same way, no two of us will shine the light of Christ in exactly the same manner. The Lord will use us in a unique way to draw different individuals toward Him; we need only to be sure that we are motivated by the true love of God.

While we may not all be directed to preach the Gospel from the house-tops, we can all strive to truly *live* the Gospel and be an example to others. If we can do this, we will be delivering a powerful message, over a period of time, to those with whom we interact.

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**"...we can all strive to truly *live* the Gospel and be an example to others."**

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We who have been blessed with the promises and power of the Restored Gospel in our lives, we who possess the joy of the saints, cannot justify being the grumpy one, the stingy one, or the negative one in our peer group. We must be vigilant in seeing that no aspect of our personality provides a stumbling block to bar our neighbor from finding the truth of the Gospel through us.

Even in the tribulations and reverses that befall us here on earth, our demeanor as the saints of God can and should be such that men and women see not so much our suffering but rather the inner strength and peace which the Gospel has brought to our lives.

There must be something far-reaching, something profound and non-superficial about the way in which we affect people. We must remember that it is not so much to brighten their day that we are seeking (although that



should be part of it), but rather it is to *change their lives*. The honesty, integrity, strength, and hope that comes through seeking to walk uprightly before God will not immediately show itself to the passerby or the casual acquaintance. But upon those with whom we have day-to-day contact, we as saints should be making a lasting and fruit-bearing impression.

### Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful cards I received, and your wonderful prayers after my heart surgery. I am doing great and everything is O.K.

Thanks again, to all of you for your prayers.

Love,  
Sister Joanne Clinkscales  
Rochester, New York Mission

### Publication Notice

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### Notice

The New Edition Book of Mormon is available at the Print House.

The Deluxe Limited Edition is genuine black leather, thumb indexed, red letter, and gift boxed for the price of \$75.00. The Standard Edition is bonded black leather and red letter for the price of \$24.95. If you purchase 1 or 2 cases (12 per case) the cost is reduced to \$22.50 each. If you purchase 3 or more cases, the cost is reduced to \$19.95 each. Payment is required with your orders to help finance the printing. Shipping charges will be invoiced with your order.

To order, call the Print House at 734-429-5080, or send in your order to 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115.

The New Edition Book of Mormon would make a wonderful gift for any occasion.

Also, the Print House is going to be printing a new General Church Membership Directory very soon. Please send in your corrected address and telephone number immediately if you want it to be correct in the new directory.

Brother Fred Mott was ordained a Deacon on December 2, 2001 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Russ Mortarana and he was ordained by Brother Don Pandone.

### \* WEDDINGS \*

Eduardo Garcia and Sister Megan Jackson from the Kinsman, Ohio Branch were united in holy matrimony in Champion, Ohio on June 1, 2002.

Daniel Nicklow and Marnie Toth from Monongahela, Pennsylvania were united in holy matrimony on August 9, 2002.

Steven John Szpilewski and Sister Dianne Lynn Rosati from the Lockport, New York Mission were united in holy matrimony on July 13, 2002.

### Children Blessed

Dalving Omar Garcia, son of Eduardo and Sister Megan Garcia, was blessed on March 31, 2002 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Iliana Abigail Garcia, daughter of Eduardo and Sister Megan Garcia, was blessed on March 31, 2002 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Arie, Alec and Seth Uber, sons of Sean Uber were blessed in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch on July 28, 2002.

Joseph Gabriel Gomez, son of Brother Nestor and Sister Michelle Gomez was blessed in South Bend, Indiana on August 4, 2002.

Ammon Isaiah Grosbeck, son of Brother George and Sister Tina Grosbeck was blessed in Muncey, Ontario, Canada on March 31, 2002.

### Ordinations

Brother Lenny Nardozzi was ordained an Elder on April 7, 2002 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Howard Jackson and he was ordained by Brother Phillip Jackson.

Brother Zachary Jackson was ordained a Teacher on December 7, 2001 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Phil Jackson and he was ordained by Brother Chuck Maddox.

Brother Don Gruver was ordained a Deacon on December 2, 2001 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Russell Cadman and he was ordained by Brother Paul Palmieri.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Stephanie Marie Carson was baptized on July 11, 2002 at the GMBA Campout in Saginaw, Michigan. She was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione Sr., and confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione Jr.

Brother Micah Ryan Carson was baptized on July 11, 2002 at the GMBA Campout in Saginaw, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione Sr., and confirmed by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti.

Sister Mary Beth Robinson was baptized on July 14, 2002 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Scaglione Jr., and confirmed by Brother Alex Cherry.

Brother Gordon Connor was baptized on July 7, 2002 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Mark King and confirmed by Brother Joseph Benyola.

Brother Tyler Ray Jackson was baptized on July 10, 2002 at the GMBA Campout in Saginaw, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Phillip Jackson and confirmed by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Brother Shawn Williams was baptized on October 7, 2001 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Phillip Jackson and confirmed by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Sister Christie Stephens was baptized on June 23, 2002 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dan Buffington, and confirmed by Evangelist James Moore.

Sister Linda Hulings was baptized on July 28, 2002 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Alvin Gehly and confirmed by Brother Gary Martin.

Brother Sean Uber was baptized on July 28, 2002 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Alvin Gehly and confirmed by Brother Russell Cadman.

Sister Erin Nicole Light was baptized on April 28, 2002 in the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Stacey Light and confirmed by Brother Russell Martorana.

Brother Ernest Bork was reinstated on May 26, 2002 at the Redford, Michigan Mission.

Sister Blanche Bork was reinstated on May 26, 2002 at the Redford, Michigan Mission.

Sister Bonita Glime was baptized on June 16, 2002 at the Redford, Michigan Mission.

Brother Paul Thomas was reinstated on July 25, 2002 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Sister Bethany Cara Naro was baptized on July 14, 2002 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri.

## Obituaries

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

### IRENE MAJOROS GRIFFITH

Sister Irene Majoros Griffith of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on August 12, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband, Evangelist Meredith Griffith. She is survived by her sons, Lee Griffith and wife Jackie; Brother John Griffith and wife Sister Carolyn; twin daughters, Sister Joyce Kogler and husband Chuck, Sister Joy Kurowsky and husband David; one brother, five sisters, seven grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

### AARON DARR

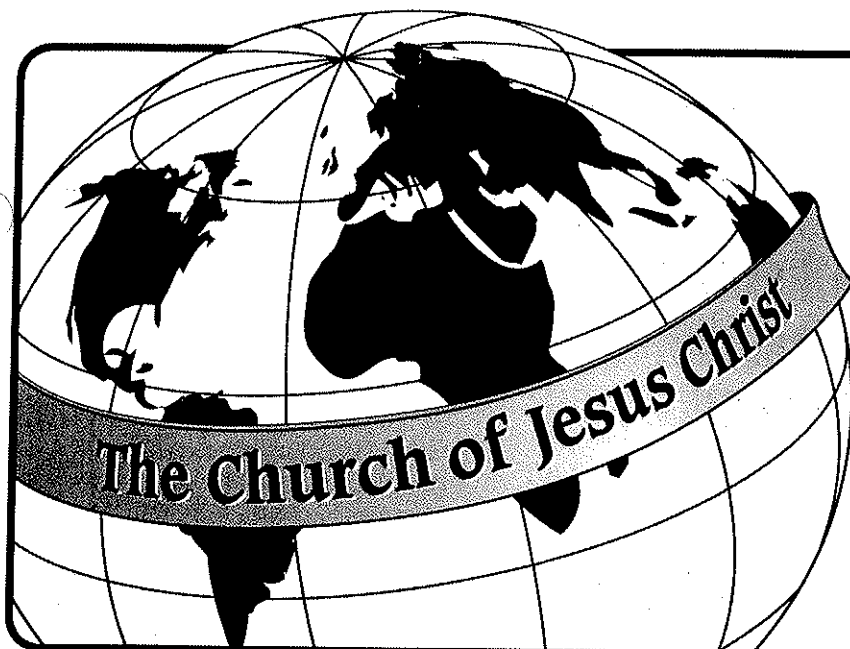
Aaron Darr passed on to his reward on March 20, 2002. He is survived by his parents, Brother Pete and Sister Linda Darr; a younger brother, Eric; a sister, Michelle, and her husband James, and two nieces.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters, Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 2002

Volume 58, No. 11

## Message from the Apostles

Greetings to our Brothers, Sisters and Friends in Christ,

The Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ salute you in His glorious Gospel.

We are living in a time when we are being distracted by trials, afflictions, family relationships, financial hardships and other challenges on a daily basis.

When the Apostle Peter saw Jesus walking on the water he asked Jesus to "bid me come unto thee on the water." Jesus replied with one word, "Come." Peter left the ship and walked on the water to go to Jesus. The miracle was that when Peter focused on Jesus he was able to walk on the water. When Peter took his focus from Jesus and "saw the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore, didst thou doubt."

Jesus responded to Peter's first request with one word, "Come," and to Peter's second request, "Lord,

save me," and He "stretched forth His hand."

Today, distractions of life are great. Just as Peter began to be afraid and doubt, we also must pray that the Lord will intervene and preserve us and our families. We must not doubt but have unwavering faith in God.

Righteousness in our lives begins when we focus our attention on keeping GOD'S commandments.

In January 2002, we requested the Church fast and pray more often throughout the year that God would increase our love for one another and that He would send His healing power upon the Church in greater measure than ever before. We thank GOD for answered prayers.

It is important that we continue to fast and pray often, as we need GOD'S healing power manifested throughout the Church.

In The Book of Mormon, Jacob addresses the people, and admonishes them to live within the commandments of God, to not "labor in sin" and become more like their wives and children whose "feelings are exceedingly tender and chaste and delicate before God, which thing is pleasing before God."

We have a responsibility as members of the Restored Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ to please

God by keeping His commandments, so that when we pray as a Church, God will hear and answer our prayers.

Jesus saw our day. When He was in the garden at Gethsemane, He prayed for His disciples and He said in His prayer to His Father, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

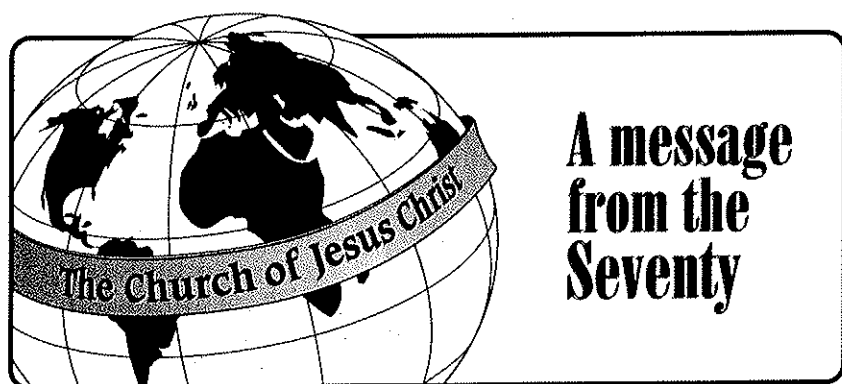
Let us all be diligent in praying and fasting that God will answer our prayers for all our needs and that He will call many into the Gospel. We repeat the words of the Apostle Paul who exclaimed, "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Jesus also said, "For with God all things are possible." What a wonderful hope we have in our walk with Christ.

May God's richest blessings and peace rest upon every family in the Church and world as well, is our prayer.

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles,  
Brother Joseph Loyalvo, President

General Church,  
Brother Dominic Thomas, President



## Conference of the Native Americans

*By Evangelist Larry Watson, NAOC Chairman*

"I'll die believing in this Book, and I'll speak with my last breath about this Book, because I believe it to the core!" These strong words spoken by Brother Virgil Link, an ordained teacher from San Carlos, reflected the passion of many of the Native Americans in attendance, about The Book of Mormon and the Restored Gospel. Close to 300 people gathered from every region of the Church to attend the first Conference of Native Americans that was held on the Muncey Reserve in Ontario, Canada at the community center near the mission, from July 19-21, 2002. Perhaps as many as twenty percent of the participants were American Natives, many of whom were members of the Church, representing the following tribes and nations:

From the Southwest Region—San Carlos Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation; from the Great Lakes Region—Ojibway (Chippewas) from the Saugeen and Chippewa of the Thames Reserves; Delaware from the Muncey-Delaware Reserve, Oneida from the Oneida Nation of the Thames; Members of the Iroquois Confederacy from the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve; in addition there were representatives from Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia.

This article, written on behalf of the evangelist's column, will focus in depth on certain aspects of this unique event. The theme of the Conference was "Gather My People." It was

noted that, according to the scripture, the gathering of Israel will take place through a grafting-in process, with the Native American coming to the knowledge of the true Messiah, as their Lord and Redeemer. It was also pointed out that the key to the timing of this gathering comes from the passage, "... after the Gentiles had received the fullness of the Gospel..." Since we believe this took place at the time of the Restoration, we are now already living in the day when the House of Israel should be grafted in. It was brought out at the conference that to understand how this is to happen spiritually, we should familiarize ourselves with how it takes place naturally. There are three phases of the grafting process, which were highlighted in the seminars, as well as during the meetings throughout the three days.

### **First phase: Preparation Phase—the Roots of the Olive Tree**

The preparation phase of the grafting process can be compared to the roots of the olive tree—they must be strong and healthy. This was highlighted Friday evening with a program from the Muncey Mission on the rich heritage of the Native American work on that reserve. Brother Kerry Carlini, Great Lakes Region Historian, traced the history of the mission all the way back to its establishment in 1932. One particularly memorable experience shared that night was that of Sister

Muskellunge's miraculous healing. She had been blind for 16 years prior to her baptism. Upon emerging from the water, perfect vision was restored, and it remained so for the rest of her life. Even in her 90's she was able to thread a needle without the aid of glasses.

Brother George Groesbeck, Jr. related experiences in which the Lord had manifested the truth of the Gospel to him and others over the years. In one dream, three ancient native people came up to him from out of the woods. They spoke in the native tongue and had stone tablets. Brother Chris George gave a powerful testimony of how Christ had dramatically turned his life around and restored his family to him; and Sister Marie Lundham witnessed to a personal healing from cancer.

### **Second Phase: The Principles of a Successful Graft**

On Saturday the focus turned to the next step of the grafting process, the action phase that coincides with the graft itself. One of the brothers explained that a graft does not take place by itself, it requires human intervention, and it takes patient contact over a period of time. Brother Jim Ritchie, a tribal councilman from the Saugeen Reserve in Ontario, was our keynote speaker Saturday morning. He recalled that Brother Matt Collison introduced him to the Book of Mormon while he was installing windows in his home. Brother Jim stated he had no intention of reading it, but for some reason began to do so several weeks later and finished it in four days. He testified that it changed his life and his outlook, as he began to realize the importance of following Christ. His wife initially fought coming to Church but was given a powerful dream that changed her attitude about the Gospel, and she was no longer opposed to Brother Matt or The Book of Mormon. She followed God's call and was baptized 3 years before Brother Jim. The Lord told him if he believed with all his heart, he could be baptized, which, according to him, was the beginning of the road to success in his life.

Brother Jim stated it is going to be tough to convince Native Americans of Jesus Christ because they have heard of Him from others and have been disappointed (not with Christ, Himself, but with those who claimed to represent Him). He said that the promises to Israel apply to the native people and that The Church of Jesus Christ is the only honest people that have brought Christ to his people. Referring to the grafting process he stated, "You cannot gather [the native] people unless you go among them—you must go where they are."

#### Native Missions Panel Discussion

"The Mission Board selected three young brothers [in California] and gave them responsibility for administering some of the work of the Gospel," recalled Brother Daniel Mora, one of the panelists, as he reflected on how the Church had developed native leadership in the past. He went on to say that this helped them learn valuable lessons about leadership, such as the burden many bear that have positions of responsibility. This snapshot from the afternoon session is just a hint of the valuable dialogue that took place as a panel of representatives from virtually every tribe in attendance took center stage. This discussion was intended to help the audience understand Native people more fully. Brother Daniel went on to say that they don't want our money, just our love.

At the conclusion of the panel, Apostle Ike Smith felt to have all the native people come forward and have the ministry surround them to pronounce a blessing, after which Apostle Tom Liberto offered a prayer on their behalf.

#### "You Hold Our Children and We'll Hold Yours"

"It is the only [sacred] record that is native to this land. So I say to you Indian brothers and sisters: *This is ours*. Our people wrote it. It came forth so we would know who we are and what we have to do!" These words spoken by Brother Virgil Link, our opening speaker Saturday

evening, as he held high The Book of Mormon, was a powerful affirmation of the theme of the conference. Referring to the reluctance of many Native Americans to come to Church, he said, "I was that way too, until I read the Book of Mormon—that changed me." Speaking about the grafting-in process, he said, "You [referring to the non-natives] hold our children and we'll hold yours." He pointed out that many of the young people in the Church are already doing this as he thanked them for their assistance with their Vacation Bible School at the San Carlos Mission.

Addressing the Native people in the congregation, he spoke of the familiar spirit that is in The Book of Mormon, evidenced by some of the Indian "buzzwords" that are found there, such as "Great Spirit" and "Mother Earth," and pointed out that even the tribal name Oneida is mentioned in the Book of Mormon (although it is spelled Onidah).

"It changed my heart, it changed my life," our brother spoke with deep conviction; "I've been told this book is not the Word of God, but in my heart I know it's true." He concluded by saying, "We [Indians] fought on the side of the French and lost; we fought on the side of the British and lost—no more losing for me; this time I'm going to take the side of God, Jesus, and The Book of Mormon—it's going to make me a winner!"

"We fought with the Spaniards and we lost too!" said Brother Luis Marroquin, as he followed Brother Virgil; and then added, "...because of sin; because we did not respect God's law." He said God has restored His blessings through the Restoration. The Gentiles have been a blessing to His people and will help Israel to build Zion. He challenged the congregation to ask the God of Israel whether these words and The Book of Mormon are true.

"How can you help the native people?" he asked. By following the commandments of God, and keeping the Gospel in its purity. By living the Gospel and asking the Lord for more wisdom to uphold the Gospel. He exhorted the congregation to humble

themselves and ask God for forgiveness; to gladly donate their 10 percent for the work of the Church. When the brothers ask for help, give it. "It is time for us to become one in Christ," he said; and "time to understand God's Plan for Joseph." Addressing the native brothers and sisters, he said the promise of God in The Book of Mormon is that He will restore us if we humble ourselves before him.

Brother Daniel Mora stated we would remember this day in history as the first gathering of this type. He said that he is an Aztec Indian and that the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas all expect something great to happen soon.

Brother Larry Watson closed the meeting by sharing an experience that taught him that our most important duty is to be faithful to what God has called us to do—God will do His part, and in due time we will reap a harvest of many souls in the work amongst the House of Israel.

#### Phase Three: The Natural Fruit—a Clear Vision of the Future

The last day of the conference was to focus on phase three, the natural fruit that will come forth in due time when the graft has been applied successfully. Ironically, it was while our Apostle Joseph Lovalvo was speaking that a soon-to-be sister from the Windsor Branch rose to her feet to ask for her baptism. What more fitting way could there have been to symbolize the fruit produced by the graft! How appropriate it was to have this 92-year-old brother, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, open this conference, considering the contributions he made as a young missionary to the Muncey work many years ago. Brother Joe painted a beautiful picture of the glorious future that awaits The Church of Jesus Christ, as we are obedient to the calling God has given us.

Brother Tom Liberto, building on the words of Brother Joe, reminded

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## The Church by Internet

*By Evangelist Richard Lawson  
General Church Correspondent*

The Church is now, in the year 2002, in the Internet Age. Since the Church web page was established in late 2000, we have been receiving inquiries via the Internet. This is a new venture for the Church, but one that I believe will enhance the replies to the inquiring minds of people. Our responses will be much quicker and eliminate much of the need for postage.

When I check the Church E-mail address, Gospel Restored, I never know when someone will be inquiring about the Church and what particular request or interest he or she may have. Sometimes the inquiry may require more research because the questions they've raised or information requested is not readily available. Since November 2000, we have received over two dozen inquiries. Most of these are answered immediately while a few require more extensive research and review before a reply can be formulated. As those of you currently on the Internet realize, a reply sent by E-mail is far faster than by regular mail as it reaches the inquirer instantaneously.

It is always thrilling for me to meet people I've been corresponding with for a long time. Often that is not possible, but when it does become a reality, the responsibility takes on a new meaning. Recently, I corresponded with a man from the Denver area who years before had extensive correspondence with Brother Joe Calabrese, the original General Church Correspondent. He stopped writing after some time and then saw our web page and began exchanging E-mails. I referred him to the Denver Mission, the nearest Church location to him. This is most often the case that those interested are referred to the Branch or Mission closest to them geographically. He attended the Denver Mission a few times about the time Brother Walt Jankowski had his recent successful by-pass surgery. Then, to my surprise, he attended our April Conference, where I was able to meet him, along with Brother Joe Ross, and share the joys of the Gospel with him. A few weeks later he, Craig Wolverton, was baptized in Denver, which was a blessing to Denver and to the writer.

Not long ago a young man I was corresponding with and who raised many questions relative to Mormonism, apologized for not E-mailing me for a

while since his wife had their first baby. He even attached a picture of the little boy; that was a nice added touch.

Another man from Kentucky recently E-mailed and requested our Book of Mormon which was mailed to him. In my reply, I advised him to let me know whether the Church could be of further help. He then sent an E-mail requesting a Book of Mormon for his wife, that was promptly mailed as well. He has now requested someone to contact him, which is being accomplished.

In addition to E-mail, the Church has an 800 number, which is also listed on the web page for those who may want to communicate more quickly but do not have Internet capabilities. Although the 800 number is seldom used, the Church offers this as an alternative to the Internet.

The Church web page, [www.TheChurchofJesusChrist.com](http://www.TheChurchofJesusChrist.com), with the attendant information, is another tool to reach people with the Restoration. While our progress may appear to be slow, our attempts are succeeding. The Church is making progress and, by doing so, the Church is fulfilling Her mission given in St. Matthew 18:29.

## Southeast Region Conference

A good assembly of Elders and Teachers gathered at the Ft. Pierce church building on Saturday, August 10, to discuss the affairs of the Southeast Region over the last six months. Two of the Apostles were present at our meeting; namely, Brother Paul Benyola, from New Jersey, and Brother Isaac Smith, from Arizona. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo was not able to be at this conference due to his inability to travel. We surely missed our beloved brother's presence in our meetings. Brother Lovalvo has always been an inspiration to our Region as well as the entire Church. May God bless Him along with his dear wife,

Sister Mary.

Brother Sam Risola, the President of our Region, opened our conference in the usual way with prayer and singing, then our business got under way. At the conclusion of our morning session our brothers and sisters at Ft. Pierce had prepared a nice lunch for those in attendance to be refreshed.

The afternoon session of our conference continued with the business at hand under the able leadership of those in charge, and was brought to conclusion with much accomplished for the good of our Region. We retired from our business sessions with the anticipation of a program being presented in the evening concerning some of the hymns that we sing and how they were inspired to be written. Everyone enjoyed the evening's

presentation as a wonderful conclusion to the Saturday session of our conference. We want to thank the brothers and sisters for the delicious meals they prepared for the conference. God bless you!

The Sunday Worship began with singing as the saints gathered in from various parts of the Southeast Region. They came from Atlanta, Mid Georgia, Quincy, Tampa, Forest Hills, Cape Coral, Miami, Lake Worth, Hollywood and Ft. Pierce. The joy of the Saints could be felt in the midst of our gathering.

Our first speaker was our visiting Apostle, Brother Ike Smith from Arizona. Prayer was offered to open our service by Brother Mark Kovacic,

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

You may have already guessed this, but Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Part of the reason is that I love to eat! But seriously, the biggest reason is because it is a holiday steeped in nothing but thanks to God for all He provides for us. Many other holidays are steeped in tradition (some pagan), but this is a holiday that has no other motive or hidden meaning except to thank and praise God.

In order to be thankful, we have to know what it means to *give*. The following scripture proves this point:

"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. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:6-11).

God loves a cheerful giver. When we give to others cheerfully, and not out of guilt or obligation, we reap the pleasure of God. This means our lives are blessed, often times immediately! The Book of Mormon points out that we can never "outgive" God because whenever we give to someone, He blesses us immediately and thus we are "repaid." Of course there aren't enough things we can "give" or "do" for God because in the end, we are saved by grace even after all we can do. There is no "repayment" that God owes us, because Jesus paid it all on the cross for us. He owes us nothing. We owe Him everything. Yet, this scripture in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians says that even so, when we do good things for Him or for others, He gives us abounding grace, sufficiency in all things, and enrichment in everything! This is an outstanding example of the complete love He has for us.

These "rewards" we get for giving are what causes us to truly be thankful to God. If you find in your life that you don't have anything to be thankful for, maybe you haven't been giving. Or maybe you haven't been giving "cheerfully." When we live a life of selfishness, if our prayers are always for ourselves and never for others, if we always think that someone else will be the one to "give" and therefore we don't have to, then Thanksgiving can be a very depressing holiday. This is because we truly haven't been "giving." It's ironic, then, that Thanksgiving, is really not about what we have received, but what we have given. If we haven't given, then we haven't received.

Giving doesn't just mean giving natural things like money, food, etc. Giving means showing love to someone, helping them, encouraging them, praying for them. Read this month's *Children's Corner* and you'll read some wonderful examples of what we can do for others. I think it applies not only to children, but adults as well. The Word says that we are to do good to others, especially those of the household of faith. Send a card, make a phone call, give your testimony, help someone. When we do it to the least of people, we've done it to the Lord. We can also give directly to God. We can make sure we give our donations to Church consistently, and not hold back on the amount. Surely God doesn't need our money, but this act of giving selflessly is a witness to God that we are willing to part with the natural things in order to please Him. We can give to God by fasting and praying more, or by trying to make each day better than the last by abstaining from sin, and being a witness for Him.

This year let's give to others and to Him all that we can, and in return thank Him for giving us all that He can; His son Jesus Christ. Happy Thanksgiving!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

Dear Friends,

I have a challenge for you. It is to hold still; don't watch television or play, or talk on the phone, or play video games. But find a quiet little spot away from everybody and think about your life.

What is worrying you? Is there fighting or sickness in your family? Are you afraid of being alone or worried there isn't enough for you?

Then go to church. In our beautiful Church of Jesus Christ we are supposed to be like the best family. That means every brother and sister is also like a real sister and brother or aunt or uncle.

In our Church we are supposed to be able to love everyone of every age. That means at church we don't have to be lonely. If the kids or people your age don't seem to care about you in a special way, then love someone else. Pick an older sister or brother and be friendly. Listen to their testimony. Hear what is worrying them. Pray for them. Help them get their coat, or walk to the car.

Don't be afraid to stand by them and ask them how they are. Be friendly with the kids littler than you. Every baby is going to grow up into a little person. That little person will need friends too.

You could have a friend for life if you start now. And in case the people your age are being unloosing (like happens in real families all the time, and has to be worked out) you won't have to feel lonely sitting in meetings.

Bring a little toy for a special little child that you admire or like. And pray for that child too. You know how hard and scary the world is sometimes. You



know how it feels to be alone and left out. You know how it feels when someone is jealous or mean to you.

And this is where the Lord enters in. Just like Joseph who was thrown in prison unfairly, you may be treated unfairly. Joseph prayed and the Bible tells us that God gave him "favor" with the boss at the prison. Soon Joseph was learning how to run a prison, and he was protected. He was humbled

and not popular then, but later was a great ruler. God will also protect us too. We can also pray that He will give us "favor" with the tough people in our lives, and that He will take us through dangerous and sad places safely. The problems of today don't have to destroy tomorrow.

He teaches us in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7, "Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God; that he may exalt you in due time; [like Joseph who went from slave to ruler]...Casting all your care upon him; for *He careth for you.*"

Lean on Him. Pray to Him. Tell Him about the thoughts and worries, the things that make you feel angry and hopeless, the cares you have when you are alone. He will hear you. He loves you. Try the challenge. Cast your cares upon God, for He CARES for you.

Love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

FIRST	CARES
PETER	UPON
HUMBLE	HIM
YOURSELF	PRAY
BEFORE	HE
GOD	LOVE
CAST	CARETH
ALL	FOR
YOUR	YOU

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

## Reminder

When you are thinking about what to purchase for Christmas gifts this year, remember Church literature. Books of Mormon, Bibles, Saints Hymnals, Concordances, autobiographies, many other books and pamphlets, and gift certificates are available at the Print House.

For your convenience, free gift wrapping is available upon request.

If you would like a literature list, call 734-429-5080 to request one.

Also, remember to send in or call in your new address and phone number to the Print House immediately if you want it to be correct in the new General Church Membership Directory.



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Youth-In-Action Has Successful Summer Abroad and At Home

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti,  
YIA Chairman*

The Youth-in-Action program of the General Missionary Benevolent Association visited a total of four locations during the months of June and July: Italy; Muncey, Ontario; Cincinnati, Ohio and LaGrange, Kentucky. A total of 37 young people participated in the tours this year and were greatly blessed as they labored for the Lord and His Church.

The trip to Italy represented the first exposure of Youth-in-Action to a country outside of the Americas. YIA participants Cameron Staley, Robby McDonnell and Becky Rogolino and YIA coordinator Sister Deanna Nuzzi were part of a group of 16 people who traveled to Italy from the United States. Members of the ministry on the trip included Brothers John DiBattista, Paul Liberto, John Buffa and Paul Pezzenti. The first weekend was spent in Lecco where the group joined with Evangelist Rosario Scravaglieri and the saints of northern Italy for a weekend retreat including seminars and spiritual meetings. Several of the young people there are struggling with the desire to be baptized but have fears, which need to be overcome. Much prayer was offered on behalf of these young people.

The group then moved to southern Italy, driving 17 hours to San Demetrio, where they met with Elder Salvatore Oliva, age 96, and the saints from that area. After pitching in to help fix up the church building, the group prepared handwritten flyers (no computer or copier was available) to distribute to the community. The group was well received in the community and some interest was ex-

pressed, especially among those who had known Brother Oliva for years. During their short visit to Italy, this group of brothers and sisters was a great uplift to the Church both in northern and southern Italy and had a very positive effect on the young people in Italy.

### NATIVE AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The first-ever Conference of the Native Americans was held in Muncey this summer and Youth-in-Action was on hand to help out with preparations for the conference as well as spending several blessed days among the Native Americans. Details of this trip can be found in the following article on Page 8 entitled "Youth-In-Action Tour of the Muncey Mission and the Conference of Native Americans."

### CINCINNATI (MORROW), OHIO

The largest tour for this year occurred in Cincinnati where 16 young people gathered to help spread the Gospel in the small town of Morrow, Ohio, the site of the church building recently occupied by the brothers and sisters of Cincinnati. The participants for this tour were: Ryan McDonnell, Chris Gehly, Josh Gehly, Becky Hemmings, Ben Hemmings, Brian Smith, Micah Carson, Ricky Scaglione, Brandon Roe, Kristin McLennan, Amanda Straccia, Andria Znoy, Eric Baez, Alyson Genaro, Tyler Jackson and Josh Onorato plus the young people from Cincinnati. Brother Jerry Valenti spent most of the week on site and was assisted by Brother John Ali who helped out with the van driving.

After a large Sunday service in which the Cincinnati and LaGrange groups joined together to kick off the week, the Cincinnati team settled down to their two key tasks for the week – writing a program to be presented Friday evening and canvassing the surrounding community to invite people to the program and the Church. The results were excellent as several people from the community came to see the program Friday evening and four of them returned for church on Sunday. The Church received addi-

tional exposure during the week as the group held a public cookout and also attended a community day at which the Church was officially welcomed to the community. The community day featured the YIA group singing three hymns and Brother Chuck Maddox addressing the assembled crowd for a few minutes. The final Sunday service provided a fitting climax to the tour as four young people asked for their baptisms – Andria Znoy, Natalie Pezzenti, Chuck Maddox Jr. and Bianca Licata.

### LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY

Meanwhile, two hours south, eight young people joined with the young people from LaGrange, Kentucky for a tour in an area that is relatively new to the Church. The participants for this tour were Jamison Staley, Bethany Smith, Kristina Carson, Jennie Vargo, Ryan Lesperance, Zachary Jackson, Laura Lambert and Tony Moraco plus many more who dropped in for a few days at the beginning and/or the end of the tour. Brothers David Lovalvo and Jerry Valenti served as YIA coordinators for this tour.

The group hit the ground running as they spent the first day presenting the Gospel to several hundred individuals attending a local country fair. One of the individuals has since attended church on multiple occasions. Door to door canvassing yielded other promising leads. Special activities included a nursing home visit, which yielded additional leads, and an all-night "lock-in" at a sports center at which the group played soccer, baseball, football and volleyball literally until dawn. The young LaGrange Mission is beginning to establish a foothold in the community. In the past year or so, they have had five baptisms of people from the area and word is starting to get around. The Youth-in-Action tour served to further this work a little bit more. In addition, the young people who attended were presented with a seminar prepared by Brother Doug Obradovich in which they were

(Continued on Page 11)

## Youth-In-Action Tour of the Muncey Mission and the Conference of Native Americans

By Brother Peter Benyola

The Youth-In-Action tour to Muncey, Ontario, Canada on July 13-21, was filled with many blessings throughout the course of the week and into the Native American Conference, which closed the tour. The youth who participated included Brother Daniel Crupi, Sister Andrea Meo, Brother Jacob Bekis, Sister Karen Henderson, Sister Rachel Brutz, Brother Jordan Champine, Sister Jennie Vargo, Sister Laura Lambert, Brother Peter Katsaras, Sister Priscilla George, Sister Felicia Cross, Brother Mark Rabe, Brother Ryan Forster, Sister Charisse Marroquin, Brother Jared Marroquin and myself, not all of whom were there for the entire tour. The week involved a lot of fellowship and testimony with our Native American brothers and sisters in the Muncey Mission, including meetings every morning and evening.

Upon our arrival to the building on Saturday, July 13, Brother Ben Ninham gave a powerful and influential testimony of his conversion to the Church and the things the Lord has done for him.

On Sunday, as Brother Nephi DeMercurio was making the commute to Muncey, God spoke to him and told him to hold a feet washing service. After the meeting, in which Brother Nephi spoke on Matthew 6:33, a wonderful feet washing service was held. One evening, Sister Marie Lunham from Muncey, saw a halo of light settle around the Youth-In-Action group as they were singing for the congregation.

Many healings took place throughout the week. A little boy who was playing around a teepee Brother Chris George had set up behind the church, had fallen and hit his knee on one of the stakes. Unable to walk, Brother Phil Buffa carried him into the church building and Brother Larry Watson anointed him. Within minutes, the little boy was up and able to run

around again.

One afternoon, the YIA team, along with some of the members of the mission, went throughout the reserve to invite people to church. We remained together as we visited families who the Muncey saints knew, and in nearly every home we had an opportunity to sing and pray. The response was amazing, as almost all the families we visited had at least someone from their household come to church during the course of the week.

Days before the Conference of Native Americans was held, the Chief of the Chippewa Tribe, whose first name, coincidentally, was Joseph, was kind enough to have a consultation with the YIA team. As he explained the situation with the injustice inflicted upon his people by the Canadian government, he began to cry. On Friday, July 19, he opened the Conference with an address to The Church of Jesus Christ. It was an honor to have the Chief of the Chippewa Tribe in our midst that night. As the Chief was speaking about his love for his people, Brother Mike Nuzzi beheld in a vision, the back of the building open up. Indian Chiefs with full headdress on flowing in the wind were riding on spotted horses across the sky, each with an eagle feather in their left hand held up about shoulder height. Then he heard a voice say that they were coming to the conference this weekend to see the Lord and feel His presence.

On Saturday, the seminar theme was, "The Grafting-In Process of Israel." A key scripture leading us to do this work is found in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of the first book of Nephi, verses 12-14, "...after the house of Israel should be scattered they should be gathered together again...after the Gentiles had received the fullness of the Gospel the natural branches of the olive tree, or the remnants of the house of Israel, should be grafted in, or

come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and their redeemer." The young people's seminar presented by Brother Todd and Sister Wendy Heinz incorporated an activity in which we had to physically travel from island to island along wood boards. The insecurity, risks, and teamwork involved to do the activity demonstrated a parallel to missionary work. Later, there was a panel held featuring about a dozen native people from various tribes and nations throughout the Americas, including three from the YIA tour, Brother Jacob, Sister Rachel, and Sis Charisse. They and several others from YIA were asked to share what benefited them most out of the week. The consensus was that the fellowshiping and uplifting of the locals on the reservation was the greatest blessing.

Another notable event occurred when Sister Priscilla George, who is confined to a wheelchair, attempted to walk in a back hallway of the community center. Although her faith and effort was great, she did not succeed. Her father, Brother Chris George, pointed out that in observing countless others who have been healed, they only succeeded when Jesus Christ stood in front of them and commanded them to rise. It will only be a matter of time. As this was happening, the congregation was singing *My Lord Can*, without the knowledge of what was transpiring nearby. One verse of the hymn is,

My Lord can see the snares  
that wait for me,  
And should I fail or fall,  
He's quick to see,  
And He can pick me up to rise again,  
And He can pick me up to rise again.

Later that evening, after Brother Luis Marroquin delivered a powerful message about not tampering with the Word of God. Brother Mike Nuzzi saw a pillar of fire descend around Brother Luis followed by the Three Nephites. One stood by Brother Virgil Link, one stood by Brother Luis, and one stood by Brother Daniel Mora, the three brothers of the Seed of Joseph who each addressed us that night.

On Sunday, Sister Iva Bordeaux had a vision in which, while the Great Lakes Region sang for the congregation, a multitude of the Seed of Joseph appeared, led by a man who she was given to understand was the Choice Seer.

After the wonderful experiences given to the YIA team and those who attended the first Conference of Native Americans, we doubtless have moved an island or two closer to the gathering of the House of Israel once again.

I (Larry Watson) asked some of the YIA participants to share one or two highlights from the Muncey tour with our *Gospel News* readers. Here are excerpts of written testimonies submitted by some of our young people who attended:

"During the week I spent in Muncey, which included the Native American Conference, I can truly say that I felt the Spirit of God. While I was there I was given the privilege to get to know the people that attend the branch there and others that reside in the surrounding area. All of the people I met were wonderful and I love them all and miss them a lot. Sister Linda Snake took me in for the time that I was there and she treated me as if I were her own child. The young people I met were awesome people as well and I am proud to call them my friends, but even more to call them my brothers and sisters. The Lord blessed me throughout that week. Every night I was able to listen to Brother Nephi DeMercurio preach, and I truly felt the Spirit of God. An angel nightly visited me. While I was in Muncey I learned new things about the Gospel, and I believe that my experience there brought me even closer to God, and to Him I am thankful." *Written by Brother Danny Crupi.*

"The main reason why I chose to participate in the Youth-In-Action tour in Muncey was to be involved with the work among the Seed of Joseph. Through my upbringing in The Church of Jesus Christ, I understand that this Church has been given a Divine Commission to take the Restored Gospel to the Native Americans on this land. I want to be found wherever the work among Joseph is taking place. I was very blessed to spend the

entire week with the brothers and sisters in the Muncey Mission as well as to attend the Conference of Native Americans—there were many powerful experiences. But what I was blessed by the most was the powerful meetings we had with just our small group and the Muncey Mission. Each morning and evening throughout the week we had a service. There were many in the community that were either unable to regularly attend church due to illness or used to attend and presently did not. We sang, prayed, and visited with many of them. As the week progressed, the number attending our services grew larger and larger, and at each meeting they were fed. The sermons given by Brothers Nephi DeMercurio, Jerry Benyola, and Larry Watson were very powerful and inspiring. I think the most valuable lesson I took from the week spent in Muncey, was the importance of being a consistent, Godly presence among the Seed of Joseph. It was nice for us to be able to spend a week there with the people, but to gain their trust and to make a difference in their communities I think it is imperative that we show that we love them and are committed to helping their people. I pray God will bless us as a Church, as we endeavor to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." *Written by Brother Michael Watson.*

"Thanks to divine intervention I found myself in Muncey for the week. I was supposed to be in Yugoslavia, but Brother Phil Buffa and the Lord had other plans for me. I was worried about my life and responsibilities, and Bro Nephi DeMercurio and the others prayed and I decided to stay; and God blessed me so that everything was fine when I got home. I am on a 'higher Spiritual mind,' still going strong after making so many wonderful new ties with church friends, native and youth. We were able to pick up other youth in London and bring them to the conference. They were touched and expressed a desire to attend church. The amazing thing that stood out the most was the wonderful interaction and friendships that were forged at this conference by youths, natives and

adults. It is those friendships that will build Zion!!! Praise God!" *Written by Brother Peter Katsaras.*

"The Youth-In-Action trip in Muncey this past summer was truly a unique experience and a blessing for me. Everyone was so kind, hospitable, and welcoming. I know the Lord was with us, watching over us, and protecting us throughout our entire stay. There are no words that can describe or even begin to express what and how I felt while in Muncey. I would like to relate a personal experience I had during my stay. One day, we had all gone to the Community Center to take a brief tour. While waiting, we played some basketball together with people from Muncey. As I was playing, I jammed my finger. I had to see the nurse and doctor because the pain had escalated tremendously. Because of this excruciating pain, the doctor wasn't able to examine me thoroughly, but only buddy-taped my finger to keep it straight. He then informed me that I should go to the hospital for x-rays and to see a special hand surgeon. I didn't want to go so I went back where everyone else was. The ministers present prayed for me, and Brother Larry Watson anointed and prayed for me, I felt a tingling in my finger and the pain lift off and spread away from my hand. I was healed immediately and felt a calm peacefulness come over me. I had never experienced this before and I had an assurance that God was really with us. The director there, who is not a member of the Church, witnessed the whole thing, was truly touched, and left crying. He asked if he could see the miracle when we returned for a meeting with the chief the next day." *Written by Sister Andrea Meo.*

"When I was asked to write a few comments down, I thought of how hard it was going to be to condense the many memories and blessings I have concerning our recent trip to Muncey. I first want to give honor and glory to God for all that He has done, for truly He was with us during our time there. Reflecting back, I see how much this excursion has impacted me. I have

## YIA Tour of Muncey

Continued from Page 9

visited Muncey many times with family, yet have never experienced it in the capacity that I did this trip. There is definitely a need in Muncey. Much despair, pain, and discouragement have been successful tools for the evil one. However, The Church of Jesus Christ is a beacon light to those starving souls who surround the mission. It was such a blessing and comfort to see all of the saints again and to have the privilege to stay in their homes. We were truly shown the love of Christ and needless to say it was a humbling experience. Being able to visit neighbors and those who were ill, just to share words of encouragement or to sing a few songs was a tremendous blessing. We also did much promoting for the Conference of the Native Americas which was very well received by the community!! As the week went on the Lord manifested His blessings with many experiences, I must say I am not a morning person, yet I couldn't wait to get out of bed each day because I knew the Lord was going to do something great! Such a sweet spirit accompanied us through the week, and as we approached the weekend His hand was surely moved.

"There were many POWERFUL experiences had through the week and into the Conference, and I am sure that they are expressed in other portions of this article. But I was asked to give my thoughts...and today I can surely say that my God liveth and that a great and marvelous work is going to commence in the Muncey mission. Let us continue to seek God out that we may be made an instrument in His hand. That we may rejoice even as the four sons of Mosiah, that the Lord may say: 'Behold the field was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your might, yea, all the day long did you labor; and behold the number of your sheaves! And they shall be gathered into the garners, that they are not wasted' (Alma 26:5). May God bless you is my prayer." *Written by Brother Jordan Champine*



## Atlanta, Georgia News

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

## ETOWAH MOUNDS

On Saturday, August 3, 2002, brothers and sisters from the Atlanta Branch along with Brother Richard Scaglione and his granddaughter, Christina, from the Monongahela Branch, took a trip to the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville, Georgia. This excursion was a precursor to Brother Rich's slide presentation, "*Indians of the Ancient Americas*," to be shown later that evening.

The Etowah Mounds were built by the Etowah Indians in approximately 1000-1550 A.D. and still stand today as a testament to the ingenuity of the seed of Joseph. According to historians, this is the most intact ruins in the southeast that were part of the Mississippian culture. The group visited an on-site museum, then took a walking tour of the mounds. The mounds sit in a beautiful section of Georgia's mountains that lay along the Etowah River where the Indians once fished and trapped. There is an ancient fish trap built of river rock upon the river bottom that is visible from the banks of the river. And from the tops of the mounds, an individual is encompassed round about with a spectacular view of the southern end of the Appalachians where the Indians were once so plentiful. It is believed that as many as several thousand lived here at one time.

Not only to see and hear so much about the seed of Joseph in this area but also to be able to "soak up" the solitude and peace proved to be a very edifying day. Mid-afternoon, all headed for home, cool showers and a break from the oppressive heat. It wouldn't be long till we all met again at Sister Kelly and Brother Mark Kovacic's home for the slide presentation and a

time of fellowship.

Brother Rich gave his slide presentation of the Inca, Maya and Aztec peoples and a narration of how they relate to The Book of Mormon, more specifically how they could be connected to the Lamanites and the Nephites. A time was given over to questions, answers and discussion then Sister Kelly served refreshments while everyone had a chance to greet and talk with our visiting brother and his wife, Sister Lucetta.

Sunday morning dawned splendid only to be rivaled by the glory of our Lord. We had a good-sized group in attendance, about 27 in all. Brother Richard opened using Daniel 1, reminding us that we should be as Daniel and the Hebrew children—when we have a plain diet of pulse, we do eat from the King's table. As children of God nourished by His plain words, we all shall flourish. Plain and simple shall suffice and in the end, we will realize it was gourmet fare all along. The singing this morning seems so magnificent, each song more beautiful than the last and sounding as though there had to be a hundred people in the room singing.

At the conclusion of Brother Scaglione's remarks, the meeting was then opened for testimony and much thanksgiving ascended to heaven.

## Hollywood, Florida News

By Sister Jan Humphrey

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2002

The Sisters in the Hollywood Branch conducted a fun, creative, educational and spirit-filled Vacation Bible School for the young children in the branch and neighborhood. This year's theme was appropriately patriotic – using the colors of the American flag. Each night before beginning the young children took turns saying a prayer for God's blessings that evening.

**Monday evening:** The color theme was RED. Everyone joined in the fun and wore red. Red in the flag symbol-



izes *perseverance*. Each class studied the story of Samson and Delilah. The craft for the night was a patriotic hat that they spray-painted in patriotic colors. Snacks were served and then the children practiced patriotic songs for the Friday night program.

**Tuesday evening:** The color theme this night was WHITE and everyone wore white. White symbolizes *innocence* in the flag, so the lesson for this night was Moroni and the Standard of Liberty. The craft selected was making patriotic T-Shirts that came out so cute. Again snacks were served and songs were rehearsed.

**Wednesday evening:** The color theme was BLUE and again everyone wore the color of the night. Blue stands for *diligence* and the lesson was on the Walls of Jericho. The craft for this night was patriotic bracelets. Snacks were served and again songs were practiced for the program.

**Thursday evening:** Everyone wore patriotic shirts. The lesson for this night was on Christ's birth/the star of Bethlehem. The craft was patriotic wooden beaded necklaces. We had a pizza party for the last evening and had a final practice for the program.

**Friday evening:** Many parents, friends and neighbors filled the church building with great anticipation for the program being presented by the young children. The congregation participated by singing patriotic songs and did a word search game. Each teacher gave a synopsis of their lesson. The children's artwork was displayed around the sanctuary (which for this night was a theatre). You could see the joy and excitement on the faces of the children as they showed everyone the hats, tee shirts, necklaces and bracelets they made and wore. They went through their paces singing in loud, strong voices. Even the very youngest children were singing. It was so adorable and heart-warming! After the performance, everyone in attendance then enjoyed refreshments and fellowship with one another. We felt a

great blessing from the evening's events.

This was Hollywood's first Vacation Bible School and we look forward to more. Hopefully, we will be able to open it up even more to the community when we have our new addition. There was a wonderful participation by all of the parents as well as many of the brothers and sisters who taught lessons and crafts, brought snacks, donated supplies, helped set up and clean up each night. The Sunday School also made a donation toward some gifts for the children at the end of the program. Every little bit (and God's blessings) helped make it a wonderful event.

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## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 3

us that the Church is the Bride of Christ, and as the Bride gets all of the attention. We should give the Church our attention, as it is Christ's Bride.

Evangelist John Griffith, President of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, putting the finishing touch on a very full weekend, pointed out how in some marriages two cultures are brought together by love—both sides learning from one another and benefiting through the blending of the two heritages. What a wonderful illustration of the Church today. As truly it is enriched by the uniting of saints from many different nations and tribes gathering to worship God together.

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## Southeast Region Conference

Continued from Page 4

from Atlanta. Brother Ike read for his opening text from the Book of Enos, verse 3, concerning the "joy of the saints." He also read from Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Brother Ike said that nothing should separate us from the Love of God and the joy of the saints.

Apostle Paul Benyola followed in speaking on the joy of the saints at the waters of Mormon when they were

asked by Alma prior to their being baptized, "...are [you] willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places...they clapped their hands for joy and exclaimed: This is the desire of our hearts." Let us pray for each other's welfare. It gives us joy to know that with God all things are possible.

Brother Ike J. Smith followed along the same subject relating the joy that he feels in the service of God.

Brother Ken Staley was the final speaker relating an experience of a sick young child in the Philippines that he became acquainted with, asking that we continue to pray for him, as the improvement is quite remarkable. He also said that he felt joy in serving the Lord.

At the conclusion of the service, Brother Scott Griffith took a brief moment and explained the "Friends and Family" program. Anyone having friends or family are asked to forward their names along with pertinent information to Brother Scott and we will get in contact with them to encourage them to come to church. Prayer was offered to conclude our service.

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## YIA Has Successful Summer

Continued from Page 7

"empowered" to return home and present the Gospel to everyone they know. This is, of course, the spirit of the GMBA Youth-In-Action program, which was presented to The Church of Jesus Christ in 1993.

Although the summer tours are completed for this year, we are still looking forward to the first-ever YIA winter tour in Mexico (December 27, 2002 – January 6, 2003). It is truly exciting to witness the young people of the Church participating in the great work of the Lord. Their borders are expanding and we hope they will expand even further as we go into next year.

\* WEDDINGS \*

Melinda McGuire and Aaron McMahan from the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission were united in holy matrimony in Westerly, Rhode Island on May 4, 2002.

## Obituaries

### ERNEST PATELLO

Brother Ernest Patello passed on to his reward on August 18, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Mary Patella; sons, Tony and Dean Patello; and daughter Jody Dausey.

### LUIGI CALISI

Brother Luigi Calisi of the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission, passed on to his reward on August 15, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Sister Dora Calisi; one son, Louis Calisi, and daughter-in-law, Lucy Calisi; a daughter, Phyllis R. Balzano, and son-in-law Joseph Balanzo; four grandchildren, Louis and Nicole Calisi, Silvio and Joseph Balzano; three great-grandchildren, Joseph, George and Dahlia.

## Note

Following is additional information from a previous obituary in the *Gospel News*: **Brother Lawrence Lenhart** was survived by his wife, Sister Geraldine Lenhart; daughter, Deborah L. Albeck; son, Robert L. Lenhart; and also is survived by a brother and sister. He has three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Jason Nolfi was baptized on August 4, 2002 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi, and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother Jeremy Gagliardi was baptized on September 1, 2002 in the Mid-Georgia Mission. He was baptized by Brother Art Campbell and confirmed by Brother Tom Jones.

Sister Sunshine Arafiles was baptized on August 4, 2002 in the Forest Hills, Holiday, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Scott Griffith, and confirmed by Brother John Griffith.

Brother Steve and Sister Sherry Curtin were reinstated on September 1, 2002 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

## Ordinations

Brother Keith Baldwin was ordained a Teacher on August 4, 2002 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Carmen Di Fede and he was ordained by Brother Carl Romano.

## Children Blessed

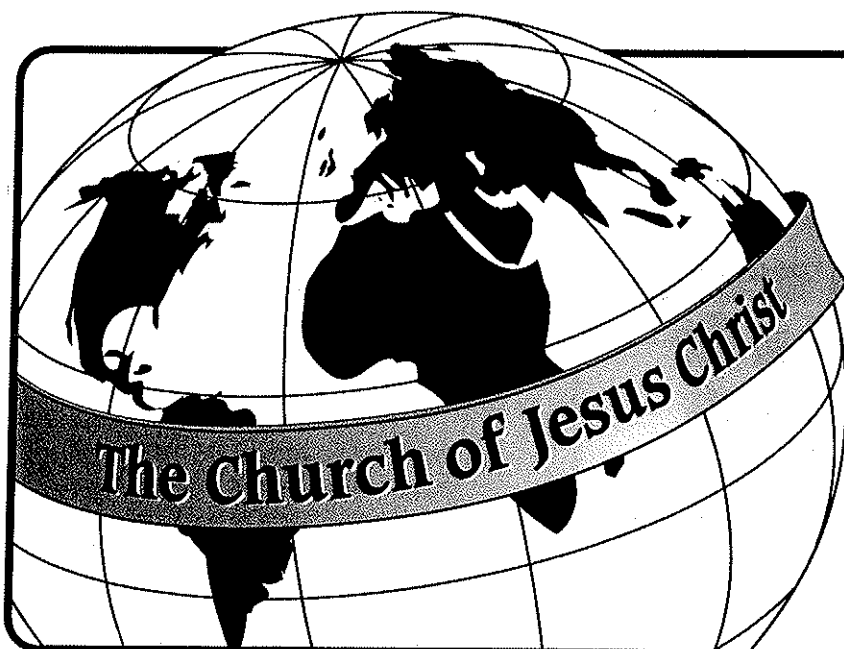
Courtney Lynne Reiff, daughter of Rachael McGuire and Christopher Reiff, was blessed in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Kyle Jeffrey Reiff, son of Rachael McGuire and Christopher Reiff, was blessed in the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission.

Dante Rockwood Risola, son of Domenick and Keena Risola, was blessed on August 18, 2002 in the Forest Hills, Holiday, Florida Branch.

Madison Taylor Goode, daughter of Brother Tom and Sister Terry Goode was blessed on August 25, 2002 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

Robert and Edward, twin sons of Sheryll Ann (Radd) and Robert Comeau, were blessed on August 18, 2002 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

December, 2002

Volume 58, No. 12

## Six Nations, Ontario – Groundbreaking

*By Brother Frank Natoli, Great Lakes RMOC Secretary*

Saturday, October 5, 2002 – The morning rain ended, the clouds parted, and the warmth of the afternoon autumn sun shown down on an acre of land on the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada. Not just any piece of land, but one donated by Sister Helen Garlow, to be used for the construction of a new church building to service Six Nations and the Native Americans who live there.

Approximately 75 members, family and friends, including reporters from the local newspaper, met in a local school to sing prior to the groundbreaking. Everyone traveled a few miles to the new property where Brother Alex Gentile, Evangelist and Vice-Chairman of the Great Lakes RMOC briefly outlined the history of The Church of Jesus Christ in Six Nations. Brother Alex noted that, "October, 1937, exactly 65 years earlier, the first church meeting was held in Six Nations ... today we break ground for the first time..."

He shared many wonderful experiences regarding the establishment of the work and what led to today's events.

Brother John Straccia, Elder-in-Charge of the Six Nations Mission

spoke to the group regarding the Divine Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ. He noted that, "...this new church building is not only for the current members, but for all those who will come and hear the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ..."

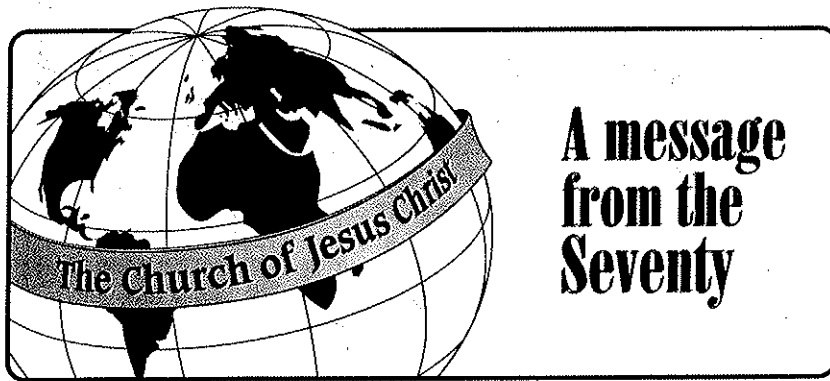
Years of preparation, planning, fund raising, and prayer came to-

gether as Brother Lou Vitto, Evangelist and Chairman of the Great Lakes RMOC placed the shovel in the ground, followed by those in attendance who felt the desire to "break ground" and participate in the event. Brother Dominic Thomas, Apostle and President of The Church of Jesus Christ concluded the ceremony by offering a beautiful prayer, asking the Lord to, "continue to look down and bless this work."

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Left to Right: Brother Jerry Benyola, Brother Frank Natoli, Sister Helen Garlow, Brother Dominic Thomas, Brother Dave DiBattista, Brother Alex Gentile, Brother Mike LaSala, Brother Lou Vitto, and Brother John Straccia



## Missionary Trip To Colombia

*By Evangelist Richard Scaglione*

I was privileged to accompany Brothers Bob Nicklow Jr., Salvatore Conte, Alan Metzler, and Alan's daughter Marilu and granddaughter Taylor to our Mission in Bogota, Colombia. Our scheduled trip in May had to be cancelled because of the violence resulting from Colombia's presidential election. My anticipation for our trip was dampened by regular newspaper articles of the continual acts of terrorism by the various rebel groups. In addition, the U.S. Embassy in Bogota issued warnings about unsafe travel conditions throughout Colombia.

This was when our faith in God and in the prayers of our brothers and sisters was put to the test. Our ten-day visit, from August 31st to September 9th, was blessed with God's peace and protection. We felt safer there than traveling through Pittsburgh.

Once again, the family of our Brother Juan Carlos Torres were most gracious hosts as we shared the love of God, great fellowship, and an abundance of delicious food. For the most part, the weather was quite pleasant although somewhat cooler than I expected.

Attendance in our Sunday services was about 20 adults plus several children. Meetings were held each evening with attendance ranging from 8 to 12 adults and several children. Our preaching covered relevant subjects aimed at spiritual growth and encouragement. Teaching

sessions reinforced main points of Church doctrine as supported by the Scripture. We tried to clarify all questions asked by our members and visitors, always referring to the Bible and Book of Mormon. We shared personal experiences to show that God continues to work miracles in our day as He did in days of old. Because of our limited knowledge of the Spanish language, we relied on Brother Salvatore to translate for us.

We also ministered to our brothers and sisters who needed to be anointed for afflictions or for spiritual strength. Visits to several homes were made to encourage and uplift those with personal and spiritual needs. In all visits and discussions, we tried to reflect the love of God as found in The Church of Jesus Christ. In return, we felt a total acceptance and the shared love from all whom we visited.

Each morning after breakfast we met to review the previous day's activities and meetings and prepared our agenda for the new day. Topics were related to stress the Word of God that supported the ordinances of the Gospel, our duties as members, and the future hopes and expectations or the Church. God blessed us as we shared these things in our evening meetings. Of course, we tended to individual needs by anointing those with afflictions and praying for those seeking strength and direction. The love of God was always present.

Many special blessings were

shared throughout our stay. On Wednesday evening, Brothers Bob and Alan united Marta Herrera and Fernando Triana in marriage. Following the ceremony, there was a reception, including a wedding cake, prepared by Sister Maria Sol and her family.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the week was a trip to the waters of regeneration where five souls rendered obedience to the Gospel. A bus was rented and more than 40 people, including many children, made the 1½ hour trip to the baptism site. We stirred the curiosity of a group of Colombian soldiers who guarded the bridge and reservoir, a potential target of the rebel terrorists. They quietly and politely observed the baptisms and even posed for pictures with our brothers. Those baptized were Carmenza and Passion Casas by Brother Rich, Marta and Fernando Triana by Brother Bob, and Ines Casas by Brother Alan. This gives us 20 members in Colombia. Two of our new members were confirmed the following morning in our Sunday service. Brother Fernando had to work on Sunday, so he was confirmed at the evening service. On a sad note, late on Saturday evening we received word that family members of Sister Passion and Carmenza were involved in an auto accident and were taken to the hospital. The sisters were not able to attend the Sunday meeting. They will be confirmed on our next trip. In addition, a young girl, Anna Maria Ramos Perez, was blessed by Brother Alan. We thank God for the growth and blessings of our Mission.

There were a few others who expressed the desire to be baptized on our next visit. We encouraged them to continue to read the Scriptures and to pray that God would nourish their desires.

A friend of Brother Felipe called Brother Salvatore on Sunday morning to give his blessing and thanks for the brothers and our work for the Lord. Although he was not able to attend the service, he said he would like the brothers to hold a meeting at his

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## Ordination in Maine

By Sister Cynthia Onorato

On May 26th, 2002, the saints gathered to witness the ordination of Brother Thomas Curtin as a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother James Sgro, Atlantic Coast Regional President was with us to partake in this event.

The hymn, *Whiter Than Snow* was sung as the Lord's Table was being prepared for our service. Our minds were brought to focus as a very peaceful spirit entered into our hearts.

Brother Darryl Onorato, Presiding Elder, welcomed all and addressed the meeting asking us to keep a prayer in our hearts that the windows of heaven would be opened. He elaborated on the calling of our brother and the fulfillment of his office as a Teacher. The Lord chose Brother Tom to be a peacemaker and to work in harmony teaching, visiting, and encouraging the saints of God. "For blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

The ordination was then performed. Brother Richard Onorato Jr. washed Brother Tom's feet in an act of humility, presenting our brother unto the honor and glory of God. We followed in singing, *Give Me Understanding Lord*. Brother James Sgro offered a prayer as the Elders joined in kneeling around Brother Tom. Brother Richard Onorato Sr. ordained him into the office of a Teacher with the anointing of oil, being commissioned by our Father, who art in Heaven and within our midst. We then sang, *An Angel Came Down*, in praise to God.

Brother Tom then spoke of his thankfulness to God for His blessings. He stated, "God has put a new sense of responsibility and urgency in his life and it is his desire to fulfill it." The Lord revealed to him that Brother

Richard Sr. would ordain him into his office.

Brother James Sgro continued in expounding the word of God. He stated of his thankfulness to be with us and how it was the Lord's will for him to be here. He stressed, "We have to be ready for God's plans." He spoke from Moroni 7:19, "Wherefore, I beseech of you, bretheren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ." Brother Jim spoke with conviction for us to lay hold onto what God says is good for us with faith. Search diligently for the light of Christ. God does not work in darkness. He is the light of this world. Our guarantee in this life is salvation if we grasp onto the rod of iron, the Gospel of Christ, and endure to the end. "Hold on and let the light of Christ be established in your heart, lit forever that others might see the love of God."

Brother Richard Onorato Jr. spoke of the importance of being united and being one another's support system. If one person starts to let go of the rod of iron, others pray for that person and their strength is increased to hold on. United we can do so much more!

The Sunday School youth sang for us, *Soaring Over Canaan*. A spirit-filled testimony was then expressed. Brother Joshua Onorato told of a dream he had the previous night where he saw Brothers Dominick and Sonny Perello who recently passed away, smiling down upon us from heaven. Brother Joshua knew we were going to have a blessed day.

Brother Donald Perello related an experience he had about Brother Tom's calling into the office of a Teacher. He saw in a dream two of our elders on the pulpit and a third person, whose face he could not see. The next day, Sunday, Brother Tom was called to the pulpit to speak. Brother Don saw a wonderful glow on his face. Brother Don knew then it was Brother Tom he saw in the dream and Lord had a work for him.

We used hymn #267, *At the*

*Cross*, as we partook of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance of Him. Truly this is love beyond degree.

Upon closing, Brother Darryl Onorato stressed the importance of baptism and rendering your soul unto Christ. He felt strongly that someone was touched in the meeting and petitioned them to not go away from their calling. He asked us to remember in prayer Brother Tom in his new office and his companion, Sister Sally, as they labor for the Lord and the Gospel.

We were thankful to God for showering His blessings of love upon us according to His heavenly will. We can truly say, "we felt inspired to lay hold of the rod of iron, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, having faith, hope and charity, living in the light of Christ." This is what gives us strength to endure to the end, so we may reach that mark of eternal perfection. Guaranteed!

## A Wonderful Week at Detroit, Michigan Branch 2

It was a wonderful and exciting long week for the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 2. We began the week with the baptism of our newest young member, Brother Jared Charlton.

We met at the water early Sunday morning and rejoiced in watching our brother be immersed in the waters of regeneration. He was baptized by Brother Dino DiMelis and it was a beautiful sight to see.

Brother Larry Henderson opened our morning meeting. He spoke about the story of David and Goliath. He shared details of the story that brought to light the magnitude of David's defeat of Goliath such as the fact that when struck, Goliath fell forward instead of back. It is proof that the Lord was in control. "It was the Lord's battle and

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## Wonderful Week at Branch 2

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all He needed was somebody to be used. Somebody that was willing to stand up and tell Satan I've had enough and I'm not going to take anymore.

"Spiritually speaking each of us has slain giants this week. We resisted temptation, we overcame an evil power, and we have helped someone who might have hurt us. These are all giants. They are all indicative of Satan and Satan wants to destroy you. There is no greater giant than him, but there is ONE greater than Satan and that is our Lord, our God." He spoke about our young new convert, and how he will face many giants. "Any giant that comes against you Brother Jared, many of us have already faced. Jesus intercedes for us. Any battles we have to fight the Lord is at our side. We are never alone."

Brother Jared came forward to be confirmed. The brothers knelt and Brother Alex Gentile offered a prayer asking for God's presence to be with us. Brother Duane Lovalvo then confirmed him with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Jared was then asked to give his testimony. "It is the biggest blessing to be called into the Church. I am so thankful that I was raised in this Church. I've had some giants to battle. The Lord was always there with me. Before GMBA camp, I had wanted to get baptized, but I was too young. I had prayed for years to be called into the Gospel. I am not the crying type. I wanted to get prayed for and was hoping to get prayed for by someone I knew and then Brother Dominic Thomas walked in. I went up to get prayed for and I sat down and I prayed that Brother Dominic would be the one to pray for me and he did. It was such an awesome prayer. I just started crying and I cried for a long time. I praise the Lord that He called me into the Gospel."

When he was done speaking Sister Jean Zaranko testified that she saw a vision of a personage behind Brother Jared as he was speaking. We adjourned the meeting and gath-

ered for a luncheon to honor our new brother.

The next day was the beginning of our weeklong Vacation Bible School. Sister Joann Cotellesse and Sister Lynette Lambert along with the help of many many brothers and sisters organized and prepared the lessons, crafts and activities.

We are fortunate to have many young children in our branch. It is a blessing to see them grow and learn about the Lord. Their enthusiastic presentation of the songs taught to them by Sister Jennifer Lovalvo was exciting to say the least. We were also privileged to have a large number of children from the neighborhood. The opportunity to share with some of these children, the knowledge of Jesus Christ and what He can do for us everyday makes it well worth the effort and preparation. The children put on a beautiful program on Friday night and the parents of the neighborhood children were invited to watch. We had fellowship and dinner following the program.

We parted on Friday evening and then gathered again on Sunday morning for another wonderful service. Brother Daniel Moro, visiting from the Inner City Branch, was asked to open our meeting on August 11. Brother Daniel and his wife Sister Rachel first sang a song in Spanish and she shared her beautiful testimony. He asked Brother Sal Conte to interpret for him for a portion of the sermon. He shared experiences of how he met his wife and of the Church in Tijuana. Psalms 137:6. "If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." Brother Daniel continued, "The people of Babylon they knew Israel. They know how to serve God in their land. It was a land of very happy people. Israel so many times suffered, but sometimes God blessed them abundantly; like when the water came out of the rocks, when the clouds followed them the whole time, when the column of fire followed them into the night. They experienced a lot of blessings and every time there was blessings, they would take out their instruments and sing the songs of Zion.

They were singing for God. This is how they were distinguished."

Brother Daniel continued, "We are the people of God. The world is looking at us. Our neighbors are looking at us. They have to have the same impression that was had of Babylon. The world is watching. They are going to say, "These are the people of Jesus Christ." He encouraged us to be a happy and joyful people and to share the good news. "We have many blessing in our church to tell our neighbors. People have to know that The Church of Jesus Christ is a very happy people."

Brother Alex Gentile shared a few thoughts with us and then we had the opportunity to hear from our other new member, Brother Peter Graham. Brother Peter had asked for his baptism at the GMBA Campout and was baptized there by Brother Dominic Thomas. His story is a true miracle. He was a stranger to the Church and living a very worldly life. He was brought to church by his friend Brother Mark Cotellesse. "I've known Mark for 13 years, through the bad and good times." He shared his thoughts about when Mark got baptized and how he, and Mark's other friends, did not understand. Mark did not call them anymore because they were not really "good" for Mark as he was trying to no longer be a part of the world. He had not spoken to Mark for about a year and he was sitting and thinking about him and the phone rang and it was Mark, calling to invite him to church. Peter explained that he said "yes" and started thinking that he was sick of the life he was living.

"The first time I came here, everyone was so nice and wonderful and there was such a great feeling. I wanted to come here more often. The more I came, the more I could feel the spirit of the Lord touching me. I was baptized on July 10th at GMBA Campout. A month previous I was thinking about baptism. I prayed and asked God to show me a sign that it was my time to come into the Church. At the Regional Michigan Campout, I prayed for a sign. The next day the

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets" (3rd Nephi 1:12).*

Yes, while in mighty prayer, Jesus spoke these words to Nephi at a point when his heart was "exceedingly sorrowful" because of the unbelief and wickedness of his people. Jesus was about to be born in Bethlehem, and the prophets upon this land of what we now call America, told the people that a sign would be given here, to signal the birth of Jesus. There would be a night with no darkness and a new star would appear. Night after night the believers would watch the sun go down and darkness cover the land. They knew the time had not arrived yet. This went on for a very long time and I'm sure that many believers became discouraged or disillusioned because years had gone by, and the night with no darkness never came. The day they had dreamed of, hoped for, and longed for, was beginning to seem like a lie. The unbelievers laughed and scoffed at the believers and finally said that they would put to death anyone who believed in this "lie." This is the point when Nephi went into mighty prayer, and Jesus told him to "be of good cheer" because the time was at hand. Sure enough, that very day, the sun went down, and there was no darkness. Can you imagine the feeling of the believers when this happened? Imagine how immediately all doubt was washed away, and victory was theirs. Everything they had hoped for, was unfolding before their very eyes! I'm sure they looked at the unbelievers and said, "I told you so!"

Sometimes in life we long for something to come to pass. Maybe it is the healing of an affliction. Maybe it is that our loved ones might repent and come out of the dark world, and into the Church. Maybe it is that a relationship of ours might be healed. Maybe we long to overcome an addiction, habit, or temptation. Maybe we long to get ourselves out of a financial mess, or get a better job. Or maybe we just long to be happy. Sometimes servants of God are too embarrassed to admit they are unhappy or depressed, and therefore go through life "longing" for the day when they can be released from their depression. We may even reach a point when we think it is all a "lie." Isn't it interesting how the sign of Jesus' birth was given just when the situation became hopeless? The believers were about to be put to death, and that is when the sign came!

Maybe in life, the true test of our faith is "holding on," and waiting for deliverance, even to the point of near hopelessness. How much do we really trust God? How much do we really "believe" in Him? Do we give up, halfway through a situation, or do we keep going until we cross the finish line?

Brothers, sisters and friends, we serve a living God. We are not "victims," we are "victors!" We are not "conquered," we are "more than conquerors!" We are not "defeated," but we are "determined" to realize that it is always darkest right before the dawn. Knowing this will give us the spiritual stamina to wait for the sign to be given in any situation we face. We all know the feeling we have when a prayer is answered. Our faith soars! God is not unfaithful to answer our prayers or to see us through, but sometimes it might not happen until the situation seems hopeless. But then when it does, oh how He takes us to new heights of faith! We can look the devil in the eye and say, "I told you so!"

Yes, this Christmas season we remember the birth of Jesus Christ. For we who believe, it should be a time of celebrating victory, knowing that the sign of His birth came the day we let Him into our heart, and knowing that whatever we might face in life, He will fulfill His promise to deliver us. He lights the darkness, and is that bright and shining NEW star. May God bless you all, and Merry Christmas.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

Dear Friends,

When you think about Jesus, do you ever think about His wonderful parents? Can you imagine what Mary and Joseph went through?

Mary was a young girl who had never had a husband yet. She was engaged to marry the carpenter, Joseph, when a most amazing thing happened to her. An angel of the Lord appeared to her and told her, "You are highly favored, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women... Fear not, Mary, because you have found favor with the Lord. You will get pregnant and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David (the old time king of Judea) and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Mary answered the angel, saying, "How shall this be, seeing I have never had a husband?"

And the angel answered and said unto her, "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. For nothing is impossible with God, and also, your cousin Elisabeth, who could never have children, is also six months pregnant now."

And Mary answered, "You see me, I am the handmaiden [servant] of God. Let what you have said come true."

Then Mary hurried and packed and went to see her cousin Elisabeth



who lived in the larger city of Juda. There, another amazing thing happened to the young woman Mary. When Elisabeth heard the greetings of Mary, the baby leaped within her body and she was filled with the Holy Ghost. And Elisabeth spoke out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And how is this, that the mother of the Lord, would come to see me?... and blessed are you for believing, for those things which were told you from the Lord, will happen."

And Mary stayed with her cousin before returning to Nazareth. When she told everything to Joseph, can you imagine his shock? The girl he planned on marrying was already pregnant and he wasn't the father. The Lord understood his fears, and he sent an angel to Joseph to tell him, "Do not fear to take Mary as a wife. The baby inside of her is from God, conceived of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

So Joseph married the young girl immediately, and a few months later, they were forced by the government to travel to far away Bethlehem and register to pay taxes. There were no cars or buses invented yet. Can you imagine being nine months pregnant or imagine helping your pregnant wife sit on a donkey and walking miles and miles along dusty roads, carrying your food and water, in the out-of-doors day after day? And then, in Bethlehem, there was no place to stay! Mary was ready to have her baby and there they were, looking for a place to stay in.

Finally, they were allowed to stay in the stables where the animals were.

And that night Mary had her beautiful new baby. She was so young, and they were so far from home. But angels sang in the heavens, and shepherds in the fields saw them and followed a bright star and came to find the little family. Do you wonder what Joseph and Mary thought when the shepherds bowed down and worshipped the baby?

And then later, along came three wise men from a far away country. They also had followed the star in the sky and came to worship the baby who would grow up to be the Savior of the world. They brought gifts of gold, and rare perfumes called frankincense and myrrh.

The little family was going to need these gifts and the gold to help them survive because the next unexpected thing was they had to run in secret and hurry to leave the city Bethlehem. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and

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## WORD SEARCH

GOD	TRY
CHOSE	TO
JOSEPH	KILL
MARY	BABY
TO	JESUS
HAVE	LIVE
WONDROUS	IN
LIFE	EGYPT
HEROD	

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

## Wonderful Week at Branch 2

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brothers preached on coming to dine at the Lords table. I still was not sure."

"At GMBA Campout in July, the second night the young people went up to sing and during closing prayer, there was prayer for the young people who were struggling. I started crying and then went to Brother Phil Buffa and told him I was thinking about being baptized." Brother Phil brought him to the elders and Brother John Straccia prayed for him. During the prayer, he remembers Brother John saying, "If you are calling him and it is his time, make his heart beat real hard and fast." All of a sudden Brother Peter's heart began pounding. He stood and asked for his baptism.

"When I went under the water and came back up, it was the happiest moment of my life. Three hundred pounds were lifted off my chest. I just want to praise God for changing my life and my whole perspective."

Please remember to pray for these two new young brothers as they begin this most miraculous journey.

We thank God that we were able to spend such wonderful time together with the saints throughout this busy week. The Lord's presence was surely felt each time we met.

## A Blessed Day at Sterling Heights, MI

Brother Lou Visconti started the sermon on Sunday, May 26, 2002 at the Sterling Heights Branch in Michigan. He began with Romans 12: 1-3. He spoke on how we should be living our lives, and explained that while we are a part of the world, we shouldn't copy the behaviors and beliefs we see around us. Brother Lou continued with Galatians 5:19, describing the unhappiness of those that are of the world.

Brother Sam DiFalco added to the message with scripture from the book of Colossians, Chapter 4 and spoke on burying the old, carnal man

and putting on the new, spiritual man.

The meeting was then opened for testimony. It was a great blessing to hear the words of our fellow saints. Brother John Straccia stood and mentioned a conversation he had with Mike Bashaw Sr. previously. They had been discussing the importance of building your house on a strong foundation.

Sister Grace Bashaw, Mike's wife, began to play the hymn, *People Need the Lord*. Mike Bashaw Sr. rose from his seat and said, "I think today is my day." The brothers and sisters burst into praise and received Mike as our new brother in Christ. Sister Grace and Sister Judy Salerno had been praying together for Mike, and they both testified, saying that they knew today was the day for Mike to be called.

Later the same day, Mike Bashaw Sr. was baptized at Branch 1 by Bro. John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto. He testified that he had been desiring to ask for his baptism and was seeking a sign from the Lord. Brother Mike opened his hymn book to *People Need the Lord* just before his wife began to play the hymn, and he knew that he was being called. Sister Kristen Bashaw, Brother Mike's daughter, also mentioned that she had been singing *There's a New Name in Glory* during the week before. All were very blessed and overjoyed that a new saint had come to the Gospel.

## Showers of Blessings from Anaheim, CA

By Sister Patty Kerby

As we gathered on the weekend of September 21st and 22nd, 2002, great blessings were anticipated. We were blessed to have visiting Evangelists from various parts of the east coast. As Saturday morning began the sisters gathered in the church for our Ladies' Circle business meeting as the brothers gathered in the kitchen for the Elders and Teachers meetings.

The day began with the sisters singing *Jesus My Wonderful Friend*. After the business meeting concluded, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by the sisters. At about 2:00 p.m. We gathered again in the sanctuary for a short fellowship of singing, and then we were dismissed to our various seminar groups according to age.

The topic for all the seminars was the same; "Preserving the family." Brother Ron Genaro gave the one I attended, which was very informative. It was all based on God being our foundation.

We had a little break time of fellowship, after which we were again served a wonderful meal. Our dear brothers and sisters prepared a Guatemalan meal.

Our night meeting began with a wonderful season of singing. We opened with *Sweet Sweet Spirit*. Brother Rudy Meo welcomed everyone to our service, and then turned the meeting over to Brother Jim Huttenberger. A beautiful spirit was felt as we waited upon the Lord to see what He had in store for us. Brother Jim then introduced all the visiting Evangelists.

Sister Christina Benyola sang, *People Need the Lord*. Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo opened our meeting saying how much we need the Lord. He spoke of the "tree of life" and the fruit, more desirable than all the fruit that will give us everlasting life. He spoke of Laman and Lemuel and how they would not partake of the fruit, how their minds were closed to the spirit of God. He stressed how we must stay on the pathway and continue to hold on to the "rod of iron" (the Word of God), to help each other stay on as well.

The young people then came up to sing *The Standard of Liberty*. Brother Jim Sgro continued speaking on the same theme. He spoke how Jesus delivers us every day, and how we must hold on more than ever before. The spirit was so powerful. As he was speaking, Brother Joe Genaro spoke in tongues. He was also given

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## Blessings from Anaheim, CA

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the interpretation, which was "*Hold on, hold on, hold on.*" What a beautiful message. The Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters sang *America* for us. Brother Jim Huttenberger made the closing remarks. Closing prayer was by Brother Bob McDonnell.

More wonderful blessings were to follow as our Sunday worship service began. The building was filled to capacity and overflowing with the saints. We opened with singing, *How Great Thou Art*. We continued with *There's Room at the Cross*. Brother Jim introduced all the Evangelists to us again. The meeting was then turned over to Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. He explained the purpose of the DMOC (Domestic Missionary Operating Committee). He explained about its beginnings and purpose, "To bring souls to Christ, to work for God and expand the growth of the Church throughout the world." He said it takes every member to help the growth.

Brother Joe Genaro opened in prayer. He related a dream he previously had. As the day started we sang the song, *Fill My Cup Lord*. In his dream he saw saints entering the church building. Some came in holding their cups upside down and some holding their cups upwards, waiting to be filled. He said how we must be waiting to be filled from God. As he finished speaking Brother Owen Wilcox spoke in tongues. What a beautiful start to a wonderful day. Brother Ken Jones then sang *Second to God*.

Brother Ron Genaro opened our meeting. He said, "We do not change the Gospel, the Gospel changes us. We must allow ourselves to be a vessel for His use." His text was from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:17. "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, and all things are become new.*" Jesus was the manna from Heaven. He said, "The Lord has all we stand in need of." We cannot focus on today, when we are worried about tomorrow. He spoke many more beautiful words.

We were blessed with many more song selections by many talented singers, both in Spanish and English, all in praise to our God.

Brother Lou Vitto followed telling us that we cannot do anything without God, and "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Brother Tony Picciuto also spoke. He told us to reflect on the weekend and digest the most important points. He told us we must stay on the path, and that we are not running the race alone. Praise God! He is with us and we can hold on. He asked if anyone needed prayer to come up, or if anyone wanted to accept the call to serve the Lord. Sister Christina Benyola and Brother Justin Paxton sang *It Is Well With My Soul* as we went into our Sacrament service. At this time there were two visions had. As we sang *One Drop of Blood for Me*, Sister Bennie Jones heard the words, "It is finished," as she saw our Lord Jesus with His arms outstretched and the nail prints in His hands. She saw a host of angels just staring as they focused on us. We shared a beautiful spirit, as we felt God's love for us.

The young men concluded our service once again singing, *It Is Well With My Soul*. Brother Jim Sgro closed in prayer. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by our dear sisters of the Anaheim Branch. We praise God for all His many blessings. He showered upon us this wonderful weekend.

## Mid-Georgia Mission News

"...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end..." What powerful words we see, know, love, and prove every day. The mission in Mid-Georgia has been very busy this summer. We started the showers of blessings shortly after the RMOC meeting in Cape Coral. Brother Art and Sister Penny Campbell attended the RMOC meeting in June in Cape Coral and stopped by the Quincy mission on Sunday. While there, Brother Horace related a dream after

the request was made known for the Quincy Mission and the Mid-Georgia Mission to join together in a picnic. Where do we hold a joint picnic, with the two missions being three hours apart? Well, in the middle, which happened to be Albany, Georgia. This perked up the ears of Brother Horace Huggins. He stated that a couple days earlier he had a dream that we (the Church) were holding a meeting in Albany, Georgia. He wasn't sure of the significance, but agreed quickly that Albany should be the location. As it turns out, Albany is home to Cheehaw Park. This is a state park run entirely by Native Americans.

On July 13, 2002, the Quincy, Florida Mission and the Mid-Georgia Mission came together at Cheehaw Park on the north side of Albany. We enjoyed much fellowship, wonderful food, sports, cool breezes under a hammock of pine trees and even a season of praise through singing. While we were sharing songs with the birds, trees and other picnickers, we noticed a few people driving by very slowly as though they felt comfort in the songs. We don't know what impact the Church had on Albany, Georgia that day, but we are convinced we WILL try another picnic and it will be in Albany, Georgia. We'll be sure to invite everyone next time.

Next on August 16-18, 2002, the Mid-Georgia Mission held a festival called, "The Peoples of the Americas Festival and Outreach." Saints from Miami to New Brunswick, New Jersey joined us. We had what can only be described as an awesome time. Seeing God's hand move has always been a sight to behold.

We started off Saturday with a short chapel service. Brother Art felt inspired to open the meeting with prayer, but we did not close the meeting. We continued as if we were in a meeting all day long. We split up into a couple groups making sure we each had a Spanish translator. We were so grateful for the presence of a brother and sister from New Jersey. Both of them spoke Spanish.

I want to give the account of some of the car rides. Mid-Georgia's Sister Jessica, Sister 'Nita, and

Brother Frank combed the neighborhood for people. They happened to run into one of Sister Jessica's neighbors outside. As they made their way to the porch of this lady, she exclaimed she was waiting on them. They sang a bit, told experiences, told about the Church and the woman was more than happy to come and fellowship with us. As they were driving around, Sister Jessica's husband, Jason, saw two young men walking down the road. He invited them, too, and they quickly came to hear the Restored Gospel.

In my car, we had the most incredible experience. For a couple weeks prior to the festival, the mission had been putting out flyers and inviting people by word of mouth. We had tried looking for the Seed of Joseph in many communities around the area and found a few some distance off. We could not find any around the local area. We were directed to a neighborhood several times but never really came up with anybody. Well, on Saturday it wasn't any different. We searched this neighborhood again only to come up empty-handed.

When we decided to leave the neighborhood, I heard a voice tell me, "Go across the street," so I proceeded down this little side road across the street. I had not driven 300 feet before I heard this voice telling me once again, "Turn down this dirt road." Anyone that knows me knows I prefer not to drive down dirt roads. Well, this day I did. We started down a little shaggy road and drove by a long driveway. I had to back up to turn into it, but I heard this voice tell me again, "Turn here." I obeyed the voice.

When we arrived at the end, we noticed two men working on a van. We stopped to talk to them for a brief moment, which turned out to be almost an hour. We invited them to come to the festival and we had great liberty with them. They could not make it, but invited us to come back to them, so we agreed to bring the priesthood with us. When we returned, we enjoyed a season of telling them about the Church and who we were. Brother Miguel Bicelis and Brother Art Campbell anointed two of them and we invited them to church on Sunday.

That didn't work out exactly how we had anticipated. Sunday morning came and Brother Al Tepperman and I went to pick them up for service. They had to work for their landlord to make up for rent they owed him, so they wouldn't be able to come. We agreed to come back after church. It seems like God will do His work just after you try everything you can do.

That afternoon, we dropped by the people's house only to find them not at home. We had an abundance of leftover food so we wanted to give it to someone. We noticed a group of people on a hill cooking something on a grill. Brother Al and Sister Norma went to them and explained we have food if they want it and asked if they would like to hear about our Church. They quickly agreed, maybe because they were hungry, maybe not. Only God knows. While we were there, we were told of how they have nothing to do but drink and even the ones that try to be spiritual tend to fall into the trap.

We had great liberty telling them about the Church and what God has done for us. We anointed one young man because he wanted to quit drinking. He kept saying God is so big and we didn't understand what he meant by this at first but I will explain this in a little bit. So we wouldn't cause fear of us being the INS, we invited one of them to see where the church was located and we quickly had three carloads of people.

When we arrived at the church, we explained the main differences they would see in our building. We went into the building and began to share songs and hymns with them in Spanish. We sang songs like *My Lord Can* from the *Songs of Zion* and *First Love* written by Esther Dyer. We shared the story of the *Songs of Zion* with them. Brother Art gave his testimony to them and we saw walls broken down as he portrayed himself in a like manner with them. We invited them to testify to the mercy of God and how He has helped them.

One man, named Jose, quickly rose to his feet and thanked God for us finding them. They had no church or even no one to minister to them and how his heart was leaping for joy.

Another woman, Maria, rose to her feet and gave glory to God for His mercy to her. We ended our little meeting with another prayer that God would be pleased with their testimony and sincerity. Afterwards we invited them to the kitchen for a cold drink and this is where we found out why the young man kept saying God is so big.

The young man, I believe his name was Jesus (pronounced Hey-soos in Spanish), told us that his father is a minister in an Evangelical church in Mexico. He had only been in the country for about 15 days. Before he left, his father had anointed him to protect him from the world. His father also asked God if He would send people from His church to speak with him.

We finished our time together then we took them home again. There was another certain man I would like to mention from this group. His name is Virgilio (or Virgil in English). Virgilio was so moved by us coming to them, he told us we need to take this message back to his people in the Yucatan. Virgilio turns out to be a Mayan Indian. He proceeded to give us the information of names, telephone numbers, addresses, names of taxi drivers that can take us directly to our destination, people he worked for in Yucatan, and all of this with his love and sincerity. (Editors note: We have passed this information on to Brother Paul Liberto.) Virgilio has remained close to us to this day, saying he loves us because we are of like mind (*mismo mente* in Spanish).

We finally had the opportunity to see the other family that afternoon and we had the liberty to take them to the church as well, sharing testimony and song with them too. While at the church the woman, Hilda, explained she was concerned for her children living in Mexico with her mother. The following Monday, the children were to start school for the first time (first grade). We prayed for her and her children. During the prayer a vision was seen of many children in a bubble being protected. The following day, we contacted Hilda to inquire about her

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## Mid-Georgia Mission News

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children. At the moment we were praying, they were also concerned and were crying because they missed their mother. Monday came and went without a hitch for the children. This further proved the Church and the power of God to this family.

We have enjoyed many moments together with these people and have even agreed to teach them English, but they have to, in turn, teach us Spanish. We had the privilege of Hilda visiting our mission on September 1, 2002, and witnessing a baptism.

Brother Jeremy Gagliardi was brought to the Church from another member in the Air Force. He was curious when this brother was reading information on the Hope Indian prophecies. He explained the Church to him and invited him to attend. Jeremy came one week and knew this was what was missing in his life. We continued to make sure he realized the Church was serious and not just for public show. His love continued to grow for the Church and the saints of God. He was taken into the water by Brother Art Campbell and confirmed by Brother Tom Jones of Atlanta.

## Fort Pierce, Florida

### "There's Joy in the Camp"

Nothing delights the saints more than to see the wandering souls of men turn their lives to the Lord. The Fort Pierce Branch is experiencing a renewal of spirit through the testimonies and conversions of our two newest members.

For two consecutive Sunday mornings the Branch met at the waters edge to start the Lord's Day.

Excitement was in the air when members, family, and friends felt the spirit of repentance as Donna Miller was baptized on August 24th by Brother Frank Rogolino. Our sister has been attending the branch for quite

some time, and has requested much prayer as she is fighting a serious illness. It was Sister Donna's desire to get baptized several months ago, but her health had been so poor that she was unable to. We felt blessed that God had heard our prayers and given Sister Donna the strength to fulfill her heart's desire. The spirit manifested itself a week earlier as a teenager in the congregation received a vision of a bright glow around our sister as she was being anointed. During the baptism itself another sister had a vision in which she saw the Lord smiling as He witnessed the occasion.

The blessings kept flowing throughout the day as our service unfolded and the word of the Lord came forth. The text Brother Frank Rogolino used was from II Nephi 31: 4-18. The Lamb of God set the example for us even though He was without sin. Our challenge is to remain faithful to the end. Brother Rocco Benyola followed with John 14:12-21. He spoke of the power given to the believers, and the fact that Jesus did not leave us comfortless.

As the spirit moved from vessel to vessel, it found it's way to another one of our frequent visitors. When the testimonies of the saints unfolded, Craig Johnson found himself on his feet rendering his obedience to the Lord. He also has been attending for quite some time with his wife Michelle (Rogolino) Johnson. Shortly after Brother Craig stood on his feet, Brother Rocco related to the congregation that a few weeks earlier the Lord had revealed to him that it was Craig's time to be baptized. We have been seeing the Lord work with this young couple, and are glad to have them in our midst.

August 31<sup>st</sup> was set aside as the day to take our brother into the waters of regeneration. Brother Frank Rogolino was again honored to baptize his grandson-in-law. It was another day of rejoicing as Brother John D'Orazio opened the meeting continuing on the theme of acceptance of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Rocco followed by encouraging our visitors to heed the call of the Lord and not procrastinate the day of salvation.

The Lord has blessed our branch with visitors who have felt the power and the glory of God. We have seen His hand move in their behalf in the form of revelation and the miracle of healing. We know that we serve a God of Miracles and we also know He is calling others to be part of His Gospel. We stand amazed in His presence and are excited to experience growth. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

## Leesburg, FL Mission

*By Brother James G. Speck*

In the early years of 1990, a seed was planted in the central part of Florida called Leesburg where two sisters formerly from New Jersey were visited by Brother Frank Rogolino, and the Leesburg Mission started it's development.

Around 1995, while we were attending an area campout in Leesburg, Brother Frank took me with him to visit these sisters and I fell in love with the work that would soon start there.

When the mission was established by the Southeast ROMC, there were three members to be fed and one spouse who was attending but not yet baptized. This was the case in the beginning, but it was a fact that would soon change.

We started holding meetings every other Sunday at 4:30 PM, in the homes of the saints and two years later, we were able to have the meetings at 10:00 AM.

It was soon after this that I received a call from Sister Dolly Seitz that Charlie had asked for his baptism and asked me to come up. During the drive to Leesburg, knowing that Charlie had been attending the meeting regularly, I planned to talk with him further regarding the Church and then set up his baptism for the coming Sunday when other brothers and sisters might attend.

This was not to be, Charlie said NOW. He had struggled with this for



some time and he did not want any further delay in giving himself to Christ. With this being his desire, we drove north to find water that was suitable and found a lake with a protected beach.

Thus Charles Seitz gave his life to Christ, was baptized and confirmed as our first convert in the Leesburg Mission. The Lord worked with Brother Charlie and gave him experiences. A very memorable one came on a winter day when we were meeting on Sundays at 4:30 PM. During our next meeting, Brother Charlie told us that when we left his home after the previous meeting, Sister Dolly and he were sitting on the couch and a bright light shone down on them and lasted for a considerable length of time. Knowing the time of day, Brother Charlie looked outside and saw it was dark. We look on this as an experience that God was pleased with His Saints in the Leesburg area.

Since the work in Leesburg began, the Mission now meets every Sunday at the Orange Blossom Hills HOA in Summerfield, FL and the membership is now eight. We ask your continued prayers for the mission in this part of God's vineyard.

## *Note of Thanks*

Thank you so much for all your calls, cards, flowers, visits and prayers during this difficult time. Words do not adequately convey our gratitude and love.

Brother Lawrence King and Family

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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Scolaro, Peter and Marilyn  
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Vancik, Sara Cadman  
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Monongahela, PA 15063

## **Six Nations Groundbreaking**

Continued from Page 1

There were plenty of smiles and thankful hearts as the group returned to the school to enjoy a meal followed by an evening worship and praise service. Although only a small amount of dirt was symbolically removed, this building project represents a measurable commitment to those on the Six Nations Indian Reserve and a commitment to fulfill the Lord's commandment to "bring the Gospel to His ancient covenanted people."

## **Message from the Seventy**

Continued from Page 2

home, and he would invite as many of his friends as he could to attend. We promised to do this on our next trip. This man attended the baptisms and was touched by God's hand.

I will never forget the love displayed by the Torres family, young and old alike. They opened their home to us and provided abundantly, both naturally and spiritually. Their desire to serve the Lord in His Church is no different than ours. Yet, they must wait many months before they can enjoy the Communion and be anointed for their afflictions. Please remember them in your prayers.

## **The Children's Corner**

Continued from Page 6

warned him that Herod, the ruler of the entire country, had met the wise men and heard of the prophecies. Herod was hunting them to kill the baby who was going to grow up and be the King of the Jews and all of mankind. Can you imagine their fears?

They fled the country as the soldiers surrounded Bethlehem and murdered every baby boy age two and under. Don't you think that they talked with each other and marveled at what they had gone through? There were no telephones or post offices in that day to go call worried relatives and tell them they were safe. And now God told them that they must go to a foreign land called Egypt to live. How would they have survived if God wouldn't have sent the wise men with gifts of gold? Can you imagine how hard it would be to be afraid that maybe Herod had spies who would track you down and kill your baby? And how would it be to be strangers in a strange land where people dressed different, spoke another language, and worshipped different statues that they called gods? What an amazing life Mary and Joseph had.

The Bible tells us that Mary heard every prophecy and every good thing that the angels, the wise men, and the shepherds told her and that she kept them in her heart. As the years passed, we know that the Bible says she and Joseph had other children. It mentions daughters and names four other sons named James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. So, she and Joseph had a busy full life.

Eventually, Jesus grew into a man, and began doing His miracles. He taught people how to love and allowed Himself to be crucified for our sins. We do not know when Joseph died, but Mary was there when Jesus began His ministry and she was there at the cross, too. This girl, most blessed among women, grew into a wonderful mother and along with Joseph has never been forgotten by mankind.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Brother Mario Onorato and Sister Isabelle Boisvenue from Sudbury, Ontario, Canada were united in holy matrimony on August 24, 2002.

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Sister Isabelle Boisvenue was baptized on August 4, 2002 at the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Sister Kresten McClennan was baptized on May 12, 2002 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Sister Andria Znoy was baptized on August 4, 2002 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Brother Michael Bashaw Sr., was baptized on May 26, 2002 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Brother Elmer Bittinger was baptized on October 6, 2002 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Robert Buffington and confirmed by Brother Tom Stroko.

Sister Natalie Rose Prinzer was baptized on July 28, 2002 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Timothy Gehly and confirmed by Brother Joseph Draskovich.

Sister Margaret Ilene Frankenbery was baptized on September 29, 2002 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Lawrence King and confirmed by Brother Richard Lowther.

Sister Mary DiFede of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch was reinstated on October 23, 2002. She was reinstated by Brother Jim Sgro.

Sister Regina Newman was baptized on September 15, 2002 in the Mesa/Phoenix Branch. She was baptized by Brother Tony Piccuito and confirmed by Brother David Jordan.

**OBITUARIES**

**SUSANNA RUTH KING**

Sister Susanna Ruth King of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto her reward on September 18, 2002. She was preceded in death by her son, Samuel Matthew; mother Goldie Jean Moody Christopher; father Ernest R. Christopher; and brothers Dennis R. and Charles E. Christopher. She is survived by her husband Brother Lawrence E. King, Sr.; children Brother Mark King, Sister Constance Frankenberry, Lawrence E. King, Jr., Thomas G. King; brother Lewis Christopher; stepmother Anna Christopher; and stepsister Linda Jones.

**GOLDIE MARIE HIXON**

Sister Goldie Marie Hixon of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto her reward on September 11, 2002. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband William Harry Hixon; one son, James Edward; and 13 brothers and sisters. She is survived by her sons, John Robert, William Harry, Barry Carter, Charles David and her daughters, Janet Sue Eberly and Joyce Marie Clelland; and her brother, Brother George Timms.

**CHARLES PETER SEITZ, JR.**

Brother Charles Peter Seitz, Jr. of the Leesburg, Florida Mission passed on to his reward on February 6, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Sister Dolly Seitz, sister-in-law Sister Vema Cogar, three sons, two daughters, one brother and one sister. He also leaves nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**CHARLES R. CURRY**

Brother Charles R. Curry of the Mesa/Phoenix, Arizona Branch passed on to his reward on September 9, 2002. He was an ordained minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Sylvia Curry; three children, Sister Cindy Hood, Sister Mary Duncan and Clyde Curry; 7 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; his mother; Ester Andrews; and 3 brothers, Don Curry, John Andrews, and Jimmy Andrews.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_