

# The Gospel News

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## References on the Peaceful Reign

*By Apostle Alma Cadman*

Takes place *prior* to the **MILLENNIUM** (Thousand Years with Christ or First Resurrection).

### *Bible References:*

**Isaiah 2:1-5** "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O House of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord."

**Isaiah 51:3** "For the Lord

shall comfort Zion: He shall comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody."

**Isaiah 65: 18-25** "But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for behold; I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days; for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the Lamb shall feed together, and the Lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

**Isaiah 35<sup>th</sup> Chapter** Read all of it.

**Hosea 2:18-20** "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground; and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgement, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies, I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the Lord."

**Job 5:22-25** "At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh; neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shalt be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that

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## A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ Before, During, and After Nauvoo

*By Brother Thomas Ross*

The Church of Jesus Christ firmly believes that the primitive church as established by our Lord, gradually drifted into a complete and general apostasy or falling away. The Church also believes in a restoration of the Gospel back to earth through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, Jr.

Joseph Smith and a few other adherents were organized as a church in the year 1830 in New York State. In this year also, The Book of Mormon was published in book form, after having been translated by the gift and power of God from the ancient record or plates which had been delivered to Joseph Smith by an angel of God. Sometime after this, they gathered at Kirtland, Ohio, and during their stay there, erected a temple. It is still intact and is an historical attraction to many believers in the Restoration as well as other interested and inquiring visitors. Finally, due to persecution, the Church migrated as a body to the State of Missouri.

Persecution seemed to follow them, like the people of God in all ages. Eventually they were forced to flee from the State of Missouri in the year 1839. About 5000 Latter-Day Saints settled in western Illinois and founded a city that Joseph Smith decided to call "Nauvoo," a Hebrew word conveying the idea of "beauty and repose." It is situated on the east bank of the Mississippi River, in Hancock County, about 190 miles up the river from St. Louis and nearly the same distance from Chicago, towards the west.

From the summer of 1839 until his death in June 1844, Joseph Smith urged the gathering of the Saints to Nauvoo as a religious duty. A plan to build a temple was advanced also. The excavation was begun in the fall of 1840, the cornerstones were laid in April 1841, and construction continued more or less steadily until five years later, when the temple was dedicated

in April 1846, two years after the death of Joseph Smith, though the interior was never finished.

The Kirtland temple was a frame structure finished with stucco and smaller, whereas the Nauvoo temple was of masonry, measuring 128 feet long, 88 feet wide and 165 feet from the ground to the top of the tower. The walls were made of solid blocks of cut limestone and from four to six feet thick. Temple stones still to be seen in Nauvoo reveal that the workmanship was indeed excellent.

In the pre-dawn night of October 9, 1848, this great structure, in which enormous toil and sacrifice had been invested, was destroyed in a pillar of fire—it's all wood interior reportedly fired by the torch of an arsonist.

Nauvoo, beginning in 1839 as a sprawling refugee camp, soon became a populous city. In 1845, with a population of 11,036, it was the largest city in Illinois.

During the eighteen thirties and forties, England was a fertile soil for the Restored Gospel. In 1837 the Church sent missionaries there and as a result of their evangelistic labors some 17,000 persons, mostly English, were baptized during the decade 1837-1847. Of these, more than 4000 gathered primarily in Nauvoo.

In 1841, Apostle Parley P. Pratt, as head of the British Mission in England, took the liberty to write a lengthy letter to Queen Victoria of Great Britain. Quoting from Daniel, Isaiah and First Nephi, he warned that all the kingdoms of the world, including that of Her Majesty, could soon fall and that these future events were nigh, even at the door. He declared that if the rulers, clergy and the people of England would hearken and repent, they would have part in the glorious kingdom (of God); but if they would not hearken to the words of the prophets and apostles, they

would be overthrown with the wicked and perish from the earth.

On a number of occasions, Joseph Smith voiced dire predictions of the fate that would befall those who persecuted the Saints. In May 1843, he also told Stephen A. Douglas, who was a guest at his table that if the United States would not redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints that in a few years the government would be overthrown and wasted. He further prophesied that Douglas would one day aspire to the Presidency, "and if ever you turn your hand against me or the Latter-Day Saints, you will feel the hand of the Almighty upon you." Indeed, it is common knowledge that some years later, Abraham Lincoln defeated Stephen A. Douglas for the Presidency of the United States.

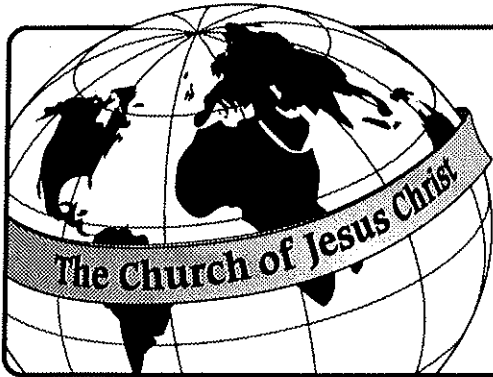
On June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were shot to death in nearby Carthage, by a mob of lawless and disguised men. This eventually proved to be the beginning of the end for Nauvoo and also incited confusion among the Saints.

The Church failed to recognize Sidney Rigdon as rightful successor to Joseph Smith and instead the reins of leadership passed into Brigham Young's hands. Due to a rising tide of persecution and depredation, Brigham Young finally announced in September 1845, that the city would be abandoned in the following spring.

During the winter of 1845-1846, preparations were made to move to the West. The evacuation continued all through the spring and summer of 1846 and when autumn came, what had been the most populous city of Illinois was all but deserted. Joseph Smith, the founder of Nauvoo, "The City Beautiful," was left buried in a secret, unmarked grave to prevent desecration of his body.

Meanwhile, Sidney Rigdon had returned to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and continued preaching the Gospel. There were others also who refused to join the bulk of the Saints in the migration to the Great Salt Lake Valley. A number of factions sprang up, while still later, "The Reorganized

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## A message from the Seventy

### Philippine Missions Trip

*By Brother Art Gehly, Sr.*

Great is our God and HE is so good!

I write this summary of our trip to the Philippine islands of Mindanao and Bohol as I am sitting in the San Francisco airport waiting to go on the final flight home. Again we have been reminded how blessed we are to be living in the United States.

Brother John Mark and Sister Joyce D'Antonio and Sister Martha and I began our journey from Pittsburgh on September 18th, 2003. We arrived in Davao City, Mindanao on Saturday September 20th, 2003. Brother Rommel and Sister May Desoloc and Brother June and Sister Babeth Desoloc met us at the airport. After settling in at our hotel, we all had dinner together including Brother Malaqui and Sister Delma Galing. It was wonderful to renew our love with these saints of God.

During our visit, we held meetings in Davao City, Tagum and Panabo missions on Mindanao. On Monday and Tuesday (September 22nd and 23rd), we held seminars for the ordained officers and had over 40 in attendance. During this time, we had reports from the elders on their mission status, fasting and prayer service, ordinations and anointings. Brother John Mark gave an excellent seminar on the Priesthood and I gave talks on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Unity. We also continued to instruct them in the organizational structure of the Church.

The Philippine elders requested that three of their current Teachers be ordained Elders. After calling the parent Church in America for permis-

sion to proceed, we held a ministerial board meeting to consider the candidates. Each candidate was questioned thoroughly and was approved to be ordained.

The love of God is very strong within the saints in the Philippines. They all send their love to the saints in the United States. They are very grateful for the Restored Gospel's coming to the Philippines. We experienced great blessings in all the meetings with the saints. On the island of Mindanao there were several children blessed plus the ordination of three Elders, one Teacher, two Deacons and one Deaconess.

On Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>, Brother John Mark and Sister Joyce began their return trip home. I can

only say, it was a great joy and privilege to have them with us. I thank them both for their sacrifice, both natural and spiritual, in making this trip to the Philippines. Sister Martha and I needed and appreciated their help, support and love they gave to us and to the saints in the Philippines. May God grant Brother John and Sister Joyce His greatest blessings. Before we left for the airport, Brother Rommel and Sister May Desoloc came to wish us well and give us small gifts of appreciation. Sister May was very afflicted and was planning to go to the doctor as soon as they left us. We felt the inspiration to anoint our wonderful young sister. They left us and we proceeded to the airport. When we got home, we learned that God instantly healed Sister May and she did not have to go to the doctor. Praise God for His wonderful mercy!

Also on Friday, Sister Martha and I journeyed to the island of Bohol to meet with the saints there. This was a new adventure for us as no U.S. member had been to that island. However, we knew the saints of Bohol had the same love of God in their service to Him. After a short flight from Davao to Cebu, we took a

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Saints in Bohol Saturday seminar meeting.

## Philippine Missions Trip

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fast boat to the capital city of Tagbilaran. Saturday morning, Sister Martha had the beginning of a migraine headache, which normally lasts for three days. She was anointed and God healed her immediately. Praise God!

On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, the saints gathered at the Carmen Chocolate Hills Hotel to meet with us. There were 76 members, visitors and children present. In the morning meeting I taught seminars on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Priesthood. The two elders in Bohol told about their efforts on that island. There was much singing as they love to sing. The candidates for Teacher expressed themselves. In the afternoon, I spoke on the seminar of Unity and preached about the Gospel coming to the Philippines. Eight candidates were baptized in the afternoon.

The trip to the site was an experience neither Martha nor I will ever forget; but suffice it to say that God was good to us. Sister Martha and I then came back to the hotel and had another memorable experience because we were the only people staying there that night. Needless to say, we were very thankful to God for again watching over us and protecting us.

On the island of Bohol, there are two missions that are on opposite sides of the town of Carmen. They are out in the country on narrow dirt roads. Sunday morning we met at the mission at Bugsoc where the saints had built a small church building. On the way there, I was told we needed to have a dedication service for their building. I felt inspired to read about Solomon's dedication of the temple and talk about the dedication God's people need and how God will dwell in their hearts and in their building as they serve Him. God's spirit flowed as we held hands and asked God to bless their very humble building for the meeting of the saints. Also during the meeting, two Teachers, two Deacons, and two Deaconesses were ordained for the work in Bohol. A beautiful spirit was felt by all present. After a quick lunch, Sister Martha and I began the long,

bumpy ride to the airport to begin our journey home. We parted with sadness knowing we would not see the saints in Bohol for a long time but were thankful for the time we were able to spend together. On the island of Bohol, there are currently 69 members.

We want to thank each one of you for your prayers. Not one day passed that we did not feel your love and prayers. Also, we thank you for your financial help for this trip. When

we get together, we help the Philippine saints with their transportation needs as well as provide money for food during and after our meetings. They are so humble and thankful for the Gospel and are very hungry and thirsty for the truth.

In the Philippine region, there are 9 missions on two islands with the current membership of 368. There are 15 Elders, 9 Teachers, 6 Deacons and 18 Deaconesses.



Bus ride to baptism site in Bohol. 76 people are on board.



Saints at Davao City



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The definition of standard is "used as, or conforming to, a standard, rule, model, etc. Generally accepted as reliable or authoritative." Using this definition, what is the *standard* in the world today? What rules or customs are accepted as the standard, or model for all to follow? Can this standard be changed by just one person, who is viewed as reliable or authoritative?

In Alma, Chapter 46, we read about a man named Amalickiah, who used flattering words to cause many people to leave the Church. Helaman and his brethren worked so hard to establish the Church, and took such great care of it, but in practically an instant, it nearly fell apart.

It is true that it takes years to build, but only seconds to tear down. We can even see today, how the World Trade Center buildings, which took many years to build, were destroyed in a matter of minutes. This is true spiritually. It is true in the case of standards that take years to build, but with just a few flattering words from someone who disagrees, can be destroyed in almost an instant. I recently heard there is now an initiative in the United States to ban the use of God's name in any form of media. There are hundreds of thousands who signed a petition in agreement to this!

*"Thus we see how quick the children of men do forget the Lord their God, yea, how quick to do iniquity, and to be led away by the evil one" (Alma 46:8).*

The only "standard" or "model" that we should follow is found in the Word of God. Yet, because there are some who disagree, this standard, that took years to build is being torn down every day, at an extremely rapid pace.

Moroni, the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, became angry with Amalickiah. He rent his coat and took a piece of it, and wrote, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children." He fastened it to the end of a pole, like a flag. He called it "the title of liberty." Moroni went about waving his flag, and proclaimed:

*"Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, let them come forth in the strength of the Lord, and enter into a covenant that they will maintain their rights, and their religion, that the Lord God may bless them" (Alma 46:20).*

Moroni boldly was trying to re-establish the *standard* among the people. Are we trying to re-establish the *standard* in the world around us today? There are many who are fighting furiously to remove God's standards. Are we fighting back just as furiously to keep God's standards in tact?

It is amazing how one person, who has flattering words, can cause people to reject a standard they have been following all their lives. Many people today who have left the Church, made the decision based on what one person may have told them. They may have spent their whole lives being blessed, and receiving confirmation of their beliefs by the power of God, and with just one conversation with someone who has a convincing spirit, can deny it all.

The year of 2004 is upon us. Our forefathers would not even recognize the world in which we live. Things have changed so dramatically and so rapidly. It is never too late to lift the title of liberty, and boldly proclaim God's standards to the world around us. The song *The Standard of Liberty* says, "Why do you wait, son? The battle is raging, And many young soldiers have long gone to war. There's no need on the sidelines, and not on the backlines, But only the frontlines are pleading for more." As we begin this new year, I leave you with that challenge. If one person can lead so many away from the truth, surely one person can lead them back. Maybe that person is you.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## What Do You Do When Your Heart Is Breaking?

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever prayed and prayed about a big problem and been terribly confused, scared or mad at God when it was still there? Have you worried yourself sick at night before falling asleep? Have you waked up on a perfectly beautiful day and right away felt heavy hearted and sad?

Sometimes life is so hard. Sometimes it feels like no one else has ever had the same pain and shame and fear as you. But they have. And they have left messages to us to tell us how to cry unto God for relief.

I go to learn from King David. As a young boy, he faced his older brothers' anger and doubt. He urged the adult soldiers to stick up for God. They feared Goliath would kill them. Even King Saul feared to fight one-to-one with fierce Goliath. But the boy, David, remembered how many times God had already saved him. He fought the giant and won.

As a young man, he married King Saul's daughter. The King was jealous of David. He threw a spear at him: he sent soldiers in the night to catch him and bring him to death. David had to flee the country. He and his men were cut off from seeing any of their friends or relatives. He lost his young wife. They had to leave their homes and live in the wilderness in tents or caves hiding from the armies of Saul.

David became a warrior and fighter for kings of other countries. Once he was surrounded and trapped



by a group of his enemies. They planned to murder him. Can you picture how you would feel, surrounded by hate and death threats? David was inspired to act like he was out of his mind, mentally ill. He fooled them and they let him go free.

When he became king, his terrible problems did not go away. One time after his country won another battle, he gave credit to the soldiers instead of God. Instead of realizing that God had helped them over and over, he told the head of the armies to count the soldiers there. God was severely angry. He told David to pick the way to be punished. He was given three choices: He could be hunted by his enemies for three months, there could be a famine for seven years, or a great plague or sickness could come down upon the nation. David told God he knew that he had done wrong. He told God to make the choice. The next day, seventy thousand men got sick and died from the plague before God stopped it. David had to live with the knowledge that these deaths were because of his sin.

David also made the mistake of marrying many different women. He had many children from different mothers who hated each other. One step brother attacked and hurt his half sister, Tamara. Her side of the family hated his side. Another son, Absalom, wanted to rule his brothers and the nation. He gathered an army and attacked King David and those with him. When the battle turned against Absalom he tried to ride away quickly. He was a handsome young man with beautiful long hair. As Absalom rode under a tree branch, his hair got caught in the limbs. David's soldiers killed

him as he hung there. David cried and cried over his son's death and loss until his generals told him to stop crying over the son who had turned against him and praise the men who had stopped his murderous son.

Life and the problems went on. David loved to play the harp and sing. He wanted to build a beautiful temple for God's people to worship in. But God told him his hands were too bloody. He may have been king, but he could not have his heart's desire. David accepted that the temple would be built by someone else.

As David became very old, his son Adonijah made a banquet and

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Circle Fellowship Weekend in California

*By Sister Marcia Liberto*

How do you describe a perfect weekend? More than eighty sisters who attended the April 4-6, 2003 weekend Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship seminar in Ontario, California can describe the perfect weekend. The theme "The Touch of God" was something they experienced.

On Friday evening we began with a "NO BABY SHOWER." Our sisters were generous in giving baby gifts that were donated to various Church mission fields. In the evening outside the hotel, Sister Bennie Jones and her mother, Sister Gertie Alms, were involved in a terrible auto accident. We thank God that He "touched" them and they were not seriously injured.

On Saturday morning, our Area President, Sister Nancy Hemmings, opened the seminar session. Our seminar leader, Sister Lucy DeCaro, taught us about the many "touches" each of us gives and receives throughout life's journey. She stated that the touch of Jesus is essential to how we live our lives. She asked us to take a few moments to express appreciation for one another. IMPOSSIBLE to take a few moments! The sisters hugged and cried and many beautiful words were spoken. Sister Maria Kuntson, Sister Melissa Bartlett and Sister Andrea DeCaro followed with many wonderful and inspiring thoughts. Although we broke for lunch we didn't break from expressing thankfulness for one another's touch in our lives. We enjoyed an afternoon of rest and relaxation. In the evening we met for a banquet, and Sister Debbie McDonnell led us in a "Fun Night."

On Sunday morning the good feeling of being together continued as

Sister Nancy opened our meeting. She introduced our guest speaker, Sister Sylvia Curry from Phoenix, AZ. Sister Sylvia testified of her many years in the Church. She especially relied on God's touch, throughout the illness and passing of her husband, Brother Chuck. Our visiting elder, Brother Rudy Meo preached on the known and unknown touches of Jesus. His attendance had special meaning because his mother had recently passed away.

Brother Craig Meo, from New Mexico, accompanied his wife to the retreat. He is a newly-ordained teacher who experienced a life-threatening encounter. He spoke of how he felt the Master's touch and was grateful to God for being with him. He asked for our prayers because he is still facing surgery. Many sisters testified of God's touch and His goodness in their lives. After Sacrament we formed a circle of love and were dismissed in prayer. We thank the many sisters who labored to make the seminar weekend a success. We especially thank God for a spirit-filled weekend.

### Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

*By Sister Pierina DeFalco*

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle visited with the saints at the Muncey Mission in Canada. We arrived in time for a Sunday School lesson on faith taught by Brother Ryan Lesperance.

Brother Gary Coppa opened the morning meeting and spoke on nurturing our spiritual lives. He used his grandmother as an example of someone who nurtured her children and grandchildren by planting seeds of faith in their hearts. As an eight-year-old he remembers hearing his grandmother pray. He asked, "Who are you talking to?" "God." She told him that God answers prayer. He ended his sermon by asking, "Are you communicating with God?"

Brother Mike LaSala followed on the quality of our service to God. At the Sacrament service the room was filled with so much love, Brother Mike could hardly utter a prayer for the wine.

Then Brother Tom Everett opened the meeting for testimony. He asked our Area Ladies' Uplift Circle President, Sister Marge D'Amico, and the Muncey Local Circle President, Sister Mona Ogden to begin the testimony meeting. Many testimonies followed. Sister Rose Milantoni testified on reading through her husband's journal. She told how Brother Joe wrote of Sister Nicholas, a Muncey sister, who would sing in the spirit. He asked the Lord, "I don't want to know what she is saying but what language is she speaking?" The Lord answered, "She speaks the language of the Nephites." Sister Fay Albert, who is now blind, glorified God and spoke of how she felt, surrounded by the sister's love.

In his closing remarks, Brother Tom encouraged us to give our testimonies and to spread the Gospel. He said, "The first two letters of the word Gospel is go!" Let's go!

### Ohio Midwest Region Mother-Daughter Luncheon

*By Sister Teresa Pandone*

The Ohio Midwest Region Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted a Mother-Daughter Luncheon on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at the Ramada Inn in Kent, Ohio. Our President, Sister Rosalie Mott, welcomed everyone to our luncheon and made some opening remarks. Sister Bonnie Metzler, from the Columbus, Ohio Circle opened our session with prayer. Sixty-three (63) Circle sisters, friends, and family enjoyed a meal and close fellowship together on a beautiful "Indian Summer" day.

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## GMBA Conference

By Sister Christine Maddox –  
GMBA Editor and  
Brother Jameson Staley –  
GMBA Assistant Editor

The weekend of November 8, 2003 brought people from across the country and the world to Greensburg, Pennsylvania. All came with the same purpose in their head and prayer in their heart—to hear and feel God’s power. The Sunday service on November 9th proved to be an amazing example of just this.

GMBA President Brother Jeff Giannetti, Vice President, Brother David Catalano, and Chaplain Brother Larry Champine, the newly elected GMBA officers, prepared for the meeting as Brother Timothy Mott led the congregation in singing. A feeling of excitement and anticipation hung in the air. To begin the morning, Brother Isaac D. Smith, Brother Jameson Staley, Sister Catherine Henderson, and Sister Jen Champine sang a beautiful rendition of *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. The song set the stage for a glorious day of praise and worship.

Brother Jeff expressed the gratitude he felt for Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri’s service as GMBA President and Sister JoAnn Niehl’s work as GMBA Corresponding Secretary. He asked if all who had resigned from an office the day before would please stand. He then requested that all in the room stand as a symbol of appreciation. Following further announcements, May 15 – 16, 2004 was announced as the 100th Anniversary of the GMBA. All are asked to make an effort to attend the scheduled conference that weekend in Pennsylvania to help celebrate and remember the past 100 years of the GMBA.

After Brother Carl Frammalino offered the opening prayer, Sister Roseanne and Brother Larry Champine blessed the congregation

with a song called *Walking With A Hope In Your Heart*. “What a difference it makes when you’re walking with a hope in your heart,” Sister Roseanne sang. Afterward, Apostle Paul Palmieri appropriately introduced the communion portion of the meeting. All sang the *Twenty-Third Psalm* as the ministers prepared the bread. Brother Jerry Valenti, Apostle John Griffith, Apostle Peter Scolaro, Apostle Paul Palmieri, Brother Steven Osaka, Brother Ken Lombardo, Brother Nephi DeMercurio Sr., and Brother Chuck Kogler passed communion. Brother Ken offered a blessing for the bread and Brother Steven petitioned God to bless the wine. When communion had been passed to all brothers and sisters, Brother Jeff related an experience had moments before by someone in the meeting. He said that while Apostle Paul was introducing the communion service, a vision was had of the Lord standing next to Brother Paul. The Lord said, “My face is visible in all of the Saint’s faces.” What an incredible way for God to manifest His power in the meeting.

Brother John Griffith opened the meeting with a story of shrimp that lodge sand on the top of their head to help them maintain their balance. Without the sand, the shrimp would not know if they were right side up or upside down. Brother John called this the “molting process” and used it to explain how shrimp keep their balance in the jerking ocean current. A group of scientists decided to perform an experiment on these fascinating shrimp. They used metal pieces instead of sand and attached an electromagnet to the top of the tank. The shrimp then thought that what was really upside down was right side up, and they began to function upside down. The shrimp had lost their sense of balance.

Brother John compared this story to our lives. He said Satan is constantly attempting to trick us and switch our “sand for metal.” Satan wants us to lose our sense of balance in our walk with the Lord. Brother John read Luke 17:26 which states, “And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of

man”. He recalled how Noah took a stand and kept his balance even though the people around him tried to turn him upside down. We must ask ourselves if we would rather be on the inside of the ship or the outside of the ship when the rains come. Although people will not be accepting, Brother John instructed us all to strive for the Lord’s spirit in all we do and say. He said that even though we don’t have sand on our heads to help us determine which way is right side up, we have something else—something stable, secure, constant, and sure. We have the word of God and we must “hold fast, grab hold, digest, and know” the Word. Brother John asked us to examine our own lives and see if we are walking right side up with the Lord.

Brother John then spoke about the beauty of The Church of Jesus Christ. Although there are hundreds of religions expressing good things, we are the only one actually showing the true power of God. “God gives us the key to the lock. He is the source of all good. [...] You have received the Holy Spirit. You just need to activate it,” Brother John urged. After Brother John finished speaking, the congregation sang *We Have An Anchor*, an especially fitting ending to a spirit-filled exhortation.

Brother Steven Osaka, a visiting minister from Kenya, stood and addressed the congregation. He told of his recent battle with malaria and how God had been solely responsible for taking the disease from his body. Brother Steven reflected on the special spirit inside The Church of Jesus Christ. He said that the unity and personal attention within the Church is a privilege not found in many other churches. The people within the Church are overflowing with talents and each must use their gifts to further the work of the Lord. Brother Steven read from 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 15:1-6. Brother Steven compared the Church to God’s vineyard and God as the master of the vineyard. God has built a protecting hedge around His vineyard. God expects us to bear fruit in His name. If

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### Ordinations at Detroit, Michigan, Branch #2

We were honored to have many brothers and sisters from the Region and beyond with us on this very special day set aside for the ordinations of Brother David Lovalvo and Brother Jim Lambert into the office of Teacher.

Brother Alex Gentile, Presiding Elder, welcomed us all and Brother Lyle Ciscuolo, Region President opened our meeting in prayer. Brother John DiBattista from Chicago was our opening speaker. He began with the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi where Jesus shares with the Native Americans the timing of events when Israel will be gathered. He read from the 26<sup>th</sup> verse, "And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem."

He also read the 29<sup>th</sup> verse, "And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight, for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their reward."

Brother John shared information of the work in Malawi. "The work in Malawi did not start by two Evangelists going into Malawi and preaching. The work started in South Bend, Indiana when a man named Duane got sick." Our saints then went to the hospital and ministered unto him. After his death, his wife, touched by the outpouring of love from the brothers and sisters, brought the Church to her family in Africa. "God was working without us to establish the Church in Malawi." Brother John gave other examples of how God is working to bring His people together. He concluded by saying "God is gathering the house of Israel where they may be in

all nations, kindred, tongue and people, with or without us. The work has already begun."

We enjoyed a well prepared luncheon and fellowship and gathered together for the afternoon meeting and ordinations. Apostle Peter Scolaro shared a few verses from Ephesians 4: 11, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." He also read from Alma where Gideon, a teacher, instructs Nehor. Brother Peter shared words of instruction to Brother David and Brother Jim.

After a musical medley sung by members of our Branch, the ordination began. Brother David's feet were washed by Brother Joe Vargo and Brother Jim's feet were washed by Brother Emil Lambert.

As we prepared for the completion of the ordinations, Sister Rosanne Champine was asked to sing a very special song to us that she wrote titled, *I Am Committed*. The chorus, so appropriate for the day, is as follows:

*I am committed, to the promise I made at that river's shore,*

*I am committed, to the Church that was worth Jesus dying for,*

*And there's no pain nor power, nothing can keep me from His love,*

*One thing's for sure, with Gods help I'll endure,*

*'Cause I am committed.*

After the song the Elders gathered together to complete the ordination. Brother Dominic Thomas offered prayer asking God to choose among them to perform the ordinations.

Brother Duane Lovalvo came forward to ordain Brother David and Brother Dino DiMelis ordained Brother Jim. Brother Mike LaSala then anointed Brother Dominic pleading for a healing on his behalf. Each of the brothers then greeted Brother Dominic and expressed their love and concern for him during this very difficult time.

Brother Jim Lambert then expressed himself saying that he felt extremely humbled by the calling. When the brothers approached them, he was very afraid for a second and then immediately knew that God would be with him. He asked God for some confidence through a scripture and

opened the Bible to Isaiah 49th chapter 1-6<sup>th</sup> verses, which speaks specifically about the Lord choosing a servant. Brother Jim knew that this was a confirmation that God needs him and would be with him.

Brother David also expressed himself saying, "This day is not about me or him [Brother Jim]. It's about you—that you would have an additional resource through the Spirit of God to help you if you need it." He thanked us for our prayers on his behalf and expressed that he hopes to fulfill a need through the power of God.

Certainly these two new teachers are strengthening their commitment as they take on this new responsibility. We too can make a commitment every day to put the Lord first and do His will for the benefit of our soul and the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Freedom, PA 15042  
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### References on Peaceful Reign

Continued from Page 1

thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shall not sin. Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth."

**Ezekiel 34:25-26** "And I will make with them a covenant of peace and I will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land; and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness; and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season;

(Continued on Page 10)



## Peaceful Reign

Continued from Page 1

and there shall be showers of blessings.”

*Book of Mormon References:*

**III Nephi 20:22** “And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.”

**III Nephi 21:23-29** “And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem. And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst. And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this Gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my Name, Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste nor go by flight, for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward.”

**Ether 13:4-12** “Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land. And he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come—after

it should be destroyed it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord; wherefore, it could not be a New Jerusalem for it had been in a time of old; but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built unto the house of Israel. And that a New Jerusalem should be built upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type. For as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; wherefore, the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that He might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph that they should perish not, even as He was merciful unto the father of Joseph that he would perish not. Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away. And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old save the old have passed away, and all things have become new. And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel. And then cometh also the Jerusalem of old, and the inhabitants thereof, blessed are they, for they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who were scattered and gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, and from the North countries, and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father, Abraham. And when these things come, bringeth to pass the scripture which saith, there are they who were first, who shall be last; and there are they who were last, who shall be first.”

**I Nephi 22:4-28** Read from the Book of Mormon.

*Further References:* Daniel

2:35; Joel 3:16-31; Isaiah 11:6-9

**Daniel 7:9-14, 22** “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool; his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him; thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away; yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

**Daniel 7:22** “Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the Saints of the most high; and the time came that the Saints possessed the kingdom.”

## A Brief History

Continued from Page 2

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” was formed.

William Bickerton was baptized into Rigdon’s following in 1845 and later was ordained into the Priesthood. However, this organization, after enduring a few years, became disorganized. When in 1852, William Bickerton found himself alone, he was given a divine experience that encouraged him in the preaching of the Gospel. In

1857, the membership numbered 93, including 16 officers and Presiding Elder, William Bickerton.

Finally in 1862, The Church of Jesus Christ was organized at Greenock, Pennsylvania, claiming a divine succession of Authority and Priesthood as restored in 1829.

Today, The Church of Jesus Christ has Missions and Branches scattered throughout the world. Present headquarters of the Church is in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

announced he was going to be the next king. David had to make the announcement that his other son, Solomon, was the right man to be king, not Adonijah. Eventually, Adonijah was put to death for trying to be tricky and find ways to be seen as king. One son was killed by another.

Meanwhile, through these terrible problems, what did David do? Read in the Bible, in the book of Psalms. He went through so many terrible problems. But he never forgot to constantly go to God. He never let go of the "big picture," that he was a man who trusted and loved God. He always turned to God to lead him and save him. He even trusted God to punish him fairly. He gloried in the majesty and greatness of our Creator and praised God through all his trouble. Read Psalms 36:5-9.

We can count on God just as David did. Life has many big problems. God will help us to face them one by one. We can live through the dark hours of sadness and fear one day at a time and come out stronger and wiser and able to help others. Praise God even when your pillows are wet at night from your tears. Praise Him when you have sinned and need to be forgiven. Lean hard on Him. Sing hymns of praise despite your troubles. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Continued from Page 7

Following our lunch, the Columbus, Ohio Circle presented an enjoyable program. There were several scriptural readings, poetry, and musical selections offered. They then orchestrated a game of Bible Jeopardy; all the questions related to women of the Bible, which resulted in a lot of mind-searching and lots of fun. Our sisters did very well answering the questions, which demonstrated that our sisters are reading and enjoying God's Holy Word.

The Columbus Circle recognized several sisters in varied categories, i.e. the one who came the farthest distance, the oldest in attendance, the youngest in attendance, the mother who had the most children/grandchildren in attendance, etc. Each of us was given a "Gift Bag" which contained a book marker with the quote "*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.*" (Prov. 31:10), and also a "Survival Kit" which provided us with the following items for survival:

*Toothpick:* to remind us to pick out the good qualities in others (Matt. 7:1).

*Rubber band:* to remind us to be flexible (Rom. 8:28).

*Band-aid:* to remind us to heal hurt feelings, ours or someone else's (Col. 3:12-14).

*Pencil:* to remind us to list our blessings every day (Eph. 1:3).

*Eraser:* to remind us that everyone makes mistakes (Gen. 50:15-21).

*Chewing gum:* to remind us to stick with it and we can accomplish anything (Phil. 4:13).

*Mint:* to remind us that we are worth a mint to our Heavenly Father (John 3:16-17).

*Candy kisses:* to remind us that everyone needs a kiss or a hug every day (1 John 4).

*Herb tea:* to remind us to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings (1 Thess. 5:18).

The enthusiasm exhibited by the Columbus Circle was infectious and we could readily detect the joy they had in preparing and presenting the program, as well as gifting us with

many useful items. They truly exhibited the love of God for each of us.

We were dismissed with prayer by Sister Teresa Pandone and departed with a song in our hearts anxiously looking forward to our next gathering and fellowship together.

## GMBA Conference

Continued from Page 8

we do not produce good fruit, the hedge around us will be removed and Satan will have an entrance into our lives.

Brother Steven told the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These three young men were cast into a fiery furnace for refusing to worship idols in place of God. The hedge around them was their protection from the flames. Brother Steven said that fires will try to burn us throughout our lives, but the hedge that God has built will not allow the fire to enter. Likewise, when Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for refusing to cease praying to God, the hedge in Daniel's life protected him from the mouths of the lions. "We have a God who protects our lives. We have a God who cares about us as individuals," Brother Steven stated.

Brother Paul addressed the congregation by reminding everyone to call upon the Holy Spirit to direct us in which side is right side up. The Restored Gospel is to be preached to people everywhere, and we are the people God has chosen to carry out the message. "Keep focused. Don't get turned upside down. Be faithful to the cause of Jesus Christ. Be faithful to the Gospel. Be faithful in telling others about God," exhorted Brother Paul.

To conclude the glorious service, Brother David Catalano stood and spoke briefly on Isaiah 49. He then called the young people up to the front and everyone sang *Higher Spiritual Mind* as the closing hymn. The look upon everyone's faces on Sunday afternoon was clear evidence that all had truly been lifted up to a higher spiritual mind.

## Children Blessed

Josiah Michael Bicelis, son of Brother J. Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis, was blessed on October 19, 2003 in the Miami-Dade Mission.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother David Ciccati and Sister Anne Moore Ciccati were reinstated on October 19th, 2003 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Sister Mary Kay Bruno was baptized on October 19th, 2003 at the Redford, Michigan Mission. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Tulio LaCivita.

## Ordinations

Brother Fred Laessig was ordained a Deacon in the Bronx, New York Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Suska, and he was ordained by Brother Jim Link.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Margaret Baldwin of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch celebrated her 48<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

## OBITUARIES

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

### CARL HUTTENBERGER

Brother Carl Huttenberger of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on November 6, 2003. Brother Carl was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Marie; children, Brother John and his wife Sister Janice; Brother Jim and his wife Sister Lynette; Randy and his wife Amaya; Brother Carl, Jr., and his wife Sister Suzette, along with five grandchildren.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you for your lovely cards, and prayers on my behalf. My surgery was a success, and my recovery is going quite well. The doctor told me that I was truly blessed, because I was able to eliminate a more serious problem before it started.

Sincerely yours,  
Sister Adel Renee Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your overwhelming show of love to my family and me through your calls, cards, flowers and words of encouragement due to the recent passing of my husband, Brother Carl Huttenberger Sr. The words spoken at his funeral are so true: "There isn't anyone who didn't like Brother Carl." He will be sorely missed.

Continue to remember us in your prayers that God will ease the pain of our loss. Thank you all again for your love.

May God bless you,  
Sister Marie Huttenberger

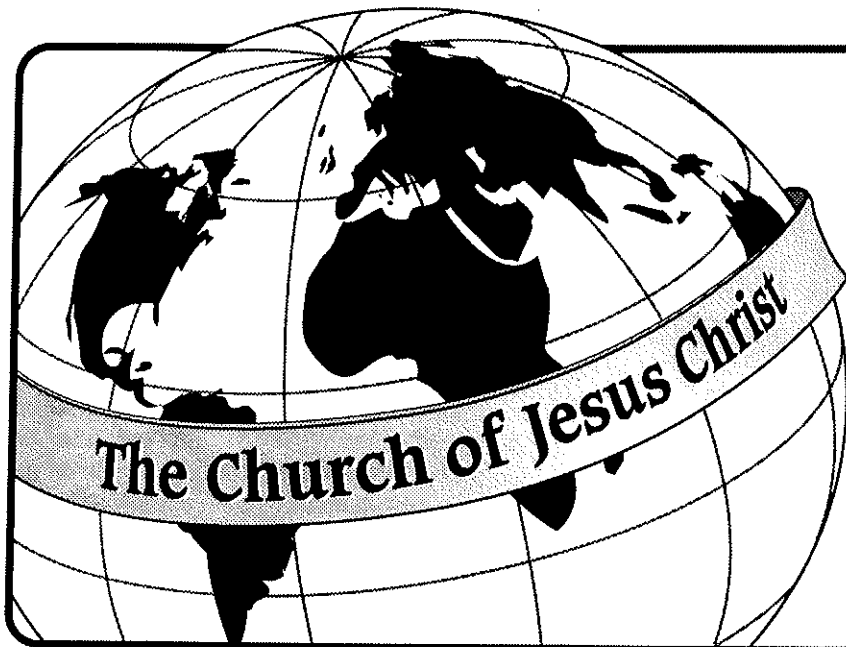
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 2004

Volume 60, No. 2

## Historical Trip to Nigeria November 7-22, 2003

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*



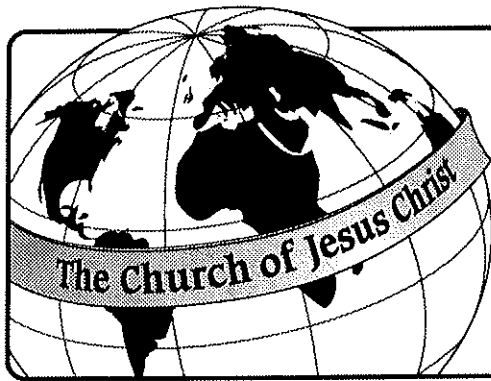
Left to right: Brothers Jim Crudup, Israel O Irobi and Joe Perri

From the title of this article, you are probably wondering what kind of historical trip was celebrated in Nigeria. It was the one made nearly 50 years since Brothers William H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger made the first historical visit to Nigeria. In the month of August 1953, an invitational letter was received from Nigeria, requesting missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ to visit and bring the message of the Gospel to the continent of Africa.

During November 1953, a special meeting of the General Priesthood was called to review this request, and feeling it to be the will of God to bring the Gospel to that continent, permission was given that an exploratory missionary trip be made there. It was in the month of August 1954 that our beloved late General Church President, Apostle William Cadman at the age of 77 and Apostle Joseph Bittinger, 54 years of age, departed on their historical journey to Nigeria and found many interested citizens in that country willing to obey the Gospel.

November 2003, some 50 years later, another historical factor was made that will go into the record

(Continued on Page 8)



## A message from the Seventy

### Two Weeks in India

*By Brother John Straccia*

"Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I ordain you...in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." On our January 2003 trip to India, these words were spoken 23 times as we ordained 4 elders, 12 teachers, 3 deacons and 4 deaconesses. We were anticipating perhaps 10 ordinations, but 23 were unexpected and welcomed, creating a bigger and stronger foundation to support additional growth. Along with numerous demonstrations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Brothers Joseph Calabrese and John Straccia were given to express that this was the most powerful trip either of them had ever taken to India.

After the January trip, while meditating upon the work in India, Brother Straccia heard the voice of the Spirit speaking, "The work in India will not grow by the ones and twos, but by the fifties and hundreds." Startled for a few moments, Brother Straccia was given to ask, "How will this happen?" The Spirit spoke again saying, "I will bring ministers unto you!" What an exciting message to receive.

Not long after that, Brother Dev met an independent minister named James Raj. He introduced him to the Restored Gospel and the Book of Mormon. One day, after he began to read the Book of Mormon, he had a vision of both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. While seeing both books, he heard a voice say to him, "both of these books are true!" This man

works in two villages, has about 100 people attending, believes in the Book of Mormon and wants to bring himself and his congregations to the Church.

Brother Babu met another independent minister named Victor, who is doing a work in the city of Pondicherry, about 100 km south of Chennai. He also introduced him to the Restored Gospel and the Book of Mormon. This man has a work in a government housing project that holds 500 families. This man was baptized on December 6, 2003 and wants to bring his congregation to us.

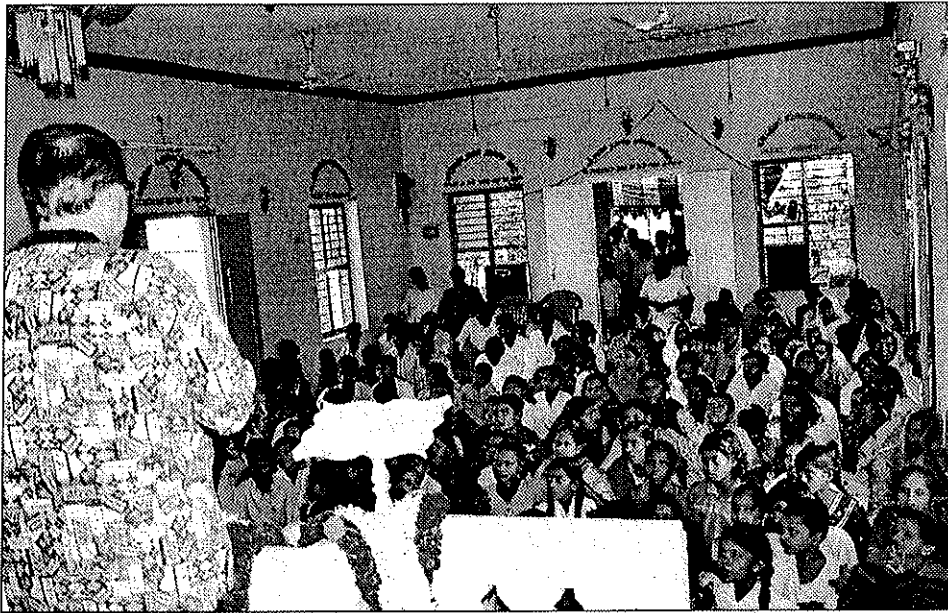
A young sister named Sheila was in a two-year depressed condition. She was also having doubts about the authority of the Church and the Book of Mormon. Several months before our trip she had a

dream in which she saw a four-sided flower pot having symbols on each side. The symbols were two sticks (Bible and Book of Mormon), a lighted candle (Jesus is the light and we should let our light shine before men), a dove (peace and unity of the Holy Spirit) and a bunch of grapes (we are the branches and should bring forth much fruit). She saw one brother from America put dirt in the pot (teachings of Jesus and Apostles). She was holding a rose plant and placed it in the pot (her service to God planted in humility). Another brother from America handed her a water jar instructing her to water the plant (sanctified by the washing of the Word). Another brother from America encouraged her to continue to refill the water jar from a water tank ("drink the water I give and you will never thirst"). Then she saw all the other brothers who had come to India lay hands upon her and pray for her. After receiving the dream, she also received the interpretation and her life is completely turned around. She now fully accepts the Restored Gospel and the Book of Mormon, has come out of her depressive state and has become actively involved in the Church. She is writing scriptural comparisons between both Books and has persuaded 17 nurses from a



Group photo with visitors from America and saints in India at one of three dedications near Erode.





**Photo of congregation at meeting in Brother Dev's Branch at Ayalur.**

hospital in Chennai to attend our village church at Ayalur and volunteer free medical attention to our members and other nearby villages. She is also now actively involved in the translation of the Book of Mormon.

Such were the events that led up to our trip in November, bringing three sisters along with Brothers Harold Littlejohn and John Straccia. Those sisters were Arline Whitton, former President of General Ladies' Circle, Laurie Whitton, General Ladies' Circle Librarian, and Barbara Straccia, Ladies' Circle representative. Our goal in bringing the sisters was to strengthen, support and build the Ladies' Circle organization throughout India.

What a blessing it was for the sisters in India to finally meet and fellowship with sisters from America. The sisters were able to hold a Ladies' Circle Conference (gathering) wherever they went. In the Chennai area, they held conferences in Ambattur, Chennai and Thirumallavoyal. In each of these gatherings there was from 30 to 60 sisters. Sister Arline spoke about the aims and goals of the Ladies' Circle and what the sisters in America are doing. To the surprise of the visiting sisters, the Indian sisters were equally ready to share of their Ladies' Circle activities and

testimonies. The visiting sisters not only spoke about the Ladies' Circle organization, but had some opportunity to speak on several other subjects. The sisters were well received with great enthusiasm and love.

#### ONE DAY CONFERENCE

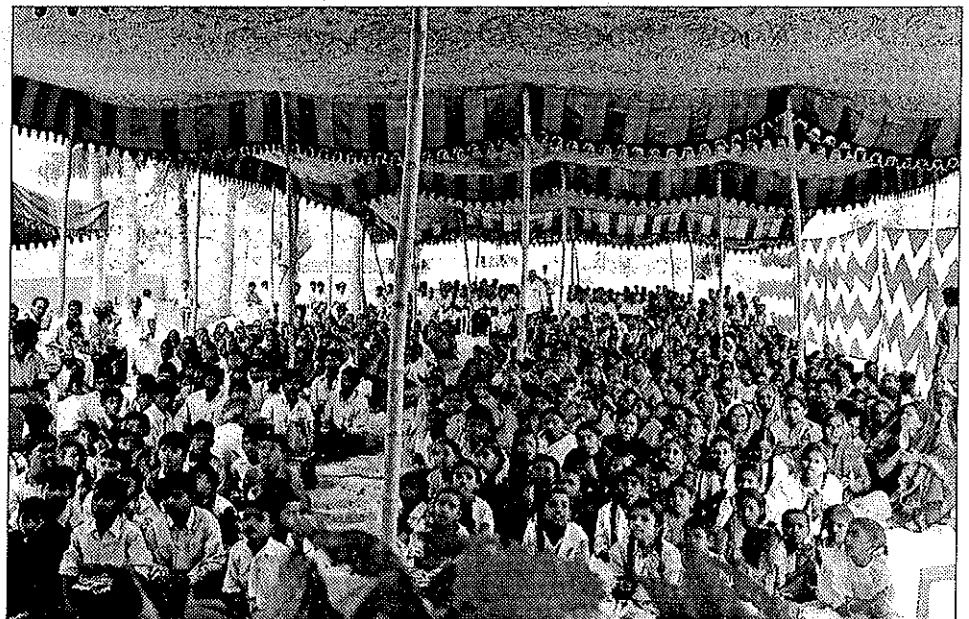
In Andhra Pradesh, we held a one day conference with over 800 people in attendance. Oh, what a

sight! It was just a thrill to see all those people in one place under massive tents. Everyone was excited to be there, you could hardly contain the anticipation. In the morning session, Brothers Littlejohn and Straccia spoke about being part of the body of Christ and the family of God. After lunch, the sisters and brothers separated into groups. Again, the sisters spoke about the Ladies' Circle and what activities they can do to support the Church. The brothers spoke about being "men of God." Afterwards, as is usual, we offered healing and blessing prayers upon many of the people present. What a day!

In addition to the aforementioned conferences, the sisters held a conference with 60 sisters in Mulanoor, near Erode. There were also special dedication meetings at the three villages with newly completed buildings in that area. The General and Pacific Coast Ladies' Circle donated \$7,000 toward these buildings, so it was appropriate and desirable for Sister Arline and other Ladies' Circle representatives to be a part of this wonderful event.

Seven additional locations were visited where we held regular meet-

(Continued on Page 4)



**Conference in Andhra Pradesh with over 800 in attendance. This is Brother Solomon's area.**

## Two Weeks in India

Continued from Page 3

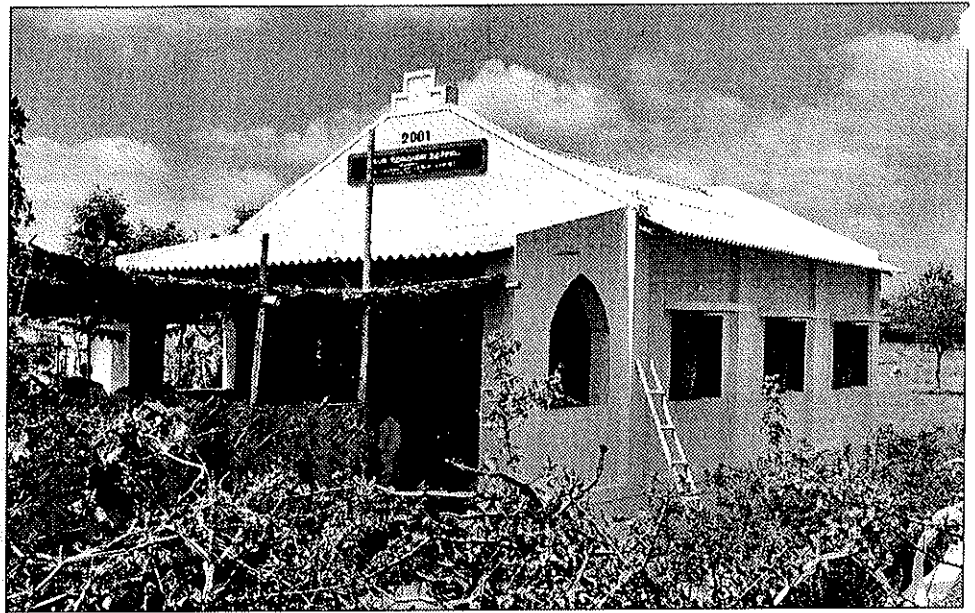
ings. At these meetings, the American sisters had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share whatever was upon their heart, followed by either one or both brothers speaking or preaching, as the Spirit directed them. Again, at the end of the meeting, many prayers for healing and blessings were offered upon the people. At one location, seven people wanted to be baptized, but after the meeting, twelve came to the waters. Two other visits were made to locations where new buildings are currently being constructed.

Some of the most exciting moments were when we were able to visit locations serviced by the two independent ministers mentioned above. What a thrill it was to meet them and speak to them about what they have found with The Church of Jesus Christ. Finally, we spent time with the children of the "Saved by Grace Orphanage." What a wonderful day that was as we spoke and interacted with them. Some of us were even brave enough to jump rope with them.

Prior to our departure and upon our return to the United States, we learned of many wonderful events. First, the brother-in-law of a Presiding Elder was diagnosed with cancer. Although he has believed in Christ for many years, he has not yet given his life to Christ and been baptized. There was an open wound on his side from the cancer and fluid was oozing from it. If the oozing did not stop, the doctor said he would need surgery. After we anointed him, the wound closed up and the oozing stopped. When the doctor saw it, he canceled the operation. This man now wants to be baptized.

A woman with an issue of blood for many years was prayed for and the bleeding stopped. Another woman with years of chronic back and body pain was healed. Finally, a man whose eyes were getting dim was immediately healed and now he is able to read his Bible again. We have also learned twelve others have asked for their baptism as a result of our trip. Hallelujah!

We also witnessed again how



One of three new buildings dedicated in Southern India near Erode.



The congregation at Gogala Puram.

scripturally knowledgeable our members in India are, especially the women. When asked what the Lord was doing in the ministry of one young brother, he spoke excitedly about the greater demonstration of the power of God in his ministry, but he was more impressed about feet washing. When asked why, he said that he is doing a work among the lowest of classes in India called the "untouchables." They are outcasts among the Hindus, but

these people love feet washing. We are the only church in India that does this and when the "untouchables" do feet washing, they can touch each other and everyone is equal. All the people in the Erode area look forward to the feet washing service every three months.

All in all, the trip was a beautiful event. Having our sisters accompany us enhanced the trip beyond our ability

(Continued on Page 10)

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Galatians 3:6-9).*

Abraham was God's definition, or perfect example of faith. He was willing to sacrifice his only son, being faithful that God had a good reason for it. This was a type and shadow of God Himself, who sacrificed his only Son Jesus for the sins of all humankind. In this scripture, Paul goes on to say that ALL those who are of faith, are considered children of Abraham. The promise God made to Abraham regarding his seed being blessed, and all nations being blessed through his seed, according to these verses, refers to Abraham's spiritual seed – the FAITHFUL. Brothers and sisters, this refers to us! We don't have to be part of the House of Israel by blood to be considered part of this incredible promise. If we possess faith, then we ARE the children of Abraham, who was the father of faith.

Too often, many believers refer to themselves as "Gentile." Gentile is a word to describe an unbeliever. By doing this, we subconsciously place ourselves in a position that is not as important to God as someone who is part of the House of Israel by blood. Feeling this way, we tend to sit back, and watch things happen rather than make things happen. We become lazy. Brothers and sisters, we need to realize, that in the eyes of God, we are not Gentiles, but we are children of Abraham, and have been commissioned to bless all nations! We have received all the promises that God has promised the faithful. We are the Israel of God! (*"And as many walk according to this rule, peace be unto them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."* Galatians 6:16).

Conversely, those of the House of Israel by blood who do not possess faith, cannot claim any promise from God, other than they will be destroyed at the last day. This is why we should hold our head high, not pridefully, but thankfully, that we can be called the children of Abraham. . . . the children of faith . . . the children of God!

Interestingly, when we read the Word of God regarding many great men and women like Paul, Peter, Nephi, Moroni, Ruth, Abish, etc., we need to realize that today, we are no different than they were. They like us, were the children of Abraham because of their faith. Isn't it also interesting that we are living in the last days. The work of God in these last days is going to be far greater than at any time in history. God didn't choose Paul, or Peter, or Nephi, or Moroni, or Ruth, or Abish to live in these last days to do this great work. HE CHOSE YOU. What an honor to be part of the Israel of God in a day and age when remarkable things will happen. God needs strong soldiers who can face impossible odds and overcome them because of extraordinary faith. He didn't choose those we read about in the scriptures to carry out this great work. He chose us. What an honor! It's not time to sit back, and feel that we are not important to God. It is time that we recognize the high calling we have been given. Every one of us possesses the ability through God, to carry out the great work of the Lord. Every one of us can obtain the gifts from God's storehouse. Every one of us can be like Abraham, because of faith.

God chose us to be alive in these last days because God has faith IN US! We therefore, need to have faith in Him, and allow Him to work through us fully, without our resisting. When we do this, we will do even greater things than even Jesus did (as he predicted). All it requires is faith, like our father Abraham. Truly, then, we will be able to move mountains.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## God Sends His Angels

Dear Girls and Boys,

Have you ever seen an angel? Twenty-some years ago I had the privilege to go to Muncey, Ontario and be a Sunday School teacher. Every week I met Brother Mario Coppia (now deceased), his wife Sister Mary, their children, and various brothers and sisters on the team in downtown Detroit, by the bridge going to Canada. We left our cars there at six thirty in the morning and traveled together in the Church station wagon to go be with our brothers and sisters and friends on the Indian Reservation there. We made the 2 1/2 hour trip each way every week, rain or shine, storm or no storm.

On our way to Muncey, we passed through the city called Chatham to pick up an elderly sister who didn't own a car. One wintery Sunday, there was lots of snow on the ground but none coming down, so we decided to go ahead with our journey. We'd barely gone an hour into Canada when the ice started to come down. The highway became so slippery that our driver had to slow way down and drive with the two right wheels off the road, onto the shoulder. There were no cell phones in those days or any way to get in contact with our friends waiting for us, so we decided to pray and continue on our journey. We hoped we might pass through the worst weather and the roads would improve. They did not.

We reached the exit for the city of Chatham. Our driver carefully pulled off onto the ramp that was on a steep slant going up to the overpass



over the 401 Highway. As we reached the top, the overpass was a sheet of ice. Our car went out of control. We were whipped around in a wild circle! Our car came right to the edge of the road and we were thrown violently around in the car as it went spinning across the road to the other side of the highway! Each of us were calling out to the Lord; all of a sudden the spinning stopped! The car was steady! Our driver proceeded slowly across the high overpass and we all said "Thank you Lord! Oh thank you Lord!"

We were so grateful that we had not crashed over the side. We proceeded to pick up Sister Doris and drove on safely to Muncey to tell our dear brothers and sisters there how God had protected us. Our elders closed the meeting and we each returned to our homes in Michigan.

Well, that night after Brother Mario got home, there was a special evening meeting at his branch (now the Plumbrook Branch). Despite his long journey and work that day in Muncey, he drove with his family to the meeting. At that time there was living a dear older sister-in-Christ, Sister Rose Impastato, who had many gifts given to her from God. One of the gifts she used to help the Church was the gift of visions.

When Sister Rose saw Brother Mario come in she came up to him and said joyfully, "Brother Mario! Tell us about the angel you saw today!" He was baffled. He said, "Sister Rose, what are you talking about?" Sister Rose replied, "The Lord gave me a vision early this morning. I was getting ready to go to church. I saw you and the brothers and sisters in the Church

wagon. You were crossing over the highway. I saw your car go out of control and spin from one side of the road to the other. Then there was an angel of the Lord right there. He put his hand out on the hood of the car. He stopped the car completely, then you drove on!"

We were thrilled. There was no way that this sister could have known what had happened to us that day except that the Lord revealed it to her. We experienced the angel. We were saved by the angel yet we were not the ones who saw the angel. The Lord revealed it to our Sister Rose who was many many miles away.

Can you think about all the times God has protected you? How many close calls have you had in your cars? How many times have you crashed

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## WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### News from Bell, California

*By Sister Irene Hinojos*

The past two years have been full of changes for the Bell, California Branch. The pillars of our branch were called to their heavenly reward and for a while we were sad wondering if we would keep the doors open or sell the building. But the Lord fulfilled a prophetic dream which was had by Sister Elaine Jordan. She dreamed the church building was full of the seed of Joseph.

These past years have been very blessed for all of us. We have all prayed together and labored together for all the new converts in our branch.

In the year 2001 we were blessed with the transfer of Brother Justin Paxon and Sister Christina Benyola from Atlanta and Florida. Brother Bob McDonnell and Brother Santos Zamora baptized three candidates: Brother Carlos Martinez, Sister Christina Luna, and her sister, Sister Natalie Luna. Brother Carlos was baptized by Brother Santos Zamora, Sister Christina and her sister, Sister Natalie were baptized by Brother Bob McDonnell. We praise God for these new converts. We also had Brother Elder Figueroa transfer to Bell from Tijuana, Mexico. Brother David Arreola and wife, Sister Imelda with there two daughters, transferred from Anaheim.

The year 2002 we had 10 candidates who gave their lives to our Lord. They are Brother Miguel Martinez and his wife, Sister Sonia Martinez; Sister Lizzet Marquez who is Sonia's sister and her husband Brother Alain Marquez; Brother Jairo Barrios; Brother Juan Carlos Garcia, his brother, Brother Orlando Garcia, Brother Heriberto Rodriguez, Verenis Gomez and Sister Janet Gomez all from the seed of Joseph. Sister Anna Gonzales, Brother John Vela, Brother Anthony

Cardinale and Brother Owen Wilcoxon all transferred from various branches of the Church.

We also re-instated our dear Brother John Vela and our dear Sister Dolores Gomez. But wait the Lord is not through blessing us. We have gained another family from Modesto, California: Brother Paul and Sister Christina Vinsick with their two children.

On November 15-16, 2003, Brother Owen Wilcoxon, Sisters Christina Luna and Irene Hinojos organized a trip to Modesto, California. Sister Josafina Luna and others had a fundraiser so that those that had a desire to go to Modesto wouldn't have to pay anything from their pocket. We labored in love for our trip and the Lord provided everything, with three vans that accommodated 41 passengers with one extra room reserved for our Lord Jesus Christ.

These fundraisers also provided the gas; the fundraisers were yard sales in two different homes for three weekends in a row. Before we left on our trip, we all formed a circle in front of the church in Bell and prayed that the Lord would bless our trip and provide a safe journey with peace and love as our companion. And the Lord did provide those blessings, praise God! We sang our hearts out to and from the journey. We also testified of God's blessings in our lives and got to know each other better.

We knew that our brothers and sisters in Christ were anticipating our arrival and had expressed their desire for us to stay at their homes. We thanked the Lord for their hospitality. We knew the Lord had put it in their hearts to open their homes to us not knowing who we are, only that we were members of The Church of Jesus Christ from Bell, California.

We also undertook the project of remodeling the building the end of last year and what a wonderful job. The first major celebration with the remodel was Brother Justin and Sister Christina's wedding, with a center aisle and new sound system.

Most recently Brother Bob McDonnell our presiding elder was ordained an Evangelist. The church

was filled beyond capacity with brothers and sisters coming from the East and Midwest areas of the Church. We praise God for this wonderful brother.

As the year is drawing to a close, we want to mention that the following brothers were ordained Deacons, last year Brother Ryan McDonnell, the previous year Brother Michael Bromberg, Brother Robby McDonnell and Brother Samuel Martinez.

Brother Paul Vinsick was ordained an Elder this year. So you can see God is working between our branch and the seed of Joseph by replenishing us for the ones that have gone on to their heavenly reward. We extend an invitation to each and every one to come visit us when you are out this way.

### An Experience

*(Editor's Note: This experience was had by Sister Bennie Jones during the ordination of Brother Bob McDonnell into the office of Evangelist).*

As Brother Nephi DeMecurio was preaching, the spirit of God came upon me very strongly, and I knew that the Three Nephites were coming into the building. I asked the Lord if I could see their faces, but as I turned to see them, their faces were not plain to me. They went up front and joined the other brothers in a circle as they knelt in prayer before ordaining Brother Bob into the office of an Evangelist.

Brother Jim Huttenberger offered a prayer before Brother Tom Liberto ordained Brother Bob. When Brother Jim said the words, "Let this mantle of an Evangelist fall upon our Brother Bob," I saw one of the Nephites hand Brother Bob a bundle of garments tied with a strong string. As Brother Bob took this bundle, he untied it and the Nephites helped him put them on. There was an outer garment and a robe, both made of a very strong material from humble beginnings, not of velvet or silk like you would see on a prince or king, but something of very strong fibers, made for a worker.



## Tampa, Florida

By Brother Peter Benyola and  
Sister Bethany Smith

### THANKSGIVING IN TAMPA

The closeness and love felt among the brothers and sisters in Tampa was especially strong the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Brother Phil Benyola, Sr. led the Sunday school lesson, discussing the Fruits of the Spirit in the New Testament and in Moroni. Members completed a matching word exercise of biblical terms relating to Thanksgiving.

The congregation sang *We Gather Together*. We proceeded with our Thanksgiving Day program. Members read a passage of scripture for each letter of THANKSGIVING:

- T** *Thanksgiving* – David wrote many wonderful psalms full of praise, honor, and Thanksgiving to God (Psalms 26, 50, 75, 95, 105, 106, 107, 118, 136, 147).
- H** *Heart* – a broken heart and a contrite spirit (I Nephi 1:7, 5:9-10; II Nephi 8:3, 9:52).
- A** *Atonement* – Jesus always remembered to say thanks to the father (Matthew 26:27; Luke, Pharisee and Publican Parable; Job 11:41).
- N** *Near to God* – King Benjamin was a righteous king who taught his son to love and serve God (Mosiah 2:19-20, 24:21, 26:39).
- K** *King* – Paul always praised Him and thanked Him (Romans 1:8, 14:6; Ephesians 5:4:20-21; Colossians 4:17; Timothy 1:12).
- S** *Submissive to His Will* – Alma also remembered to thank God openly and publicly (Alma 7:23, 19:19, 26:8, 34:38, 37:37).

Brother Phil, Sr. and Sister Linda Benyola sang *Give Thanks*.

- G** *God* – God gave us the Ten Commandments because he loves us (Exodus 20).
- I** *Imperfection of Man* – Mormon recorded more commandments (Mormon 9:29-31).

**V** *Vanish* – If you don't thank Him, He may vanish from your sight (Isaiah 51:4-8; I Corinthians 13:8; James 4:14).

**I** *Immediate Proof* – of the faith of the Brother of Jared (Ether 1).

**N** *Neglect* – Paul admonishes the Hebrew Nation (I Timothy 14-16).

**G** *Giving* – (II Nephi 22:27, 4:35; Isaiah 9:6).

The program was closed with the selection *Mountain of the Lord*. Members testified of the goodness of God in our lives and offered thanks to God for the many different things He has given to us. Brother Kevin Murphy was suffering from a sharp neck and back pain since he woke up. He could hardly move, until he went under the hands of the ministry and was healed in minutes.

Our Thanksgiving Day meeting was closed with 289 in the *Saints Hymnal, Make Me a Blessing*. Brother Phil noted to us that the title of the song is not to be understood as *Make Me a Blessing*, but *Make Me a Blessing*. We can offer thanks by keeping the humble thought, "What can I do for God?"

## Thank You Jesus

By Brother John Bordeaux

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share some words with you that help me get through the day. I was humming the song *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*, but a different set of words came to me. They comprise the first part of this "poem." I had to work a little for the remainder. The thing I find amazing is that I have never written anything similar in my life.

Praise the Lord and thank you Jesus that you came and died for me:  
Oh what a friend we have in Jesus,  
whose boundless love has set us free:  
He went to Calvary and made the sacrifice that all believers might be saved:

His resurrection gives us assurance there is life beyond the grave.

Thank you, Jesus; thank you, Jesus;  
you are worthy of our praise:  
Let us our humble voices to you in rejoicing and reverence raise:  
You have left mansions in glory and come down here as man below,  
That we might gain our souls' salvation,  
and your love and mercy know.

My Lord and God you are the good shepherd, we are the lowly sheep:  
Take us into Thy mighty hands and to your bosom keep:  
We thank you, Lord; we praise you,  
Lord and hold you dear:  
With your mighty hands to guide us,  
whom are we to fear?

We have seen His love down through the ages, It is good for eternity,  
We need only trust and serve Him to go home to glory:  
Emmanuel, God with us; Jesus Christ the mighty to save,  
Raise us up at that great resurrection and break the bonds of the grave.

## Historical Trip to Nigeria

Continued from Page 1

books of the Church. The first of the African-American Ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ from the Atlantic Coast, Evangelist James Crudup of the Freehold New Jersey Branch accompanied Evangelist Joseph Perri on his missionary trip to Nigeria. It was during this visit, that Brother Joseph Arthur, (an Elder, son of the late Evangelist E. U. A. Arthur President of the Nigerian Church), brought this to our attention at the National Church Conference and mentioned that it is the first time ever that a black Minister of the Parent Church visited Nigeria, therefore history was being made.

Brother Crudup was received among the brothers and sisters and greeted very warmly. He enjoyed his visit and had good liberty in preaching to the gathering of some 2,017 of the saints at the Conference Sunday

worship service. The large crowd, their attentiveness to his sermon, especially the singing of not only the choir but also the large congregation, impressed brother Jim, something he will remember for a long time. Each missionary who visits Nigeria experiences the same blessing.

One sad note during our visit was the untimely death of a daughter (Mercy) of Brother George and Sister Agnes Arthur. She was 29 years old, the mother of two small children. While the family grieved the loss of their loved one, they did not relent in showing wonderful hospitality to us during our visit ensuring our comfort and safety. Both Brother George, our Church Director, and Sister Agnes, as President of the National Ladies' Circle, continued to engage themselves and discharge their duties in the positions they hold in the Church. Brother George and Sister Agnes have proven to be good responsible leaders in promoting activity and growth in the Church in their part of the world. Many of the Priesthood, Brothers and Sisters and young people too numerous to mention are doing good service for the Church.

Life in Nigeria continues to be an everyday struggle, and has presented a heavy burden for our beloved brothers and sisters. This was one thing that caused Brother Crudup to feel a sense of sadness. Electricity we take for granted is expensive and not often reliable, if you are fortunate to have it in your home. Malaria, and other illnesses are daily common occurrences. To think in the day and age in which we are living, there are people living in our world who experience high inflation, hunger, sickness, violence, etc.

Even though our brothers and sisters are experiencing these kinds of conditions, their faith in God has not diminished, but it keeps them alive with the hope there will be a better day coming soon. I would like to insert an experience we heard during our visit of November 2002. When we met him during this visit, he was telling brother Jim about the experience of the healing, which at our request he has written it as follows:

## An Experience from Nigeria

My name is Brother Israel O Irobi from the country of Nigeria, West Africa.

I am an ordained Minister of the Gospel, in The Church of Jesus Christ. I neglected to write this experience last year when our visiting missionaries were with us for them to take back to America as my personal experience of the power of God. Being reminded for my failure, I will attempt to write the experience and share with my beloved brothers and sisters and all *Gospel News* readers what God has done for me in the way of a miraculous healing.

I developed Breast Cancer, which was diagnosed in the month of June, 2001. It is often heard that this only occurs in women, but yes, this disease can also happen to men. When I saw this large tumor on my breast, my first thought was to go to the hospital, have it diagnosed and treated.

Visiting several hospitals, I could not find an answer to my problem. I made one last attempt and went to Christian Hospital a distance away from my home that is sponsored from the United States with a Resident Doctor also from America. The doctor diagnosed the disease as a cancerous tumor and began treating me, with no apparent results.

Finally after spending a good sum of money (all that I had), the doctor referred me to another hospital where they specialize in breast surgery. He said I had to have surgery to remove the breast. I had no more funds that I could spend to have this surgery so I had no alternative but to return home, waiting for the moment when God would take me from this life to my reward.

I was somewhat discouraged at the events that had occurred, but often I would turn my heart and voice to God that he would extend mercy and healing to me; that I would be able to continue in preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as I had done for a number of years. I have seen many of the Saints healed from serious illnesses, and never for a moment thought that I would need an anointing from God in the way of a

healing. My wife, children, and many of the saints who knew of the disease that had come upon me were all concerned for my welfare during this trial and never ceased to pray for a miracle.

One evening not long after receiving the news that I needed surgery but did not have money to pay, after retiring to bed, I had a dream. In the dream, my late mother, Sister Bessie Irobi a Deaconess in the Church brought two men to my home where I was staying. I recognized Evangelist Joseph Perri whom I had known for many years from his frequent visits to Nigeria and particularly visiting the area where I live. He had another brother with him whom I did not recognize. I say another brother, because he was with Brother Joe.

These brothers took hold of me and laid me on a table in my home. My dear Mother handed what looked like a knife to Brother Joe, who in turn gave it to the brother who was with him. With this instrument, this brother began to operate on my breast. This was all in a dream, and at one point during the operation I felt extreme pain, shouted, and cried out. With this I awoke to the uncontrollable crying of my wonderful wife, also a Deaconess in the Church named Eunice O Irobi who was lying at my side in bed.

When I shouted and cried out, this not only alarmed my wife, but also woke up my children who were sleeping in an adjacent room. They came into the room, saw my wife crying, and they started to cry, uttering words that I was about to die.

It took a while, but I was able to quiet them. I then narrated the dream and described to my wife and children what had occurred. When my family realized that I was not dying but that I had been blest of God with a divine experience, they were relieved, calmed themselves completely and with that, I called them into prayer giving thanks to God for His infinite mercy He had used towards my family and me. What a great God we worship and serve.

Two days after the dream, the tumor on my breast burst and all of the

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## Historical Trip to Nigeria

Continued from Page 9

poison in the form of fluid came out. Four months have passed since the doctor diagnosed the cancerous tumor. I have received no further medication, because God healed me of this terrible disease. As of November 2001, I am completely healed. Praise God. Amen.

From the moment I saw the man (brother) in my home with Brother Joseph, not knowing who he was, not ever having seen him in my lifetime, it caused me to wonder who he was? I know he operated on me; I am completely healed, so he must have been someone special, a man of God sent to perform the operation.

During the month of November 2002, Evangelist Perri with a group of missionaries came to Nigeria for a visit, and it was then that I recognized the person with Brother Joe as the brother who operated on me in the dream. He was introduced to me as Apostle Paul Benyola, one of the twelve Apostles in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. I had never seen him before, but God used my beloved Apostle Paul to perform the operation of healing upon me. To God be the Glory in Jesus name Amen. I am a living witness of the power of God in The Church of Jesus Christ.

I have shown the scar where the tumor was on my breast to Brother Paul, Brother Joseph, and others to prove to them the truth of my experience of healing. We have a saying here in Nigeria, "God is good all the time." Please continue to remember us here in this part of the world, that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of God in this beautiful church.

My Love and regards to all my beloved brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ around the world.

I Remain Your Humble Brother in Christ,

Israel O Irobi, Nigeria, West Africa.

A marvelous experience of God's healing power, who is no respecter of persons, be it race, creed or ethnic background.

The restoration of the Gospel and

Book of Mormon are being preached by means of the radio over the air-waves to all Nigeria and surrounding countries. Many people are inquiring what this Book is all about. Some positive and some negative statements are being made, and Brother Sunday who is broadcasting these sermons on the Restoration and the Book of Mormon has a saying, "If you do not believe me today, you will certainly believe me tomorrow." In other words, those who do not choose to believe this record now will one day in the future accept and believe it. During our visit, Brother Jim and I were taken to a radio producing station where Brother Sunday requested that we record five sermons to use for the broadcast.

During our conference, we were requested by our Church director to chair the Ministerial Board, interviewing brothers recommended to the Priesthood. The brothers who were approved for ordination all had personal experiences of their calling to serve the Church as ordained ministers. A spirit of unity and confirmation was demonstrated for the brothers approved for ordination. A number of our older brothers can no longer officiate in their capacity; thus, God is calling young men to take up the challenge of preaching the Gospel and caring for the spiritual needs of the Church membership. There is an excitement among these young brothers to carry the message of the Restoration to all parts of Nigeria and beyond.

Permission was granted by the National Priesthood to form another district because of growth and distance. The Church in Nigeria will now have nine districts with another one being considered in the future.

The Church continues to grow. The young people of the MBA are excited about serving the Lord and are assisting the Priesthood in Evangelistic programs. The National Ladies' Circle under the leadership of Sister Agnes Arthur are equally excited and very active in Evangelizing the Gospel among women, visiting and holding scripture study with sisters living a distance from the National Church headquarters and unable to attend

conferences, or gatherings, assisting in programs where young women are preparing to marry, assist expectant mothers and in a number of cases caring for twins and triplets. The Priesthood is showing a great interest in wanting to learn more about the Restoration and Book of Mormon. A number of brothers are using both Bible and the Book of Mormon in their sermons. The first Counselor of the National Church stated all Elders in his district have used the Book of Mormon in their preaching.

Although at times the opposition is at work trying to discourage our beloved saints, yet from our observation, all of the brothers and sisters are doing their best to be active, holding fast to the promise they made on the day they entered into a covenant with the Lord. We have returned home, encouraged that the Church is progressing spiritually and growing in number.

They continue to request the prayers of the Church membership here in America and other parts of the world as in the past half century.

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## Two Weeks in India

Continued from Page 4

of expression. They were received as dignitaries and interjected excitement wherever they went. The Ladies' Circle in India, although begun by the visiting brothers, has now been lifted to a new and more exciting level by the visit of our American sisters. In the future, we hope there will be other visits made to the work in India by sisters and young people.

The work in India has now grown to 1,900 people with 100 more now ready for baptism plus whatever additional ones will come through the two new independent ministers. Coupled with the newly initiated "mentoring program" or training program, to prepare younger men and women for future ordained positions, the work in India is preparing to bring the name of Jesus Christ through the Restored Gospel to many more souls.



Another photo showing Brother Littlejohn speaking to Conference of 800 people in Andhra Pradesh.

the case, you could ask the Lord to give you this spiritual gift. People who desire a spiritual gift are willing to let the Lord use them in mysterious and wonderful ways like Sister Rose was willing to serve God. You can fast and pray and ask the Lord for a gift. Some people have the gift of visions, some have the gift of love, the gift of speaking in tongues, the gift of interpreting tongues, the gift of faith, and many many more. Your life will have a deeper and richer meaning. You will be connected to people in new, caring ways. You are never too old or too young to be used by the Lord. You just have to make your heart right. Tell Him your faults, ask him to remove them and forgive you and use you. Whatever gift the Lord chooses to give you will be the right one. Trust in Him. Talk to Him. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Inside a building recently dedicated near Erode.

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Bridgewater, MI 48115

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

your bicycle or fallen down or nearly choked to death on something? How many times has God answered your prayers and delivered you? Do you realize that it may have been a special angel that was sent to save you?

Remember that we are God's special children. Our babies and children are prayed for and given wonderful blessings just like Jesus blessed the children in the Bible and Book of Mormon. We serve God and he protects us over and over.

Maybe you would like to be able to see the angels about us. If that is

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Lawrence E. King and Sister Sylvia Smith were united in holy matrimony, at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on October 10, 2003.

Sister Alania D'Orazio and Thomas Cavill were united in holy matrimony, in Vero Beach, Florida on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

## Children Blessed

Ricky Ingram was blessed on November 16, 2003 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Deanna Ingram was blessed on November 16, 2003 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Gianna D. Calabro, daughter of Brother Rick and Sister April Calabro, was blessed on September 21, 2003 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Louis Gallichio was baptized on September 21, 2003 at the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Jim Sgro.

Sister Barbra Janci was baptized on June 29, 2003 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Ed Donkin.

Sister Alethea Filippelli was baptized on November 23, 2003 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Ed Donkin.

Sister Sally Ward was reinstated on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2003 at the Cape Coral, Florida Mission.

## Ordinations

Brother Arthur H. Gehly, Jr. was ordained a Teacher on November 20, 2003 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Joseph Rogalla, and he was ordained by Brother Arthur H. Gehly, Sr.

Brother William Ottavian was ordained a Deacon on August 3, 2003 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Keith Donkin, and he was ordained by Brother Sam Cuomo.

Sister Carolyn Johns was ordained a Deaconess on September 14, 2003 in the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Florence Catena and she was ordained by Brother Ronald Carradi.

## OBITUARIES

### CARMELA BIRO

Sister Carmela Biro of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on October 7, 2003. She is survived by her son, Alex S. Biro and his wife, Joyce; a brother Nick Abruzzi and his wife, Vera Abruzzi; two sisters, Sister Anna Rad and Margie Blakely; two grandchildren, Jared Biro and his wife, Heather, and Matthew Biro; along with several nieces and nephews.

### MARGARET DONKIN

Sister Margaret Donkin of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward on November 3, 2003. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Margaret Alice Nicklow and her sons, Brother Edward Donkin, Brother Wayne Donkin and Brother Keith Donkin; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

### THEODORE RICHARD NELSON

Theodore Richard Nelson passed on to his reward. He is survived by his mother, Sister Loretta Nelson of the Columbus, Ohio Mission; three brothers, Michael, Warren and John; and a stepsister, Cathy.

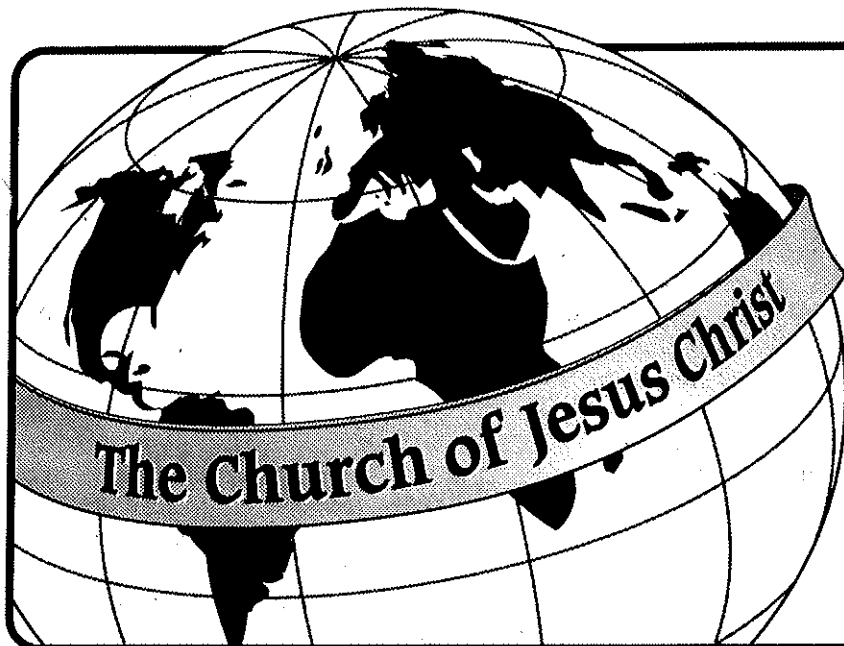
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

March, 2004

Volume 60, No. 3

## Ghana, Africa

*By Brother Joseph Ross*

The visit to the Church in Ghana began on October 29, 2003 by four members of the Ghana committee; namely, Brothers Richard Lawson, Bob McDonnell, Malcolm Paxon and Joseph Ross. All four agreed we enjoyed the blessings of God again. Over the years we have learned that when we go to visit, the

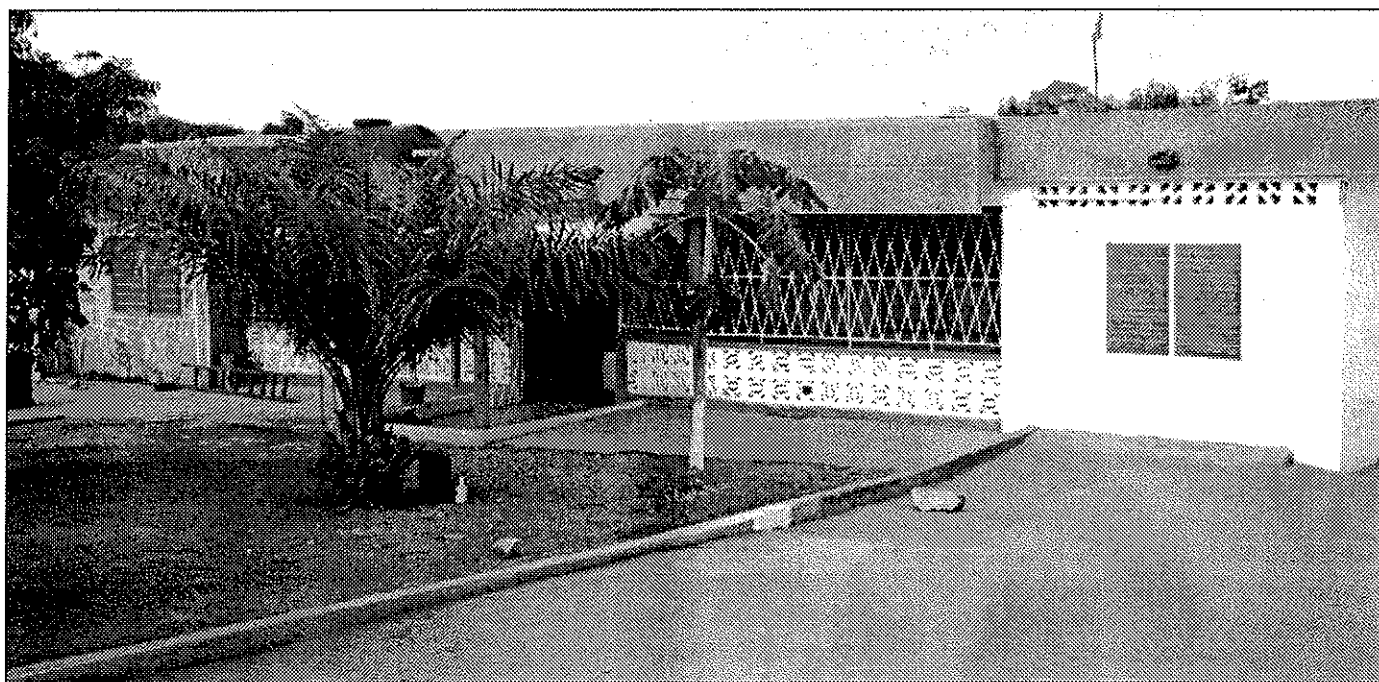
membership is both blessed and encouraged. Our purpose was to visit, teach, encourage and strengthen the Church. The Elders always tell us when members see us there, they know the Church in the USA supports them. We arrived in Accra, Ghana, on October 30, 2003.

On Friday we began to adjust to the five-hour difference during the day. Friday evening we met with the saints in Accra in a rented room. A new church building is being erected,

as funds are available piecemeal. The text for the service was, "We cannot serve God and Mammon." We all spoke and felt liberty in our preaching. After dismissal, Sister Prempeh was helped into the room as she was very ill and needed anointing. We were told she had malaria, a common malady there.

Saturday morning, we left for Kumasi at 11 a.m. for the five hour trip

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The Ghana Church Center/Mission Home

## Ghana, Africa

Continued from Page 1

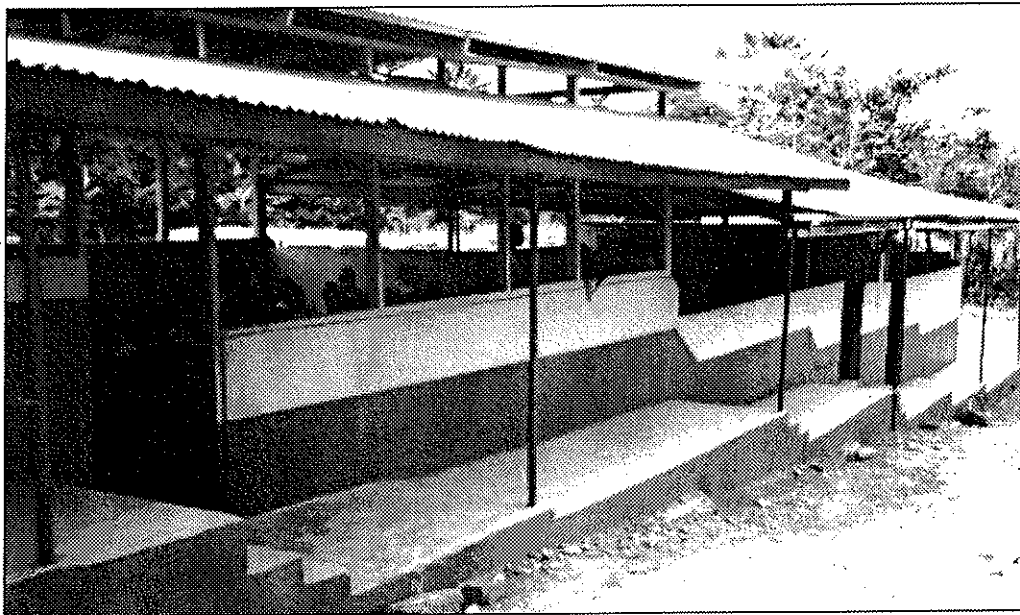
by van. But due to traffic and road congestion, we arrived there at 6:30 p.m. We quickly shopped for some foodstuffs as we all brought food from the US. Later, Brother Ford Boadu got a phone call from Accra informing us that Sister Prempeh was in the hospital in a coma with typhoid fever. Doctors refused to give her medicine or care since her husband had little money. Immediately we pooled our funds and sent Brother John Addo to Accra. He traveled at midnight by bus. Arriving in the morning, he found her husband to be distraught and discouraged. When he told him he had brought funds for his wife, Brother Prempeh wept. We praise God for His mercy and grace as our sister fully recovered. We thank those who love the missionary work to be used to assist others.

Sunday morning we attended services at Anyinamso (Un-ye-nam-so) which was recently renovated due to the building sinking. Brother Boadu asked us to introduce the service and we all spoke. We all felt an outpouring of God's spirit, and five converts who requested baptism and were interviewed were baptized by Brothers McDonnell and Paxon.

We are grateful to God that the Church continues to grow in Ghana. The elders expressed their concerns and of being cautious and controlled when it comes to baptisms. They know and understand the seriousness of a convert's commitment in serving

God. They are adamant in conveying this to new converts.

During our stay, we visited all Branches and Missions: Edwease, Anyinamso, Apromase, Odumase and Seruboso. We held seminars based on topics submitted from Ghana, with us all participating. We allowed a question and answer period with all and we learned they deal with the same challenges as faced in other parts of the world. We assisted the Ghanaian priesthood in reaffirming the Church's Faith and Doctrine, emphasizing the importance of the Holy Ghost and divine authority of the Restored Gospel.



**John Ross Preparatory School Classrooms**

We had the opportunity to attend the Ghanaian Church's semi-annual Business Conference on Saturday. Brother Malcolm introduced the day by reading some scripture and briefly expounding on it. Then the usual business was conducted: Officers Reports, Branch Reports by Presiding Officers, and matters of discussion. We assisted if requested. They followed established guidelines of the Region's Conference.

Conference Sunday service was at Apromasso. Brother Ford rented vans to transport members from all branches and missions so all could attend. There was a full church and all four visiting missionaries spoke.

There were some short testimonies. There were anointings, communion was administered, and six ordinations of three Deacons, two Teachers, and one Deaconess. We all requested to participate. The Conference started at 11:00 a.m. and concluded at 4:00 p.m. during a very hot, humid day; but we knew our cool shower awaited us as well as pasta again. Later we experienced a terrific and enduring thunderstorm that carried into the night.

We also visited the John Ross Preparatory School in Odumase. We went to each class and spoke to the children. They greeted us and sang to us. Meeting with the Principal, we

discussed various needs and problems: computers, needing another classroom building and a used van to carry children. Currently there are 350 students attending, paying tuition to defray expenses. All children are required to pay tuition. Some are so poor they cannot afford it. But

none are turned away; they attend also.

The evening "crusade" was held at Seruboso attended by about 300 there. This is among the poorest village, but the people are appreciative of our visit and efforts. Though primitive, it was a blessing to be able to preach the Restored Gospel "out in the bush."

We visited Brother Ford Boadu's farm where he raises various crops. This does provide income for the Boadu family of 11, plus funds are used to aid the Church with its programs and constructions. Then to the Church's "Stock Farm" where beef is raised. Originally, two years ago, we started with eight cows and

# The Church of Jesus Christ

## GMBA

### 100th Anniversary

1904 – 2004

The GMBA will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday May 15 and Sunday May 16, 2004. The conference will start at 9:00 a.m. and we expect to conclude our business by noon on Saturday.

The Anniversary celebration will begin with lunch provided by the GMBA beginning at noon, followed by an event-filled afternoon and evening remembering the many blessings and accomplishments of the GMBA through the years. Following the evening service, refreshments will be served and numerous exhibits, photos and memorabilia capturing 100 years of memories will be on display.

Please make plans now to join us in celebrating this important milestone in the history of our Church. We look forward to seeing you in May.

If you need more information, please contact: Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA President at 817-329-9133

one bull. Today the herd is 18 cows and three bulls. Next year they will begin to sell the cow meat, earning more funds for the Church and its programs. We always stress to the Elders that the Ghanaian Church in time must become self-sufficient. The Committee is pleased with the initiative and foresight of our Church in Ghana.

The Committee met with some of the orphans. An orphan can be fed, clothed and school tuition paid for only \$20 a month. We are thankful our generous, loving members support these unfortunates. We have much,

but we understand that so little can provide so much. A proposal is being considered that each Ghanaian member contribute monthly to a building fund to build an orphanage, costing \$16,000.

On a weekday, we had an opportunity to meet with the Ladies' Circle in a branch. They sang hymns, recited scripture and testified. They told us they would send a report of their activities for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. They all dress alike in pink dresses with a white kerchief on their heads. We had a good time there.

Our desire is to try to hold an

activity in each location. This is important because they all want to see the brothers from the USA. It was agreed our visit was a success for them and us. The Church is in good order in Ghana, with a continued strong desire to maintain the faith as "it was first delivered unto them." Services there are similar to attending them in our home branches and conferences.

We thank God for a safe and successful trip, and of course we appreciate the prayers which were offered on our behalf. **WE FELT YOUR PRAYERS!** Thank you!



## Ordinations at Saline Mission

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On March 30, 2003 we gathered together in Saline, Michigan with many visiting brothers and sisters from various branches. There was a joyous spirit in our anticipation of the ordinations of two new teachers in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Gary Carlini and Brother Chuck Dulisse had accepted the call into the office of teacher. We began with hymns of praise, which had special significance on this day for these two brothers, among them, *Learning to Lean* and *Something Beautiful*.

Our Regional President, Brother Lyle Criscuolo, opened our meeting speaking on the troubled times we are living in. He encouraged us to help our country become a righteous nation. The scripture he brought forth dealt with King Ahaz and his son, Hezekiah. In spite of the sins of his father King Ahaz, who had bowed down before false gods, King Hezekiah lead his people in forsaking their idols, tearing down their high places and opening the doors of God's temples for worship of the one true God. Brother Lyle made an analogy between our nation's descent into sin and degradation and the abominations of King Ahaz.

King Hezekiah faced many crises, including the invasion of his country by Assyria. He and his people prayed for the Lord to deliver them, and God answered them with a victory. In the same way, Brother Lyle exhorted us to become vigilant about what we allow into our minds. There is an invading force of evil which is attempting to overtake our lives.

Another crisis Hezekiah experienced was illness "unto death." He cried out to the Lord, reminding Him of the way he had made every effort to serve God all of his life. The Lord

again heard his pleas; he was given 15 more years of life. The final crisis presented itself: the crisis of abundance in his life resulting in the sin of pride. Instead of giving God the glory, Hezekiah became boastful. Isaiah's prophecy to him that all of his worldly goods would be carried away into Babylon was fulfilled in the Babylonian captivity of his people. Brother Lyle again exhorted us to be on guard against pride and the invasion of our hearts and minds by the world's immorality and sinfulness. He encouraged us to make the decision to follow Christ, that we might find favor with God, as Hezekiah did in the righteous days of his reign.

Brother Sam Cuomo followed Brother Lyle. Brother Sam explained to us that there must be a ruler in our lives. We must decide whether to choose God or the devil to be the one who controls our lives. Brother Sam shared with us his recent calling to step up from teacher to the office of elder. "The Lord wants us to take the next step to serve Him. Do we serve the riches of this world, or do we want to serve the Living God?" Brother Sam asked us to pray for him as he is beginning his work as a minister of Christ's Church.

After a beautiful luncheon, we returned to witness the ordination. Before they took place, Brother John Straccia addressed us; He spoke on the office of a teacher. He explained that this is a calling to minister to others, to be a servant. He encouraged us all to build up our foundation that we would be strengthened and would not have fear but instead go out and do the work of the Lord. A teacher, he told us, instructs in the ways of the Lord to help us walk in the path God has given us. Their duty is also to be sensitive to the needs of the body of Christ. When they do their jobs, the body of Christ is healthy.

Brother John explained the reason teachers are ordained with the anointing of oil is that it represents God's Holy Spirit, which seals His calling on these individuals. The washing of feet during the ordinations was exemplified in John 13 when Jesus separated His apostles for the

work of the Gospel by His washing of their feet. Also, the feet carry them to bring glad tidings and the gospel of peace to dying souls (Romans 10:15).

Brother Kerry Carlini explained the process that took place in Saline over 10 years in fasting and prayer for God's will in ordination. He shared with us that the ministry of the Saline Mission and Great Lakes Region feel confident in God's callings. Brother Harold Batalucco gave counsel to the candidates regarding the work they will undertake as teachers.

Brother Gary Carlini's feet were washed by his father, Brother Joseph Carlini, and he was ordained by Brother Jim Cotellesse. Brother Chuck Dulisse's feet were washed by Brother Harold Batalucco and he was ordained by Brother John Straccia.

The newly-ordained brothers were given the opportunity to express themselves. Brother Lyle spoke on the very powerful spirit he and Brother Frank Natoli had felt in December of 2002 when they came to the Saline Mission to meet with the elders regarding the decision to ordain Brother Chuck and Brother Gary. This was a confirmation for them that these brothers were called of the Lord.

After a beautiful season of testimony, we left the meeting with grateful hearts for such a blessed day. Our souls were truly fed at this spiritual banquet. Please remember our newly-ordained brothers in Saline as well as those throughout the Church in prayer, that God may bless them as His servants for the benefit of His Church.

## Ordination in Bell, CA

By Sister Patty Kerby

On Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003 many saints gathered to witness our Brother Bob McDonnell being ordained as an Evangelist. We began our morning by singing praises to the Lord. A flute softly played, *Take My Life* and *Just As I Am*, as the sacrament

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).*

During the previous century, people were plunged into a Great Depression. Nearly all of our grandparents lived through this awful time when money and jobs were extremely hard to come by. Yet those who were the true servants of God have miraculous testimonies of how God delivered them. In the Church, we have heard stories from the older generation how angels would visit them and bring them food, or provide them with money to survive. One common trait they all had, was that they possessed strong faith in the Lord, and always gave the "firstfruits" of their substance to Him (by giving to the Church or giving to others in need). I remember my grandfather, who immigrated from Italy, had a giant garden which produced an incredible bounty of vegetables and fruit. Countless times I remember brothers and sisters leaving my grandparents house with numerous brown shopping bags filled to the top with cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, apples, pears, etc. I, myself, grew up eating only the vegetables and fruit that were produced in his garden. He would spend each day from dawn till dusk working in the garden. He would give away most of the food. After he passed away, I heard that he even helped all the neighbors on his street. They spoke about how they never needed to buy food because he would freely give it to them. Interestingly, the more he gave, the more he seemed to grow. We would jokingly say that he should enter the *Guinness Book of World Records* for growing the largest tomatoes in the world.

Today we live in a generation of plenty. Many in the Church today live in expensive homes, drive expensive cars, have huge amounts of money in savings, and have jobs that pay enormous amounts of money. Our grandparents wouldn't even believe the "excess" that we all enjoy today. God has truly blessed this generation. I have always felt that God's blessings upon us today are a result of the tremendous faith of our parents and grandparents. My grandfather would spend hours on his knees praying for his children and grandchildren. We can see the results today. The same promise outlined in the scripture above still applies to us today. Whether we have a lot, or only a little, if we give the firstfruits of our increases, He will continually increase us. It is always amazing how some who have so much, complain that they have so little. Maybe this is because they have not learned this basic principle. Even though it sounds like a contradiction, the more you give, the more you get. It's that simple. I cannot even number the times when I have given to the Church to the point that "it pinched," and then the following week, received a check in the mail or got something for free. It happens every time. It happened again this past week – I unknowingly overpaid on a loan and received a refund check for the same amount that I had just given to the Church. God keeps His word!

Brothers and sisters, some of us may feel that in comparison to others, we are poor. I can assure you, you will feel rich when you give the firstfruits of everything to the Lord. You will have more than you ever imagined, because God promised it. The Church of Jesus Christ does not have a paid ministry, nor are any positions in the Church paid. The money we give allows us to pay utility bills, mortgages, etc., for our church buildings, and allows missionaries to travel to places where people are seeking the Gospel. When we give until it "pinches," and not selfishly hoard, God will abundantly reward. Money is only a small part of what we should give. Like my grandfather, we can give food, we can help others, we can shovel the snow at the Church so others don't have to, and we can give our love to someone in need.

Let's give the firstfruits of all we have to others. If we give it to them, we've given it to the Lord. There is no greater investment than that.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## People Must Choose Where Their Souls Will Go

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever had something terrible happen to you or your family and wonder WHY? What did we do wrong? How can this happen to us/or me? Did you ever wake up in shock and wish that some problem was just a bad dream that would go away, but you knew you had to get up and face the day even though your heart was heavy? Did you ever cry yourself to sleep and then pray and beg God to help you and then have hope that He would?

The scriptures teach us in Moroni 7:40-42, that faith and hope go together. Because of faith, we also know that God has a great plan of salvation. We are each rewarded for every good thing that we do and we each are responsible for every bad thing that we do. We also know that every human being (except for the three Nephites and John the Revelator) will die.

The skin and bone part of our bodies will die. The beautiful, joyful part of our body, our souls, will live forever. If we choose to do the right things and constantly ask God to forgive us when we make mistakes, if we follow His teachings, then we will go to live with Jesus in a beautiful, good, peaceful place where no one suffers.

Those people who choose to sin and are full of hateful, ungodly ways

will go to a place far from God and goodness; a place where their souls will be full of hate and pain. They have chosen to live cut off from love and goodness. Their souls will be in hell.

Our Church also has more knowledge than other churches because we have The Book of Mormon record to also teach us. We have learned that God is fair to everyone. He has a great plan for salvation that includes a second resurrection. All the people who have ever lived, all over the world, from China to the jungles in far away countries will have a chance to hear the word of God after they have died. They can decide whether they want to serve God and live in heaven or rebel against God, and go serve the devil.

It shocks us, but we know some people do choose to throw away the love of God. As Jesus died on the cross, He was with two other men being put to death. One of them was cruel. The other man stuck up for Jesus. Jesus told him, "This day you will be with me in Paradise." The other man had the same chance for love and forgiveness, but he chose hell instead. He wanted no part of Jesus, the son of God.

There are people like that today as well. There are really and truly people who refuse the good life. They don't want to humble themselves before God and admit when they have done wrong. They don't want to have to admit their mistakes and apologize to God. They don't realize that once they understand that they have made a mistake, God can take away that fault. God can break bad habits. God can

make us clean again. God can help our unbelief. All we have to do is ask Him, repent, and ask Him to help change us. Scriptures tell us that He can. Faith tells us He will. Hope tells us to trust God's rules and guidance in our lives. He cares for us. We are His little children no matter how old we are. He will help us through the darkest hour and through the deepest heartache. We will be rewarded for our faith and hope in Him.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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## Ordination in Bell, CA

Continued from Page 4

table was being set.

Brother Bob McDonnell welcomed everyone in attendance. Many saints had traveled great distances to witness his ordination and support our brother.

Brother Jim Huttenberger then welcomed all the visiting priesthood. Brother Tom Jones offered the opening prayer, followed by the Zionees who sang *Take Some Time To Pray*. Sister Christina Paxton then sang a beautiful selection for us.

We had with us visiting Brother Nephi DeMecurio from Detroit, Michigan. He opened our service. He began his message by saying, "We can all be used by God. All our gifts, no matter how great, all come from Him. We can do nothing of ourselves, but with God even the devils are subject to us." He continued saying that as long as we submit to God's will, He can do all things with us.

Brother Nephi said that the office of an Evangelist is a gift from God and God does the choosing. He spoke many beautiful words to us. He went on to say that the work of the ministry is to bring Christ to the dying souls of man. But, most importantly, we must have love for one another. He said forgiving one another is what unites us together in the Church. "We must be more dedicated to moving God's arm in our lives." In closing, he posed the question we should ask of God, "God, what would you have me to do?"

The Bell choir then sang for us some beautiful Spanish hymns.

Brother Jim Huttenberger continued with telling us to cherish our calling that God has given us in whatever capacity in the Church. It is a gift from God.

Brother Paul Liberto continued by telling us the duties of an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ, and about the setting apart with the washing of feet and anointing with oil.

He said that Brother Bob has been called to share the responsibility of the overall missionary endeavors throughout the world. He also talked about Brother Bob's background in the

Church, his love for the work of the Church, and especially for the seed of Joseph. He related some of the experiences related to his calling.

Sister Erin Light sang so beautifully, *Thank You for Giving to the Lord* as we began the ordination.

Brother Otto Henderson washed Brother Bob's feet and Brother Tom Liberto ordained him. The congregation then sang *Ready*. A prayer was offered for the family for God's strength and support, as they came forth to embrace one another. Many tears were shed as God's spirit was among us.

Sister Bennie Jones stood upon her feet and shared an experience she had during Brother Bob's ordination. Her experience appeared in the February, 2004 issue of the *Gospel News*.

The Zionees then sang for us, *The Sea So Great Lord, My Boat So Small*.

The Lord's Supper was then administered as music played, *Broken Pieces and His Name Is Wonderful*. Brother Zantos Zamora spoke a few words about our dear Brother Bob. He stated that they have worked together for many years in the Bell Branch.

Brother Tom Liberto made closing remarks. The young brothers sang *Are Ye Able*. Brother Rudy Meo closed in prayer.

The Bell Branch sisters prepared a wonderful lunch for us as we shared more fellowship.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, for a blessed day shared by all.

regarding the ordination of a Deaconess. The attributes of a deaconess are to be gracious, kind, hospitable, above reproach and humble, to help others and look for ways to assist the Church. Sister Rebecca Rogolino and Sister Nancy Smith were then ordained as Deaconesses.

Brother Dennis Moraco then continued with the duties of a Deacon. He read from the Acts of the Apostles. A deacon should be full of good works, assist in ordinations, visit the sick, the widows, the orphans and care for the brothers and sisters both temporal and spiritual. Brother Tony Moraco and Brother Keith Stone were then ordained as Deacons. The spirit of the Lord was truly felt by all during this wonderful meeting.

Brother Dennis then spoke regarding the office of a Teacher. A Teacher should be in harmony in all aspects of the Church, teach new members their duties, visit the homes of the saints, and work closely with the priesthood. Brother Dane Obradovich then came forward to be ordained as a Teacher. All of the new candidates were then asked to give their testimonies. A humble spirit was felt as each testified and thanked God.

Brother Matthew Rogolino spoke from the 13th Chapter of John. Regarding the washing of feet and how Jesus washed the Disciple's feet. "We are always to be humble in any office that we have. Do not be lifted up in pride. We have a job to do, take hold of the Church and see its beauty. We all are nothing but through Christ we all may have eternal life."

Brother Richard Christman spoke on "I ought to do something for Jesus," "bringing in the sheaves" and "working in the harvest." When you are a new candidate it requires work. We must work till Jesus comes. We should have joy in all that we do for the lord. We then sang *Are Ye Able Said the Master*. Brother Doug Obradovich spoke regarding the newly ordained. He spoke from Helaman 5:12. "Build yourself upon a rock, nothing shall move you. We are refined in the hard times. How will you react when the

## Hollywood, FL

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

The Sunday service began with beautiful singing and hymns of praise. The church was filled in anticipation of the day's events. We had many visitors from Miami, Tampa, Forest Hills, Treasure Coast, New York, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Lake Worth. Brother John Catone opened the service from Romans

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## Hollywood, FL

Continued from Page 7

storms blow? This is the Church of Jesus Christ. You are held accountable for the office to which you are called. The most wonderful calling is to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. How will you react when the storms blow?"

Brother Doug reminded us when the young adults from our branch were children that the right side of the pulpit was holy ground. That is where they did their little holiday programs and showed us what the teachers had taught them. Now they are being called to serve the Lord in different ways—Members, Deacons, Deaconesses and Teachers. Praise God for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Communion was then served. We had such a wonderful day from the opening of the doors early in the morning to the end. Brother Rocco Benyola then closed the service in prayer. Lunch was served outside under a large tent for all to enjoy. The day was enjoyed by all who were in attendance.

## A Year in Review

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, like many branches, enjoyed a very pleasant watch service, beginning with a covered dish dinner and concluding with a Powerpoint Presentation on 2003 and wonderful testimony meeting. As I sat in that meeting, I thought of everything that occurred in our branch in the last twelve months. We have enjoyed many blessings and endured some tragic moments. The thought I came away with was that every year is a compilation of little victories and overwhelming personal losses. I further thought that you might enjoy a little walk down memory lane to enjoy some of those blessings with the Aliquippa Branch and also perhaps spark a memory in you of the

events which have taken place in your own branches and missions.

As is the commission of the ministry, most of the sermons of the year revolved around the topic of repentance and baptism, which was particularly relevant since many of those who meet with us on a weekly basis are not members of the Church. This year we gained six new members, one (Brother Aaron Palmieri) who was baptized at GMBA Campout and five others on September 28, 2003. It was truly a year of increase. Reading from Mosiah on the wonderful day of those five baptisms, Brother David DeLuca said that "...when the people had heard these words...[they]... exclaimed, This is the desire of our hearts." At the water that day, we saw the hand of God move. We had gathered for the baptisms of Bob and Heather Moyer, but before we even began, Megan Stitzel (Gibson) shared her desire to be among those making a covenant with God. As we stood and watched the events, Laurie DeLuca and Pete Oestreicher made their wishes to be baptized known. Truly the glory of God was felt in that place. During the baptisms, numerous experiences were had and the blessings of God moved among our entire group. Also this year, two of our members reached their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries in the Church and we celebrated their achievement with them. What wonderful milestones to be able to celebrate in the same year.

I'm a consummate note taker and am now able to look back and see how active our membership has been in testifying, our ministry in preaching the word and the congregation in singing praises to our God. As I look back at the anointings, I see how God has moved His hand in our behalf and healed many, while helping those who have had to endure illness and loss.

In May we celebrated Mother's Day with the children presenting a program for the mothers of the branch, presenting all the women with a carnation to commemorate the day. Later in the month our home Ladies' Circle celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a full weekend of activities, beginning with a cruise down the rivers

of Pittsburgh, followed by a program for the entire branch and concluded with a luncheon and more fellowship. The children also presented a brief program to celebrate Father's Day, giving the brothers equal time and delighting the congregation.

While we enjoyed a number of visitors throughout the year and space would not permit a complete recap of their marvelous addresses to us, I thought a few quotes (or near quotes) might be thought provoking:

Brother Paul Liberto said in essence, "You can be a traveler intent on traveling and miss everything around you or you can be intent on the people you meet."

Brother Mark Naro stated that, "We should never accept our weaknesses, but we must realize that without Christ these weaknesses would overtake us."

Brother John DiBattista compared the spiritual warfare that goes on in foreign countries with the spiritual warfare that goes on within us when we seek God or He us.

In stressing the importance of telling others what we have, Brother Ralph Cartino stated, "I was the neighbor someone told of the Church."

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., "The glory of God within us opens our minds."

We were even blessed during a funeral service to hear the word of the Lord. "Hear, O my people, follow my daughter and ye shall have eternal life." What a marvelous message to be imparted upon your departure.

On October 26, 2003, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri was ordained into the office of Evangelist. Visitors that morning were numerous and the excitement was echoed in the opening hymn, *It Is Well With My Soul*. As Brother Phil Jackson spoke, he said, "God makes us mighty, rich, filled with Jesus' spirit, not of ourselves, but in and through the spirit of God."

Brother Frank Giovannone washed Brother Paul's feet and Brother Richard Santilli ordained him into this office. During the ordination, tongues were spoken, the interpretation of which was, "And thus saith the Lord, I have called you. Go in peace

this day. You will have many blessings as you go in my vineyard. Thus saith the Lord." When Brother Paul gave his testimony later, he stated that he wanted the Lord to execute His will in his life, a goal we should all work toward.

Because of the unsettled events in the world and the war in Iraq, many missionary trips had to be postponed. However, during the year Brother Paul A. Palmieri, Sister Janet and Brother Pete Oestreicher visited the saints in Peru; Brother John and Sister Joyce D'Antonio made their first trip to the Philippines and Brother Joe Ross was able to make his rescheduled trip to Ghana. All brought back wonderful reports and have treasured memories of their trips.

At the conclusion of the year, we enjoyed the talents of two of our newly baptized members. Sister Heather and Brother Bob Moyer created the amazing Power Point presentation previously mentioned. It was wonderful to see the love and effort put into the project, as well as noting the enjoyment of the congregation as they viewed the year unfolding before them.

I pray that this review provides a blessing to you and ignites joyous memories within you of a good year in the service of the King. I also pray that we strive to do even more in 2004!

## Forest Hills, Florida

*By Sister Lorraine Rose*

### HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE THE LORD?

We continue to receive the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us throughout the year. December 14, 2003, Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr. opened our meeting asking the question: "How much do we love the Lord?" Scripture read was from John 21:5-25 (Jesus appeared the 3rd time to the disciples after his resurrection) and Jacob 6:1-5 (Jacob explaining the

parable of the olive tree and God's goodness), "And how merciful is our God unto us . . . and while His arm of mercy is extended towards you in the light of the day, harden not your hearts." The Lord asked Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" Are we sincere in our love to God?

Brother Scott Griffith continued in the same thought of Love, reading John 13, Jesus washing the feet of His disciples; Deuteronomy 10:12, Moses recognizing the law of the Lord and His love.

During testimony a few experiences were related. Sister Mandy Griffith related an experience her uncle had (her mother's brother) confirming the Lord was with Sister Kathy Genaro comforting her after the loss of her father. Sister Debbie Gonzalez was troubled with her association with a co-worker, but knew the Lord was in the matter. Brother Marty Gonzalez was also concerned about some issues in his life. Nicole Menendez, (Brother Marty's niece) was needing to make some decisions in her life and turned it over to the Lord. Knowing the Lord was in the matter and made an impact on her life, she wanted to keep Him in her life and asked for her baptism.

Brother John Griffith spoke, as a messenger, a few words that were directed to some of the congregation. He knows our hearts, and when we seek His guidance, He answers our call.

What a wonderful day the Lord provided.

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2003 was in answer to the Lord calling our Sister Nicole Menendez to the water's edge for her baptism. We met at 8:45a.m. to baptize our sister. The temperature outside was cold but our hearts were warmed with the love the Lord gave us this morning. Brother Jim Speck baptized Sister Nicole. What a glorious sight to behold when a soul surrenders to the Lord.

We then convened at the branch and our Christmas program was presented. The children presented the birth of our Jesus through song. The adults narrated and sang hymns depicting the beginning and true meaning of Christmas. After a short break, we

continued into our meeting with prayer. We had many visitors this wonderful day.

Brother George Benyola opened speaking of the Gift of Love that shines a light in our heart. He read from John 1, the Eternal Word and the True Light of God. He also referenced Samuel the Lamanite, when he preached from the wall of the coming of Christ. There would be no darkness for a day, a night and a day, depicting the Light of the Lord. Samuel was told of the birth of Christ and that day the light would shine to ALL people! Today our Sister Nicole will experience the light of love as she is confirmed with the Holy Ghost. We need to keep our light shining and pray it doesn't get dull.

During testimony, confirmation of Nicole's decision to answer the Lord's call was mentioned. Sister Debbie's mother had a dream that showed Sister Nicole bathed in a ray of warm light engulfed by three fierce angels carrying swords. Calmness was about her signifying faith, love and hope. The ministry knelt in unison for the Lord's guidance for our sister and to bless the brother who would confirm her with the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Sister Nicole Mercedes Menendez was confirmed by Brother Scott Griffith. She gave a brief testimony of how concerned she and her family were during the preceding week due to the cold weather we had been experiencing. During Saturday night, Rachel (Sister Debbie's daughter) had awakened and Nicole went in to comfort her. She was holding her hand, but she felt a hand on her back, warm and comforting, giving her a peace to know the Lord will be with her. This was another confirmation to her in answering the Lord's call.

Brother Jim Speck, also testified of how he felt the desire to baptize Sister Nicole when she first asked, and then it went away. Later, he was approached by Brother Sam Risola (unaware of Brother Jim's desire) and asked if he felt the desire to baptize Sister Nicole. The Lord works in His way and sees what's in our hearts.

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## Forest Hills, FL

Continued from Page 9

We know Sister Nicole will have the Lord with her.

We had a full plate of blessings this wondrous day. May we keep Sister Nicole in our prayers as she will be starting college in January, 2004. May God Bless you all in this New Year with more bountiful blessings of His love.

## Atlanta, Georgia

By Brother Mark Kovacic

The Atlanta Branch along with visiting brothers and sisters and friends gathered at a Powder Springs Community Center on December 28, 2003 to witness the ordination of Sisters Kim Morle and Donna Eskut as Deaconesses and Brother Cameron Staley as a Teacher.

We started off the service with a quartet of brothers consisting of Brothers Cory Morris, Cameron Staley, Ron Morle and Jameson Staley singing *It Is Well With My Soul*.

Since each Deaconess in the Atlanta Branch possesses her own Communion set, two new sets were consecrated for our two new Deaconesses. Brother Malcolm Paxon offered a short explanation of the need and how the Church consecrates utensils. Brother Art Campbell then offered the consecration prayer. The Communion table was then set by Sisters Shirley Paxon and Diane McDonnell.

Evangelist Leonard A. Lovalvo from Detroit, Branch 2 opened the service by reading from Alma 26:2-3 regarding the rejoicing of the conversion of souls. He spoke about how the sons of Mosiah and Alma were converted and how there are modern day circumstances similar to it. Brother Leonard related one such incident that took place back at the 1970 GMBA Campout in Canfield, Ohio.

Brother Leonard noted that the key phrase in the reading was "instru-

ment in the hands of God" and that this should be all of our desires. He said, "You have duties and responsibilities" to the Lord and to each other. He also read 2 Peter 1:10 and emphasized the need to "give diligence to make your calling and election sure."

Evangelist John DiBattista, of the Chicago, IL Mission followed. He stressed that "we need to be set aside and cleansed." He then read from Ephesians 4 regarding spiritual offices of the Church. Brother John explained that as the temple of Solomon was designed and built, so was The Church of Jesus Christ. But he added, "We are not planners and designers but barely instruments in the Hands of God." He continued by stating that "our main job is to be ready" to be used of God and that we should "not be limited by what has gone on before you, but by the spirit of God that is in you." Our main objective to the world is to "love better."

Brother Art Campbell from the Mid-Georgia Mission followed with his experience of being hit by lightning while praying. He then recalled Brother Charles Hester's experience when he questioned the Lord about doing the duties of the Priesthood. He said the Lord spoke to him and said, "You will do nothing, but I'll do it."

Evangelist Bob McDonnell from Bell, California Branch then spoke about our willingness to be used of God and until we are touched by the Master, we are nothing. He then related how Paul spoke of God planning to use Timothy from an early time.

Brother Duane Lovalvo stated that it's all the same Church wherever you go: same ordinances, same callings, and same blessings. He then recited the account of the Teacher, Gideon. As he was a defender of the faith, so must we be today.

Brother Tom Jones then read the official duties of Teacher and Deaconesses and gave his own testimony about his calling as a Teacher and the important role the Teacher plays in any branch.

Brother Ron Morle, Atlanta Presiding Elder, asked the three members to come forward to have their feet washed to set them apart. While they

were coming forward, a visitor from our outreach effort, Kristen Biddy, beautifully sang a fitting song titled, *With All My Heart*.

Sister Kim Morle's feet and Sister Donna Eskut's feet were washed by Sisters Diane McDonnell and Shirley Paxon, respectively.

Brother Cameron Staley's feet were washed by Brother Cory Morris from the Mid-Georgia Mission.

The Priesthood then gathered around the three members and prayer was offered by Brother Bob McDonnell. Sister Kim was ordained by her husband, Brother Ron. Sister Donna was ordained by Brother Duane Lovalvo, and Brother Cameron was ordained by Brother Tom Jones.

Each of the newly ordained expressed themselves by thanking the Lord for all He has done for them and requested our prayers as they take on their new responsibilities. Before the meeting closed, the mothers of the three newly ordained officers, Sisters Tava Jones, Bonnie Miller, and Sharon Staley, were asked to share their testimonies.

## South Bend, IN Visits Redford, MI

By Sister Leona Buffa

### ANOTHER SOUL CALLED TO REPENTANCE

The weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was indeed blessed by God, as the members of South Bend, Indiana set aside this weekend to visit with the brothers and sisters at the Redford, Michigan Mission. In August 2002, the Redford Mission had taken a Sunday trip to South Bend, and had a most wonderful time with the Saints there. This past May they reciprocated and joined us for a few days of fellowship.

On Saturday a group of about 20 brothers, sisters, and children arrived at 5:30 in the evening. We had a good old-fashioned cookout waiting for them. As the fellowship began, there

were many conversations happening at the same time, experiences being told, and great anticipation for what the weekend had in store – especially our Sunday meeting on the following day. As we departed for the night, everyone taking their guests back to their individual homes, we entertained a prayer in our hearts that the Lord would meet us back in that place for our Sunday service.

On Sunday morning, the saints of God and the many children gathered at the church building. We had Sunday School as usual. Our morning meeting got underway with congregational singing. Brother Tullio LaCavita offered opening prayer. Brother Mitch Edwards called for us to sing *Trust and Obey*. He then proceeded to speak on trusting and obeying. He read from Isaiah Chapters 50 and 59 and Exodus Chapter 17. “The Lord isn’t pleased with our complaints. We need to learn from our mistakes.” He also read from Numbers 20:7-8. He told us that we become sons and daughters of God when we are baptized. We also need to study to show ourselves approved. Brother Mitch told his experience about his direction to go to South Bend.

Brother Alfonzo Hopkins then spoke to us. He stated that when we are disobedient, we aren’t the only ones that suffer. The Lord gave us His best. He gave us His life. What are we giving to Him? Our best for God is our obedience. We are blessed when we obey.

Brother John P. Buffa followed. He told the congregation that we must obey today. We may not have tomorrow. At this time Sister Michelle Gomez received the word of the Lord as follows, “I am here, I am here, thus saith the Lord. Embrace My Spirit. Hold on to the Rod that has been given to you.” Brother John then continued by relating experiences of healings. He said if we obey, the Lord will not hold back.

The meeting was then opened for testimony. Many testimonies and experiences were given. There were many who came up to be anointed, including the little children. Brother John Buffa was prompted by the Spirit

to ask A. J. Cuerrier to come forward to be prayed for. When he stood up from his chair after the prayer, he stated that if he didn’t ask today (for his baptism), he never would. A. J. stated that he didn’t have to doubt anymore that today was his day. Brother Stephen Buffa stood up and said that the Lord told him that A. J. would be called.

We sang a closing hymn and Brother Dean Coppa offered closing prayer. We gathered downstairs for an authentic Italian dinner, which was enjoyed by all.

We proceeded to the water’s shore where the Redford Mission and South Bend saints gathered to witness the baptism of our new Brother A. J. Brother John Buffa baptized him. When we gathered back at the church building, Brother A. J. was confirmed by Brother John Buffa. His parents were able to come from Canada to witness this blessed occasion. A. J. was given the opportunity to express himself. He testified about how he needed the Lord. His brother-in-law received the word of the Lord as follows, “My mercies are upon you, all ye Gentiles, come unto me.” A sister from South Bend sang, *He Held His Arms And I Ran In*. She dedicated this to Brother A. J.

We had a very enjoyable day as we waited upon God’s Spirit to bless us and received His blessing. Whenever we get together with the brothers, sisters, and children from South Bend, we have a wonderful time. We look forward to many more visits with the saints in that part of the vineyard. May God bless each of you is my prayer.

## Ordinations

Sister Kim Morle and Sister Dona Eskut were ordained as Deaconesses in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. Sister Kim Morle’s feet were washed by Sister Diane McDonnell and she was ordained by Brother Ron Morle. Sister Donna Eskut’s feet were washed by Sister Shirley Paxon and she was ordained by Brother Duane Lovalvo.

Brother Cameron Staley was ordained a Teacher in the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Corey Morris and he was ordained by Brother Tom Jones.

Sister Rebecca Rogolino and Sister Nancy Smith were ordained as Deaconesses in the Hollywood, Florida Branch. Sister Rebecca Rogolino’s feet were washed by Sister Joan Rogolino and she was ordained by Brother Matthew Rogolino. Sister Nancy Smith’s feet were washed by Sister Kathy Kirschenphad and she was ordained by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr.

Brother Tony Moraco and Brother Keith Stone were ordained as Deacons in the Hollywood, Florida Branch. Brother Tony Moraco’s feet were washed by Brother Isaac D. Smith and ordained by Brother Dennis Moraco. Brother Keith Stone’s feet were washed by Brother John Catone and ordained by Brother John Catone.

Brother Dane Obradovich was ordained a Teacher in the Hollywood, Florida Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Roger Kirschenphad and he was ordained by Brother Doug Obradovich.

Brother Sam Mehera was ordained a Teacher in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on January 11, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Patrick Monaghan and he was ordained by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother Albert Giannetti was ordained a Teacher in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on January 11, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Joel Ondik and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother Perry Bonasso was ordained a Deacon in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on January 11, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Bob Bradwell and he was ordained by Brother Carl Frammolino.

## Children Blessed

Roman David Toth, son of Marnie and Daniel Nicklow, was blessed on August 10, 2003 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Luis Antonio Valero, son of Sister Amanda Scaglione Valero and Luis Valero, was blessed on January 18, 2004 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Zane Bryant Vasquez, grandson of Brother Melvin and Margaret Mountain, was blessed on October 5, 2003 in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Evan Micah Smith, son of Brother Micah and Sister Larisa Smith, was blessed on November 9, 2003 in the Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Kory Johnson, son of Trellany Johnson, was blessed on January 11, 2004 in the Miami/Dade, Florida Mission.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Josephine (Griffith) Joris was reinstated on October 26, 2003 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Nicole Menendez was baptized on December 21, 2003 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother James Speck and confirmed by Brother Scott Griffith.

Sister Brenda Shehadah was baptized on Sunday, December 28, 2003 in the Tampa, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Philip Benyola, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Jim Speck, Sr.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Jennifer Leigh Martin and Daniel Carl Spangenberg were united in holy matrimony in Healdsburg, California on October 4, 2003.

Sister Linda Jane Hulings and Llewlyn James Anderson Strachan were united in holy matrimony in Butler, Pennsylvania on January 9, 2004.

## OBITUARIES

### MICHELLE PEREIRA

Sister Michelle Pereira of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on June 13, 2003. She is survived by her daughter, Carolena.

### NANCY CIOTTI

Sister Nancy Ciotti of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward on January 13, 2004. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her six children, 17 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

### RUDOLF (RUDY) WEIL

Brother Rudolf (Rudy) Weil of the Hollywood, Florida Branch passed on to his reward on December 23, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Sister Fay Weil.

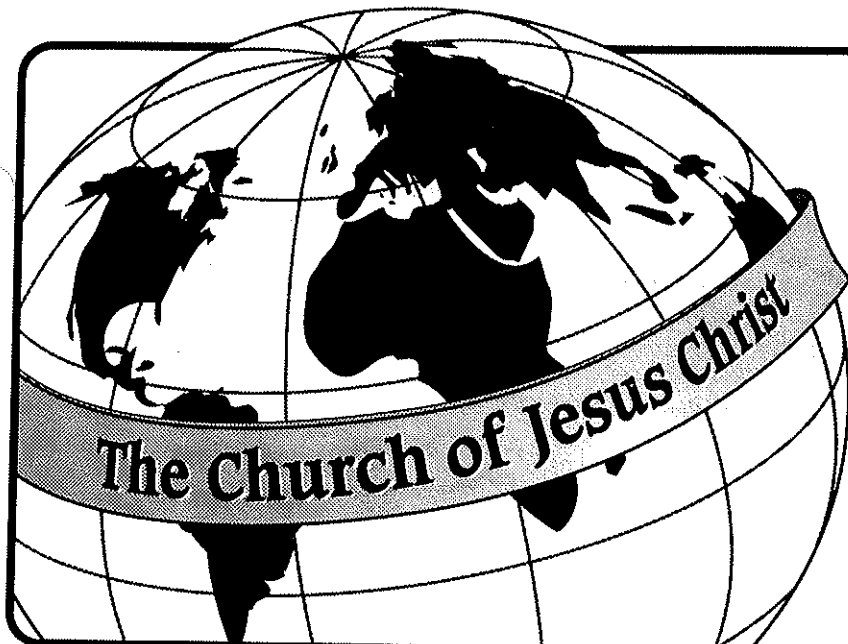
### JUNE DiFEDE

Sister June DiFede of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on January 26, 2004. She is survived by a son, Brother Carmen DiFede; daughter-in-law, Sister Lori; four grandchildren, Alex, Angelo, Vanessa, Gianni; three sisters, Sister Rose Naples, Sister Angie Moccio, Ruth Purkall; and two brothers, Jerry and Michael DiFede. She is preceded in death by her parents, Brother Joseph and Sister Marie DiFede.

### ANNE WRIGHT

Sister Anne Wright, of the Windsor, Ontario Branch, passed on to her reward on December 28, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Ken Wright, Sr. She is survived by her son, Ken Jr., and his wife Ginette; daughter, Lori Flowers and her husband, Alan; daughters, Patti Saliga and Sandy Wright; and 6 grandchildren.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 2004

Volume 60, No. 4

## Kenya

*Submitted by Brother Wayne Martorana – Chairman*

During December, 2003 and January, 2004, ten brothers and sisters from the U.S. (the largest group to visit Kenya concurrently) had the wonderful opportunity of visiting The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya for the primary purpose of dedicating the recently-constructed

Headquarters Building and to visit the church villages. There were approximately 300 in attendance at the dedication service. The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya continues to grow as a result of God's blessings. The current membership is over 600.

This building dedication was truly an historic event and demonstrated to the Kenyan government the Church's commitment to their country and their people in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The following articles were

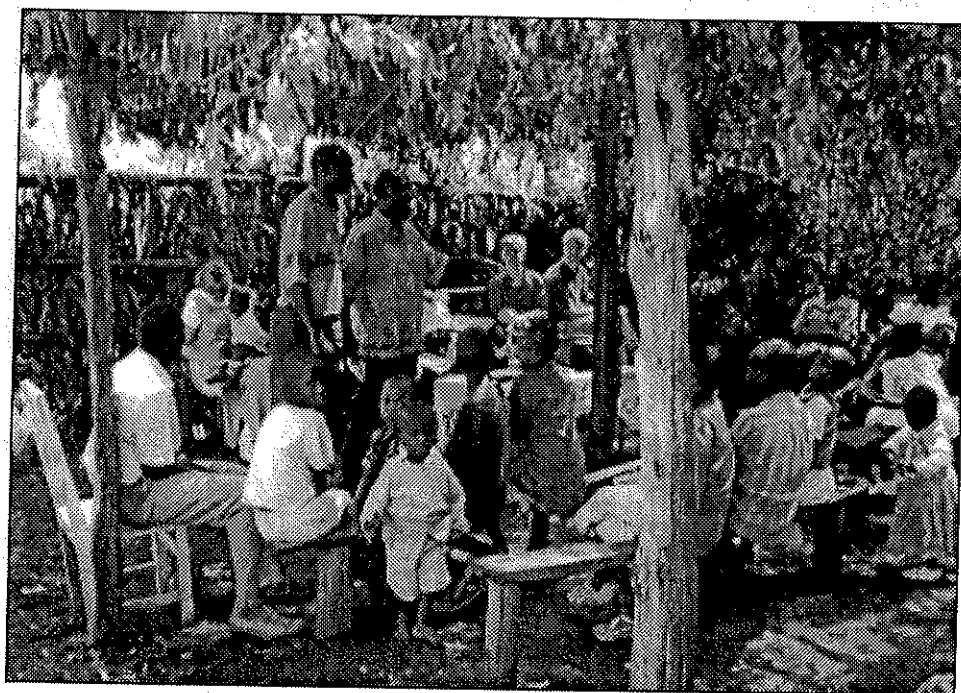
written by two of the brothers and sisters on the trip. Their perspective, as a first-time visitor to Kenya, reminds us of the many challenges that our brothers and sisters abroad face. Yet, they find joy through the Lord Jesus Christ.

### "This is Not Chicago!" A Visit to the Church in Kenya

*By Sister Orletta Liberto*

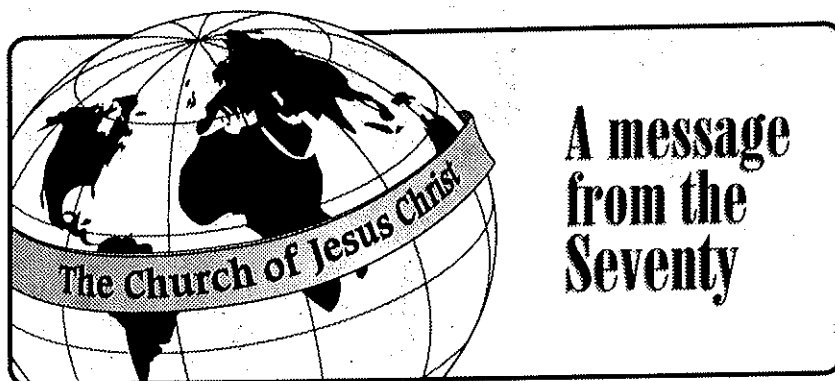
As we traveled to the dedication of the headquarters building of the Church in Kenya, I knew I would see Sister Nina Osaka, one of the first members in Kenya and a strong pillar of the Church. I had met her at the World Missionary Conference in 1999 at a suburb of Chicago. I wondered whether she would remember me after meeting so many new sisters over such a short period of time.

As the van bumped along, swerving from one side of the road to the other trying to avoid the largest potholes, and I looked at the hundreds of people walking along the highways or congregating at "bus stops" or visiting their market places, I thought about how different Sister Nina's life must be from my own. This was my first visit to Kenya and I felt so



Group in Gosingi

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## The Joy of the Saints

*By Sister Sharon Staley*

The joy of the Saints captures the essence of our recent visit to The Church of Jesus Christ in the Philippines from January 7-15, 2004.

Brother Rommel and Sister May Desoloc and Brother June and Sister Babeth Desoloc were eagerly waiting to greet my husband, Brother Ken, and me at the airport upon our arrival in Davao. They received us warmly and accompanied us to our hotel where we spent a few hours visiting and reminiscing, awaiting the arrival of several saints from Tagum and Pantukan. When Brother Malachi and Sister Delma Galing, Brother Benjamin and Sister Eloisa Sabino, Manuel Sabino, and several young people joined us, we again experienced the joy of reuniting with more of our spiritual family and were thrilled to learn that Manuel would be baptized the next day in Tagum!

Brother Manuel is the sibling of Brother Benjamin Sabino, an Elder in the Pantukan Mission. Brother Manuel expressed to me that his conversion was in part because of the change he had witnessed in his brother Benjamin's life when Benjamin was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. He also observed the faith and dedication of Brother Benjamin and Sister Eloisa as they struggled to care for their young son Daryl, who recently passed away after suffering with a congenital heart problem and other serious medical conditions. Brother Manuel is 27 years old and very gifted musically.

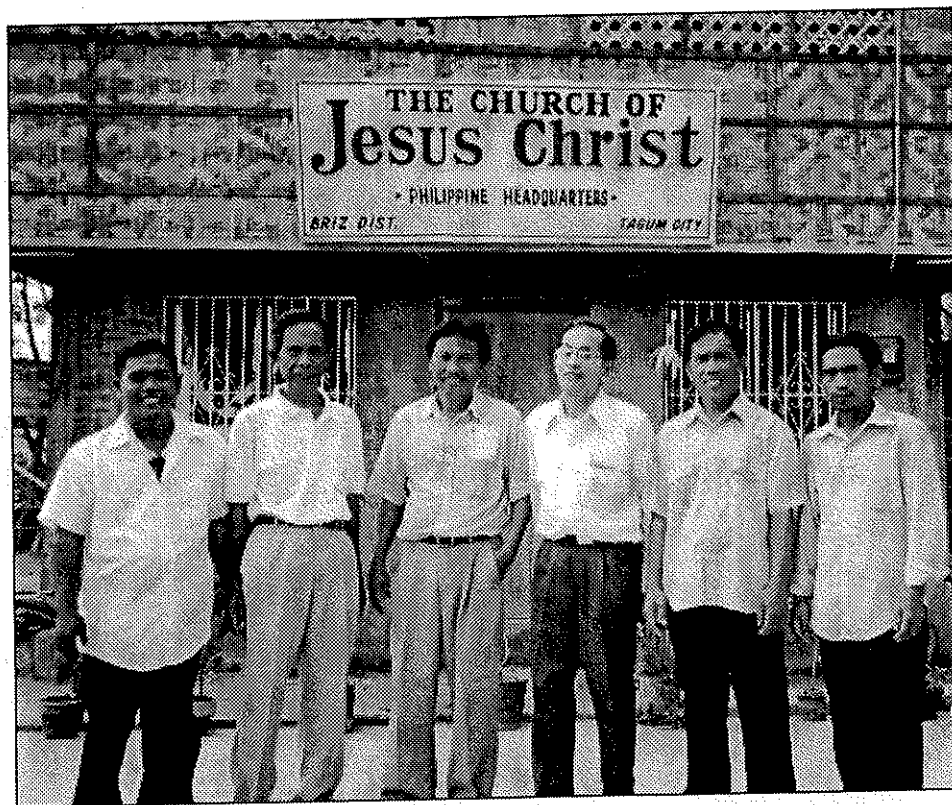
He has a wonderful singing voice, plays the keyboard very well, and can speak English. He traveled internationally years ago when he was part of a high school choir. Later in our visit, we witnessed his ordination as a Teacher. He lives in General Santos City, a very large city on the island of Mindanao and has begun to give his testimony to others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

During our stay, four missions were visited: Davao, Panabo, Tagum, and Samal. In each place, we rejoiced to renew acquaintances from our first visit in 2002 and to meet new brothers and sisters. In every loca-

tion, it was a blessing to see the many beautiful young children and babies—future saints! Everywhere the saints asked about all the brothers and sisters from the United States who have visited the Philippines. They remember the names of everybody who has visited there before, since the first trip in 2000 when the Church was established!

The meeting at Davao took place on Saturday morning. Wonderful singing filled the room, and we rejoiced to see many young people and children come to worship the Lord. The walls of their meeting place are unique. They have large-scale renderings of all the pictures found in the Restoration coloring book (printed by the Church) drawn and beautifully painted on the walls, with the applicable scripture references below them. What a wonderful teaching tool for their group to look around their rented facility and see the ordinances such as feet washing and communion and the story of the Restoration depicted in this way!

On Sunday, it was on to Panabo and then to Tagum for separate ser-



Elders from Tagum, Pantukan, Sapang-Tinaw and Las Arenas. Left to right: Brothers Jerson, Aurelio, Malachi, Crescencio, Benjamin and Victor.

vices. This was a test of faith for me. Brother Rommel normally accompanies the visitors to each location, which offers a sense of security. He serves as interpreter, driver, and guide. On this day, he had to stay in Davao to conduct services and then to hold his weekly 2:00 PM radio broadcast of the Restoration on a local station. He informed us that at 9:00 AM, a driver would pick us up at our hotel in a light blue car and take us to both locations, the extent of our instructions. Shortly after 9:00 AM, a young man arrived (not affiliated with the Church) and went to the front desk, saying only, "Pastor Rommel..." Brother Ken was near the desk and realized he was our driver. The man spoke no English other than those first few words, and we knew no Tagalog (their dialect), so we simply got in the vehicle and used smiles and a few basic words to interact during our hour-long drive to Panabo.

The saints at Panabo greeted us with much love, and we enjoyed a wonderful time of worship with them. One special blessing came when I observed Sister Magdalena Aguirre assist in the setting of the communion table, as she was ordained as a Deaconess during my previous visit. What a blessing to witness her fulfilling her duties in such a humble, sincere manner!

At Tagum that same afternoon, many saints from both Tagum and Pantukan were gathered for a meeting. There was a spirit of rejoicing as we greeted each other. Many young people were present, and the singing was heavenly! Brother Manuel was very active in singing, playing the keyboard, and then in translating for Brother Ken as he preached.

The next day, we returned to Tagum for a short conference. As the Elders and Teachers met, I was privileged to spend a few hours with several sisters in an upstairs room. Although some of them speak no English, a few others can, and we were able to communicate and share many things through the love of God. Although thousands of miles separate

our Filipino brothers and sisters from the body of the saints, life holds the same challenges and struggles such as illness, job transitions, death, and educational pursuits. Sister Delma explained one of her teenage daughters had been hospitalized the previous year while suffering from measles and pneumonia. Another sister, along with her husband, had been involved in an accident while riding in the back of an open-air taxi, a very common form of transportation there. They were thrown from the taxi, and her face hit the pavement with full force. She expressed her gratefulness to the Lord for giving her a complete recovery after a long period of pain.

Mindanao, we traveled to the island of Samal for the dedication of the new little church building there. The land for this edifice had been graciously donated by Brother Antonio Villarubia, an Elder in the Davao Mission. The building is not fully completed, but the saints wanted to have the dedicatory prayer while we were there. Brother Cesar Celestino, the Elder-in-Charge in Samal, worked diligently to get as much completed as possible before our arrival.

Brother Rommel and Sister May had informed us that Samal Island was a mere fifteen-minute ferry boat ride. We stayed in the vehicle, which Brother Rommel drove up onto the



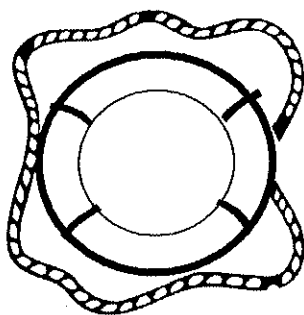
Young sisters lead singing in Davao.

It was a blessing that day to witness Sister Eloisa Sabino smiling, enjoying the fellowship of the saints, and being so helpful in preparing the food for the little conference. After the death of her young son Daryl last year, she and her husband, Brother Benjamin, have remained faithful to their calling into the Church and are actively involved in the work of the Gospel. Their joy is great, despite the adversity they have endured. Their older teenage daughter, Cheryl, is active in the Church, which is an additional blessing for them.

On our final day on the island of

ferry boat, where we traveled the short distance along with about twenty other cars and trucks. What we did not realize was that once we drove off the boat onto the island, we had a one-hour ride on a mostly uphill, rocky, rutted dirt road. This was quite an adventure, since drivers there do not slow down for oncoming traffic, pedestrians on the roadside, or any dogs, cats, or goats that may be resting in the middle of the road! After much silent prayer, we arrived safely at the end of the road, then had

(Continued on Page 11)



**Safe Secure & Saved**

**IN THE  
ARMS OF**

**Jesus**

**General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend**

**Tampa, Florida**

**June 24 – 27, 2004**

Feel like you could use a little "Sonshine"? Well, we've got just the place where you can get it. Join your sisters and friends at the upcoming Circle Fellowship Weekend in beautiful Tampa, Florida. The inspired theme is "Safe, Secure and Saved in the Arms of Jesus." Your sisters are feeling the Spirit of God as they prepare for seminars and special activities. We know the Lord will be there and we would love for you to be there too! The event is being conveniently held at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel, so no shuttle will be necessary.

The hotel cost (per person) is:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 4 ladies to a room: <b>\$30.52 per night</b> | 2 ladies to a room: <b>\$60.04 per night</b> |
| 3 ladies to a room: <b>\$40.69 per night</b> | 1 lady to a room: <b>\$109.00 per night</b>  |

Room charges include continental breakfast each morning and sales tax. **The registration and meal fee is \$115.00.** This price is inclusive of lunch and dinner for Friday and Saturday. For extended days at the hotel (3) days before the event or (3) days following the event, we have secured the same hotel rate.

See your local Ladies' Uplift Circle Secretary for a registration form or contact **Sister Betty Lowe** at (813) 689-8408 or via e-mail at [BAL1423@aol.com](mailto:BAL1423@aol.com). Plan now to be with the sisters for a wonderful weekend of seminars, fellowship and fun.

***\*If you play a musical instrument, PLEASE bring it to this event and plan on using it!***



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth? Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also" (2nd Nephi 29:7-9).*

This prediction was made regarding our day and time. It is regarding the reaction of people when they hear we have another book containing the word of God, The Book of Mormon. Those who witness to others about Christ and about His Church always find this topic to be the "fork in the road." You can talk about the love of Jesus, what He did for us at the cross, the purity of His Gospel and His commandments, etc. Usually, you find you are having much success in witnessing to someone up to this point. Then you must tell them about The Book of Mormon. This is the fork in the road. People will either accept what you are saying or not. If they do not, they usually say "thank you, but no thank you" and walk away. If they accept what you are saying, how wonderful you feel! It is the breakthrough needed in order for you to explain deeper topics like the Choice Seer, the Peaceful Reign, the Gathering of Israel, the authority of the Priesthood, the naming of the Church, etc. That "fear of rejection" is gone, and you feel free to fully share this precious pearl which you have found with them.

On my recent trip to Dominica, after the services each Sunday, I allowed a "Question and Answer" session. Nearly everyone stayed for over two hours and asked very hard questions regarding the Church, and especially this topic. Some had been baptized in other churches, and didn't understand why they would have to be baptized again in The Church of Jesus Christ. Others just didn't understand how there could be more than the Bible. Using the words in the verses above, I tried to explain that God is not a respecter of persons, and that before His ascension, He said that he had other sheep not of their fold (the Jews) who he was going to visit. Those upon this land of America (the ancestors of these Carib Indians in Dominica) were the ones who Jesus visited, and Jesus also visited other nations and people. People throughout the world recorded their history and the visitations of Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon is a history of the native people in the Americas, and a record of when Jesus visited them. There are many other records of Jesus by people throughout the world who recorded it. Some day soon, we will be able to read these other records as well.

The Book of Mormon also helped restore the Church that was set up in the New Testament, The Church of Jesus Christ. There was only His Church then, and there is only His Church today. Within His Church, Elders are ordained with authority from the Lord to perform baptisms, and other ordinances. So, when a person finds His Church, they need to be baptized by one having authority. These are difficult concepts for some people, but like we sing, "When the wrong way seems right, Give me understanding Lord . . ." At the end of discussing these things, the only thing left to say is they should ask God SINCERELY if these things are true (James 1:5), and then they will understand.

After my discussions with the group in Dominica, thankfully, many seemed satisfied and convinced of what we were saying. One woman even mentioned that she heard many rumors about our Church, but after hearing our answers, realized the rumors were not true.

If you are seeking the truth, you will find it. But if you really aren't SINCERELY seeking, you will never find it. Seek out the truth, and I can assure you God will answer you!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## What You Have to Do to Live in the Promised Land

Dear Friends,

Do you realize that you are living in a Promised Land, a land where the nations must serve God or be wiped off once their wickedness increases? There is proof that a great civilization once lived and flourished all throughout America. Did you know that when people from Europe first came to settle in America, they found huge pyramids of earth covering mid-America? Thomas Jefferson had one dug up so that he could see what might be inside. There were thousands of smaller mounds and hundreds of huge mounds all along the big rivers of our nation. Settlers in those days simply took their plows and shovels, pulled most of them down and planted crops there.

Scientists date their time of being built along the two hundred years after Jesus came to this land and taught people to love and trust one another. These mounds do have amazing combinations of things that showed that a great nation traveled and traded among themselves. You can travel southern Ohio to see the Serpent Mounds or to Kalkaska, Illinois or up and down the great Mississippi River. Some are huge; some are artistic. They all are mysterious remains of a vast civilization.

There are no weapons of war in the mounds. But there are pieces of copper from far north in Michigan, and

turquoise from the canyons and deserts of New Mexico. They have uncovered strands of pearls from the Atlantic Ocean off Florida and sheets of shiny rock called mica from North Carolina. These people traded far across our nation. We can imagine a time of peace and freedom. If you visit the huge mounds along the Mississippi River, you would read how no one really knows about these amazing people's religion. They can only guess. Scientists call these people the Mound-builders. They wonder why there are no weapons buried there. But we can read in The Book of Mormon about the wonderful, two hundred years following Christ's visit to the Americas. Everyone wicked or evil was dead. There was no need for weapons.

The wicked people had been warned that Christ had been born and was on the earth. Prophets told them to repent. Instead, they began trying to hurt all the people of God. They made plans to destroy God's people, but instead, God sent huge destruction. Earthquakes ripped apart cities. Mountains became valleys and cities in valleys were buried and heaved up into new mountains. Huge fancy seaside cities went crashing into the ocean and were buried. Wicked people were picked up by whirlwinds (like tornadoes) and never seen again. Darkness covered the land for three days. God was purifying the Promised Land again.

The people who were left met Jesus. He prayed for each child there. They grew up and became good adults who kept the nation safe. Can you imagine how wonderful it would be to be free to talk to anyone?

Children would be safe to sleep outside; every adult was a loving brother or sister. People shared whatever they had and no one was poor or left out.

But the old devil was not happy. He began to work on the people. Pretty soon some people began to forget what God had done for them. Instead of sharing, they began to be proud and think they were better than others because of their riches. Trouble started again. Eventually wars broke out and the Book of Mormon records the final terrible battles when Moroni hid the ancient records of God in the Hill Cumorah.

Because God's chosen people had rejected him they became warlike and destructive. One Native American nation warred against another

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

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# INSPIRING OUR YOUTH IN THE GREAT WORK OF THE LORD

Celebrating 100 Years  
of GMBA



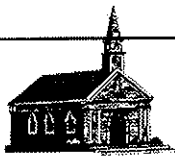
## *Has your life been inspired by the MBA and your membership in it?*

For 100 years young people have been finding ways to use their talents to spread the Gospel. It's time to review those achievements and reminisce. We are gathering at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the blessings of God upon the GMBA. Our schedule is set, our plans are made, make your reservations to be part of this Monumental Event!

So what's going to happen on Saturday?

- A short business meeting will begin bright and early at 9:00 AM.
- At noon be the guest of the GMBA for lunch.
- Browse and enjoy the memorabilia that will be on display.
- Test your knowledge of GMBA trivia.
- There will be a scavenger hunt for ALL to participate in – a special prize to be won.
- At 1:30 PM our spiritual celebration will begin. We'll share memories with past GMBA Presidents, as well as our individual MBA experiences enjoyed at the various special events throughout our lives.
- At 6:30 PM, after a dinner break, we will hear from our GMBA Choir comprised of members from throughout the Church.
- There will be a video presentation of GMBA highlights throughout the years as well as special speakers.
- Our evening won't end there! You're invited for anniversary cake and snacks, once again hosted by the GMBA.
- Concluding our evening will be an informal slide presentation of those old pictures we all love so much.
- As a special bonus, you will be able to order a copy of the DVD and memory book, great mementos of this historic event, which you can enjoy for years to come!
- The Sunday meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

**Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity.** Your memories and participation are a vital part of this wonderful occasion because **YOU** are the GMBA. Join the Areas as they prepare choral selections. We are planning to have a marvelous weekend, make sure you are a part of it!



## Branch and Mission News

### Pray Without Ceasing!

This message was reinforced to the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch #2 as they heard the joyous news that Noreen DiMelis had asked for her baptism. It was November 30th and Noreen had sat quietly through another meeting, feeling the spirit of God, but unwilling to take the next step. The meeting was over and most everyone in attendance had already left to go home. Brother Alex Gentile confronted Noreen and asked her if she was ready. Brother Alex and Noreen had been fasting that she would have the desire and the confirmation that it was her time. She said not yet and he again prompted her not to wait any longer. Sister Noreen could hold back no longer and declared her desire to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. The phone calls started and it was decided that she would go into the water the following week.

Sister Noreen met the Church through her husband, Brother Emil DiMelis. Prior to Brother Emil's baptism in 1987, Sister Noreen and Brother Emil would attend the branch on special occasions and would send their son Dino to MBA and Sunday School. In 1987 Brother Emil was suffering from some major health problems. Brother Dominic Thomas began visiting with him and two other men; now brothers Al Milantoni and Almo Straccia. All three men were children of saints of the Church that had passed on many years ago and each had gone their separate ways having little contact with the Church. With Brother Dominic's gentle persuasion and the prayers of the saints, Brother Emil began attending and soon after got baptized. Sister Noreen would come with him every week for the next 16 years. Many times she was touched by the words spoken but

never felt the desire to commit her life to Christ, until now.

On December 7th, we gathered at the frigid water's shore. The water had turned to ice but the spirit of God was on fire! Brother Dino DiMelis brought his mother into the icy water and brought out a sister in Christ. Praise God!

We met back at the branch and Brother Larry Henderson opened our meeting. He referenced Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo's sermon from the week prior, the 14th Chapter of John where Jesus is speaking to His disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me." "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip?" Brother Larry continued, "Last week we could have said 'Noreen have I been so long with you and yet you do not know me?' But today she has come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. She has finally accepted Him." Brother Larry asked, "Can you imagine how many prayers have been answered today?" He ended by saying, "You may say today is not your day, but if God says it's your day, we are going back to the water."

Sister Noreen came forward to be confirmed with the gift of the Holy Ghost. The brothers knelt and Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo offered a prayer unto the Lord to endow them with the Holy Spirit and choose one among them to bestow this gift. Brother Duane Lovalvo stepped forward and confirmed our new sister.

Sister Noreen took the opportunity to express herself. "This truly is a great day and has been a long time coming. Last Sunday I was ready. When Brother Dino was passing sacrament I wanted to tell him that he would not have to go past me anymore, but something was still holding me back. Every week I was going home with a headache. Every morning, for the past 16 years, when Emil said prayer, he asked that God would touch me that I would surrender myself. I always felt that I belonged; I

just never made that step in the right direction. After I asked for my baptism, I went home for the first time in weeks without a headache. I thank all of you for all of your influences and all your kindness and just for being there for me even though I didn't belong. This truly is a wonderful Church and I am happy to say that I belong."

Brother Emil then gave his testimony and thanked God for calling his wife into the Church. He humbly thanked everyone who had prayed for his wife for so many years and looked forward to an even better relationship now that she had made this choice. Our meeting was brought to a close but the spirit of God was not to be contained. The blessing were to continue. Many were touched by the conversion of Sister Noreen including a young woman who had been attending the branch named Jessica Utzman, who met the Church through her friend, Brother Paul Lambert.

During the week Jessica asked for her baptism. She counseled with the Elders during our Wednesday meeting. The following Sunday, December 14th we met again at the water's edge. It was even colder this day but again the Lord's spirit was with us as Brother Duane Lovalvo brought our new sister into the water and baptized her in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Brother Dino opened our service with the book of Job, specifically the 28th chapter. In this chapter Job has lost everything and reflects upon the riches of the world and the lengths that men are willing to go to obtain them while there are things that are much more valuable such as wisdom and understanding. He elaborated on a similar message Brother Larry brought forward the previous week, the difference between knowing and understanding.

"My mother sat here for 40 years and listened to the ministry. It wasn't until two weeks ago that she understood. Jessica is relatively new to our congregation. Last week she under-

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

### Kenya

Continued from Page 1

blessed to have such an opportunity. The area of Kisii, where the headquarters is located, is very beautiful. There are lush, green plants; tropical trees; exotic flowers; crops of all kinds, including corn, papaya, tea, coffee, and many others. The people of Kenya are very friendly, courteous and kind. When we visited a large market place, where foreign women are seldom seen, some of the ladies smiled at us and wanted to shake our hands. We thought they must be sisters from the Church but the brothers with us said no, they were just happy to see us there!

Finally, we arrived at the headquarters site, and we could hear the beautiful singing from inside. Standing outside were several of the saints waiting to welcome us. Sister Nina was among them. As I made my way to greet her, she embraced me and held me tightly. She then looked into my eyes and said, "This is not Chicago!" What a joy to realize that she did, indeed, remember our meeting there. What a joy to once again feel the love that we shared through Jesus Christ.

Throughout the day I met Sister Nina's children and grandchildren. I listened to her strong testimony of her joy in the Gospel. I saw the joy she has as a grandmother. Her faith and joy is what I remember the most, even though I also learned of the difficulties the saints face in Kenya. In spite of the fact that they live in a natural paradise, they have many needs. Medical assistance is not readily available and is very expensive. There is little work and the average wage, when work is to be found, is \$1.00 per day.

"What could the Church in America do to help the people live better?" we asked the sisters. They told us they love to sew but they have no sewing machines, no material, and no thread. If they had machines and materials they could use them to help provide for their needs. Most of all,

(Continued on Page 10)

stood. It is not rocket science. It is very simple." Brother Dino then compared knowledge and understanding to the people who were around at the time of Jesus' birth. "The world missed a tiny baby that was born in a stable. They thought, 'How could he be important? Look at him. He is wrapped in rags. What type of king is this?' They knew. They were told far in advance that there would be a star in the sky. He will be born and His name will be Jesus. They saw the star in the sky and heard the testimony of the shepherds and wise men. It was day for three days. They knew! They definitely knew but they did not understand. Today thousands of years later the story is the same." Brother Dino expressed that we have a testimony like the shepherd's. We have seen His mercy and understand the effects on our own lives. He has changed us.

Sister Jessica came forward for the confirmation of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Brother Alex Gentile offered a prayer unto the Lord and Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo confirmed Sister Jessica.

Sister Jessica was asked to express herself. "I want to thank God for all of you and all of the love you have shown me since I have been coming to this Church. Last Sunday when we were at Sister Noreen's baptism, I wanted to be her. After we left the baptism I was disappointed that I didn't say anything. I felt the need to listen to the song Sister Kathie Perkins wrote called, *Bring Them In* over and over. When we came back to the branch I felt the need to say something but I was scared; I didn't know what I was feeling. We went to Branch #4 that evening and I felt the same thing. I knew then that I felt the spirit of God and I knew that this is what He wanted me to do."

The meeting was again brought to a close but the blessings of God continued with us throughout the next few weeks as we celebrated the Lord's birth and the beginning of a New Year. Praise God for His infinite love and mercy and for His patience as He waits for us to give our souls to Him.

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954-597-0866

## Kenya

Continued from Page 9

though, they asked us to visit again, to have others visit, and to pray for the Church in Kenya.

I learned that, yes, Sister Nina's life in Kenya is very different from mine in America, but in many respects it is the same. We share the same joy in Jesus Christ, the same love for our families, the same struggles to provide for our physical needs, and the same hope for the future. Even though we are worlds apart, I feel very close to my brothers and sisters in Kenya and will always remember the blessings I received in their land.

## Missionary Journey to Kenya, Africa

By Brother Joshua Gehly

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" (James 2:5).

This piece of scripture, written only decades after the ascension of Christ, has never been as true as in this chosen timetable of God's kingdom. The saints in the land of Kenya cannot offer you material wealth but are very willing to both share and partake of the blessings of God with you. The same spirit that restored the Gospel in the land of America is moving and will continue to move towards all humble and open hearts unbiased to nation, kindred, tongue, and people. It was a great blessing to me to be a witness in the fulfillment of that great movement during this missionary journey to dedicate the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya.

After many months of fasting and prayer, my family, consisting of Brother Joel, Sister Ruth, and Brother Christopher, and me, were thankful to God to arrive in Kenya in late December, 2003. We were greeted the following day by Brother Josphat Mugambi, his wife, Sister Jane, and their young daughter Donna. We visited a national

reserve in the Great Rift Valley commonly called the Masai Mara. Here we traveled on a striking safari through the gorgeous terrain known only to Africa. Lions, cheetahs, giraffes, elephants, and well over thirty other animals joined the excursion as the animals obeyed God's commandments for them in an awesome praise of His greatness.

As thrilling and beautiful as the Masai Mara was, our true purpose for this trip was another very long and very bumpy drive to the north. While the drive was long, the fellowship of Brother Josphat's family wherever we went was a blessing from God. We had opportunity on different nights to



Klogosi Trail

spend time reading scripture and singing songs that now both we and they can treasure, *The Songs of Zion*.

We arrived in Kisii and spent part of the day with some of Brother Stephen Osaka's family. After enjoying time with them, we checked into our hotel and received some much needed rest. That evening, we went out to dinner with Brother Stephen, who is in charge of the work in Kenya, Brother Josphat's family, and a young Brother named Dobson who is an ordained Teacher in charge of the mission of Igorera. Brother Christopher and I grew very close to Brother Dobson and still keep in close contact with him and a few other young

brothers from the area.

The next few days were filled with travel to different villages in the Kisii area. The scenery of farmland covering the mountainside with tea, corn, sugarcane, and other crops seemed never ending. We spent time with Sister Joyce, wife of Brother Dismas who is the First Counselor of the Church in Kenya. The last trip my father had made to Kenya, Sister Joyce was very ill, but she was able to give all glory to God for His healing on her behalf.

When missionaries visit different villages, there seems to be a basic structure to the meetings that were held wherever they went. We would walk into a village as they sang, and their singing truly reaches the angels on high. The meeting would begin with testimonies from brothers and sisters, always including Deaconesses and other ordained members. Then my father would greet them with a word and introduce the family, with Christopher and me always being prepared with scripture and a word, and Mom would also give her testimony. Then my father would preach, with Brother Stephen or another brother translating every part of the service. Every village's choir would then have a great desire to sing to us and we would all use the Kenyan piano, more commonly referred to in America as clapping our hands. We would have a closing prayer and greet the brothers and sisters in a strong spirit of unity.

We also visited Bosingi Village where Brothers Pius Ombeto and James conducted the service. It was out in the open air with only dried leaves covering our heads. The only regret at the villages is not being able to spend more time with each person, for we truly love the brothers who accompanied us to the different villages. Our drive that day took us to Kenyanya where I would greet my Kenyan Grandmother, Sister Nina Osaka. What a true blessing it was to see her again, having not seen her since the World Missionary Conference in Illinois, and she was overjoyed to see the family. Some of the brothers and sisters in Kenya had pictures

of Christopher and me from when we were ten and eight years old, so they always were commenting on how much taller we had become. We all felt blessed to put names and faces on the group of people we had been praying for but had never met. Sister Nina was a gracious hostess and later we were honored to meet the brother who began the Church work in Kenya, Brother Elizaphan, Sister Nina's husband.

The next day was spent with three villages, Kiogoro being the first, Matongo the second, and finally Omasasa. We were also united with our other group from America, consisting of Brother Lyle Criscuolo and his wife, Sister Nancy; Brother Paul Liberto and his wife, Sister Orletta; and their daughter, Sister Karen; as

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*"Their spirit is strong and their dedication to the faith is unending. Most surely they pray for you every day without failing, and it is their humble request that you pray in return for them."*

---

well as Sister Bev Thomas at the end of the day. We all went to visit Brother Dobson, my brother, and we would usually go out most every afternoon together in Kisii. He taught us things like how to barter and how to eat sugarcane, or we would just talk. Later during our second to last night and then our last afternoon, my brother and I spent a great deal of time in conversation with Brothers Cleophus, Pius, and Josphat. I was encouraged so much by the scriptural thoughts and topics that were addressed there among our little group. It was here that I believe I grew the closest to my brothers, solemnly conversing over the majestic will of God.

The day after our American group was complete, we traveled to the villages of Kiogosi and Nyandiwa.

Brother Stephen declared us all "Kenyan" from our walking up the hill to Kiogosi (about a 30-40 minute uphill walk) and the brothers and sisters laughed in agreement.

The final missionary day for my family was Sunday at the headquarters. Beautiful singing came forth from every attending village. Sisters Ruth and Nina set the table together and communion was served to all attending members. The Elders formed a circle and Brother Joel gave the dedication prayer, during which Brother Lyle had an experience where the voice he heard was not my father's, but Apostle Russell Cadman's. This was a wonderful confirmation of the Lord's spirit and grace that was overseeing the dedication. Brother Paul Liberto preached the dedication sermon. Later, three Elders were ordained to complete what had truly been a blessed and marvelous day.

Unfortunately, home was only a few long flights away and Monday began the end of our incredible missionary journey. Surely God will follow and lead our people to growth all the days of our Church's existence there. Their spirit is strong and their dedication to the faith is unending. Most surely they pray for you every day without failing, and it is their humble request that you pray in return for them that someday we might all see God's greatest kingdom, this Church, spread all over Kisii, all over Kenya, all over East Africa, and throughout all the world. Amen.

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## The Joy of the Saints

Continued from Page 3

to walk the remaining quarter mile to the building along a dirt path.

The saints were patiently waiting for us with open arms and joyful smiles, and many had come from Davao and Panabo to share in this special day. The young children had prepared a special song, and three children were also blessed by the ministry. Brother Ken offered the prayer of dedication for the new house of worship. To complete the day,

everyone enjoyed a small feast of roasted pig, rice, and bottled pop (soda).

Gracious hospitality and the pure love of God were extended to us throughout our visit. The week passed quickly, but our hearts were full of joy when we departed. The Lord granted us the opportunity to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in this part of His great vineyard, to witness their faith and dedication, and to recognize once again that His Holy Spirit is working with people in all parts of the world! We were blessed and privileged to witness the joy of the saints among the Filipino saints!

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## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

They became like our ancestors in Europe, constantly fighting and attacking one another. God allowed them to make their own choice and they chose not to be protected by following His laws. After many years of bloodshed, this Promised Land went to the Gentiles.

We know that the days of the Gentiles are also limited. Whoever lives in the Promised Land must serve God or be wiped off. When sin grows so much, God cannot operate. The prophets of old tell us that warfare will break out, our cities will be cut off, our chariots (cars) will not run, and there will be much fighting. You may ask, What can we do? We can simply learn from the scriptures.

We must stay humble and loving. We must follow God's commandments. A Native American Prophet named Joseph is coming. He will show us the way. We will help build a new city named Zion and be adopted into the family of God's chosen people. We will trust in Jesus. We will pray for the ability to do God's will and be ready to change. We must be a holy and righteous people to live in this Promised Land.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

John August Hering Jr. and Christine Marie Stevenson were united in holy matrimony, at the Lorain, Ohio Branch on June 28, 2003.

Brett Orr and Sister Linda Snake were united in holy matrimony, at the Windsor, Ontario Branch on January 17, 2004.

## Children Blessed

Gabriel Andres Ramos, son of Sister Critsy (Reynolds) Ramos and Antonio Ramos, was blessed on June 1, 2003 at the Atlanta, Georgia Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Samantha Alysse DeSantis was baptized on July 20, 2003 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton, and was confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Brother David James Hess was baptized on February 1, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother William Colangelo and was confirmed by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother Sam Thomas was reinstated on February 16, 2004 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother David Murillo was baptized on February 29, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Jim Calabro.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordinations

Brother Gary Calabro was ordained a Deacon in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on December 28, 2003. His feet were washed by Brother Wilbur McNeil, and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Benyola.

Brother Brandon Hunt was ordained a Deacon in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on December 13, 2003. His feet were washed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio and he was ordained by Brother Mark Naro.

## OBITUARIES

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

### MARGARET BALDWIN

Sister Margaret Baldwin of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on Saturday, February 7, 2004. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by a son, Samuel, and her husband, Brother Cleveland Baldwin. She is survived by four sons; Brothers Kenneth and Keith, Kirk and Steven; and two daughters, Karen and Sharon, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

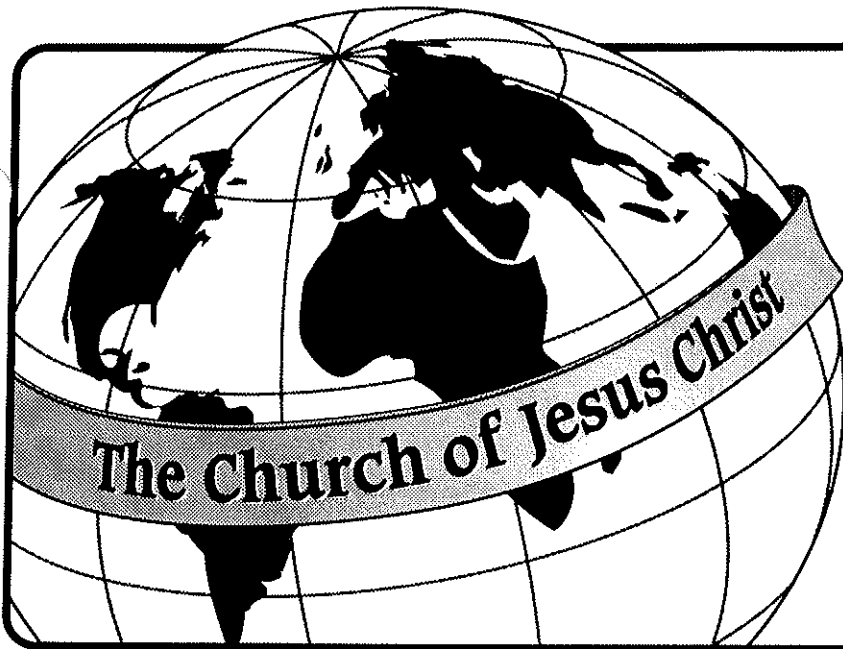
### ROBERT JAMES STIGLEMAN, SR.

Brother Robert James Stigleman Sr., of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed onto his reward on November 25, 2003. He was preceded in death by his parents, Millard and Yvonne Stigleman and brothers Jerry and Keith Stigleman. He is survived by his wife, Sister Diana, and son Robert Jr., as well as two sisters and one brother.

### GARNETT IRENE McCracken

Sister Garnett Irene McCracken, of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto her reward on February 11, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Brother Clarence (Newt) McCracken; sister Betty L. Anderson, and many nieces, nephews, and grand-nieces and nephews.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

May, 2004

Volume 60, No. 5

## To the Unknown God – Jesus Christ

By Evangelist John DiBattista

Paul the Apostle said to the Athenians, "... *Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.*

*"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom, therefore ye ignorantly worship..."*

As my wife, Sister Caryl, and I drove to the hotel past the many temples and places of Hindu and Buddhist worship the same feeling came on me as Paul had described in the 17th chapter of Acts. Here in the country of Nepal the national religion is Hinduism, but because this is also the purported birthplace of Buddha, Buddhism also flourishes. But nowhere, were there churches to worship the Unknown God, the Lord Jesus Christ. And based on the conditions of the poor and the sick that populated the streets of Kathmandu, the many gods that they worshipped must have been "talking, or pursuing or on a journey or per-adventure sleeping," as the prophet Elijah proclaimed.

The saints and some of their interested friends welcomed us the first afternoon at our hotel. It was

such a large group that I had to rent a meeting room where we began sharing with them and teaching the Faith and Doctrine of Jesus Christ, the same message preached for centuries – Faith, Repentance, Baptism, and the laying on of hands for the reception of the gift of the Holy Ghost. The new saints gave their testimonies and Sister Caryl and I gave ours. By the end of the first evening, others requested to be baptized.

The next day at the church we continued building on our subject, only the size of the group had doubled with just as many children. While I taught on the Faith and Doctrine, the children were taught about Nephi and Lehi's trip to the Promised Land. The Spirit of God was

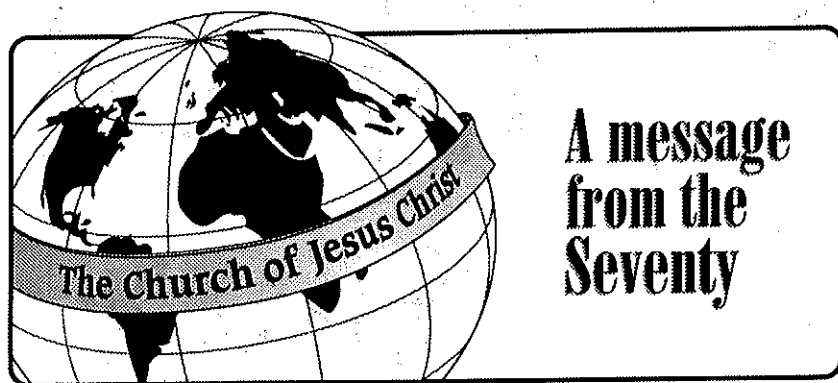
witnessing to the newcomers, as well as to the small group of saints. By the end of the day, many asked for prayer and the Spirit of God once again witnessed to them that the unknown God is Jesus Christ.

The next morning, we walked through the narrow dirt streets and down the steep hillsides to the river. Twenty-one souls entered the Kingdom of God – The Church of Jesus Christ was growing. After the confirmations, a new sister testified she

(Continued on Page 10)



Older child caring for a baby in Nepal.



## Bwana Asifiwe! Bwana Asifiwe!

By Evangelist Paul Liberto  
Missionary Operating Committee Chairman

As I stood on the road below Kiogosi Mission, Kenya, East Africa, I was awed by the beauty surrounding me. Ahead of me was a beautiful, green mountain with a quilt-like pattern of trees, crops, grass-roofed huts, animals and people working their land. To my right was a beautiful valley and a seemingly unending view of mountains and plains. I had seen the richness of the land: corn growing 10 feet high, coffee, tea, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, coconut and imagined how much more there was that I did not see. Another turn to my right and I viewed the treacherous road we had traveled to reach the mission. Finally, I looked up the steep hill to the Kiogosi Mission, perhaps a hundred yards away and fifty feet higher than the road.

This was my first visit to Kenya and this was the first mission we visited. I was privileged to join with several other members of the Church from America to attend the dedication of the new Headquarters building there on January 4, 2004. As we walked up the steep path to the church, there were many of our Kenyan brothers and sisters smiling at us and bidding us welcome. The church in Kenya is a happy, joyful church. I could hear the singing as I approached the building and unexpectedly my spirit was overwhelmed with love for my brothers and sisters in this beautiful land. It was difficult to hold back my tears as I entered the building. The singing

was vibrant and the people were so happy to see us. The children, so many, many children, seemed to be in awe and they sat attentively in front-row seats to hear the brothers speak.

Evangelist Joel Gehly, Chairman of the missionary work in the Africa Sector, was introduced first by Brother Stephen Osaka, Director of the Church in Kenya. Brother Joel greeted the brothers and sisters with, **"Bwana Asifiwe!"** (pronounced like *Buena Sufuiway*) as he waved to them, and they answered, **"Bwana Asifiwe!"** as they waved back to him. Again, more forcefully, he said, **"Bwana Asifiwe!"** and waved, and again they answered, also more forcefully, **"Bwana Asifiwe!"** and waved back to him. I quickly learned that it is their custom to give the greeting twice, and that **"Bwana Asifiwe!"** is **"Praise the Lord!"** in Swahili, their native language.

Brother Joel then introduced his wife, Sister Ruth and their sons, Brothers Christopher and Joshua. Each greeted the brothers and sisters and gave a short testimony. Sister Ruth greeted them with **"Mungu Awabariki!"** which is **"God bless you all!"** in Swahili. The people were delighted with the phrases spoken in Swahili. Brother Joel then introduced Elder Lyle Criscuolo who in turn introduced his wife, Sister Nancy and Sister Beverly Thomas. I was introduced next and presented my wife, Sister Orletta, and our

daughter, Sister Karen.

The brothers and sisters sang many beautiful hymns for us. It is difficult to describe how touching it was to hear them. Several groups presented special selections and came forward to sing with passion and joy about their savior, Jesus Christ. Brother Lyle gave a short message and the service ended all too quickly and we made our way to the next mission where the same process, with slight variation, was repeated.

As I pondered why I received and felt such an overpowering spirit with my brothers and sisters at Kiogosi, I realized God was reaffirming to me the reason we were there is that Jesus Christ, in Matthew 28, commanded us to go there: **"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."** How wonderful it was to realize our missionary brothers had been sent to Kenya many years earlier to deliver the Restored Gospel to a new nation of people. If they had not answered the call to go, the Church would not exist as it is in Kenya today.

The dedication service at the new Headquarters building was the first conference in Kenya at a church-owned facility, literally the first time the whole church has had an adequate building in which to meet together. Brother Stephen, in his own words, gave a brief history of how the Gospel was established there:

"The Church of Jesus Christ started from a very humble beginning with a lot of difficulties to establish. The search started in the earlier 1980s with Brother Elizaphan Osaka and Sister Nina Osaka who finally were baptized in 1980 by Brother Joseph Perri and other Foreign Missionary Operating Committee missionaries to Kenya at that time. Without going into detail, the way the brothers from the USA found their way to the Osaka's homestead at that time remains a true experience of God's

working in establishing the Restored Gospel in the land of Kenya. Time cannot permit me to share the whole of that experience now, but it can be obtained from the church history books.

"For many years registration of the Church in Kenya proved difficult. All efforts put forward proved fruitless in persuading the government to grant registration. Brother Elizaphan never gave up even when everybody seemed to waver in the registration process. This desire proved his total determination and how serious he was with The Church of Jesus Christ. His efforts shall be remembered down the history of the church in Kenya. Rewards for our labour are with the Lord.

"Finally, with much prayer and fasting the Church was registered in 1993 officially with the Kenyan government. From two members, the Church was established and in 1994 brothers made a visit from the parent church which included Brothers Joe Perri, Joel Gehly, Frank Natoli and others. Brother Stephen Osaka was called into the ministry with several brothers being ordained teachers and deacons. Deacons ordained included Brothers Joseph Nyabuto, Andrew Ontomwa, James Ondati. Teachers ordained included Dismas Abuga and Pius Ombeto who have since been ordained ministers. With the help of the parent church, the FMOC and the spirit working within the Kenyan church, we have experienced a tremendous growth.

"Through the help of The Lord, The Church has risen to the following achievements by the year 2003:

- 8 ordained ministers (1 retired), 10 ordained teachers, 4 ordained deacons and 6 ordained deaconesses.
- We have 11 villages spread apart in Kisii Central and Gucha Districts, 1 village in Western District, membership in Nairobi and more requests waiting.
- At the present, the Church has acquired 2 parcels of land with full title deeds and the Headquarters land. The idea is that all church

land purchased or donated must have title in the name of the Church. This must be given attention and priority immediately because land in Kenya is a critical issue.

- The membership is over 600 meeting in mud-constructed buildings.

"There is still great need for the spread of the Restored Gospel in parts of Kenya with a population of 30 million people.

"We are thankful to God for the emergence of a Headquarters building. For all these years the church office has remained in a rented building, which has not been conducive because of the little space and lack of public recognition. Our seminar meetings have always been conducted in rented halls. Now we are proud with our new building, which will accommodate all activities including conferences. Our request remains that the next phase of the project should be implemented soon

so that our Headquarters is fully equipped with office, administration blocks, etc.

"We have a polytechnic school and several nursery schools. Still more is required to make the school have a national outlook and moving and establishing it within the Headquarters as intended and equip it with relevant tools and machines. As far as we have gone we give God the glory and honor and His sufficient grace has sustained us. Again we cannot fail to give recognition and our appreciation to all who have devoted and given their contribution to this great cause of spreading the Restored Gospel in Kenya.

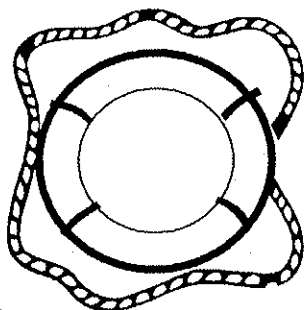
"As we look forward to another New Year for the Church, we remain committed to our purpose and say like Paul in Philippians 3:13, '*... one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before.*' Our yesterday is gone and

(Continued on Page 11)



Brother Dominic Thomas and Marisa Hamet

God Bless all of you who joined Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 in praying for our two special members. It has been a blessing indeed to see them touched by the Lord. Brother Dominic is improving a little each day. Marisa has been doing remarkably well and is waiting for a liver for the transplant that she needs. Please continue to remember them as well as their families in your prayers. While both are currently improving, they still have a long way to go. Our hope is that someday they will have a full recovery. Together, we have moved the hand of God on their behalf!



**Safe, Secure & Saved**

**IN THE  
ARMS OF**

**Jesus**

**GENERAL LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE  
FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND**

**TAMPA, FLORIDA \* \* \* JUNE 24 - 27, 2004**

There is still time to register and attend the upcoming Fellowship Weekend. Don't miss the inspired seminars and special fellowship activities. We know the Lord will be there and we would love for you to be there too! Since we'll be staying at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel, no shuttle will be necessary. A real bonus is that the airport has a wonderful mall we will have time to explore. If you're a musician, don't forget to bring your instrument! We intend to enjoy everyone's talents.

So what else is going on?

- Special seminars are being planned for the young women of the Circle.
- General Circle Conference will be held on Saturday.
- Speakers will address a number of topics important to all our members.

The hotel cost (per person) is:

4 ladies to a room: **\$30.52 per night**

3 ladies to a room: **\$40.69 per night**

2 ladies to a room: **\$60.04 per night**

1 lady to a room: **\$109.00 per night**

Room charges include continental breakfast each morning and sales tax. **The registration and meal fee is \$115.00.** This price is inclusive of lunch and dinner for Friday and Saturday. For extended days at the hotel (3) days before the event or (3) days following the event, we have secured the same hotel rate.

See your local Ladies' Uplift Circle Secretary for a registration form or contact **Sister Betty Lowe** at (813) 689-8408 or via e-mail at [BAL1423@aol.com](mailto:BAL1423@aol.com).

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword" (Exodus 17:11-13).*

This event was recorded in Exodus not to reflect the almost magical powers that Moses had. This event was recorded for its strong spiritual significance, which we can apply to our lives and our Church today. Whenever the arms of Moses were raised, Israel would have the advantage in the war they were having against the people of Amalek. Since Moses was tired and not able to hold up his arms on his own, Aaron and Hur held them up for him. Ultimately Israel prevailed under the military leadership of Joshua, and won the battle.

This scripture tells us the requirements needed to win spiritual battles in our lives. If we are to win the spiritual battles in our individual lives, and the collective spiritual battles of the Church, then we must lift up the arms of our brothers and sisters in love and support. This means not tearing down, judging, or holding back others who are pressing their way to that mark of eternal life. It means encouraging, supporting, helping, loving and praying for each other. It means not gossiping about others, or even harboring thoughts of contention. Just imagine if we all truly did this with all of our heart! Imagine how Satan will be "bound" by our righteousness! Imagine how the Church will progress by leaps and bounds! It reminds me of a rowboat. If several people are in a rowboat, and some are rowing in one direction, and the others are rowing in the opposite direction, the boat will go nowhere, and in some cases will just spin around in circles, not progressing. But imagine if everyone rowed in the same direction with all their might. The boat will accelerate forward quite rapidly. Using this metaphor, we can see that when we lift up each other's arms and work together, the Church will accelerate forward with remarkable force. When we lift up each other's arms, we can accelerate rapidly through the problems, temptations and afflictions we face each day. Prayers that are offered up on our behalf from others will be heard by the Lord, and He will carry us through whatever it is we are facing.

Think of how many times the brothers and sisters have helped you through a difficult time. Recently, my dad passed away and went to be with the Lord. I could not even believe the enormous outpouring of love from the brothers and sisters. It continues even today! This kind of "holding up of another's arms" is what has helped to take the sting out of our loss. Without it, his passing would have been far more difficult. It helped us to win the "battle" over depression. What battle are you faced with today? Is it a financial battle? Is it a battle to feel close to the Lord again, after years of feeling distant? Is it a battle with a disease or affliction? Is it a battle of tension and contention in your home or job? When faced with these things, our spirit will become weak and tired. It is hard to hold up our arms on our own. Then like Moses, we begin to lose the battle we are facing. This is when we need to ASK for help and support. We need to ASK our brothers and sisters to hold up our arms. Suddenly, we begin to win the battle we are faced with.

The same is true for the Church. When we can lift up each other's arms unconditionally and without respect of persons, the battles the Church faces will suddenly be easy to overcome. I've always felt it is this spirit of unity that will catapult us into the Peaceful Reign. Interestingly, the need to hold up each other's arms occurs when we are in a battle. Greater battles will come as we progress closer to that day. Let's realize what lies ahead and hold up each other's arms, no matter what. Only then will we "discomfit" the enemy, and win the war!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## We Are Jesus' Sheep

(Matthew 18:12-14)

In the days of the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus, our Savior was finally born. He grew up, was baptized, and started teaching people about God's love and power. Before his birth, people were taught to fear God. When they sinned or made mistakes, they went to the Temple and had the priests offer sacrifices.

The third book in the Old Testament of the Bible is called Leviticus, or the law. It lists hundreds and hundreds of sins and tells how much to sacrifice to be forgiven. For small sins maybe a dove was sacrificed. For larger sins, a goat or bull might be given.

But when Jesus came, He agreed to be the final living sacrifice to God. He let himself be crucified on a cross. Then He came back from being dead and proved to everyone that there really is a heaven and that when our bodies die, our spirit, or soul lives on. He taught people how to live right so they could go to heaven too.

The old laws said if someone hurt you, hurt them back just as hard. Jesus said, "Forgive other people 70 times 7." (That's almost 500 times; He was really saying forgive others no matter how many times they hurt you.) Jesus worked hard to teach His people that now there was a new kind of love that we should share. He told us to help one another. He said, if you have two coats and your neighbor has none, give your neighbor one of your coats. He reminded us that there is no point in hoarding things selfishly because when we die, it all stays behind. So, we should share with each other.

Many people had a hard time



accepting and understanding these new teachings. When Jesus saw their confusion, He would tell them a simple story, called a parable, to help them understand. He told the people that we are like a flock of sheep. The Lord is our shepherd who watches over us. Just like a shepherd takes his sheep for lovely fresh water and delicious green grass, the Lord takes us to safe places and sees that we have food to eat and everything we need. Just like sheep, there are often dangers surrounding us. Sheep get attacked by wild animals. People often get tricked, lied to, and hurt by other mean people who don't love God. Sheep and people can make mistakes. One of the Devil's biggest tricks is to make the lost sheep think that Jesus doesn't care for him. But Jesus does care totally.

People who watch sheep will tell you about how a sheep sometimes forgets to stay safely with his flock. He will see something or think that maybe the grass somewhere else is more tasty. He will put himself in danger, climbing onto high rocks or going too near dangerous waters. He may wander away, just as people we love sometimes do. When that happens, the shepherd will send out a watchdog to warn the sheep away from danger. In our Church we have Teachers, Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses and one another to love us. When we see someone pulling away or not coming around God's people, we must go to them (lost brother or sister), warn them, love and help them and call them back to our family in God.

But if the sheep is too stubborn, and if he gets into deep trouble, the shepherd cares and worries. He

doesn't forget or reject the sheep. He goes himself and lifts the sheep to safety. In Matthew 18:12-14, the Lord says that the shepherd is joyful when he rescues that one lost sheep (person). We are supposed to be like the Lord and love and forgive each other when someone is making big mistakes.

One of the Devil's biggest tricks is to make the lost sheep think that Jesus doesn't care. This is not true. The Lord said in Matthew 18:11, "For the Son of Man [Jesus] is come to save that which was lost." If you ever find yourself feeling lost, take quiet time and pray and ask God to help you and send someone to help you.

Love and forgive each other. Be a loving watchdog for the Lord. Love the lost, mixed up person the way you want to be loved. Remember, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." You may be the person who helps a lost sheep come back to safety and the Lord.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| JESUS | LAWS      |
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## Cincinnati, Ohio VBS Hitched to GMBA *FENCE Post*

By Sister Christine Maddox  
GMBA Editor

On July 7-11, 2003, the Cincinnati, Ohio Branch hosted their first Vacation Bible School (VBS) since owning a building. As with any church-sponsored activity, the first step was made to God in prayer for guidance, strength, and inspiration. As the dates approached, the Cincinnati Branch knew it was time to plan the specifics for the week. One of the earliest steps was to establish a theme for the school.

After weeks of tossing ideas around, an answer came in the form of a newsletter through the mail. Upon receiving the GMBA's May issue of the *Fence Post*, a wonderful resource for teaching our children about the Gospel, Sister Dianne Maddox was intrigued with the front story. It was a feature on a Vacation Bible School theme idea – "Jesus My Wonderful Friend." Along with the theme for the VBS came an outline for the week. Sister Dianne immediately brought this idea before the branch. It was a unanimous vote; the theme for Cincinnati's VBS would be "Jesus My Wonderful Friend." After all, what better way to appeal to children than through presenting Jesus Christ as their true friend?

The branch divided into "teams" – each with specific goals to help make the VBS a hit. Sister Dianne headed up the task of organizing the week with the help of others in the branch. Sisters Christine Maddox and Mallory Batson were placed in charge of the younger children, approximately eight years of age and younger. Brothers Chuck Maddox Jr., and Ryan McDonnell were given the responsibility of the

older children, nine years of age and older. Sisters Trisha Licata and Ruth Batson organized the food and snack while Brothers Charlie Licata, Chuck Maddox, and Bob Batson arranged the outdoor activities. Sisters Jessica Batson and Christine Maddox took the responsibility of teaching the children songs throughout the week in preparation for a program on the final night.

The brothers and sisters knew that a vital ingredient to a successful Vacation Bible School was participation. The Cincinnati Branch alone has nine young people; however, the purpose of hosting a VBS was to get The Church of Jesus Christ into the community. With this in mind, the branch began reaching into the surrounding city of Morrow, Ohio. On numerous occasions, brothers and sisters gathered together to pass out fliers inviting people to the upcoming VBS. A popcorn stand was set up in front of a local grocery store, and fliers and popcorn were passed out to shoppers. The branch quickly realized that popcorn was the key to the heart of the children! Along with the local canvassing, the branch made a sign to post in front of the entrance to the church building. The sign simply stated the dates of the VBS, a phone number to the building, and the name of the church. If nothing else, this sign was a constant display of the Gospel in Morrow, Ohio.

Despite the many hours devoted to inviting the community into the church, one week before the scheduled VBS, only one young boy had responded by saying that he would be coming. The thought crossed the minds of those in the Cincinnati Branch as to whether or not the VBS should continue. Was it worth the money, time, and effort for only one child? The dilemma was placed before God, and it was soon decided that the VBS would continue as scheduled. On the first day of the school, the pleasantly surprised Cincinnati Branch was greeted with fifteen young ones from throughout the community. God definitely answered the prayers of the Saints!

The VBS lessons' outline provided in the *Fence Post* gave a dynamic start for the week. The

branch made a few variations of the lessons to accommodate the individual needs of the children, but the GMBA *Fence Post* definitely provided the backbone for the amazing week.

The first lessons of the week consisted of having each of the kids lie down on large pieces of paper and trace the outlines of their bodies on the paper. After each child had been traced, they wrote their names on top of the paper and hung them around the room. Each following day was dedicated to one or two parts of the body. For example, the children learned about the eyes and ears. The eyes of Jesus Christ are always upon his children because he is truly our wonderful friend. He hears everything that is said, every word that is prayed. Why? Because He is our wonderful friend.

This point was emphasized with every body part that was added to the bodies. The children read Bible verses dealing with each part as it relates to Jesus being a friend; such as Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" As they were learning about the different body parts, the kids would cut the parts out of construction paper and paste them to the body tracings on the wall. Along with the daily lesson on how Jesus is a wonderful friend, the kids had a daily craft dealing with the theme for the day such as the creation of foam hearts. That day dealt with placing a paper heart on the bodies, and the children learned what makes our hearts happy and what makes Jesus' heart happy. They wrote words such as love, patience, and singing inside each foam heart. Magnets were attached to the backs of the foam hearts, and each child left that day with a reminder of how to keep happy hearts.

On the final night, the kids presented a program where they invited their parents and families to attend. The Cincinnati Branch experienced a wonderful turnout that night. The kids sang the songs they had rehearsed all week, read the scriptures dealing with what they had learned, and then

(Continued on Page 11)



## Anaheim, California

The New Year was brought in with our Watch Service with approximately 80 in attendance. Brother Mark Rabe put together a video presentation of many of the events of the past year. It brought to mind the many happenings and faces of 2003 and was very enjoyable. Brother Rudy Meo, our presiding elder, recapped the year reminding us of the number of baptisms (4), ordinations (4), transfers (6), births, deaths and visitors throughout the year. He also recapped the world events in 2003 including the war in Iraq and disasters such as earthquakes and fires, etc. It was a memorable year, spiritually and naturally. As the meeting came to a close, Brother Flip Palacios was asked to close in prayer. As we gathered in a circle and joined hands, Brother Flip began to pray and was blessed with God's spirit in a wonderfully mighty and powerful prayer which filled us all with a renewed sense of hope for the New Year, knowing that God is in control of all things.

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, brought a beautiful meeting with many blessings and experiences touching the brothers and sisters with God's spirit and encouragement for many.

Before the meeting began the elders were asked to pray for the grandchild of Brother and Sister Dominguez. When Brother Jim Cotellesse was about to put his hands on her, Sister Alicia Dominguez had a vision; she said three personages appeared. They were of different heights and different clothing. Two had on modern-day suits, and one was dressed as in Jesus' time. When Brother Jim laid hands on her, there was someone over his shoulder that had a light that shone like gold. The ministry felt such a good spirit in that anointing that they encouraged those in need to come up and be prayed for. Many brothers and sisters went

forward for prayer. When Brother John Vela was prayed for by Brother Jim Huttenberger, Sister Alicia saw a white sponge appear on Brother John's head as to refresh him. When Sister Lorena Rosete was prayed for, Sister Alicia saw that she had some flowers like those from an orange tree. Sister Alicia, who suffers from constant migraine headaches, asked for prayer for spiritual strength. She testified after the anointing that when Brother Jim Huttenberger was praying for her, she could not sustain her tears and a white handkerchief appeared which dried her tears.

Sister Alicia Dominguez testified late in the morning that she had been so discouraged due to constant pain that she endures; she had decided not to come to church. She only decided to go when she heard her son was bringing her granddaughter to be prayed for. God had a great blessing waiting for her and for all.

On February 8, 2004, we were just beginning our Sunday meeting. Immediately following the opening prayer, Sister Leonarda Dominguez stood. She said she felt she had to say right away what God had given her. When the ministry was walking in she saw Jesus and He said to the ministry, "This is a place of privilege," and then He turned toward the congregation and said, "This is my people."

Sister Alicia Dominguez stood and said while we were singing at the beginning of the meeting, *The Way That He Loves*, she saw a personage dressed in a white tunic and knew that it was Jesus Christ.

Immediately Brother Isidro Dominguez stood, under the strong spirit of God, and spoke with much authority. While he was speaking he took the sacrament cloth off the sacrament table. When he sat down he said to Brother Flip Palacios, our presiding elder, that we should have sacrament right now. Sister Emilia Dominguez stood and said she had asked for prayer before the meeting because she didn't feel worthy to participate in sacrament or feet washing and that God had strengthened her and blessed her to feel clean and refreshed to take part in the ordinances.

While Brother Matt Piccuito and Brother Jim Huttenberger were preparing the sacrament, Brother Matt said that he had also felt early in the week that we should begin the meeting with sacrament and this was confirmed.

Brother Jim Huttenberger said he had no intention of speaking but he felt God's spirit very powerfully to read a scripture. He began to read in Luke 14 regarding the Supper that was prepared and the direction to bring in the lame, sick and blind. He felt a strong spirit of calling and asked if there was anyone who wanted to take Christ as their Savior. Brother Flip continued on the same theme and again asked if there was anyone contemplating serving God and encouraged them not to put it off.

Sister Dottie Henderson stood and said she had an experience for herself in which she saw herself very down, and Christ came to her and lifted her face up to Him. She felt very encouraged.

Many brothers and sisters asked for prayer. Sister Leonarda stood once again before Sister Alma Palacios was prayed for and said, "The Lord said keep keeping my solemnity and then said, pray for my child." Brother Isidro said, "The Lord wants to do great things, we need to keep the solemnity."

We continued into our feet washing meeting and there was a wonderful spirit felt throughout the day. It is such a blessing to have Israel in our midst.

## It Will Be Worth It All!

*By Sister Rose Palacios*

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters. May God's richest blessings continue to be with each of you.

An experience was given a few months ago to me in the form of a dream. I dreamt I saw two big golden doors. All of a sudden, they started to open up and I saw many of the saints that had gone on to their heavenly reward. A very sweet soft voice said

to me, **"Go and tell them it will be worth it all."** In a way that is why I am writing this article to say to all, **"It is worth it all."** Brothers and sisters, He is still the same. In all ages of time, He has encouraged the saints of old and is telling us today those same words, that no matter what we are going through now, He sees and knows. YES! Jesus cares!

The Lord is still telling us as a Church to fast and pray and to pray for our ministry. We know how great their responsibility is so we fast and pray for them like the Spirit spoke. In a Sunday school discussion, we spoke of how we should watch our thoughts and our actions. At that time, the Spirit spoke, **"Pay heed! Draw nearer unto me, saith the Lord. If you want me to keep you from the hour of temptation, pray! pray! pray!"** Later that morning as Brother Jim Alessio was being anointed for his eye, the Lord comforted him saying, **"Be not afraid. I am with you and I will take care of everything saith the Lord."** All turned out well for him.

Sister Brianna Naro had gone to the doctor for a regular checkup and the doctors had found what they thought to be lupus and wanted her to get some blood work done. Needless to say, Brother Mark and Sister Carey were very concerned. As Sister Carey was testifying about this, the Spirit spoke saying, **"Fear not! I will take care of her, she is one of my own."** The tests came back negative. Praise God! How can we ever say, **"Where's God?"** Many times, He has told us that we have to have a believing heart and if we ask Him, we will see His hand move for us.

In a Wednesday meeting, our brother read from 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi, chapters 25 & 26. He was saying how God, many times, provided for our brothers and sisters of old. When they were sick, He came and healed them and raised them up from death's door. He spoke of how we know destruction must come BEFORE the Peaceful Reign in its fullness. At that time, the Spirit spoke, **"And it shall come, saith the Lord. It will come. Pay heed to what you are reading this**

**night."** Our brother continued that even though the Church is going through much, we still have the joy in what is coming and what is being done by our missionaries that many doors are being opened in many places. We pray for those who go out in the missionary fields and for their families who stay behind and hold the fort. We must tell our neighbors and friends about what God has done for us. Again, the Spirit spoke, **"It is my work! My work that I will perform in you."**

We continue to pray for John Hogue, son-in-law of Sister Mary Altomare, for his cancer. He has gotten a wonderful report that his cancer, for the most part, is gone, but his doctor told him that there is still a small one that is shrinking and so he is going through treatment at this time. Last year, after John had received a bad report from his doctors, our Elders felt to call him and his wife Cindy forward for prayer. The Elders formed a circle around them. As our brother prayed over him, the Spirit spoke, **"There is nothing I wouldn't do for my people. First trust me and have faith in what I can do. Pray! Pray! Saith the Lord."** John's doctors acknowledged to him that it was not them, but a higher power helping him. Praise God! We were all happy to hear the words of the doctors. Continue to remember them in prayer that one day we can tell you that they have given their hearts to God.

Brother Mark and Sister Carey told of a gas leak that was found in their home. It had been there for two months and could have been a disaster, if not for God's protection over them.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Brother Brandon Hunt was ordained a Deacon. As he was being ordained, the Lord spoke saying, **"My servant! My servant! I have called you. Do your duty and I will bless you abundantly."** May God bless Brother Brandon in his calling, along with his wife Courtney and their son Jackson.

Sister Denise Pennell was ordained a Deaconess in September. Though a member of Columbus, the ordination was held in Lorain so that

her family would be able to witness this. Our prayers are in her behalf as she will be a great help to the mission.

May we pray for all our young couples that God will keep them all faithful, holding on to the Rod of Iron. It is not an easy road for them. We know that the enemy is out there but let us all remember **"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."**

May we also pray for the young people and our little ones that His hand of protection will be over them, even while they are at school.

Pray that we all remain faithful to God and keep our promise to Him that we made at the river's edge. We all are being tried but just as he said **"Tell them it will be worth it all."**

## Praise Ye The Lord South Bend, Indiana

**"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Praise Him for His mighty acts."**

Witnessing a birth vibrates the deep hidden glories of the soul; thus bringing to view and illuminating all the details of it's surroundings. How spectacular to watch all nature praise God.

The saints of God so often are granted these magnificent events. On December 28, 2003, a beautiful, extremely cold Sabbath, we witnessed the birth of a soul, Wanda Huchens. All nature seems to participate in such an occasion. The first praises came forth from the striking elegance of the ducks enjoying their habitation as they humbly began moving around noisily welcoming us to visit with them.

At the solemn and holy water's edge, lovingly Brother Alphonso Hopkins holding the hand of Wanda Huchens looked into her eyes and asked: **"Do you promise to serve God the remaining days of your life?"** He testified that in her eyes he saw a deep dedication as she replied, **"Yes."** As they walked into the water, swiftly the ducks took on formation, and all nature

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## South Bend, Indiana

Continued from Page 9

stood silent as the brother raised his hands toward heaven and baptized this soul. When she arose, her soul rejoiced in God and all the saints cried out, "Praise God!"

We would like to take this opportunity to share this calling of God with you. Wanda, a total stranger, visited the meeting the day that was set aside for the holy ordinance of Feet Washing. The Elder, Brother Dan Parravano, spoke so eloquently of the woman that came to Jesus with her alabaster box of ointment and washed His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head. The visitor, Wanda, was second on her feet testifying that she felt she is that woman, a sinner that came to Jesus. She then began to weep as she sang so sweetly the song, *Alabaster Box*. From that time on, God began to cleanse her soul. A few Sunday's later, she was present as Brother John DiBattista spread the glory of the baptism of Jesus, and again Wanda bore testimony stating that she had been baptized, but never had she been baptized as Jesus was baptized. "Now is the time," she stated, "to be baptized as Jesus was."

Again, Sunday January 25, 2004 we visited the river's edge. On this occasion, the vibrations of praises were the beauty of the driven snow. Nature was purified. Many inches of snow covered the surroundings. Oh how breathtaking the sight. It was awesome, indescribable with words of man, because it was the works of the Almighty. The trees were arrayed in a new dress. The driven snow clothed the trees; they were all in white, a picture of divine bliss. The zero temperature was swallowed up in the glory and joy of the Lord. Ice had fashioned itself around the banks of the water. Once again greeted by the ducks, there were many hastening from off the shore and the ice into the water. It was spiritually tremendous to behold as Brother Alphonso walked into the freezing waters with Shirley French, the ducks quietly assembled themselves and formed a semi-circle

around them, quietly observing this magnificent event that even the angels of heaven were observing. Buried in the icy waters, this soul came up triumphant glorifying God. All the saints on the water's edge praised the Lord. Brother Alphonso and Sister Shirley testified that their clothes became warm upon their bodies. A miracle from the throne of grace.

Brother Mitchell Edwards spoke glorious words as he prayed, confirming Sister Wanda Huchens and then Sister Shirley French. We all say humbly, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Praise Him for His mighty acts."

## Go tell it on the Mountain; Pinetop/Lakeside, AZ

By Brother Luke Smith

Many times we can feel the Spirit of the Lord when we simply hear or sing a hymn. This has been the case at the Pinetop/Lakeside, Arizona Branch's annual Christmas Caroling each holiday season, and 2003 was no different. The branch welcomed many saints from the Phoenix/Mesa and Tse Bonito Branches that helped make this year's caroling an enormous success.

The weekend of December 13-14 began early on Saturday morning with a seminar presented by Brother Harry "Skip" Smith of the Pinetop/Lakeside Branch. The theme "Go tell it on the Mountain" was discussed as well as the true meaning of the Christmas season and its place in the eyes of the world. The seminar geared the saints up for the afternoon and evening ahead when we would take our voices, our love, and food baskets to several homes on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. With each home that was visited, the spirit of the Lord was evident. Those we visited were obviously touched by the spirit and by the love of the saints. In a few cases, special prayer was offered and we continue to pray that the Lord will bless the seed of Joseph.

After a full evening of singing

praises of the birth of Christ, the saints had fellowship (and plenty of Christmas goodies, including Sister Cheryl Smith's world famous hot chocolate) at the home of Brother Skip Smith and his family.

The next morning the saints gathered at the church building to celebrate the Sabbath Day and had a wonderful meeting full of inspired preaching and testimony from many of the brothers and sisters. An annual tradition was continued and the branch looks forward to Christmas 2004 when we will be sharing the good news of the birth of Christ once again with the seed of Joseph.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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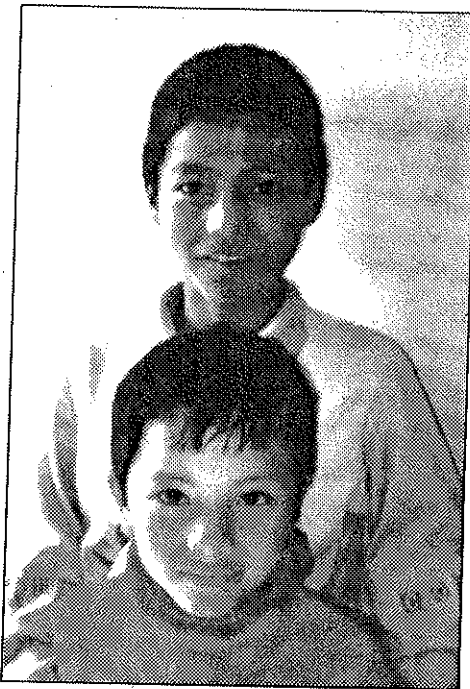
## To the Unknown God

Continued from Page 1

could only get out of bed for a few hours a day, could only walk about 50 feet before she collapsed, and how discouraged she had been. She did not understand why her gods were not answering her prayers, but the previous evening she was anointed and had hands laid on her and she saw this Great Light come into her life. The next morning, she walked with the rest of us the mile to the river, was baptized, and walked the mile back to the church. She now stands as a witness to the grace and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Others stood and testified they had also received this beautiful light and reported they had

been healed of their afflictions as well. They related their dreams and experiences. Some saw us in vision before we arrived and recognized us immediately. Others reported Brother Joel Gehly had appeared to them as an angel to encourage them since his trip there last July, and still others told how God revealed His Son Jesus Christ to them.

Each day was as miraculous as the others. Healings, conversions, and miracles followed us from house to house and meeting to meeting. God was testifying to them that The Church of Jesus Christ carried His divine seal of approval and that the signs of the Holy Spirit would follow all those that



**Children in Nepal**

would repent and be baptized in His holy name.

Many other items needed to be attended to during our stay. Bibles had to be purchased, Books of Mormon distributed, lessons for the children copied and collated, officers ordained, instruction given to the Deaconesses on how to set the sacrament table, how to care for the sacrament utensils, and mission organization discussed. Each day the Spirit of God was there to encourage and to bless our new brothers and sisters.

The days went by fast. Every

morning, we started at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. and we returned exhausted to our room at 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. As our time grew near for departure, the brothers and sisters did not want to leave us and tarried later and later. A visible sadness was coming over them. They were babies and they needed to be fed – they were hungry for the Words of Life.

The last evening, we were invited to a home where several Hindus were gathering to hear this strange gospel along with several of the new smiling saints. There was a brass statue in the room of their elephant god, Ganesh, and again my thoughts went to Paul of Old. I began by asking them how many times this god of brass had spoken to them, how many times had he healed their children, how many times had he given comfort to them, and how many times had he blessed their lives. They were speechless. I asked why there were so many people living on the streets and so many sick and poor and lame and halt without food or refuge in every corner of their city. Then I pointed to our new sister (who had been unable to get out of bed) sitting in their midst and said, "If you don't believe my words, then believe her testimony." Again, the Spirit of Christ bore witness to the truth and tears of repentance began to flow. The last morning was very busy. At 8:00 a.m., we checked out of the hotel, took a cab to the church with our luggage, rushed to the river on the back of motorcycles to baptize one more convert, held our service, served sacrament and prepared to leave for our 1:00 p.m. flight.

Saying goodbye is never easy. The children ran to us and hugged our necks and cried. The adults one by one said goodbye with tears of sorrow, "Don't forget us and come back soon," they said. "We love you," they cried.

The Church of Jesus Christ is established in Nepal in four locations: Kathmandu, Tatopani, Pokhara, and Buddabare. Our brothers and sisters no longer worship the unknown God but they worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom the Father has revealed to them.

## Bwana Asifiwe!

Continued from Page 3

God wants us in our tomorrow. So, let us move forward, trusting God in all things at all times."

It was a privilege for all of us from America to participate in the dedication ceremonies. We have seen, firsthand, the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in Christ: poor housing, poverty, lack of infrastructure, poor sanitation facilities, very few jobs, limited educational opportunities and many other obstacles we rarely think about in some other parts of the globe. However, we have also seen firsthand, the joy, hope and love they have in Jesus Christ. We will always remember their smiles, embraces and words of thanksgiving and love for our worldwide church.

On behalf of the Missionary Committees we thank all of you for your many years of support of the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ. We thank all of you who have prayed for the work in Kenya. We thank all of you who have donated money for the work in Kenya. We thank all of the brothers and sisters who have traveled to oversee, instruct and lift up the Church in Kenya, and, we thank all of you who will continue to support the work in Kenya and in all of the nations of the world. This is the **Great Work of The Lord** and He expects no less from us. May God bless you with strength, peace and joy in all that you do for the Church.

## MBA Highlights

Continued from Page 7

displayed the crafts and bodies they had created throughout the VBS. Following this very touching program, there was an ice cream social where the brothers and sisters of the Church had an opportunity to talk with adults from the community. It is truly amazing how receptive parents will be when they can see the love of Christ shining through the eyes of their children.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Kim Illes and Brother Ed Pittman of the Edison, New Jersey Branch were united in holy matrimony, at Rumson, New Jersey on November 22, 2003.

## Children Blessed

Joseph Robert Pizzaia, son of Pam and Bob Pizzaia, was blessed on November 23, 2003 at the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Gunner Joseph Joswiak, son of Lisa Joswiak, was blessed on February 29, 2004 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Benjamin Andre Nowels, son of Sister Jessica and Jason Nowels was blessed February 29, 2004 at the Mid-Georgia Mission.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Peter Graham was reinstated on January 5, 2004, in Detroit, Michigan, Branch #2.

Brother Jimmy Sgro was baptized on February 15, 2004 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Sgro and confirmed by Brother Sam Sgro.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordinations

Brother Jeremy Schroeder was ordained a Teacher in the Redford, Michigan Mission on February 8, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother David Lovalvo, and he was ordained by Brother John Straccia.

Brother AJ Cuerrier was ordained a Deacon in the Redford, Michigan Mission on February 8, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Fred Cuerrier and he was ordained by Brother Dick Lobzun.

Brother Stephen Buffa was ordained a Deacon in the Redford, Michigan Mission on February 8, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Frank DiDonato and he was ordained by Brother John P. Buffa.

Sister Angeles Palafox was ordained a Deaconess in the Simi Valley, California Branch on February 29, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Sara Mora Zaccagnini and she was ordained by Brother Isidro Gonzalez.

## OBITUARIES

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

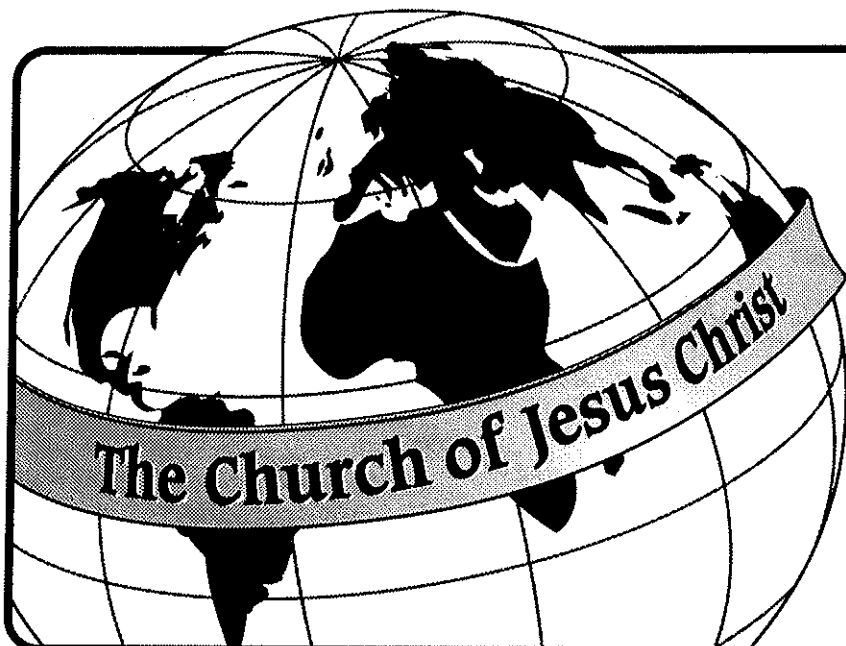
### LOUISE (AMBROSE) WELCH

Sister Louise (Ambrose) Welch of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on January 26, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, George C. Welch, Jr. She is survived by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Albert R. and Theresa Ambrose, Raymond S. and Sandra Ambrose; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Virginia and Mike Comadena and Florence Comadena; and several nieces and nephews.

### ESTHER CURRY ANDREWS

Sister Esther Curry Andrews of the Herndon, Virginia Branch passed on to her reward on December 6, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother James Ervin Andrews and son, Brother Charles (Chuck) Curry. She is survived by sons, Brother Donald Curry, James Andrews, Sr. and Brother John Andrews, and their families.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

June, 2004

Volume 60, No. 6

## 13-Week Project Injects Life Into the Church in Dominica

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti*

A total of 26 brothers and sisters from the United States visited Dominica during the first quarter of 2004 to contribute to the effort of establishing The Church of Jesus Christ in that land. Using a unique format, the Dominica field committee made up a schedule covering 13 consecutive weekends and recruited volunteers to fill the various time slots such that Sunday services were held every week during the project. Many of the visitors stayed for two consecutive weekends, resulting in a stay of about 10 days, while others were there for a long weekend. Of the 26 U.S. visitors, 14 were visiting Dominica for the first time and for 10 of those, it was their first foreign missionary trip ever.

The participants were Brother Phil and Sister Linda Benyola, Brother Jerry Valenti, Brother Richard and Sister Pat Christman, Sister Cindy Bright, Brother Carl Huttenberger, Brother Tom and Sister Sally Curtin, Brother Paul Ciotti, Brother Panfilo DiCenzo, Sister Mary Ann Pasko, Sister Flo Benyola, Brother Ken Lombardo, Brother Isaac and Sister Bonnie

Smith, Brother Richard and Sister Annabelle Santilli, Brother Dennis Moraco, Brother Lawrence and Sister Sylvia King, Sister Terri Bravo, Sister Carol Greene, Brother Joe Benyola,

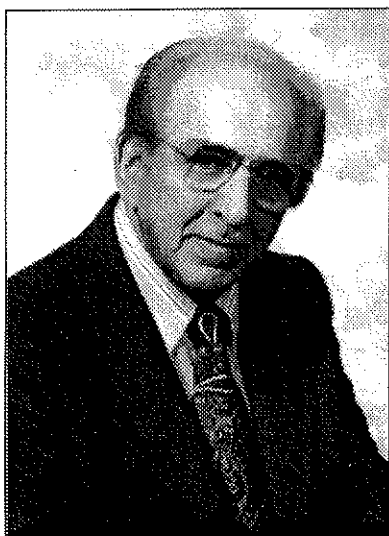
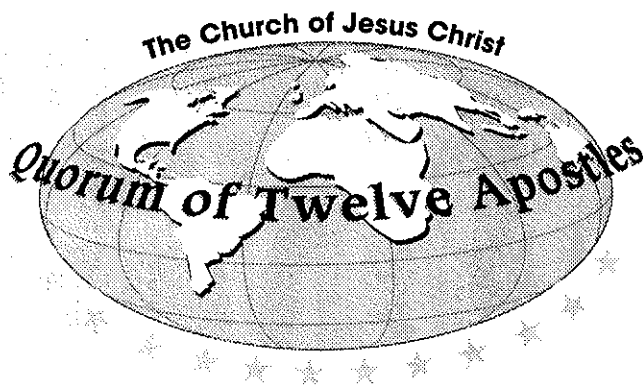
Brother Jim and Sister Lydia Link.

The assignments varied from person to person but all contributed. Some went door-to-door and presented the Gospel. Some made follow-up visits with those who attended church. Some visited with our Dominica members and uplifted them. Some spent a day with the

(Continued on Page 2)



Dominican children at Vacation Bible School



**Apostle V. James Lovalvo**

On March 17, 2004, Brother Vincent James Lovalvo passed on to his reward having lived a life of service to God and to His Church. Brother Jim's wife, Sister Mary, preceded him in passing just over two weeks earlier. He is survived by his son, Leonard J. Lovalvo and his wife Vera; his daughter, Priscilla M. Carneval; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. After a long life of active, distinguished service, during his last years Brother Jim was limited by the consequences of deteriorating health. Nevertheless, he strived to stay current and continued to offer counsel right up to his last days.

Brother Jim was born in Corleone, Italy on November 5, 1911. He met The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit,

Michigan, and was baptized into the Church at 22 years old. The Lord quickly began to bless Brother Jim with spiritual growth and called him into the ministry in 1935. He was ordained an Evangelist in 1937 and an Apostle in 1941.

In addition to ministering and serving as a leader in the Church, Brother Jim's contributions include authoring several books and numerous pamphlets and articles which have assisted many in developing greater understanding of the scriptures, the Faith, and God's works among mankind. He was well known for his scriptural knowledge and ability to deliver God's message.

Although he abandoned his early ambition to become a professional vocalist in favor of dedication to spiritual pursuits, Brother Jim's singing talent accompanied him throughout life, and he was always ready with a hymn.

To many of us who have grown up in the Church, Brother Jim seemed almost a permanent fixture in the Quorum of Apostles. It will take some time to become accustomed to his silence while many of the gifts that God gave him live on in print and in our memories.

## Church in Dominica

Continued from Page 1

health worker, Patsy Thomas, visiting the sick and, in some cases, Elders anointing them. Some taught new members classes. Some taught the children. Some helped the teenagers to teach the children. Some taught the women. Some held question and answer sessions. Some spent time with recovering individuals to tell them God loves them. Some painted the meeting place. Some bought groceries, prepared food and/or assisted in cleanup. Some gave piano lessons. Some drove jeeps to help pick up people for church. All of the ministers who went had the opportunity to preach a sermon at a Sunday meeting. Everyone shared their testimonies. Some sang solos or duets. Most important,

everyone brought a portion of the Spirit of God with them and touched the lives of people in Dominica. Altogether, it was a powerful team effort that produced positive results.

Some specific accomplishments of the 13-week project were as follows:

- Baptism of Brother Telemacque Darroux – Brother Tele and Brother Felix Francis (who was baptized last October) are recovering alcoholics who are walking testimonies of how God and the Church can change lives. Local people who knew these men before are amazed at the transformation that has taken place since they have joined The Church of Jesus Christ.

- Established Solid Relationships with Key Individuals – Although there were no other baptisms, there are several who are prayerfully considering joining the Church. The following four people are just some of the people in this category. These four happen to be people who could in turn attract other people to the Church so we are making it a matter of prayer that the Lord will call them into the fold.

**Matheus Valmond** – An elder in another church, Matheus has read The Book of Mormon and fully accepts it as the record of his people. He has begun telling others in his church about The Book of

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## *"For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

*By Brother John Bordeaux*

We read that King David was a man after God's own heart, a man who feared the Lord and was confident that He would protect, lead, guide and direct him. We can see his many displays of faith in dealing with life's dangers. While a shepherd caring for his sheep he feared neither lion nor bear. When Saul needed a warrior to fight the Philistines, a scrawny youth, David stepped up to the task, fully confident that he didn't need the armor and weapons of man. He would take on the full armor of God in his fight against Goliath. When Saul grew jealous of David and would harm him, David did not fight back because Saul was God's anointed – God would deal with him, not David. When David became king, he had all the natural things one could want. But more importantly, God was on his side.

So it seems David had everything going for him, except he was human, and the flesh is weak. He coveted that of another, he committed adultery, and had a subordinate placed in harms way, even unto death. His faith in God to fight his battles must have diminished, because he numbered his army to determine if he had sufficient men to fight his battles.

If such a man, loved by God and endowed with all that a human could hope for, could go astray, how easy it must be for us to sin. Satan is always there just waiting for us to let our guard down. We can be like David and sin without thinking of what we are doing.

When the prophet Nathan spoke to David about his sins in a parable, David was unaware of whom the prophet was speaking and pronounced a harsh judgment upon the sinner. When Nathan told him that it was he who sinned, David was spiritually crushed and quick to acknowledge his transgressions. He did not blame others but prayed to God for forgiveness. Though he was not put to death,

as must have been the custom, he did suffer great loss. He lost his child that was born to Bathsheba, and also his son Absalom. He was also not permitted to build the temple, which had been his great desire.

Through all these problems, God stood by David and allowed our Lord and Savior to be descended of him. What great love and mercy the Lord showed his servant!

The 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm is an eloquent entreaty to the Lord for forgiveness that we might use as an example when we pray. The author's comments are in parenthesis.

1. *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgression.* (David recognizes that though he is an earthly king, there is one greater than he, who is merciful and has the power to forgive. He also acknowledges his sin.)

2. *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.* (We should all want our iniquity washed away. But thoroughly implies to me a desire for a purity that would set him above the rest, so that he might be that example worthy of being followed.)

3. *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.* (Here is a man who, unlike Saul takes responsibility for his actions.)

4. *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.* (Though we may injure others by our action, we sin against God.)

5. *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* (David states what we all believe: that since the falling away of Adam, mankind needed a redeemer.)

6. *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.* (If David had used wisdom, he would not have sinned as he did. But even those with wisdom can go astray – think of Solomon.)

7. *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.* (There are several references in the Old Testament where hyssop was used in a cleansing ritual.)

8. *Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.* (David's spirit was crushed when Nathan informed him of his sin. He is asking to be restored.)

9. *Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.* (He is asking for forgiveness again. One of our brothers often says God cannot tolerate sin in the least degree.)

10. *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* (I find this the most powerful of his requests. He's saying take away the things that would cause me to sin. He also realizes that his inner spirit has been corrupted or tarnished and must be repaired.)

11. *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.* (Earlier David asked to be cleansed because God can't be within us if Satan is. Man alone can do nothing, but through God all things are possible.)

12. *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.* (He knows he has a job to do and lays it out in this and the next three verses. Also, if God had not restored him David probably would have lost his throne, as Saul did. And death was the punishment for the vile sins David had committed.)

13. *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.* (We must not only be pure in heart and whiter than snow, but spread this Gospel as David said he would do.)

14. *Deliver me from blood-*

(Continued on Page 4)

## For all have sinned...

Continued from Page 3

*guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. (Blood-guiltiness refers to sin worthy of death – in this case having Uriah put to death.)*

15. *O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

16. *For thou desirest not a sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.* (Isn't this amazing? We read in the Old Testament so much about sacrifices and burnt offerings, but David goes on to spell out what is required in the next verse.)

17. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.* (See Matthew Chapter 5.)

18. *Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

19. *Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.* (We know that the blood of Christ, The Lamb of God, was spilled for us.)

## God's Children

By Brother John Bordeaux

We are God's children all the day.  
He shows us His love in every way.  
He sent His Son to absolve us of sin.  
He will send Him again to gather us in.

O, Lord Jesus, be with us ever;  
Keep us in Your grace; leave us never.  
Be our compass and our guide;  
May we always be at your side.

We love You, Lord as You first loved us.  
For our salvation only in You do we trust.  
O, that we may endure to the end  
And be ready when our Savior comes again.

## Southeast Region Conference

The Southeast Region came together in conference at the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. We began the day by singing and prayer. Our business segment went very well and a great deal of business was taken care of.

The Priesthood had the privilege of announcing that Brother Kevin Jasmin was called to be a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. A wonderful spirit was felt in that calling.

Sunday we all gathered with anticipation of a wonderful spirit and as usual, God did not let us down. After we opened in prayer, Apostle Peter Sclaro motivated our spirit with a sermon about Faith and Works and how we cannot move on from this life by only utilizing one of these two important qualities. He read from Galatians 2:16. Brother Peter gave a new explanation of the parable of the mustard seed. He said the mustard seed knows it will be a mustard tree. You cannot convince it otherwise and cannot persuade it to become an oak or a pine tree. We must have the unshakable faith that we will endure and we will take on those qualities of a Saint in the Church of the Most High God. He also read from Mosiah 4:5 about how King Benjamin was instructing his kingdom to believe in Christ. Oh how difficult that must have been since Christ had not been born at that time.

Apostle Paul Benyola followed with a parable about a boat with two oars. On one oar, the word faith was written. On the other, the word works was written. If we try to row our boat with one or the other, we end up going in circles. We must use both to proceed forward. Brother Paul followed with an explanation in an experience he had once. He saw a brother walking down the road and stopped to ask the brother how he was doing. The brother explained that he was out of work and had no money. He was worried about getting food for his family. Brother Paul quickly said, "I'll pray for you" then drove off.

After Brother Paul drove away, he felt the need to apply works with his faith. He was compelled to track down this brother and give him some money to help with his family.

Brother Joe Perri brought out that we could be missionaries in our own towns and communities. It came to my mind how the themes we see in our auxiliaries seem to support the apparent theme of conference. Our SAMBA Campout theme was "Arise and Go" and our GMBA campout theme is "Arise and Shine." Could this be the message God wants us to listen to at this point in time?

Brother Joe continued telling of a brother in Malawi. When he was converted, he set out to tell the entire village about the wonderful treasure he found. The brother even put an article in the local paper.

Brother Sam Risola then spoke about how we are raising the next generation and even though we sometimes think the children are ignoring the message, they are experiencing the spirit of God within themselves. "They DO absorb the message." Men like Brother Joe Perri and all the other missionary men of the Church were once children in the Church. We may very well be raising a future missionary.

Our souls were blessed as Brother's Brian and Scott Griffith, Brother Jim Draskovich and Sister Mandy Griffith sang, *The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power*.

Brother Tony Calabrese was next and entertained the thought that most of the New Testament was written by the Apostles Paul and Peter and how Apostles Paul and Peter preached to us today, all of which were ordained under the same authority; the authority of Jesus Christ. Prior to the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ, the authority of Jesus Christ was not available to mankind. He highlighted that the Gospel WILL grow when we go and tell others what the Restoration of the Gospel has done for YOU. "We need more testimonies to be given." Just as the song *Bring Them In* says, there are many people in the world that are broken and hurting.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Psalm 137 1-4).*

This scripture reflects the lamenting of Israel after they were carried away captive by the Babylonians. Their homeland of Israel was conquered in this fierce attack, and there was much bloodshed among them. Israel loved to sing songs of praise to the Lord, and must have carried their harps and instruments with them. However, when they were imprisoned, they decided to hang their harps in the willow trees and not sing. It wasn't a time to sing and rejoice, it was a time of horrible sadness. They wept as they remembered their homeland. The Babylonians ridiculed them and told them to sing their songs of Zion; however, Israel did not want to "cast their pearls before swine" and sing their songs to a people who would mock them.

This sad time is a type and shadow of our day and time. In the world around us, it is unacceptable to openly speak of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. It is unacceptable to pray openly; for example, children are not permitted to pray in their schools. It is unacceptable to speak of the Book of Mormon as being the Word of God. It is unacceptable to speak of The Church of Jesus Christ as being the restored Church that was originally set up. It is unacceptable to speak about Zion or the Peaceful Reign which is to come upon the land of America.

Babylon represented confusion (remember the tower of Babel?). Surely, in the world today there is much confusion. There are many churches and many different beliefs—both religious and non-religious beliefs. Children today have millions of choices of what to believe and how to live. The way Jesus Christ set up for us to obtain salvation has become so diluted that it is not even recognizable anymore. Even though we are not physically captive like Israel, we are spiritually captive in the world we live in.

The scripture above was given in experiences regarding *The Songs of Zion*. (I myself had one of the experiences.) This is why the scripture is included in the song book. These songs which belong to The Church of Jesus Christ, help identify who we are and what we believe. In a similar way to Israel, today, it is hard to openly sing our songs as we would want, because of the "strange land" we are in. We spiritually weep because of the conditions that surround us, and long for the day when Zion would be established upon this land. ZION is our homeland, not the land around us today, so full of sin.

We recently heard of more *Songs of Zion* being given to the Church. In hearing the words of one of the songs, there is much encouragement in it. The song encourages us to take our harps from the green willow tree and to leave Babylon. It encourages us to move forward to the Promised Land (Zion) that awaits us. It encourages us to sing with angels, and they will sing with us (angels speak the words of Christ).

Brothers and sisters, the great work of the Lord is moving on throughout the world, and we need not be "...ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16). Time is moving rapidly, and the latter day prophecies are unfolding before us every day. Let's not wallow in sadness, or get "off-track" because of Satan's tricks. He is trying harder than ever to put stumbling blocks in our path. Let us sing praises to our God, and fix our eyes upon that nation that is budding. Let us press our way to that new day of peace, for us, for our children, and for all future generations. In the end, the people of God will be the victors!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## What You Can Do When You Are in the Wilderness?

Dear Girls and Boys,

My friend at work is going through a sad divorce. She is alone now and lonely. She does not make enough money so she has to leave our workplace and find a different job with strangers. Her children are upset; they have had to leave their house and move in with their grandmother. They are living in a new town and going to school with strangers. She feels like she is in a lost, wild place, a wilderness.

And since she is tired, and anxious everyday, she worries that this will cause problems for her family. She asked me to pray for her while she is going through these dreadful times. I do. I also reminded her that the scriptures are full of powerful, true stories of how God brought other people through the wildernesses of one kind or another. For example, as a young boy, Joseph's jealous brothers ripped his clothes off him, threw him into a pit, talked about killing him, and sold him to strangers who took him far away to be a slave! He had to learn a totally new way of living. He was no longer protected by his father's tribe. He was owned as a slave by a man named Potipher.

But Joseph was true to Potipher. He worked hard and learned many new things. Things went well and his Master, Potipher, appreciated him. Then things went horrible again when

Potipher's wife lied about Joseph and said he had attacked her. No one believed the young slave boy was telling the truth. Joseph was locked in prison, a truly evil and dangerous place filled with desperate angry men. Joseph was living in a wilderness for eight years.

But God did not forget Joseph, even as he suffered. The Bible says God gave him favor with the powerful man running the prison. This man protected Joseph and put him in charge of everything. Joseph learned a new job there, running the prison. He eventually was chosen by the Pharaoh to run the entire country. He became rich and powerful enough to protect his family.

Abraham's beautiful wife, Sarah, was in the wilderness when the ruler of a strange country they were passing through, saw her and demanded that she come to live in his palace and be one of his many wives. Can you imagine how heartsick Sarah, and all of their family was when Abraham had to let her go or risk being killed. She was truly in a dangerous place, surrounded by new people with new rules and different ways of acting.

But, God knew what was going on. He put a strange disease on all the men of that city. They realized they had sinned and they sent Sarah back safely to Abraham. Their people left that place and returned to a place of prayer far away. Abraham offered God sacrifices and prayers for forgiveness, and thankfulness. He continued to lead his people even though they now realized he was weak, scared, and confused at times too.

Samuel was just a little boy when his mother kept her promise and

brought him far from home to live in the huge Temple. His life was to be dedicated to serving God. He had to learn new ways of acting and new rules in order to please people. At night he slept alone, and one night he heard a voice calling him from the darkness. He ran to Eli to see what he wanted. But Eli had not called to him. It was the voice of God. Eli told him to answer God and be ready to hear. But when God spoke, the message he told Samuel to tell Eli was a bad message. God was mad at Eli for letting his grown sons do many evil things. God was going to destroy them. Samuel had to pass God's word on. Can you imagine how heartsick

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### WORD SEARCH

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| THERE      | WILL    |
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| BE         | YOU     |
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## Our Women Today

To the Sisters and Young Women of  
The Church of Jesus Christ,

I want to share with you a little experience I had on my way to an Area Ladies' Circle Conference a short while ago. As I was driving along, the thought kept coming to my mind, "Women's Work." Since I am a person who believes that we are all responsible to do whatever work we are able to accomplish, I thought this an odd thought. At that point I dismissed it from my mind.

I felt a wonderful spirit when I arrived at the conference and heard

the numerous missionary works of the Church these sisters were supporting. I was made to realize that these efforts were the "Women's Work" the Lord was telling me about. I share this with you so that you might be fully aware of the how important the work of the Ladies' Circle is.

- If you are a member of the Circle and doing all you can do in your home, Area and the General Circle, I know that God has and will continue to bless you.
- If you are a member, but haven't been as involved as you would desire, I encourage you to rededicate yourself to the Circle and its work. All that is expected is that each of us do the best we can.
- If you aren't a Circle member, I believe there is a work for all of us and

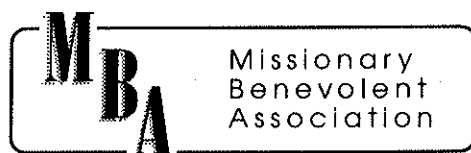
know that your sisters will find a use for your talents.

We all can't go abroad on missionary work, but:

- We all can help raise the funds necessary for the works.
- We can all study the word of God so that we can confidently tell our neighbors about The Church of Jesus Christ.
- We can show our love for the Church by supporting its auxiliaries.

May God Bless each of you as you consider this Women's Work and do what you are able to do to forward the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Love,  
Sister Karen Progar  
General Circle President



## Arise and Go! Southeast Region Campout

By Brother Peter Benyola

*"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence"* (John 14:31).

The weekend of January 16-18, 2004 was the gathering of the brothers and sisters of our Area for our annual campout at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, Florida. Brother Jim Draskovich is the Area MBA President, Brother Isaac D. Smith is the Vice President and Brother Scott Griffith is our Chaplain. Sister Bethany Smith was the Camp Director for the weekend.

Friday night, an abbreviated orientation meeting was held and the

saints were welcomed back to Leesburg for another weekend of fellowship and anticipated blessings. Fellowship and sandwiches ensued. It was a great blessing to see one another again, as well as our out-of-Area campers.

Early Saturday morning, a prayer service was held to invite the spirit of God and pray for the needs of His saints. During our chapel service, our recently ordained Teacher, Brother Cameron Staley, spoke to us about how he needed to *arise and go* to accomplish the task of leading the seminars in his father's absence. Brother Brian Griffith shared a vision he and his family had as they were in their car a few weeks ago. The vision was of the Statue of Liberty in the sunset. In this vision, the crown she wore resembled Christ's crown of thorns. Just as her crown was symbolic of our freedom from the bondage of tyranny, the crown of thorns is a symbol of the suffering Christ endured which liberated us from the bondage of sin.

The seminar discussion, "ARISE AND GO," brought about three questions for us to review as we met in our respective seminars.

The first question is, What does it

mean . . . for what specific reasons did Christ use the words in John 14:31? So that we would do the will of God without question and have faith in God for deliverance and understanding.

The second question is, What preparation is necessary? We must obey the will of God. We have a song that teaches us, *The Father searches far and wide, and sees a few who still abide*. Obedience is what really catches God's attention. He loves obedience; when we obey the basic commandments of God, we are allowing Him to use us for good. Then, we can *arise and go* and fulfill his will. Each one of us in the seminar class also took a self-assessment, prepared by Brother Ken Staley, so that we might know what it will take for us to leave our comfort zone, so we will *arise and go*.

The third question in the seminar material was, How can this topic apply to me today, right now? Jesus asks us the question, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). "Lovest thou me? . . . feed my sheep." He still asks these questions to us directly, today. As the people of God, we must

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## Ordination in Lake Worth, Florida

By Josie Jasmin

It was a beautiful sunny Florida day on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in Lake Worth as we prepared for the ordination of Brother Kevin Jasmin into the office of Elder. It has been a long time since the priesthood and membership started praying for more workers to help our branch and to assist the Priesthood. We are praising God today that He has heard our prayers on this behalf. There were several confirmations concerning the calling of Brother Kevin into the Royal Priesthood. Brother Gene Perri had one of the particular experiences. This experience (paraphrased) was that Brother Gene had a dream that he was cultivating a garden and was sowing seeds. He saw that someone was helping him with this work and was pleased to see that it was Brother Kevin. Brother Gene thanked God for this revelation.

The day began with our regular Sunday school taught by Brother Sam Risola, welcoming the many visitors that came throughout the Southeast Region, Ohio, Michigan and New Jersey. The opening hymn was sung in dedication to Brother Kevin by his sister and family visiting from Ohio, the Maddoxes. Their selection was titled *Will You Be the One*. Opening prayer was offered and as the deacons prepared the utensils for the ordination, the congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*. Brother Gene Perri washed Brother Kevin's feet offering a very heartfelt prayer. The Priesthood formed a circle around Brother Kevin and prayer was offered that the spirit of God would fall on one of the brothers to perform the ordination. Apostle John Griffith offered a beautiful prayer for this, after which we patiently waited for the spirit to move

upon one of the brothers. The spirit moved upon Brother John Catone of the Hollywood Branch who offered a humble and spirit-filled prayer for the occasion. The congregation continued to sing *Ye Who Are Called To Labor* as Brother Kevin greeted each of his brethren in the priesthood.

Apostle John Griffith addressed the congregation with beautiful words of love and encouragement enticing the spirit to fill each and every one's heart. Brother John stressed the importance of feeling the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Jesus was on the cross we were all on His mind and He was doing this for each and every soul that we might have salvation. So again it was asked, do we feel the crucifixion deep within us? If we don't, we certainly should and it should come from the depths of our hearts. We have to have the desire to do God's will always. There is nothing greater than to be called into the Restored Gospel. Our membership is the most important thing that should be on our minds. We should realize that no matter what office we have in the Church the most important calling is to be a member and we must keep our garment spotless. The spirit of God emanates through everyone to do the will of the Father and Brother John stressed the importance of meditating on spiritual things so that God will work through us. Each brother must be called and ordained by God to do a good work in His Royal Priesthood. God says, "I call you to serve," and it is said to every single individual to come and serve Him to the fullest and with good intentions.

Brother Kevin was asked to speak and he said that he was so overwhelmed with the love that he received from the Priesthood and was so filled to see so many that came for his ordination. He thanked God for his calling in humility and wants to do the Lord's will always. Brother Kevin then read a portion of scripture from Mosiah Chapter 5, where King Benjamin tells the people, "I would that ye should remember to retain the name written always in your hearts, that ye are not found on the left hand of God,

but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye are called, and also, the name by which he shall call you."

Brother Chuck Maddox spoke a few words and related an experience that he had while Brother John Griffith was praying for the spirit to enter into one of the brothers. He was thinking that most would presume that he might be the one since he was Kevin's natural brother-in-law. He prayed to himself that God would reveal to him who would do the ordination prayer and he was given the name John. Brother Chuck was so pleased to see the workings of the Lord when the spirit moved on Brother John Catone.

It was truly a wonderfully spirit filled day which was followed with a luncheon prepared by the sisters of the Branch to celebrate this wonderful occasion. We ask that all would remember our Branch and the entire Southeast Region as we endeavor to do the will of the Father.

## Mid-Georgia Visits Russellville

By Sister Kenah Nowels

I would like to share one of our recent adventures of the Mid-Georgia Mission. Brother Art Campbell along with Sister Penny and Kayla, Brother Rusty, Sister Kenah Nowels and Matt had the opportunity and privilege to be able to visit the Russellville, Alabama Mission. To start off with, we would like to thank the brothers from the RMOC who made it possible for Brother Art to be able to visit the brothers and sisters in Russellville. Needless to say, the adversary tried to make things difficult but we understand that the Lord prevails in these things if we just trust in Him and keep trying.

We arrived at Brother Ozvaldo and Sister Lupe's home Saturday evening and were so delighted to see them. They were so inviting and the spirit of God was wonderfully evident. Not long after we arrived, Brother Louis and Sister Phoebe arrived.

We were surprised to see a new

addition to Brother Ozvaldo's home. The Gonzalez family was pleased to announce the addition of little Ozzie, Jr. The spirit of God was even more evident as we sang and bore testimony throughout the evening. Singing in two languages was unique but very edifying to our Lord and the peace He gives. Brother Rusty played his harmonica and Brother Ozzie played the guitar as we all sang and praised God. Time lapsed away all too quickly and we soon realized it was time to go to our homes and prepare for our worship service.

On Sunday morning, we gathered at the home of Brother Ozzie and Sister Lupe. We began singing awaiting the arrival of the others. We expected to see Brother Luis and Sister Phoebe, but much to our surprise we met another couple that had never met the Church before. Jared and Adee and their son were a wonderful addition to our service.

Brother Ozzie was surely kept busy as he prepared a Sunday School and also interpreted for the benefit of the language difference. The lesson covered **love**, its power, and what it really means. Everyone felt a good spirit and even the new couple participated. Experiences were shared as evidence of love.

After Sunday school, we took a ten-minute break and started the service. Brother Art was given to preach on the trials we go through, but don't ever give up. Sometimes we see our numbers dwindle but never let go of our stability in the Church. Testimony was opened and we truly felt appreciated as the saints in Russellville expressed this to us. We in Mid-Georgia remember what it felt like to be alone many weeks as we awaited the support from others in the Church. God Bless those who have supported us in our time of growth.

I would like to share an experience had by Brother Ozzie and Sister Lupe. Some time back, Brother Ozzie and Sister Lupe had a child. The child lived for a short time but passed away. After this child was born, they took pictures as any parent would, but when they got the pictures back, they were amazed at how similar the children

looked. Sister Lupe even commented that when she first looked at the new baby, she gasped because she believed she was looking at the baby that passed away. This baby looked identical to the one they lost. They always wondered how the baby would look, as it grew older; how it would look as it smiled. While they were giving this testimony about their new baby, the voice of the Lord was given that the timing was not right before, but now they hold the child they lost.

What a wonderful day. We closed the service after everyone who desired anointing or laying on of hands for strength received it. Even the new couple was anointed for guidance as Jared had lost his job. We shared a moment of fellowship and food together before it was time for us to depart. It was sad to say goodbye but we look forward to the next trip.

## *Note of Thanks*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of my family, I want to thank all the brothers and sisters for their e-mails, cards, phone calls, and especially for their prayers and fasting during my husband, Pat Panfile's, illness.

He passed away on June 13, 2003 after several surgeries during his three weeks in the hospital, during which he was kept heavily sedated so at least he was not in any pain or discomfort.

Pat knew the Lord but was never baptized, although he had made his intentions known. The love, care and concern from the brothers and sisters after his passing was overwhelming. Pat left a void not only in my heart and life and in my family's, but also in the Rochester, New York Mission.

I pray the Lord will bless and keep you all. Please remember us also in your prayers.

Sister Betty Panfile  
Rochester, New York Mission

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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734-368-5293

Miller, Albert and Ina  
941-379-7834 (Directory correction)

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## 13-Week Project in Dominica

Continued from Page 2

Mormon. He is fasting and praying for God's direction and is fully prepared to follow that direction when it is made known to him.

**Patsy Thomas** – Our contact for the substance abuse program, Patsy attended several of our Sunday meetings during the 13-week project. Having been a member of another church for 28 years, she will take her time before leaving that organization but she is praying for God's direction as well. Patsy is already a wonderful spokesperson for the Church, telling the families she calls upon to visit the Church and to send their children to our Saturday classes.

**Alexis Valmond** – A member of

(Continued on Page 10)

## 13-Week Project in Dominica

Continued from Page 9

the Carib Council, Alexis has many contacts in the Sineku area and has encouraged many people to attend the Church. He has been somewhat busy lately because of the upcoming Carib elections but he has stated that he does plan to join the Church one day.

**Valda James** – As a non-Carib, Valda provides access to an entirely different group of people. She is a car rental agent at the airport and is quite well known. She keeps a CD player at her car rental booth and plays the *Songs of Zion* on it.

- **Established Regular Sunday Meeting Schedule** – Dominica has never had Sunday services other than when the U.S. brothers visited. By holding services all those Sundays in a row, the people are now used to attending church on Sunday and have continued to hold services on their own, led by Brother Raphael Auguiste, an ordained Teacher.
- **Set Example for the Members** – In addition to holding Sunday services on their own, the Dominica members are also continuing other activities which were performed during the 13-week project: house visits (to members and non-members), prayer meetings, scripture study sessions and classes for the children. The Church has truly come to life in Dominica!
- **Trained Teachers for Children's Classes** – Early in the project, Sister Cindy Bright held a training session for the teenagers to empower them to serve as teachers of the children's classes on an ongoing basis. Brother Terry Auguiste and Kirk Edwards have especially exhibited an aptitude to serve as teachers and are continuing to hold classes every other Saturday. Sister Kathleen JnoLewis, a school principal, gives us a good on-site resource to oversee this program.

- **Established Women's Study Group** – Sisters Sally Curtin, Mary Ann Pasko and Flo Benyola held a meeting with the women which has resulted in regularly scheduled meetings (every two weeks) in which the women get together and study scripture. This will likely lead to the organization of the Ladies' Uplift Circle in Dominica in the near future.

We truly praise God for the efforts of all of the people who visited Dominica during this project, many of whom traveled at their own expense. We are also very thankful for the incredible hospitality of Brother Raphael and Sister Helena Auguiste and their family who opened up their home and hosted the majority of the U.S. visitors for a grand total of 54 nights during the 13-week project. We pray that God will reward all of the efforts put forth by allowing The Church of Jesus Christ to flourish in Dominica.

## Thank You

*By Brother Terry A.R. Auguiste,  
Dominica*

*(Brother Terry is a teenage brother in Dominica who wrote this after the 13-week project to that country concluded.)*

Thank you . . .  
For the love that you have shared with me  
For the new life that you have helped me see  
Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
Bless this new family that I have found  
You will always be in my prayers  
From this day and for years and years  
No words can express the way I feel  
Its like you are here with me still  
Blessed assurance, bless this friend of mine  
A friend so irreplaceable, a friend so fine.  
Thank you For all your words so true and sweet

Now I'll share them with everyone I meet.

Thank you for being there  
When the world just didn't seem to care.

Thank you for all the good experiences we had

Just thinking of them, makes me happy and glad.

Thank you for the good and comforting advice

Now I'll make sure that I always think twice

For the scriptures and the Bible studies  
And for sharing your beautiful testimonies.

You are dearly missed down here  
And your chair around the table is always there.

Just your personality and your smile  
Makes living in this world worthwhile.  
Our moments, in my heart I will keep  
You're in my dreams at night when I sleep

May the good Lord always bless you  
And keep you true.

For my dearest friend, from my heart to you.

## Southeast Region Conference

Continued from Page 4

The only thing they can hang onto is your testimony of God's love in your life.

Brother Frank Rogolino also added we cannot just sit at home and do nothing. He gave the testimony of when he first started holding meetings in Blountstown, Florida at Brother Horace's house. There was much opposition, but this did not discourage Brother Frank because he knew that God was there preparing the way. Several were baptized at that time. Don't be afraid to step out; God has already prepared the way for you.

We were then blessed to hear Brother Isaac D. Smith sing *Our Church*. A wonderful spirit was felt as he sang.

We then finished our day as Brother Sam Risola made a few closing comments and announcements. The conference was closed in prayer by Brother Dennis Moraco.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

and afraid he must have felt?

Sometimes, we are in a wilderness. Someone we need and love in our family may be ill, or doing wrong things that we must point out to them, or they are unable to help us. We are in a wilderness of pain and sadness then. What should we do? We need to remember these true stories and know that our great and marvelous God knows and understands everything. We must stir up our faith in God so that we are hopeful. Over and over each day, when we feel pain and sadness, we must exercise our faith, and feel hope. We can beg God to bring us through the wilderness of pain and confusion we feel.

When we are hurting or very angry, we must cling to God. Ask others to pray for you like my friend asked me. Thank God when He brings you through, like He did Abraham. Trust in God. Pray in the name of Jesus. He will be with you in any kind of wilderness that you find yourself in. He has brought us through. He will carry you through too, one day at a time.

With Care and Love,  
Sister Jan

## Arise and Go!

Continued from Page 7

*arise and go* and tell others of the Gospel which we hold. It's our responsibility. People who do not know God will accept us as His people by seeing how we live our lives, before they do so because of what we tell them point blank.

The discussion in addition to the self-assessment all aimed to discover what it will take for us, on an individual basis, to be ready to *arise and go*.

Mid afternoon (following crafts and recreation), a newly-baptized seminar entitled "TCJC 101 Fundamentals of the Church" was facilitated

by Brothers Corey Morris and Brian Griffith. Important topics were discussed, including a history of the organization of the Church; the love of God we share, which passes knowledge; the importance of fasting and prayer to every member of the Church; the need for attendance; and a member's need for scripture study.

In the evening, eight of the Apostles of the Church arrived at camp following a series of meetings during the prior week in Forest Hills. In the meeting, Kristin Biddy, a first-time visitor to campouts from the Atlanta Branch, offered a beautiful solo. The congregation then sang *The Standard of Liberty*.

Brother Tony Calabrese followed with a sermon about the principalities behind the circumstances of life which are attacking the people of the Church. These principalities are ultimately the adversary, who is displeased with the progress the Church is making and seeks to destroy it through our families, jobs and disease. After singing *The Standard of Liberty*, he was inspired to tell us that we must stand our ground and continue to hold up the Title of Liberty so that it might be seen throughout the world.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr., also visiting from outside of the Area, followed and spoke about the responsibility of the Church to spread the Gospel. He also identified the paradox that naturally comes with being a minister or evangelist. Tending a flock, or preaching the Gospel in the field is a heavy burden, at times even painful. At the same time it is very rewarding and edifies the man's soul.

Sunday morning, each one of the apostles addressed the congregation. First, Brother Ike Smith, Sr. spoke about the privilege of having salvation through the Lord, and that the greatest problem of man is not of illness or death, but that so many deny God and stand idly by, refusing to taste the waters of life.

Brother John Griffith followed regarding his dependency on the family of God, and Jesus Christ to make it through the trials of life.

Brother Peter Scolaro spoke about a different kind of support,

which is what we find in ourselves; "Every aspect of our spirituality, every resource within us is utilized by us and through not 'having it all,' we may still draw strength from what we have and get the crown that has been laid up for us."

Brother Paul Palmieri focused on the need for salvation and the things the Church can offer people.

Brother Paul Benyola brought out the point that the people of God are moving toward a common goal, and that goal is more easily gained by working together, which is what is important about the fellowship between brothers and sisters. We may not always know what is best for ourselves, so sometimes we need to let each other know when we are wrong.

Brother Tom Liberto followed, conveying the message that we, as a people, need to be spiritually strengthened. He went further to Brother Paul's point by saying that we keep each other in check; we are all fighting the same battle and that members as well as those in the ministry all find strength and wisdom from one another.

Brother Dick Christman reiterated the words of the other apostles. Finally, Brother Joe Calabrese addressed the entire history of the restoration of the Gospel and the priesthood authority. He emphasized the importance of the Gospel coming back through the Book of Mormon, and the divine commission of the Church, which came later.

At the end, Brother Joe requested that the brothers of the quorum honor the congregation with the song *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings*. After communion was administered, a group of young men sang, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*, which included the harmonica.

The efforts of the SAMBA officers, the Camp Director and all other committees involved yielded a camp with a spirit which every soul felt. We carried that spirit with us as we departed. Praise God for a great experience, and we pray for next year's Director, Brother George Benyola, Jr., as he begins to prepare for next year's event.

## Children Blessed

Brittany Nicole Harris, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Lisa Harris, was blessed on March 28, 2004 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Marlee Anna Harris, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Lisa Harris, was blessed on March 28, 2004 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Amanda Lynn Harris, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Lisa Harris was blessed March 28, 2004 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Kanye Arnez Pennington was blessed on April 11, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Nyashia Amaya Louise Drummer was blessed on April 11, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Macenzie Grace Flood, daughter of Dennis and Denise Flood, was blessed on April 11, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Alana Rosalee Peter, daughter of Sister Julissa Pacheco and Paul Paster was blessed on April 11, 2004 in the San Diego, California Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Greg Lobzun was baptized on September 7, 2003, in the Lockport, New York Mission. He was baptized by Brother Richard Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Russ Martorana.

Sister Lottie Reid was baptized on May 2, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Willie Brown and confirmed by Brother Jim Crudup.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sister Amanda Marie Schall was baptized on March 14, 2004 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Brett Gibson.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sarah Anne Beck and Jason Lee Furbee were united in holy matrimony in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on March 27, 2004.

## Ordinations

Brother Daniel Covalessky was ordained a Deacon in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on February 22, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Larry Ali and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Draskovich.

Brother Joseph Fallavolitti was ordained a Teacher in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on February 22, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Dennis Gehly and he was ordained by Brother Paul Gehly.

Sister Olivia Parravano of the Chicago, Illinois Mission was ordained a Deaconess at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 on November 2, 2003. Her feet were washed by Sister Cathy Gentile and she was ordained by Brother Alex Gentile.

Brother Larry Ali of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch was ordained an Elder on May 2, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, and he was ordained by Brother John Ali.

## OBITUARIES

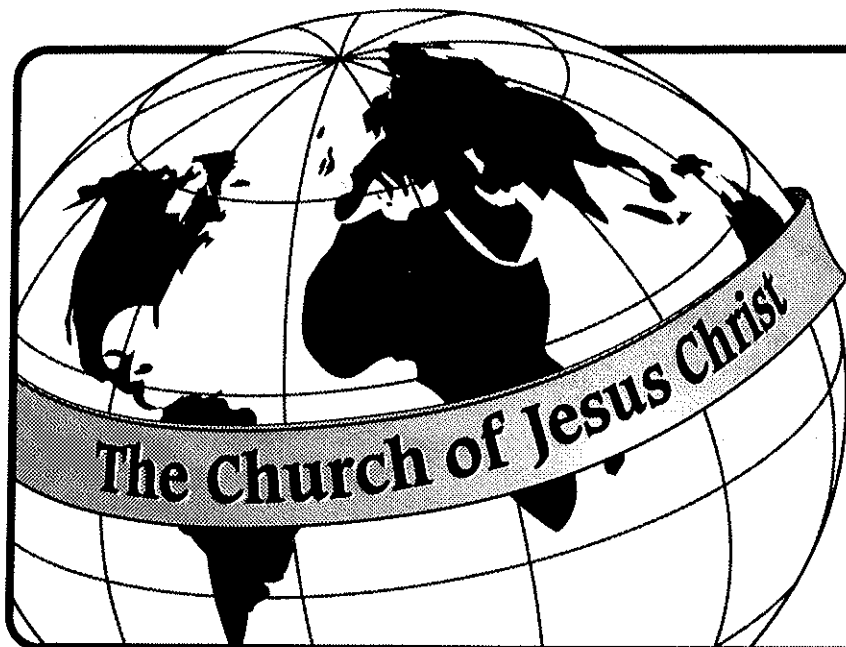
### PATRICK A. PANFILE

Patrick A. Panfile, who attended the Rochester, New York Mission, passed on to his reward on June 13, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Sister Betty Panfile; son, Kelly Panfile; daughter, Paula Woerner; brother, Albert Panfile; several grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

### LAURETTA MARY MAGGIO

Sister Laurretta Mary Maggio of the Rochester, New York Mission passed on to her reward on September 18, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles and her daughter Rosalie. She is survived by her son, Santo (Chuck), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 2004

Volume 60, No. 7

## Una Amistad Fuerte

By Sister Erin Light

*"And they had all things in common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift" (4<sup>th</sup> Nephi verse 3).*

On April 17, four young people brought their luggage and their hearts across the Mexican border, leaving behind their hectic lives to visit the youth of the Tijuana branch.

Although Brother Ryan McDonnell, Sister Kristen and Laura Elzby, and I could not attend April Conference, we were not willing to miss an opportunity to accompany our brothers and sisters for a week-end of fellowship. As we traveled to Mexico, we became joyful with the knowledge that God had gone before us.

On Saturday evening, we harmoniously praised God with the young adults of this missionary-minded branch. With eager smiles and humbled spirits, we bridged the language barrier and let the Spirit of God translate our desires through

song and testimony. During the rest of the night, we continued to build a strong camaraderie, *una amistad fuerte*, and felt united.

The following day, we gathered to worship and received words inspired of God. Many visitors were in attendance; among them were

---

*"We have the . . . Gospel.  
We need to love God,  
follow His commandments,  
and be a happier people.  
We can be like the people on  
this land were, because  
God has not changed  
in 2000 years."*

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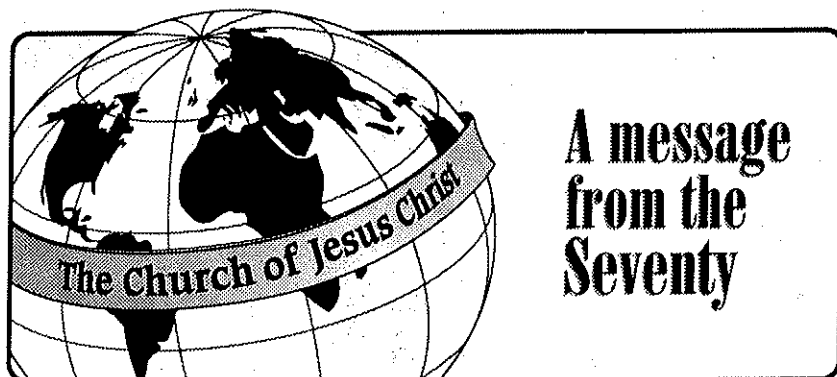
Brother Stacey and Sister Carolyn Light, Brother Steve Kirby, Brother Bogar Pacheco, and Karen and Robert Tucker. Through the preaching, we were reminded of the establishment of the Church in both Jerusalem and this blessed land of America. In his sermon, Brother Stacey Light mentioned that while

Israel turned from the teachings of Christ, the people on this land took hold of the Gospel so firmly that all were converted, and there were 200 years of peace and equity among the saints. Inspired with the scripture in Fourth Nephi, Brother Stacey reminded us, "We have the same gospel. We need to love God, follow His commandments, and be a happier people. We can be like the people on this land were, because God has not changed in 2000 years."

Brother Vicente Arce followed, expressing his desire to see more strive for the peace that swept through this land many years ago.

The Spirit of God flowed through the crowded building; many expressed a desire to be reunited into the family of God, while others exalted His name for blessings they received. The youth from California praised God by singing *At the Cross* and *How Great Thou Art* in English and Spanish. A powerful message was given to remember that "the last thing Jesus Christ did was break the bands of death, resurrect from the tomb, and *live*."

This was truly a blessed week-end. As we traveled home, we thanked God for the presence of His Spirit that echoed in our souls. *Dios los bendigan*. God bless you all.



## Observations of Dominica

### *It's a beautiful land.*

I took many pictures when I visited Dominica. It is lush with flowers, mountains, rivers and surrounded by tropical ocean waters. But nothing is as beautiful or as welcoming as the brothers, sisters, children and friends of the mission.

Brother Raphael Auguiste, the mission's teacher, drove us in the van to meet many wonderful people. On one of these ventures, we went to Horseback Ridge where we were 1,000 feet above sea level. Brother Raphael stopped the van and we stepped out to view this magnificent sight. In the valley below he pointed out the Council building where the church services are held and the Auguiste home. It was amazing to see how deep the valley was and that they were completely surrounded by mountains. It was a cloudy day but in the blink of an eye the clouds parted and sunlight filled the valley. I took advantage of this photo opportunity.

A defining moment occurred as I began to create a special book of memories. I was very pleased with the quality of the pictures of the mountains. I needed the perfect piece of scripture to place next to the photos. The Lord gave me Matthew 4:16. "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." This is the divine commission of The Church of Jesus Christ! Our joy is to bring the message of salvation to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

This is our purpose in life and defines our being.

I thank God for the opportunity to join in this united effort with my brothers and sisters. While it is my first trip, I certainly hope that there will be many more to follow.

Sister Terri Bravo

My husband Michael and my son Bill and I arrived in Dominica one week prior to my stay with the brothers and sisters in the Carib Territory so we got to see other aspects of Dominica and get a sense of the people and nature of the island. The people hold a lot of self respect, especially in keeping their homes and themselves clean and in being educated through high school and keeping close to God. They are genuinely friendly, very well mannered, appreciative and happy. They also face the overwhelming problem of limited employment prospects and therefore most can only maintain a poor standard of living if they choose to stay on the island.

Dominica is a present day, unspoiled Garden of Eden with lush greenery, colorful and exotic flowers, the blue Caribbean Ocean on the west and the crashing Atlantic on the east, 365 pristine rivers that put water everywhere and ever present high surrounding mountains. The climate too is so inviting with a daytime constant 70 degrees in the rainforest and 80 near the ocean.

The time spent in the home of the Auguiste family, among the Carib

people, however, was the highlight of my journey. It was just such a wonderful treat to share the Lord with these people and feel that wherever we went, we would meet a sister or a brother and feel at home. I was blessed to be able to attend church two Sundays, to be under the sound of the Gospel in Dominica, listening to the visiting brothers from the US. Each time I was fed and each time when Brother Raphael spoke I was amazed at the wisdom and confidence God has given him in such a short time and the beautiful testimony of our Sister Helena as she told us of a beautiful dream about the Book of Mormon.

I got a natural kick, also, when Sis. Helena shared a grapefruit that she had just picked from a tree in her backyard, and coffee made fresh from the roasted beans of a native tree and cocoa tea freshly prepared by her from her own cocoa tree, as well! Equally wonderful was having Brother Raphael drive us through the territory, exploring and sightseeing as we went to gather up the visitors, sisters and brothers and children who were coming to church.

I had an especially good time sharing with the children on Saturday pictures of the snowy land in my part of the world. We talked about the living waters we shared in their land and mine and the living waters that Jesus offers to us spiritually as well. We sang hymns about snow and water. Then we made paper snow flakes and hung them on Brother Lawrence King to make him a snowman.

I thank God for my opportunity to meet the people of Dominica and to add them to my list of new friends and family in Christ from little Jerry all the way up to big Brother Terry. God Bless them one and all and the work in Dominica. If He wills, I will return....soon.

Sister Carol Greene

### *The Book of Mormon Comes to Life.*

Meeting our brothers and sisters and friends on the beautiful island of Dominica has been a tremendous

blessing to me in many ways, but most importantly, they have brought the Book of Mormon to life for me. Having read and studied this Stick of Joseph throughout my life in the Church, I thought I already had a good appreciation for it. But something really clicked one day while I was sitting at the kitchen table in Bro. Raphael and Sis. Helena's home.

I offered to go shopping for food and so I asked Sis. Helena to help me with the grocery list. As she was reciting the list of items she needed, she asked me to add "provisions" to my list. I assumed she used "provisions" the way we use "provisions" here in the US, so I was waiting for her to explain "what kind" of provisions she had in mind. With a very peculiar look, she repeated, "Just pick up some provisions." After I asked her again to explain what she meant, she said that provisions are a particular kind of produce. I was immediately reminded of the references to "provisions" in the Book of Mormon and it wasn't until Sis. Helena said the word like she did, and then explained it to me, did I make that connection and begin to understand this new meaning. Imagine how I felt when I realized that I really didn't have a clue before that conversation! Suddenly, with that realization came a rush of the Spirit of God, overpowering me, and I could not hold back the tears. I knew I was really visiting – real life – with the Seed of Joseph. Sis. Helena just stared at me with a very puzzled look because she of course had no idea what was "wrong" with me. After I explained it to her, we both shed a tear as the room filled with God's love.

I recently read Alma 56-57, and felt that blessing all over again as I reflected upon that blessed afternoon in Dominica. There were actually many special moments like this on my two trips there, and while I understand that our mission is to go to Dominica to encourage them and to teach and to preach to them, the most vivid memories I have are ones like this, where I was on the receiving end. I was the one being encouraged. I was the one learning. I was the one

being blessed abundantly. Praise God from whom these blessings flow.

Brother Phil Benyola, Sr.

### *The Hospitality of the Saints.*

Our first missionary trip out of the U.S. was to Dominica. We, Brother Lawrence and I, began the travel on March 19, 2004. When we changed planes in San Juan, we were joined by Sister Terri Bravo. It was a joy to see our sister. During our flight, we met a resident of the island of Dominica. She was returning for a visit with her family who lived in Roseau, the capital. We discussed many things about the country, her family and our purpose in visiting her country.

Upon arriving at the airport in Dominica we were greeted by Valda James, Brothers Raphael and Terry Auguiste. The warmth and joy we felt at that moment set the tone for the remainder of our visit. Such hospitality!! On our way to the Auguiste family's home, we enjoyed the beauty of the country. Everything is lush and green. The roads are very narrow and twisted so you travel slowly unless your driver is familiar with the other side of the curve. As we arrived at our destination, we were greeted by Sister Helena and their five other sons. A meal was waiting for us also. Brother Raffo, Sister Helena and the children gave of their best to us during the whole visit, making us feel like part of the family—what hospitality!!

Early the next morning (and I mean early), the Dominican alarm clock, a rooster, began calling us at 3:00 a.m. We were up and about the father's work in no time. During our time there, we participated in the future Ladies' Circle, Bible School, Sunday service, question and answer sessions, home meeting, visitation in the community, a day at the local public school, a visit to the clinic and a walking tour/visitation with Patsy Thomas, a health worker. Into the community she serves. On our travels with Patsy, we were in touch with those that have great needs. We

had the opportunity to invite the children to attend the Bible School. Our hope is to reach the children to reach the parents.

We were blessed to have the opportunity to meet several times with our brothers and sisters, one on one, to discuss the Gospel history, present and future. We visited many who have a strong interest in learning more about the Gospel. We are aware there are many denominations in Dominica. They don't need just another church, they need the Gospel. We plan to return and hope you will join us.

Sis. Sylvia and Bro. Lawrence King

### *The Children are a Blessing.*

I found the Carib people of Dominica to be very bright and full of humor, and the children were no exception. There are two instances that are burned into my memory:

As the meeting place and the Auguiste's home sit on either end of a sloped road, just a hundred feet or so from each other, I remember walking up that road towards the house with Garry and Derry Auguiste (seven and four years old respectively). I asked them if that road had a name. They asked back, "What do you mean, Brokenee?" (with the accent on the "knee"). I said, "You know, like, is it called Garry Road or Derry Road?" Little Derry thought for a second and then earnestly offered, "I know, I know, that way (pointing up the road) is called UP, and that way (pointing the other way) is called DOWN!" He was so proud of himself and so sure that was the correct answer. I nodded and smiled and said, "Well, that works for me." It was an example of the simplicity with which they live their lives. It's uncomplicated and direct. Kind of like the Gospel. And I have used that simple example over and over again.

The other memory was more physical. On the return "walk" from the Boiling Lake (that once-in-a-lifetime, 9.5 hour, 10 mile death trek

(Continued on Page 11)

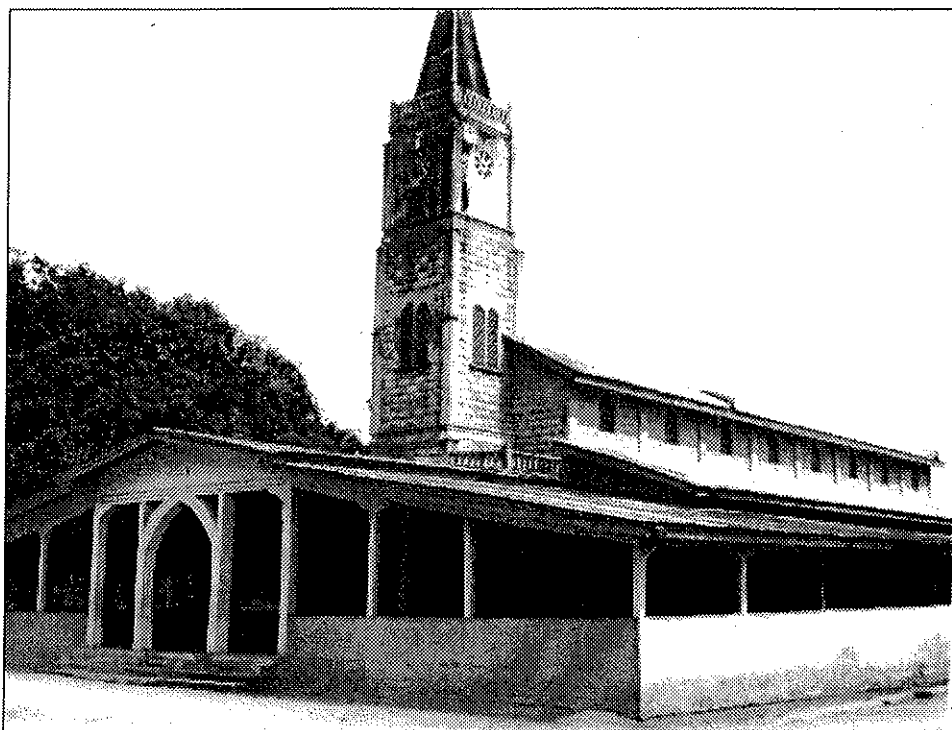
## Missionary Trip to Nigeria

*By Brother Frank Natoli, African Sector Nigeria Chairman*

On April 23, 2004, Evangelist Joseph Perri and the writer left the US for a missionary visit to Nigeria. After safely arriving in Lagos, Nigeria, a city of approximately six million, we were able to meet with the District Ministry along with the National Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, Brother George Frank Arthur. The following day, Evangelist Ford Boadu, the Director of the Church in Ghana, joined the missionary team and together they traveled five hundred miles to the National Church Headquarters in preparation for the semi-annual four-day conference.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to seminars for approximately 100 ordained brothers and sisters, covering various aspects of the faith and doctrine as well as discussing restoration topics. Items of business were discussed on the second and third days. Although many issues were raised regarding improvements for the Church in Nigeria, the brothers continue to ask for assistance in purchasing motorcycles to evangelize the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (This is a very economical and common means of transportation throughout Nigeria, yet in a country where electricity may only be available an hour or two each day, or where dirt roads are washed away from heavy rains and not repaired for years, these ordained brothers labor with great zeal for the expansion of the Restored Gospel. To keep matters in perspective, the average member in Nigeria earns less than \$500 per year annually while a new motorcycle costs approximately \$1,500. It's almost impossible for an elder to purchase a motorcycle on his own, while caring for his family and other natural needs.)

Although the third day of business was scheduled for Saturday, May 1, which was also the day set aside for a church-wide fasting and prayer, Brother George Arthur asked the membership to be at the church



**National Church Headquarters Building in Nigeria**



**Brother Ford Boadu of Ghana with Brother George and Sister Agnes Arthur of Nigeria. (Brother Ford is wearing a traditional Ghanaian robe in honor of the National Conference.)**

(Continued on Page 11)



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15-16).*

Opinions are as numerous as the sands of the sea. Often times, during lessons that foster open discussion, we as the people of God begin to express our deepest opinions openly. These opinions may have only been in our minds, or only discussed with our immediate family around the dinner table. But once it is expressed openly, then others, who also have opinions that are otherwise, begin to contend with the opinion expressed. Over the years in the Church, I have seen discussions such as this erupt into arguments, which never really get resolved. Fortunately, there are times when a mediator steps in, and using the Word of God, clarifies the opinions presented.

The Word of God has been given to us to "set the record straight." Throughout time, opinions which are contrary to the Word of God have destroyed many and led many astray. But when the Word is read AND understood, there is clarity and there is peace.

In the book of Jacob, there was a man named Sherem who tried, with his opinions, to confuse the people of Nephi.

*"And he was learned, that he had a perfect knowledge of the language of the people; wherefore, he could use much flattery, and much power of speech, according to the power of the devil" (Jacob 7:4).*

Jacob, who had many revelations, had seen angels, and had heard the voice of the Lord, could not be shaken by Sherem, who challenged Jacob's beliefs about the Christ who would come.

*"But behold, the Lord God poured in his Spirit into my soul, insomuch that I did confound him in all his words" (Jacob 7:8).*

Those who try to promulgate their false opinions are usually men and women who are very convincing. They are usually viewed as someone educated and someone who "knows what they are talking about." In this way, Satan can easily convince people of his lies, and lead them off the straight and narrow way. However, this beautiful account shows how someone who is knowledgeable of the Word of God, and who utilizes His Spirit, can confound even the most intelligent man or woman. Although Sherem continued to contend with Jacob, Jacob held his ground. Eventually, Sherem confessed that he had been deceived by the power of the devil. Immediately after his confession, he died. Peace and love were restored to the people, and they returned to reading their scriptures and not listening to the opinions of wicked men.

This is an extreme example of how destructive opinions can be. Most of the time, however, we innocently believe our opinions are true and spend an inordinate amount of time trying to convince others. Sometimes, we may even become obsessed with convincing others of our opinions. Brothers and sisters and friends, let us search the scriptures to discover the truth. Let the Word of God be our "opinion." Let us never open our mouths to express something unless we know it is true according to the Word of God. Some things are not spelled out in black and white for us; however the Word of God is full of stories and examples which can clarify any opinion. When we do this, we can eliminate any confusion. The devil is the author of confusion, but God is the author of truth.

There isn't time to argue about topics we haven't fully studied or do not understand. In these last days of turmoil and contention, let us "rightly divide the word of truth" and confidently speak the truth to the world around us. Like Jacob, God will pour His Spirit into us, and we will never have to be ashamed, because in the end, God's Word will stand forever.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## We Must Thank the Jews

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you realize what a great treasure our Church has by being able to use the Bible and the Book of Mormon together to understand God's promises? Other people, other religions in the world are not taught what we are.

Last week I was talking to a Jewish boy that I know. Someone had left a bracelet in the room that said ttt. Pray to God for Help ttt. He picked it up and asked me what it meant.

I told him, "You are Jewish. You believe in praying to God, don't you?" He said, "Yes."

I prayed in my heart for the right words to talk to this young boy. I said, "Did you know that the whole world owes a big favor to the Jews?" He asked me what I meant. I told him the truth. I said, "Way back, centuries ago, people of the earth forgot about God. They started worshipping statues or forces of nature like the wind or nature. People in Italy, called Romans, and Greek people worshipped all kinds of statues, idols, and fake Gods. People across northern Europe, called druids, even worshipped the spirit in trees. But not the Jews.

Jewish people from the beginning worshipped one God, the true God, the creator. Even if some of the Jewish people in the scriptures went the wrong way, there were others who never broke God's laws. Those Jews refused to bow down to idols or statues

(read about Daniel and Shadrach and their friends). They would die before they would worship anything but the one true, God."

"They did!" He exclaimed.

"They did." I answered.

Then I looked at the bracelet and explained that the symbol on the bracelet that looked like the letter t, were in fact supposed to be crosses, because Jesus let himself be crucified and killed on a cross. He threw the bracelet away from him.

I told him, "My Church doesn't use crosses because we believe Jesus was the Messiah and He came off the cross and was resurrected." I told him Jesus was a Jew.

"He was?" he exclaimed.

"He was." I answered. "And after they killed him He came back to show us there is life after death. There is a heaven and an after life."

"He did?" my friend asked.

"Yes, He did." I answered. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah. His job was to teach us how to serve God in truth and to love one another.

I told him, "Always pray. Ask God for help anytime you need help." I told him God loves us and I told him, I always ask in the name of Jesus because He is my Savior and Messiah. I could see that God had given me words to help me with understanding. I felt so grateful. He smiled and went his way. I hope that I planted a seed of understanding in his heart that will grow until he, too, someday knows our precious Lord and Savior as well as our wonderful creator, God.

Do you know anyone who hasn't heard about God's plan of salvation? Do you know someone you could tell about Jesus? Do you have a friend

you could ask to Sunday School or Bible School or a picnic? Do so. They may thrill you and say yes. They will then come and see the peace and love of the saints, the brothers and sisters. They will begin to feel the caring power of God. You could be the one to introduce them to Jesus. You could help change a person's life. Pray and give it a try.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## Our Women Today

### Youngstown, Ohio Ladies' Circle Hosts Luncheon

By Sister Teresa Pandone

On Saturday, May 1, 2004 the Youngstown, Ohio Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day Luncheon at The Victorian Room in Niles, Ohio. Thirty (30) women (sisters, friends, family members) shared an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship.

This event was a fund-raiser to provide financial assistance for the Durango, Mexico newly-built and dedicated church building. Brothers Joe Ciarolla and John Genaro provided us with photographs of the Durango church building, which were viewed by those in attendance. It is a beautiful building and as Brother Joe informed us, "It is the most beautiful building in town."

Sister Judy Salerno was our guest speaker who spoke of "Women in Missionary Work." She divided her presentation into three sections: (1) "What is missionary work?" (2) "How do I tell someone about Jesus?" and (3) "My journey as a missionary." She spoke of how Esther prepared herself prior to being used of God to free her people (the Jews). That preparation took approximately four years before she came before the king to intervene for her people.

Sister Judy shared with us her personal testimony of how God has worked with her throughout her 33 years in God's service. She prepared herself to be used of God and developed a personal and intimate relationship with Him then waited upon the LORD for His direction for her life, which had been confirmed to her and others. Sister Judy has used her clinical social work skills to help others in need who could not financially

afford those services. She has worked in Detroit Inner City for 11 years, has assisted at Six Nations Indian Reserve, and has assisted the Guatemala Subcommittee with the missionary work in that area, making her first trip in 1985 and five subsequent trips since her first visit.

When Sister Judy's co-worker heard that she was invited to be our guest speaker and the purpose of this event, her friend volunteered to donate her delicious home-made chocolate candy for sale to be used for the Durango, Mexico project. The Youngstown Circle sisters are very appreciative of those who had supported and contributed to this fund-raising event.

When I met with the proprietor of the facility to pay the bill, her question to me was, "Where did you get that speaker?" This allowed me an opportunity to tell her of the wonderful love

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*"She prepared herself to be used of God and developed a personal and intimate relationship with Him then waited upon the Lord for His direction for her life."*

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and close bond we share in Christ Jesus—our most wonderful Church Family.

We thank God for the many sisters who donate their time and God-given talents to the work of the Lord in many varied areas of the Church, and with the financial assistance to the missionary endeavors of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was a day well spent in fellowship and we were edified and blessed by Sister Judy's presentation.

### Ohio Midwest Ladies' Circle Seminar Day

By Sister Teresa Pandone

The Ohio Midwest Area of the Ladies' Uplift Circle met in Erie, PA

on Saturday, April 24, 2004 with twenty-six in attendance.

President, Sister Rosalie Mott, welcomed and thanked all those present for their support and attendance. She reviewed some of our scheduled events and projects. The Ohio MW Region Circle is involved in many worthwhile projects: putting together layettes for Meaford, Canada; planning to initiate a Missionary Network System (MNS) Program; providing supplies for Kenya; supporting a child of "Saved By Grace Orphanage"; financially supporting the missionary work of the Church.

Sister Carla King conducted our seminar entitled "A Woman of Strength," which was enjoyed by all. She reviewed several female characters from the Holy Bible and Book of Mormon and told of the courage, faith and trust they had in the Lord. Each of us was given a poem entitled "A Woman of Strength." Class participation was very good and many edifying experiences were shared of God's goodness, love and direction in our lives. We were truly blessed.

We were served an enjoyable lunch prepared by the Erie Sisters, which was served by Brothers Joel Gehly and Clarence Kirkpatrick. (Brothers, please take note.)

Our afternoon session began with a craft project conducted by Sister Elizabeth Kall. She taught us how to make Bible/book markers, which was a lot of fun.

Sister Ruth Gehly shared her testimony and experiences of her travels with Brother Joel on various missionary trips (Germany, Italy, Kenya, Nepal). The details of her trips were very interesting, and we learned a lot of what she and others encounter on their trips out of our country, and how God has guided and protected them on their journeys. She has been enriched by all of her experiences in the missionary work of the Church.

Sister Rosalie Mott thanked the Erie Sisters for hosting this event and each of us left well satisfied and edified. We departed feeling it was a day well spent in service and fellowship.



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## SAMBA Rustic Campout

*By Brother Peter Benyola  
Area MBA Editor*

After feeling blessed during last year's rustic camping weekend, the Area MBA decided to revisit Myakka State Park in Sarasota, Florida, where the brothers and sisters of the Southeast isolated themselves with each other and with nature for the weekend.

Saturday afternoon, members from across Florida and Georgia gathered and prepared to rough it for the weekend. We were privileged to have Brother Panfilo DiCenzo and two other brothers from their organization, the CASH Association, Inc. from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, among us. The Clean and Sober Humans Association, which was founded by Brother Panfilo, is dedicated to substance abuse prevention and those seeking and recovering from the disease of addiction. This organization seeks to help people with chemical addictions to become clean, then to tell them about Christ, and ultimately to introduce them to The Church of Jesus Christ. Although their efforts in the CASH club are localized to drugs and alcohol, they were invited to come and inform us about the seriousness of all kinds of addictions.

These brothers provided a seminar for the young people which offered them advice about breaking free from any addictions they might have. Brother Panfilo also emphasized the importance of the blessing upon a child in the Church when he or she is born. This blessing is meant to protect a child until the age of accountability, and also encourages the young people to set themselves apart from the vain things of the world.

Brother Panfilo continued to share his valuable wisdom in the area of addiction in our evening meeting,

where he explained to the brothers and sisters the strategy his organization uses when they approach people about Jesus Christ. They integrate professional treatment with spiritual treatment, which is a combination they have proven is very important to long-lasting results in a person's life, with 98% success and 14 baptisms into the Church; some even becoming ordained officers. They also explained how church membership can nourish people with substance abuse problems, from the vantage point of an elder, a friend, or a parent.

It was brought to our attention in no uncertain terms just how destructive *any* kind of addiction can be to people, but also how reparable the Gospel can be to these problems.

After a wonderful season of singing the Lord's praises around the campfire with guitar, the brothers and sisters prepared themselves for the Sabbath.

Sunday morning we enjoyed more singing, and then we heard from Brother Panfilo about using the Lord's spirit to help others deal with their problems. We then heard the testimony of how the Lord freed Brother Dave Hess, who was baptized in February, from the awful captivity of addiction.

Brother John Griffith added to the message of hope by telling us that we must accept ourselves as the beautiful children of God that we are, and to remember that the Lord is always there for us and He will never forsake us.

Brother Rusty Nowels then related the story of how he was led to break his addictions. He had an out-of-body experience which lasted several moments, in which he found himself in the place of a Roman soldier, nailing Christ to the cross at the scene of the crucifixion. He took this to mean that each time he knowingly sinned he was nailing Christ to the cross all over again. He also blessed us by playing *Nearer, My God, to Thee* on his harmonica.

After our meeting, we all returned safely to our homes.



Branch and  
Mission News

## Tampa, Florida News

*By Brother Peter Benyola*

Easter Sunday was well spent in Tampa. In Sunday school, we discussed in great detail the genesis and purpose of the Passover tradition and how it relates to the holiday of Easter. We talked about Jewish traditions and how Christ felt about those traditions.

In lieu of a sermon, an inspiring Easter program was prepared in which a brother or sister would read an excerpt from the scriptures, and then we would follow with a song pertaining to the Lord's sacrifice. There were also readings from a short paperback, *The Case for Easter*, by Lee Strobel, which cites a journalist's research on the medical explanation of what Christ endured on the cross. Strobel also interviews several theologians who render professional evidence that Christ's suffering on Calvary could not have happened any way other than the way the Gospels portray the crucifixion. It was quite interesting.

Many brothers and sisters testified of the Lord's goodness and love shown toward them when He chose to sacrifice His life for us. This led into our communion service. Because of the things weighing on our mind on Easter Sunday, this was an especially solemn and serious communion. During the passing of communion, Sister Linda offered a beautiful *a cappella* rendition of *The Lord's Prayer*.

On Friday, April 30, the Tampa Branch hosted a Singspiration to kick off the Myakka State Park Weekend Campout. Dedicated primarily to the *Songs of Zion*, we sang many of them, including a few that were unfamiliar to some attending. The consensus was that they are all beautiful gifts from God, evidenced by the many spiritual experiences related to these hymns, which we also recognized in between selections.

We had a house full that evening and the "joyful noise unto the Lord" shook the rafters of our humble building! Special selections were presented by Brother Panfilo DiCenzo from McKees Rocks, Sister Mandy and Brother Scott Griffith, Brother Isaac D. Smith, and Sister Linda and Brother Philip Benyola.

At the close of the service, a sister came forward to be anointed for a severe cut on her finger which continued to bleed. Later that weekend at Camp, she testified that the cut closed up after the anointing, and the bleeding completely stopped. Praise God!

After filling ourselves spiritually with the amazing spirit of these hymns, we congregated in the fellowship room for pizza and an array of delicious desserts. It was a blessed evening and a wonderful kickoff to the Camp Weekend. We are so blessed here in Tampa, Florida.

## Ordination in Forest Hills, Florida

By Sister Alicia Draskovich

The excitement and anticipation was evident as the saints of the Forest Hills Branch, joined by the Tampa Branch, friends and family, gathered to witness the ordinations of Brother Jim Draskovich and Brother Dan Risola into the office of Teacher. The blessings of our Lord were certainly granted to us this day.

On April 25, 2004, our morning began with the seasonally appropriate hymn *Won't It Be Pretty There in Early Spring*, performed by Sister Linda Benyola. Brother Milford Eutsey Jr. read to the congregation the duties of a Teacher from the *Law and Order of The Church of Jesus Christ*. He then read from Ephesians 4:11,12, "And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." He emphasized the point that the most important duty of a Teacher

is to be a peacemaker, always ensuring the unity among the saints.

Brother Scott Griffith then described to our many visitors how our brothers will be ordained and what they will witness during the ordination process. He substantiated the purity and authority of the process by reading Moroni Chapter 3.

Brother Bryan Griffith washed Brother Dan's feet. Brother Bryan offered a beautiful prayer for our brother and his companion in the new responsibilities. He also asked the Lord to give Brother Dan the gifts of his grandfather. Brother Dan was ordained by Brother Phil Benyola.

Brother Dewayne Eutsey washed Brother Jim's feet. Brother Dewayne asked the Lord to give Brother Jim the strength and knowledge of how to help his brothers and sisters and to feel their needs. He also asked the Lord to plant his feet firmly in the Gospel and groom him for His future use. Brother Jim was ordained by Brother Joe Draskovich.

Our resident Apostle, Brother John Griffith, told us that WE are the Kingdom of God. He expounded by telling us that the most important part of the Kingdom is the membership. The natural pyramid of power found in this world, where the leaders are on top, is in fact turned upside down in this spiritual Kingdom. Our pyramid is one of service to the membership, who sits on top. At the very bottom of this hypothetical pyramid is the foundation, Jesus Christ.

Sister Mandy Griffith sang an original song she wrote a few years ago, *Am I Doing Enough for Jesus?* which encouraged each of us to always question our level of service to God. Brother Joe Draskovich and Brother Tony Calabrese expressed their pleasure in being present for the ordinations. All felt the spirit of the Lord and our cups overflowed as we closed our meeting and joined in food and fellowship afterward.

We are grateful that the Lord saw fit to call these brothers. Our hope and prayer is they will grow in their calling and be of service and inspiration to the saints in this part of the vineyard.

## Naming of The Church of Jesus Christ

By Brother Garbriel U. Uko  
Aba Branch, Nigeria, Africa

(Editor's Note: Following are a series of scriptures by Brother Garbriel U. Uko of Nigeria that are used in that country to explain the importance of the name of The Church of Jesus Christ).

(Name: Jesus) "...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).

(Lord: supreme ruler) "Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18).

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (1 Corinthians 8:6).

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

(Christ: means Messiah or Anointed) "The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh which is called Christ: when he is come he will tell us all things.

"Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee I am He" (St. John 4:25-26).

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I the in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the father by Him" (Colossians 3:17).

"And he is before all things, and by Him all things consist.

"And he is the head of the body,

(Continued on Page 10)

## Naming of The Church of Jesus Christ

Continued from Page 9

the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

"For it pleased the father that in him should all fullness dwell;

"And having made peace through the blood of his Cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth or things in Heaven" (Colossians 1:17-20).

"That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him" (Ephesians 1:10).

"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:21-22).

*Note: All things that direct people to the church (sign post, sign board, or bill board) should bear the name Jesus Christ.*

"By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:5-6).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth;

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

*Note: Highly exalted him, and given a name which is above every name, including the names of Peter, Paul, Michael, Mary. John, James to mention but a few.*

"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the

name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

"This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10-12).

"Now I beseech you, brethern, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in that same mind and in the same judgment.

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas: and I of Christ.

"Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or where ye baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:10,12-13).

"Have they not read the scriptures which say ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day;

"And whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day.

"Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the father in my name that he will bless the church for my sake.

"And how be it my church save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name 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." (3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 27:5-8).

*Note: We are not authorized to name a church after a man or an angel.*

"Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:4).

"And he carried me away in the

Spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God.

"Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

"And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

"On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; on the west three gates.

"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:10-14).

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

*Note: My advice to all seekers of truth and would-be Christians, is to follow the scripture spiritually and not fleshly.*

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

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17).

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## Observations of Dominica

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you might have heard the stories of, that included over 3,000 steps, mostly up...), I was so utterly exhausted and walking so painfully slow that Brother Terry helped me by putting his hand against my back from behind to give me a slight push. I found myself leaning on his hand as I lifted my foot for another step. I couldn't help but think of the famous "footprints" poem. Brother Terry's hand was a constant, a steady symbol of not only the hand of the Lord supporting us in our times of desperate weakness, but of the support the Carib people can give to the priesthood, and the youth to the old. Even to this day, I can feel his hand at my back, and it gives me strength.

It's amazing how many sermons were preached to me while I was there, and they always came in the simplest ways. We spoke many times of how important it is that God's hand would move upon those people in a supernatural way, so we have been diligently praying for His power to be revealed through dreams and experiences. This is a great work. I am sure of that.

Brother Ken Lombardo

## *The Harvest is Great.*

My co-worker asked, "Did you see any results from your efforts in Dominica since your first visit there?"

Our first trip to Dominica in July of 2003 we met a community worker named Patsy Thomas. She requested that we visit with two men in need of encouragement. They were recovering alcoholics, without income or inspiration, six months sober at that time. We arrived at the abandoned craft shop. In the back was a quiet home on the edge of a cliff. There we met with two gentlemen, Felix Francis and Telemacque Darroux. The heat was oppressive and we were feeling weary and in need of refreshment. The hospitality given was with great love and much effort, since Felix was without electricity, running water and refrigeration. He prepared fresh squeezed lime juice and borrowed water and ice from his neighbor.

We visited several times during the course of our trip. We read from the scriptures and had discussions regarding our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. The men were very gracious and seemed truly interested in the Gospel.

With much anticipation we returned to Dominica in February of 2004. We found both Felix and Telemacque, now both brothers in the Gospel, truly revived! Their countenance shone bright with the light of the Gospel. They were truly happy in the Lord. Brother Felix had reopened his craft store and was making baskets and shell carvings to sell. Brother Telemacque had acquired a wood working shop and was selling his handwork at Brother Felix's store and had also been commissioned to make some custom craft work.

I told my co-worker that these men had lost hope. We presented them with the hope and Love of Jesus Christ. Within six months of our first visit with them, they had taken hold of that rod of iron with all their hearts, souls and minds. We truly were able to see the fruits of the missionary efforts put forth by all of the saints, who not only met with Felix and Telemacque, but who prayed for them.

We went to Dominica to bear our testimony and in turn it became a testimony for those at home! Praise God for His mercy and love towards us all.

Sister Sally and Brother Tom Curtin

## Missionary Trip to Nigeria

Continued from Page 4

building at 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. before continuing with items of business. The final day of conference was Sunday, which brought almost 1900 brothers, sisters and friends together under one roof at the National Headquarters Building. Each of us three visiting brothers addressed the congregation, but the highlight of the day was listening to the eleven choirs from each district throughout the Nigerian church. Words cannot capture the beautiful lyrics and harmony that reflected hours of preparation and practice. Each choir sounded like angels praising God as they lifted their voices towards heaven.

The remaining days brought multiple meetings and visits with the ministry of various districts and a visit to the orphanage which provides for 34 orphans (privately supported and sponsored). Unfortunately, the visit was shortened by two days because of electricity outages, generator problems and no running water at the church mission house. Even for missionaries who are familiar with "less than ideal living conditions," situations such as these posed great challenges which made it unwise to remain. As we returned home, however, the brothers and sisters of Nigeria remained behind to deal with inconveniences that we view as almost intolerable.

We praise God for a successful trip to Nigeria and ask the saints world-wide to pray that conditions improve so that the natural hardships they take in stride are eased and the Lord continues to bless The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria and throughout the world.

## Children Blessed

Ashley Lynn Carpenter, daughter of Carl Michael Carpenter and Patty Ann Muscarella, was blessed on May 9, 2004 at the Miami/Dade, Florida Mission.

Brooke Lawson Carver, daughter of Chris and Beth Carver, was blessed on May 9, 2004 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Holly Marie Archer, daughter of Dana (Nardoizzi) Archer, was blessed April 4, 2004 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Gavin Eric Koenig, son of Rick and Amy Koenig was blessed on April 4, 2004 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Kacy Regan Paxon, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Jamy Paxon was blessed on May 9, 2004 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Ty Dominick Risola, son of Dominick and Keena Risola was blessed on April 11, 2004 at the Forest Hills, Florida Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother John Ray Hogue was baptized on May 8, 2004, in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brothers Mark Naro and Frank Palacios and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Sister Tina Martorana was reinstated on May 9, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio, Branch.

Brother Frank Baldwin was reinstated on May 9, 2004 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Marcela Carranza was baptized on March 28, 2004 in the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch. She was baptized by Brother Daniel Mora and confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas.

Brother Lenny Lee Nelson was baptized on April 25, 2004 in the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Checchi and confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola.

## Ordinations

Sister Lisa Francione was ordained a Deaconess in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on May 9, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Lorie Prokup and she was ordained by Brother Ralph Cartino.

Sister Susan Genaro was ordained a Deaconess in the Liberty, Ohio Branch on May 9, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Jean Genaro and she was ordained by Brother John Genaro.

Brother James Draskovich was ordained a Teacher in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on April 25, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Dewayne Eutsey and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Draskovich.

Brother Daniel Risola was ordained a Teacher in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on April 25, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Bryan Griffith and he was ordained by Brother Phil Benyola.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ANTHONY F. CALABRESE

Brother Anthony F. Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward on April 30, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Kelly; sons Anthony Jacob and Noah Reign; parents Brother Tony and Sister Aileen Calabrese, and sister, Sister Jennifer DeMercurio.

### JOHN RAY HOGUE

Brother John Ray Hogue of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on May 10, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; daughter, Crystal Marie Williams; son, John Carl Hogue; two granddaughters, Crystal and Destiny; mother Virginia Rush; three sisters and one brother.

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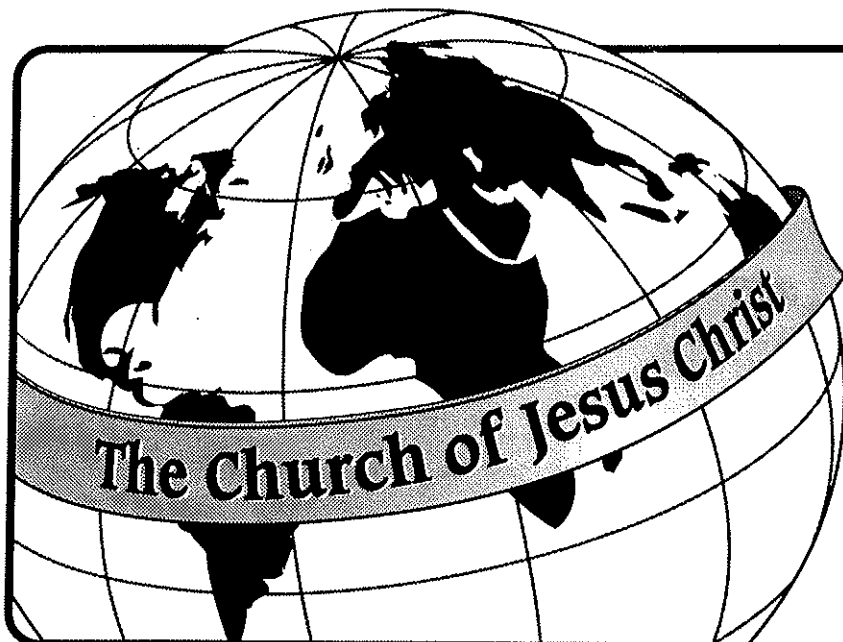
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

August, 2004

Volume 60, No. 8

## Ordination at Atlantic Coast Regional Conference

A large gathering of brothers, sisters, friends, and children assembled at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Edison New Jersey on Sunday, March 21, 2004. Our Regional Conference meeting began promptly at 10:00 AM with the hymn, *We're Marching to Zion*. After a few opening remarks by the Regional President and brief announcements by the Secretary, Brother Philip Benyola Sr., who was visiting from Florida this weekend, opened the meeting in prayer.

Before the speaking portion of the service commenced, the Atlantic Coast Area Choir sang *For Those Tears I Died*. Brother Paul Benyola, our resident apostle, addressed the congregation, mentioning that we are saddened by the recent passing of Apostle V. James Loyalvo. He went on to speak of our gathering today as a Church, and the purpose for which we are gathered. This is the Church that Jesus Christ set up, not one that man has set up.

The Lord has called ministers to serve in His Church, and today our Brother Tom Curtin of the Brunswick, Maine Branch has been called into that service. Not only him, but his wife, Sister Sally, as well. During

a break in the business conference held the day before, a Ministerial Board meeting was held and Brother Tom was brought before them. Their recommendation to ordain him an elder was later ratified by the brothers assembled in conference. This morning, in preparation for the ordination, Brother Paul read from the *Minister's Manual* on the duties and responsibilities of the Priesthood. He read the Great Commission given by Christ to His apostles in Matthew 28:18-20, as well as parts of Alma the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter, which speaks of the Priesthood after the order of the Son of God.

Before proceeding with the ordination, Brother Ken Lombardo was asked to offer a song. Prior to singing, Brother Ken recounted Brother Tom's calling into the Church 14 years prior in the Metuchen Branch. After attending our Church for a short time (only one or two services), Brother Tom rose to his feet and called for his baptism. Brother Ken told of his concern for this young man, and testified how the Lord revealed to him in a dream that Brother Tom would do well if he was spiritually nourished and cared for. All were blessed as we listened to our brother relate this experience, after

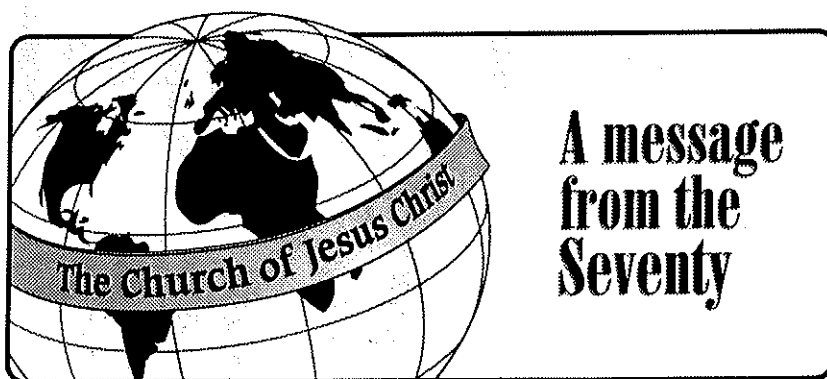
which he sang *How Many Times*.

As we proceeded with the ordination, Brother Anthony Scolaro washed Brother Tom's feet. The congregation sang *Blessed Assurance* as the ministry assembled there that day gathered around Brother Tom. Brother Jim Crudup offered a prayer to the Lord prior to the ordination, and then Brother Jim Sgro ordained Brother Tom, anointing him with blessed oil and pronouncing the Priesthood upon him as Brothers Richard Onorato Jr. and Darryl Onorato, both elders in the Brunswick, Maine Branch, laid their hands upon Brother Tom's head as well.

Brother Steve Curtin presented a song, accompanying himself on guitar, about the calling of King David. As recorded in the *Bible*, it was not man's choice but God's choice to anoint David King over Israel. The lyrics of the song reflected this sentiment, "When others see a shepherd boy, God may see a king."

Brother Tom Curtin addressed the congregation, reading from Psalm 127:1, "*Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*" With a great deal of spirit and power our Brother Tom asked us who is building our house today. He spoke

(Continued on Page 8)



## Venezuela

Venezuela is a land rich in beauty and natural resources. The richest natural resource is its people. In spite of the country's natural resources and wealth, it is unfortunate that the majority of the people, approximately 80% are living in abstract poverty. The real natural wealth of the country is in its youth. Approximately 50% of its population is under 22 years of age.

Now the country is rich beyond measure. The Church of Jesus Christ is established in a small community called Valle Guanape, Venezuela. In this Mission, there are now seven members. The membership consists of three brothers and four sisters. The Church now has two Elders and two Deaconesses.

Brothers Duane Lovalvo, Frank Palacios and Don Ross had the opportunity to visit the Mission from May 26 to June 1, 2004. Prior to taking our journey, in our hotel room at the Miami International Airport, we petitioned the Lord in prayer that He would bless our trip. We requested His safety, guidance, direction and Spirit. We felt the Spirit of the Lord in our prayers and in the room. It was our desire to work for the Lord and hopefully to bring a blessing by preaching and teaching the Restored Gospel to the membership and many visitors.

We were met with love, the perfect love, the love of God. Brother Raul Bicelis and Sister Alicia Bicelis welcomed us when we arrived at their home. What a blessing to be greeted with love, a holy kiss and a

warm and strong handshake.

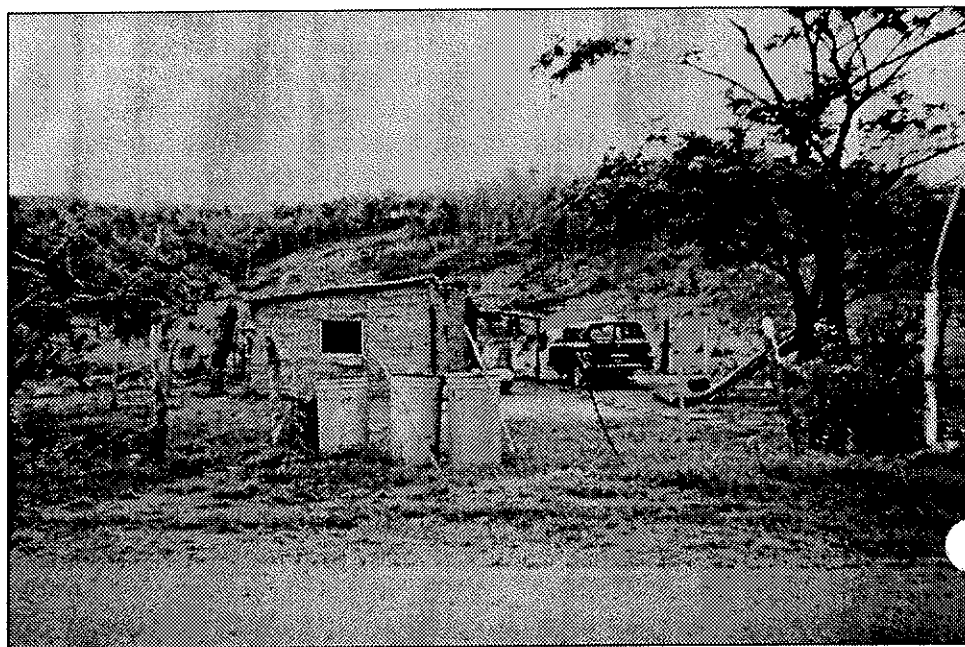
Friday afternoon, May 28, 2004, we met with Brothers Raul Bicelis and Esnel Calcureon to discuss their recommendations into the Priesthood. Brother Raul Bicelis had been reluctant during the past two years to accept this responsibility. It is not that the calling was not evident, it was because two Apostles, during counseling with them, expressed through the spirit of discernment that God was calling Brother Raul Bicelis into the Ministry. This had been told to him in the past but he remained reluctant to accept the responsibility. He was an ordained Teacher, did the work of an Elder by teaching and preaching to the members and surrounding community, but remained reluctant to accept the calling and responsibility. We explained that God would bless

him, guide him and direct him.

It must be noted that during the past two years, Brothers Fred Olexa, Vice Chairman and Don Ross, Chairman of the Venezuela Field Committee have felt prompted by the Spirit of God on more than one occasion that God was calling both of our brothers, Brothers Raul Bicelis and Esnel Calcureon into the Ministry.

It became apparent and the feeling came over Brother Don Ross that during the questioning of Brother Raul Bicelis, he would accept the calling at this time. As we questioned Brother Raul Bicelis, he asked, "Does the Book of Mormon fully explain how to baptize?" We referred him to the Scriptures in the Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 11, where the Lord instructed the Ministry on what to say and how to perform a baptism. He stated firmly that he would accept the calling.

We questioned Brother Esnel Calcureon about the Ministry. He shared with us a dream that he recently experienced. In his dream, he was attending a funeral and a minister from another faith was preaching at the funeral. Brother Esnel Calcureon spoke to the Lord in his dream and said, "Lord, I should be preaching the Restored Gospel to these people!" Brother Esnel Calcureon stated during the question-



Home, sweet home for a Venezuelan family.

ing, that he "felt his heart was going to explode!"

We felt a wonderful and powerful spirit during our discussions with the brothers. The Spirit of God fell upon Brother Don Ross who asked that we pray to God and thank Him for His blessings and direction. We knelt in prayer and Brother Don Ross prayed and with tears and a strong voice thanked God for His goodness, mercy, direction, support and for calling our brothers into the Ministry. Brothers Raul Bicelis and Esnel Calcureon are both very humble brothers.

It was agreed to ordain both brothers into the Ministry. Brothers Duane Lovalvo, Don Ross, and Frank Palacios were unanimous in feeling the calling of these brothers into the Ministry.

We met Saturday morning, May 29, 2004 with Brothers Raul Bicelis and Esnel Calcureon. They were instructed on the decorum of a Minister, how to perform the various ordinances of the Church, and the Scriptures dealing with the Establishment, Apostasy and Restoration. The meeting was approximately three hours in length. The brothers practiced the laying on of hands for spiritual needs and strength, how to anoint, how to bestow the Holy Ghost, how to baptize, how to break the bread, pour the wine and bless each. They were also instructed to read the Book of Mormon from the beginning and to study the Bible, beginning with the New Testament, Acts, and Epistles. Brother Duane Lovalvo was asked to take the lead in the instruction. He was blessed in his instruction. Sister Alicia Bicelis took notes of the instruction for our brothers' future reference. She is an excellent secretary besides being a blessed Deaconess.

A meeting was held late Saturday afternoon. Approximately 25 people from the community attended the service. Before we could start the meeting, four people came forward and asked to be anointed. We anointed a young boy with a high fever. He was immediately healed. Sister Fidelia Antonia-Leal was anointed for a severe headache. She

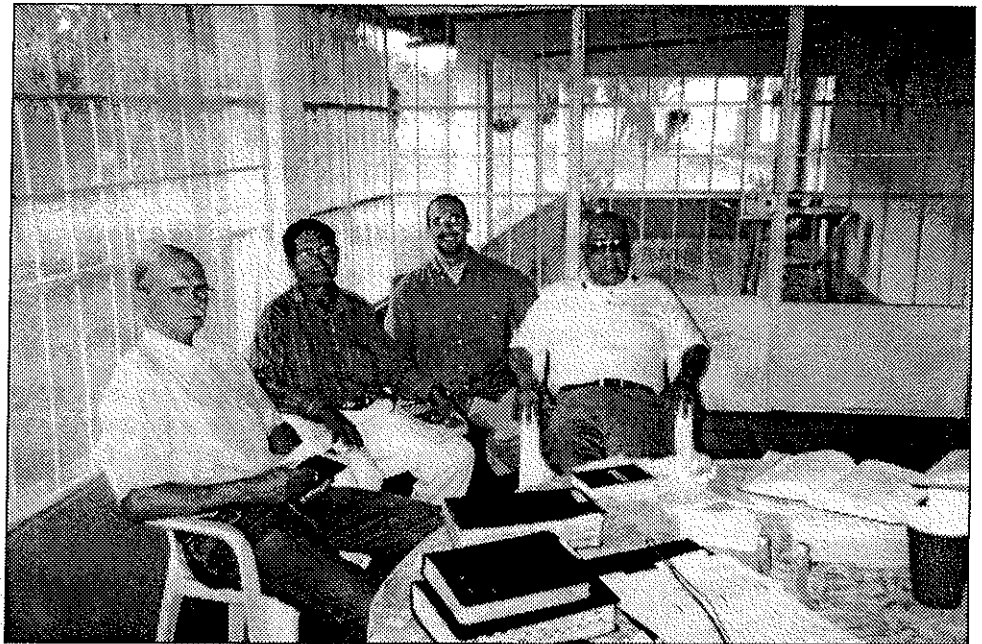
testified that the headache was gone, she was healed. Sister Carmen Quiero was anointed. Her foot was severely swollen and her shoe would not fit. She was healed! The shoe fit! Young Renaldi Calcureon, Brother Esnel Calcureon's son who suffers from multiple sclerosis and epilepsy was anointed. He stated he felt much better and stronger after the anointing.

We spent the meeting in singing, prayer and testimony. It was a blessed meeting with tears of joy. Brothers Duane Lovalvo, Frank Palacios and Don Ross expressed

Lovalvo and Don Ross felt the Spirit and prompting that Sister Catalina Quiero was being called into the office of Deaconess. The feeling was unanimous. When questioning her, she stated she would accept the office of Deaconess. She is a very humble sister, a wonderful worker from a wonderful family.

Our Sunday Service, May 30, 2004, was a blessed meeting. We had 35 children and young people, and 30 adults.

We opened our meeting in prayer. The service began with the young peoples' choir singing a



**Left to right: Brothers Raul Bicelis, Esnel Calcureon, Duane Lovalvo and Frank Palacios**

their joy at being able to visit the Valle Guanape, Venezuela Mission.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we were advised that Sister Catalina Quiero had a dream. We asked her to share it with us. She dreamed that Sister Alicia Bicelis was going away for an extended period of time. In her dream, Sister Catalina Quiero was caring for the brothers and sisters. It was determined that Sister Alicia Bicelis is planning to travel to Miami, Florida to spend time with her children for several weeks. Sister Catalina Quiero was not aware of Sister Alicia Bicelis' plans.

Brothers Frank Palacios, Duane

number of selections, many from our *Saints Hymnal*. The ordinations of our brothers into the Ministry took place.

Brother Raul Bicelis' feet were washed by Brother Frank Palacios. He was ordained by Brother Duane Lovalvo.

Brother Esnel Calcureon's feet were washed by Brother Duane Lovalvo. He was ordained by Brother Don Ross.

The brothers took their place with the Ministry. We then proceeded with the ordination of Sister

(Continued on Page 9)

## Missionary Trip to Colombia

*By Evangelist Richard Scaglione*

My fourth missionary trip to Bogota, Colombia, South America was very special. My wife, Sister Lucetta, had heard me speak about the blessings and love I found my previous trips and enjoyed the many pictures of my new spiritual family. She had the desire to accompany me on this trip, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Now she has the same excitement.

In Atlanta, we joined Brothers Mark Naro (Lorain, Ohio) and Sergio Rodriguez (our translator from Anaheim, California). Upon arrival in Bogota, we were met at the airport by Brother Felipe, whose wide smile and embraces were the first of many we would experience during our ten-day stay. When we arrived at his home, which is "our home away from home" or, as they say, "Mi casa, su casa!" we were greeted by the other members of the family. Words cannot express the love and joy they showed on us. They were especially happy to meet my wife.

We spent a very busy time holding meetings on the two Sundays

we were there, as well as holding meetings every evening. We were able to preach, teach, exhort, encourage, and reinforce our members and visitors in the Gospel of Christ. Their response and support was evident in their testimonies, singing and fellowship.

Not only did we enjoy the love of our 16 members, but we shared the Gospel with 12 who visited, five for the first time. The language of love was clearly understood by all. Many were anointed for afflictions, strength, and various problems in their lives. In addition, we visited many friends and relatives of the family. Some we met for the first time, but they opened their homes to us and welcomed our visits. We experienced great liberty in speaking about The Church of Jesus Christ, the Restored Gospel, and the Book of Mormon.

The spirit of unity and love was evident as the three of us, working together for the first time, shared the blessings of God. As the saying goes, "We were all on the same page," supporting and complementing our efforts in one accord.

Despite the news reports of violence and danger in Colombia, we traveled throughout the city without

(Continued on Page 9)

## Miracles Have Not Ceased!

*By Brother Lyle Criscuolo*

Brothers Jason Monaghan and Lyle Criscuolo recently visited the Church in Kenya, East Africa. The trip was from March 24 thru April 11, 2004. In addition to the usual village visits and training for all the ordained officers in such topics as the Faith and Doctrine, Apostasy and Restoration, duties and responsibilities of their office, the brothers traveled to the relatively new village of Kimilili to visit a large congregation of saints (40) being serviced by an ordained Teacher.

Kimilili is about 4 ½ hours from the main body of the Church. Five brothers packed into the Church vehicle, and began the journey to Kimilili. About 1 ½ hours into the trip, we came upon a sugarcane wagon pulled by a farm tractor. The cane wagon was about 12 feet wide and nearly impossible to see around. A matatu or Kenyan taxi was coming from the opposite direction at a high rate of speed and pulled out to pass the wagon just as our vehicle came even with it. It was only through the mercy of God that all people in both vehicles were not killed. We began to thank the Lord for His protection and watchful care over us. Later we learned that at the same moment, Brother Wayne Martorana, the Kenya Coordinator at home in Ohio, was awakened at 4:00 a.m. from a sound sleep and felt a need to pray for our safety. God is good, all the time.

It was possible to continue our journey and visit with the saints in Kimilili, and to also meet the parents of a young Kenyan student in Michigan who spent time with the Church at the 2003 GMBA Campout. She is a student at Saginaw Valley State University and has attended the Harrison Mission several times as her schedule permits. Her name is Jemima and she is looking forward to being at this year's GMBA Campout as well.

The following day, we went to

(Continued on Page 10)



Sunday meeting attendance.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Some of the greatest lessons I learn are from my children. Recently, my 3-year-old and I were doing some work around the house. He started singing *Keeping Step* and said, "Daddy, it's time to sing!" So I started singing the song with him. I really started getting into the singing, and was singing louder and harder (Thankfully no one was home as my singing can be quite scary!). At some point I realized my son had stopped singing. Finally he spoke up and said, "Daddy, singing time is over now. It's time to work." Almost immediately, my mind went to this scripture:

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).*

The more I thought about it, the more I realized how profound this really is. EVERYTHING that happens to us in life happens at a specific time, and most of the time it is NEVER when we want it to happen. This, brothers and sisters is the hand of God in our lives! The scripture teaches us that His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Therefore, what we think would be best for our lives, is usually not what God thinks is best. For example, things in life can be going along so smoothly, and then suddenly there is tragedy or death. It is human nature to ask why this could happen when everything was going along so smoothly. Or, you may have had one tragedy and trial after another. It is human nature to ask why things are so bad in your life when you are trying so hard to serve God. Or, you may have plans for when you will finish school, get married, get that new job, have children, retire, and none of it happens when you expect it to. It is human nature to ask why so many things are not going your way. Fortunately, we serve a God that doesn't have a human nature, but has a GODLY NATURE. Some people in life will challenge this by saying, "This (situation) is so bad, how can it possibly be the right thing at the right time for me?" Another piece of scripture teaches that ALL things work together for good to those that love and serve God. That means good things and bad things. Remember God isn't nearly as concerned about our natural comforts as He is our soul. Maybe our natural comforts need to suffer in order for us to save our soul. We have a sister in our branch who is in a wheelchair, and cannot walk. She was shot with a gun years ago which paralyzed her for life. Yet she has no desire to walk again. You see, our sister had a weakness for worldly dancing which would take her places she shouldn't be. She always says, "I'd rather go to heaven in a wheelchair than dance my way into hell."

So there is a time to every purpose under heaven. God has a time to gather Israel, to establish Zion on this land, to give revelations, to destroy the wicked, and a time for Jesus to return. His timing may not be what we want or expect, but His timing is always the right time. In our individual lives, He has a plan which includes when things will happen (including our death). It is impossible to guess what will happen to us, and when. If we trust that our lives are truly in His hands, then we need not worry about what happens to us in life. We simply need to endure to the end.

Funny how little children instinctively adapt to changes in life. The next time I find myself struggling with something, I'll remember this lesson. And when it's time to stop singing and get to work, I will!



# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God Cleanses the Promised Land

(Ether 9th Chapter)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever watch the news or hear grown-up talk and feel very afraid of things going on in the world? Do you hear people talking about war or government leaders who do bad things and don't care about regular people like us?

When you hear these things, do not fear. Your trust is not in soldiers or men that run the country. Your trust is in the everlasting God. God knows what is going on. God sees the bad and the good. God gives people many chances to change their ways and be good to one another. He also knows how to protect those that love and serve Him.

The Lord can take care of any evil in the land. First, He watches His people and blesses those who are good. Then, He sends preachers to warn the people who are bad to repent and change. Finally, He acts.

In the days of the Jaredite King Com, the people had spread out over all the face of the land. Then they forgot God and great wickedness began among them. One of the most wicked was a son of King Com, named Heth. He wanted the power to be the king. He began to belong to a secret group that made plans to destroy his father, and he did so. He took a sword and killed his father!

God sent prophets in the land telling all of the Jaredite nations that they must all stop their sinful ways or



there would be a curse on the land. God said that this is a promised land that was set aside for people to love God and serve Him in freedom.

God said that if they did not do right, they would be destroyed when they became full of evil. The new King Heth told people to kill the prophets. They threw some of them into deep pits and let them die; they killed others.

Now, before all this sin had crept in, this people were richly blessed by God. They had all kinds of fruit and grains and beautiful fabrics and gold and silver. They also had all kinds of cattle, oxen, sheep, goats, and useful animals like horses and elephants. Scientists have discovered mammoth bones and small horse bones from this period of time, and some animals useful to man called cureloms and cumoms that many think were llamas and vicunas.

Instead of being thankful, King Heth and his people just got more evil. They were greedy for things and power. The prophets warned them that God would stop the rain and a famine would come but they never cared. God keeps His promises and does what He says. He stopped the rain. Many wicked people died. Then He sent forth poisonous serpents to attack people and the animals. Great flocks of animals began to frantically flee away from the serpents. They migrated in masses southward.

And it came to pass that the Lord did cause the serpents to stop chasing the animals and stay in one area, making it impossible for the people to pass or they would be bitten. Great numbers of people had been following after the fleeing animals to eat the

ones that died on the way, until they had devoured them all.

Now they were out of food. When they saw them starve to death, they finally began to be sorry for all the evil they had done. They began to cry out unto the Lord.

And when the Lord saw they were truly sorry, he sent the rain. The people began to revive again. There began to be fruit in the north countries, and the land round about. The Lord showed forth His power unto them in preserving them from the famine. The wicked King Heth, the murderer, was

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### WORD SEARCH

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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Ohio-Midwest Area Campout

*By Sister Elizabeth Kall  
Ohio-Midwest Area MBA Secretary*

The Ohio-Midwest Area has just come off of its weekend campout held at Ashland University. We've been able to see the Lord's hand move as He has multiplied many blessings for His people. There's an excitement growing throughout our area and amongst the young people that is beautiful to witness!

This weekend's theme was "Stand and Deliver." Our seminar teachers worked hard providing each

age group with different ways to stand and deliver for God. We enjoyed wonderful times of fellowship with the saints. Many participated in the recreation activities, men's bakeoff, crafts and auction.

The spirit of the Lord was strong in our meeting as we met in the auditorium on Sunday morning. The Lord enabled His blessings to flow as we introduced the new *Songs of Zion*, listened to the words brought forth by our brothers and shared in a time of testimony.

During testimony, (I'm very excited to announce!) Desiree Morris of the Kinsman Branch was moved to ask for her baptism. Many brothers and sisters came forth with confirming experiences. The excitement of the meeting only heightened when Desiree's younger brother Josh came forth requesting prayer. As he stood, Josh too requested baptism. What a wonderful

way to end the meeting!

Last night, everyone gathered at the Kinsman Branch to witness two more souls rendering obedience unto God, and how special for a brother and sister to enter the waters on the same day!

We're very excited in the Kinsman Branch and in our area to see how the Lord is working with the young people. GOD IS SO GOOD! Please continue to pray for our Area's young ones that we can continue to Stand firm and Deliver for the Lord. We'll be taking a trip to LaGrange, Kentucky this weekend to uplift the mission. We're ready to work and continually prayerful that we can move the hand of God.

Look for more on the Ohio-Midwest Area Camp and the baptisms in the *Gospel News*. I'll be writing an article, but I was just so overjoyed that I had to write today!



Branch and  
Mission News

## Miami/Dade, Florida Mission

*By Sister Eileen Katsaras*

Over the last few months, we continue to have meetings blessed with the Spirit of God.

We've had some visitors, and a young girl named Ashley Carpenter was blessed in the Church, by Brother Miguel on May 9, 2004. Sister Pauline Ritz celebrated her 81st spiritual anniversary in the Church in May, 2004.

You try to reform your life on your own, but God comes and reforms it when you exercise your repentance. Isn't this what the Church is all about? The only thing that separates us from God is sin. We have to make room for Christ in our lives.

Visiting us from Maine were

Brother Justin Onorato's parents, Sister Kathy and Brother Daryl. We enjoyed Brother Daryl's sermon on Matthew 16:13. "Once you proclaim you represent The Church of Jesus Christ, you put yourself on the line. When we step outside the door, Satan is there, wrestling. Christ said, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' Take the fullness of the Gospel with you and remember what David did — he constantly sang and praised God.

A new friend, Rocio Arana, from Peru came and was with us for three months enjoying the meetings and now has moved to Boca Raton. We pray she continues to find her way to church. Her last testimony was that she thanked God for allowing her to meet The Church of Jesus Christ.

A Sister heard these words: "The word of God is perfect, the love of God is perfect and if you believe this to be true, serve me the rest of your life."

"....a heavenly treasure, a book full of merit, it speaks from the dust by the power of the spirit..." We enjoyed our elders singing, *An Angel Came*

*Down* and felt the Lord's spirit. The blessings of God continue week after week. We love the Gospel and pray that we all remember our promise to the Lord.

Our wonderful elders have been traveling, Brother Miguel returned from Peru with Brother Frank Rogolino and we heard a good report of three baptisms. Brother George Kovacic is presently traveling in Nepal. Our prayers are always with the Priesthood that the Lord would give them His Spirit and Power.

## June in Miami/Dade Mission

*By Sister Betty Gennaro*

The month of June has brought many blessings to us. We have Sunday evening youth meetings, where our young people ask questions, listen, and learn. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Brother Miguel Bicelis spoke from Daniel 2:44, "The

(Continued on Page 8)

## Miami/Dade, Florida

Continued from Page 7

God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. This kingdom is named after Jesus Christ. Be a citizen of the kingdom of God first. Seek the revelations of God. He reveals His will to those who sincerely ask for the truth. Once you know God's revelation, The Church of Jesus Christ, no one can take it away from you. The truth of The Book of Mormon, God's timetable, is for man – a time of probation to reconcile themselves to God. You must have faith to believe, to be fully convicted, so that no one can take away your crown."

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, our presiding elder, Brother George Kovacic, reported on a recent missionary trip to Nepal. He told about miracles and experiences bringing people to The Church of Jesus Christ. During this visit, there were 18 baptisms, and 2 ordinations.

Brother George spoke from Matthew 3, concerning fruits for repentance, a broken heart and a contrite spirit. "Then we have to be baptized. We are all God's children. We have the opportunity to choose God's way. God's spirit teaches us to be humble. We have been promised something better – to enter God's kingdom."

Annmarie Chase had been visiting our meetings, also reading and praying for God to show her the right way. The Lord gave her a dream. She saw The Church of Jesus Christ, and the other church she grew up in. The Lord was questioning her regarding what she wanted to do. She saw herself in a battle and the Lord said, "Are you ready to look up? Are you ready to take your steps forward?" She answered, "Yes." She saw the church she grew up in falling apart until it was gone, and she stepped forward into The Church of Jesus Christ.

On Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>, Sister Annmarie was baptized by Brother Miguel Bicelis, and later confirmed by Brother George Kovacic. Her testimony of past confusion, now brought peace to her life. Our visiting Apostle, Brother Dick Christman, spoke from Isaiah, about the mountain of the



**Annmarie Chase baptized by  
Brother J. Miguel Bicelis**

Lord's house being established. As the Lord's Prayer states, "...thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," how do we enter the kingdom of God? As we witnessed today, our sister went into the waters of baptism. Let us walk in the light of the Lord. As written in Moroni, "Come unto Christ and be perfected in Him. By His grace ye are perfected in Him." Deny not His power, it can change the hearts of men and women, then His spirit enters in. The Spirit of God is the comforter that Jesus promised to leave for us. We can't serve God without that comforter. It is the will of God. What we are lacking by ourselves, God makes up by His grace and He blesses us.

### Ordination at Atlantic Coast

Continued from Page 1

words of encouragement to us, while causing each of us, baptized or not, to look inward and ask ourselves this important question.

Brother Darryl Onorato, presiding elder of the Maine Branch, followed Brother Tom, speaking of the events surrounding our brother's calling. He

made reference to Christ's question to Peter, "Lovest thou Me?" which He asked three times. Brother Darryl pointed out Alma's last words to Helaman in the 45<sup>th</sup> Chapter. Alma also asked his son three times if he would adhere to those things which he had been taught: Do you believe in the words that have been recorded? Do you believe in Christ who shall come? Will you keep all of my commandments?

Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. expressed to the congregation how he witnessed Brother Tom growing spiritually over the years. He likened it to the growth experienced by the Brother of Jared as recorded in Ether. Earlier this year while anointing Brother Tom for a physical need, Brother Richard felt the power of God calling him into the ministry.

Brother Jim Sgro asked the wives of the ministry to come forward and sing with the brothers. The assembled group sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*. Afterward, the young children returned from a class that was held concurrently with the service. They gave a brief presentation on their lesson of the seven days of the Creation, and concluded by singing *Jesus Loves Me*.

Brother Willie Brown of the Freehold, NJ Branch addressed the congregation next. He testified how he had suffered a stroke in December which affected his sense of balance. He and his wife have sold their home and plan to move to the Spartanburg, SC area in the near future. He spoke to us about how we're always making plans what we'll do in the future. He asked us, "How many are making plans to serve God? There is a time appointed unto men once to die, and then the judgment." Our brother gave a stirring message to all of us, particularly appropriate for the several dozen newcomers we had in our midst on the occasion of Brother Tom's ordination.

The pre-teen children presented the lesson they had learned on the topic of Wisdom. Afterward Brother Philip Benyola Sr. gave a brief testimony and offered to read a "letter" to Brother Tom. He read a number of scriptures giving words of comfort, counsel, and exhortation to our new brother elder. The words he read, of

course, were equally as pertinent to each and every one of us gathered there that day.

After some brief closing announcements, we all sang *Since Jesus Came Into My Heart*, and Brother Arthur Searcy dismissed the meeting in prayer.

It has been our custom for some time to observe Communion during our Regional Conference Sunday services. Today, however, in order to vacate our rented space in time, we needed to forego Communion and turn our attention toward the ordination that was taking place. The Lord indeed blessed us as we gathered expectantly and started promptly. All who were there felt the blessings and the Spirit of God, even as we moved through the activities of the day.

Nevertheless, it just wasn't the same without Communion. Later that day, during an Area MBA Singspiration at the Hopelawn Branch (another Conference Sunday custom in the Atlantic Coast), the brothers in the Region and the Area MBA decided to serve Communion to those who were gathered there. Regional President Brother Jim Sgro passed Communion with our newly-ordained Brother Tom Curtin, adding another layer of blessings upon those we had experienced earlier in the day. We praise God for the blessings He bestows upon us as we assemble ourselves together anticipating the outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 3

Catalina Quiero. Her feet were washed by Sister Alicia Bicelis and she was ordained by Brother Frank Palacios.

Brother Duane Lovalvo opened the preaching service. His topic was the Restoration. God truly blessed him. He conveyed the testimony of Joseph Smith, how he petitioned God, how God used him, how the Church was restored and referenced the Restoration Scriptures.

Brother Don Ross followed,

emphasizing the Restoration and building on that theme, conveyed how Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and so is His Church.

Communion was passed to the membership. Brother Raul Bicelis blessed and passed the bread. Brother Esnel Calcureon blessed and passed the wine.

Before the close of the meeting, five children were blessed. Their names are: Victor Santamaria, blessed by Brother Raul Bicelis, Eli Jose Camacho, blessed by Brother Frank Palacios, Moises Camacho, blessed by Brother Don Ross, Ninero Camacho, blessed by Brother Duane Lovalvo, and Eduar Alexander Gaviria Lemuz, blessed by Brother Don Ross.

Three women asked for their baptism. These baptisms will be handled in the very near future.

It was a blessed day and Sunday Service. The love of God and Spirit of God was manifested in our service. The Lord did not leave us alone. As the hymn states, *He Was There All the Time*.

After the service, we socialized with the attendees. We distributed some twenty-five pounds of candy. We distributed new clothing for the children, gifts from the members of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. What a marvelous and blessed visit.

We began our journey home on Monday, May 31, 2004. We all arrived home safely and we thank God. We thank God for His goodness and many blessings. Please remember the work and membership in Venezuela. We have so much! They have so little if anything! God will reward you for your efforts and support.



Weekday evening meeting.

## Missionary Trip to Columbia

Continued from Page 4

any fear and felt the protection of God. We even drove over a mountain to the town of LaMesa, almost two hours away. In visiting the home of our good friend, Francisco, who is very interested in our Church and has attended many meetings, we spent time with his

family and shared the love we feel for the Lord. We also met several of his friends.

I was really impressed with the work our members have completed on our chapel. Loose floor tiles were replaced with new tiles. The floor adjacent to our chapel was completely

(Continued on Page 10)

## Missionary Trip to Columbia

Continued from Page 9

tilled and the walls were newly painted. This provides a nice rooftop room where we enjoyed a pizza social after an evening meeting. They are to be commended for the love and care they show to keep the House of God looking immaculate.

While there, we handed out several copies of our Faith and Doctrine, written in Spanish with explanations and Scripture references. Our friends have shown a great interest in learning about our Gospel. We also gave out a few copies of the Book of Mormon, and learned they are being read. We tried to answer all their questions and asked them to pray to God for greater understanding.

Please pray for our members and friends in Colombia. Most are extremely poor, having no work opportunities for decent wages. Some work for practically nothing, even though they put in long hours. However, this does not stop them from serving God and attending the meetings. Their testimonies give God the credit for leading them to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is priceless to them.

In closing, I thank God for the opportunity of working with my brothers in this most important calling. We are looking forward to making another trip later this year. Continue to pray for us.

## Miracles Have Not Ceased

Continued from Page 4

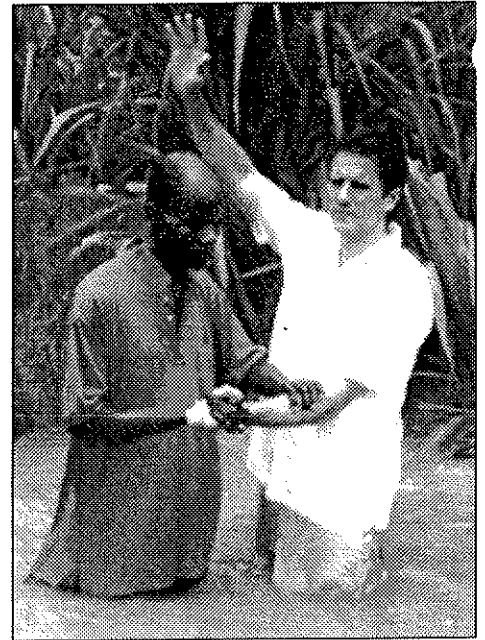
visit a church in a new village, Mulwanda, that has requested to become part of The Church of Jesus Christ. All morning, as we traveled, Brother Jason kept getting sicker and sicker until we arrived at the village. At that point he was very ill. We anointed him and he laid down in the vehicle as we proceeded into the church. However within five minutes we were joined by Brother Jason who exclaimed, "Brothers, I have been healed!" He then opened the service and preached a very inspired sermon. At the end of

the service, Brother Stephen Osaka asked whether anyone was interested in becoming part of the Restored Gospel and asked them to stand. The whole congregation stood. There were 35 adults present who wanted to become part of The Church of Jesus Christ. This congregation will be further instructed before they are baptized.

The same five brothers, Stephen Osaka, Director of the Church in Kenya, his counselors, Brothers Dismas Abuga and Joseph Nyabuto, Brothers Jason and Lyle, traveled to Nairobi just prior to returning home. There we met with a church group for the second time this visit who was interested in becoming part of The Church of Jesus Christ.

As a side note, people everywhere are hearing the Restoration message and want to become members of the Church. They have seen miracles and heard of the healings and they want the same blessings. Please let us not take what we have for granted. Many who have been born and raised in the Church take these things for granted, but those who have lived a life of poverty and sickness are excited about the true Gospel of Christ.

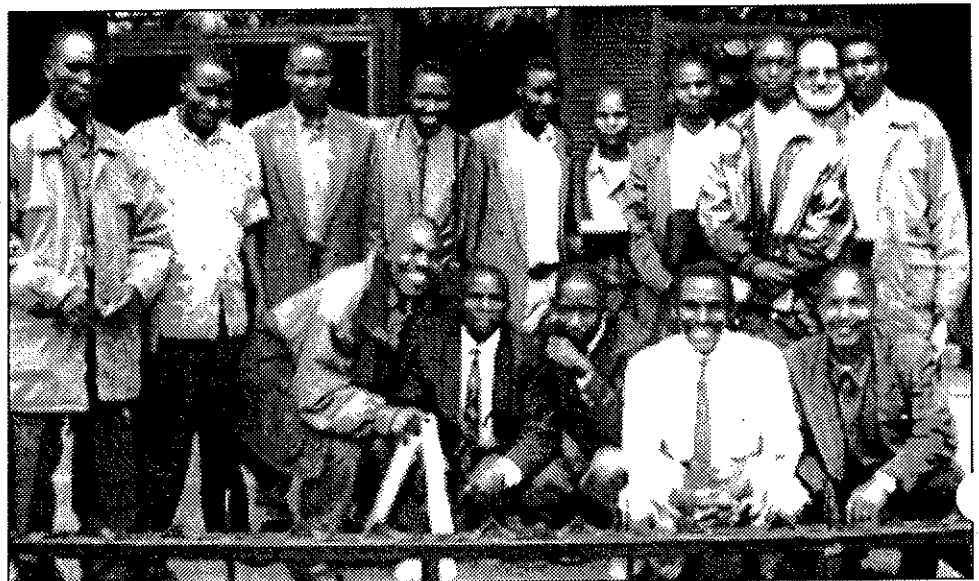
On Saturday before going to the Nairobi Airport, we met once again with the group in this large metropolitan city and this time went to the waters and baptized 16 souls into God's kingdom. After confirming



**Baptism in Nairobi**

them and ordaining two Teachers and two Deaconesses, it was necessary to hurry to change clothes and catch our flight home.

There is much work to be done in Kenya and the laborers are few. Please consider becoming a part of this great work in some way. Your prayers, financial support, and help in any capacity all go toward building the kingdom of God here on earth. Have miracles ceased? I say Nay! Nay! Nay! For I am a witness many times over.



**Ordained Brothers in Kenya**

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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Leto, Janet  
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6923 Winterberry Way  
Corona, CA 92880  
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**The Children's Corner**

Continued from Page 6

dead in the famine with his entire household except for one good relative named Shez. He was picked to be the next king and leader of the remaining people.

Shez led his people back to remember all that God had brought them through. He reminded them of how God had brought the original small group of Jared, his brother and their friends away from the Tower of Babel and to a Promised Land. King Shez worked with his people to do good. He began rebuilding the country and served God until he died as a very old man.

God did this in the days of old. He can do this today. He can protect the good from the evil. We shall not fear.

With love,  
Sister Jan

**Note of Thanks**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Sgro and Bonaduce family wish to extend their deepest thanks to all of you. We wish to thank you most for your prayers during Sister Anne Sgro's many years of illness and also for the support of those who called, sent cards, or thought of us with many gestures of food, fruit baskets and visits to mom and our family during her illness and since her passing. Knowing she is in the paradise of God gives our family much joy and comfort.

When Sister Anne passed away there was a beautiful experience had. She had been pretty restless for three days prior to passing and Dad and I and everyone were praying we would find the right thing to make her comfortable. Barrie Young, our hospice nurse, had been here in the morning and gave us a few suggestions, and about 1:00 p.m. Mom seemed to settle into a peaceful sleep. She was pretty aware of things. Just before mom fell

asleep I said to her, "Mom, I feel like the angels are here in the room today. When they are ready to take you to Jesus, go with them." She said to me, "I want to be with Jesus."

Brother Sam had been out for a while, and when he came back I said, "Pop, mom's sleeping and seems comfortable." Shortly after this she woke up and dad asked her if she loved him and she said, "Yes." He asked her if she was his Anna and she shook her head yes.

Our hospice nurse wasn't supposed to come back that day, but at 3:30 or so our doorbell rang and when I answered it, it was Barrie. I said, "Barrie what are you doing here? You weren't supposed to come back today." She told me, "I don't know. I was almost home and was compelled to turn my car around and felt I needed to be here." We were sitting in the living room by mom talking, and at about 3:57 dad was talking to Barrie about the Bible and he said, "Do you know what the Bible tells us when a person is going to pass from this life?" She said she knew a little about the Bible, but no she didn't know. He told her that the Bible tells us that when we pass the Lord is going to send angels to bear our souls back to Him. Just at that moment mom took a last breath and passed away. We know the angels were there to take her soul to our Lord. As she did this dad said, "She's gone." When I looked up I realized she had peacefully passed into her eternal rest.

God bless you all,  
The Sgro and Bonaduce Family

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Gina Italiano and Matthew Rine were united in holy matrimony in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on September 27, 2003.

Tammy Michelle Mellor and Richard Edward Welsh were united in holy matrimony in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on May 8, 2004.

## Children Blessed

Ashley Carpenter was blessed in the Miami-Dade Mission by Brother Miguel Bicelis.

Dominic Robert Farrantino, son of Sharon (Moore) and Vince Farrantino was blessed on November 29, 2003 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Devin Richard Donley, son of Tammy and Richard Donley was blessed in the Perry, Ohio Mission.

Jacob Ross Huttenberger, son of Brother Carl Jr., and Sister Suzette Huttenberger was blessed on July 4, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Ralph Creighton was baptized on March 21, 2004 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Murray and confirmed by Brother Don Pandone.

Brother Mark Rogolino of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch was reinstated on June 13, 2004.

Brother Ronald Stewart was baptized on June 13, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother William Colangelo and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Sister Annmarie Chase was baptized on June 20, 2004 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. She was baptized by Brother Miguel Bicelis and confirmed by Brother George Kovacic.

Sister Joan A. Ricco was baptized in the Perry, Ohio Mission. She was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson and was confirmed by Brother Frank Giovannone.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordinations

Brother John Bordeaux was ordained a Deacon in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on June 6, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Richard L. Scaglione, Jr., and he was ordained by Brother George Timms.

Brother Chatman Young II was ordained a Deacon in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on June 6, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Chatman Young and he was ordained by Brother Joel Calabrese.

## OBITUARIES

### RALPH BERARDINO

Brother Ralph Berardino of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on July 29, 2003. He is survived by his daughters, Sister Sandra Cardillo and Sister Elaine Moore; his son, Ronald Berardino; nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

### JOSEPH GENARO

Brother Joseph Genaro of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on October 17, 2003. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his son, Brother Ron Genaro; daughter, Sister Ruth Batson and six grandchildren.

### NICK MANES

Brother Nick Manes of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on November 29, 2003. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sister Janet Getsy. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; son, Ronald; daughter, Sister Donna Keener; and five grandchildren.

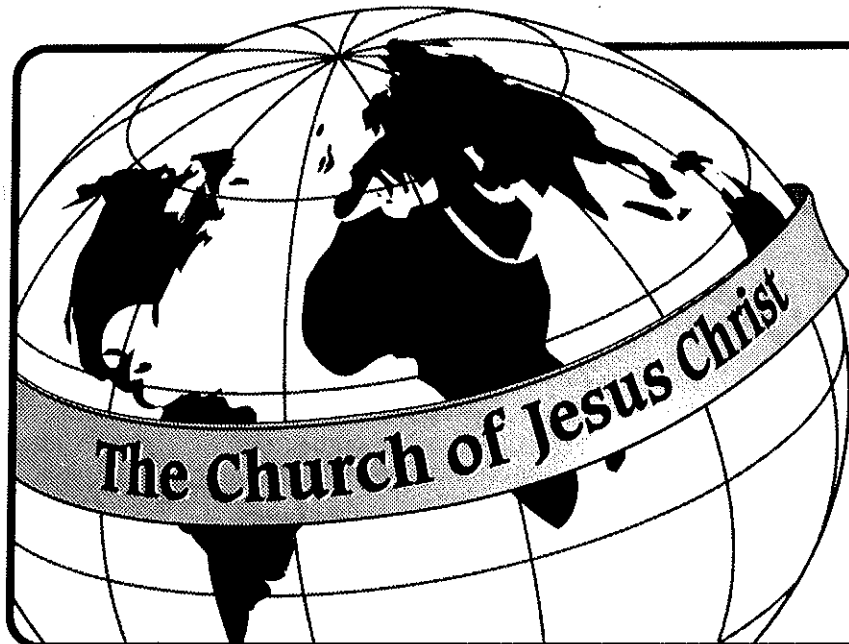
### RUTH SANTILLI

Sister Ruth Santilli of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on December 11, 2003. She is survived by her daughters, Sister Sherry Creighton and Francine Ciagio, and four grandchildren.

### ANNE E. SGRO

Sister Anne E. Sgro of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on May 11, 2004. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sandra Sgro. She is survived by her husband, Brother Sam Sgro; four children, Salvatore Sgro, Sister Rose (Brother Joe) Bonaduce, Brother Jim (Sister Lynda) Sgro and Linda Sgro; grandchildren Amy (Jeff) Kaplan, Sister Karen Bonaduce, Sister Angela Sgro, Brother Jimmy Sgro; and three brothers and sisters.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

September, 2004

Volume 60, No. 9

## A Glorious Meeting In Kathmandu Nepal

*By Brother Ron Giovannone*

This past May 2004, I along with Brothers George Kovacic, Tony Ricci, and Phil Jackson, traveled to Nepal to visit the newly established work that was started only nine months earlier. We shared testimonies, conducted three days of Elder training, visited several saints in their homes, anointed the sick, and baptized 12 candidates.

We found ourselves attending the final meeting located in a small mission building in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was planned to baptize five more souls, which became six by the end of the day; and an Elder, Deaconess, and Deacon were ordained. While sitting in the Saturday morning service, which is the Sabbath day in Nepal, I marveled at God's goodness unto all who are willing to render obedience to His Spirit. The spirit of God worked upon the saints of Nepal from the opening hymns until the closing prayer.

A strict Hindu kingdom governs Nepal. Some of the saints present at this meeting were raised from childhood hearing of Jesus Christ through what can best be described as an underground Christian movement, learning of the life of Jesus from

their father or mother with fear of being discovered. Until recently, anyone found to be Christian would be heavily persecuted and imprisoned. Over the past few years, there has been a more tolerant attitude in Nepal allowing an opportunity for the Gospel to be preached more openly. Others in the room were raised under a Hindu faith, never knowing of the mercy of the Lord until just nine months ago when this Gospel was first brought to the land of Nepal.

Many of the events that transpired throughout the week confirmed to me the words of the Apostle Peter when he stood in the presence of the men and women of Judea at the day of Pentecost, rehearsing unto them the words of the prophet Joel; "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." In a short amount of time, the Lord has begun to work His marvelous wonders among the saints of Nepal.

At the start of the meeting, I noticed Sister Praba, who earlier in the week shared her wonderful

testimony with us. She was raised as a Hindu, and never knew anything about the Lord until her husband was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. She struggled to understand what her husband was committing himself to, never knowing how the love of the Lord could cause a hardened heart to soften. She described her husband as a man who was abusive and would mistreat her. Now since his baptism, he is changed into a loving man. One night after her husband was baptized, she had a dream in which she saw herself struggling to climb a long set of stairs that lead up a large mountain. In the dream a man dressed in white appeared next to her and began to help her climb the mountain until she reached the summit. She stated she had never seen him before and didn't know who the man was. Several months latter, during a visit by Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBatista to the mission in Kathmandu, this man appeared unto her again in a vision and she realized this was Jesus Christ. She now understood what her husband had done and was baptized by Brother John.

As the day progressed, we ordained Brother Tarak Bhattarai an Elder prior to going to the baptismal site. During his ordination, the word of the Lord came forth confirming His

(Continued on Page 2)

## New Songs of Zion

(Editor's Note: Starting in April of 2004, new *Songs of Zion* have been given to the Church after 15 years. At this time, four new songs have been received, and we pray God will send more. Each month, we will print a new song or songs for you to read. This song was the first one to be given on April 15, 2004.)

### I'm Taking My Harp from the Green Willow Tree

(Psalm 137: 1-4)

I'm taking my journey,  
I've waited so long,  
I'm taking my dream,  
and I'm taking my song;  
I'm taking my freedom,  
I have to be free,  
And I'm taking my harp  
from the green willow tree.

No longer require me,  
this captive a song,  
With Bab'lon behind me  
I'm running along;  
The music from heaven,  
It's running with me,  
And I'm taking my harp  
from the green willow tree.

They took us for captives,  
required of us mirth,  
We wept while we waited  
for signs of the birth;  
A nation is budding,  
at last I can see  
And I'm taking my harp  
from the green willow tree.

So come every free man,  
the passage is clear,  
Our Father from heaven  
He's taking us there;  
I'm singing with angels,  
they're singing with me,  
And I'm taking my harp  
from the green will tree.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
April 15, 2004

## Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal

Continued from Page 1

Spirit was upon our brother. We continued our day by walking about two miles to the baptismal site, intending to baptize five candidates. The sixth, Sister Binita Joshi, arrived as we were walking back to the mission building. She had been struggling all week, and that morning she was not planning to come to Church. As she arose to start the day, she heard a

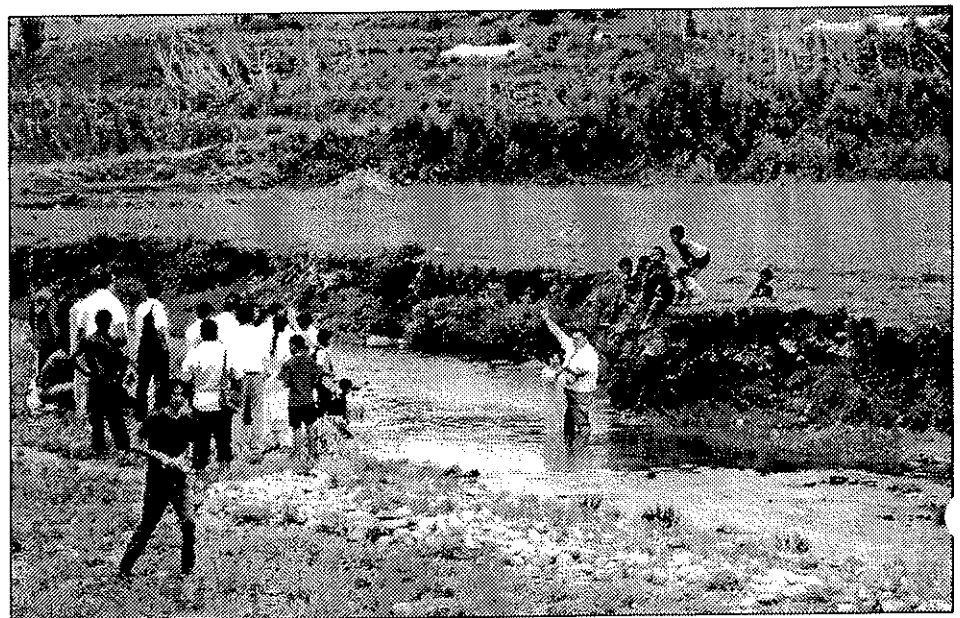
voice speak unto her stating, "Today, I will come into your house." She knew instantly this was the Lord and she needed to be baptized.

Back at the mission building, Sister Sarda Bhattarai was ordained a Deaconess and Brother Binod Marjan a Deacon. Words cannot fully describe the spirit which entered the room as their feet were being washed for their ordination. The Lord was

(Continued on Page 11)



Brother Prakash and Sister Praba Pradhan



Brother Tony Ricci baptizing Sister Binita Joshi.

# Love, the Solution to Our Problems

By Brother John Bordeaux

Love is a splendid thing. When we think of God's love for us, there can be no doubt that love is splendid. Can you complete the following phrases without referring to your Bible? "For God so loved...", "Greater love hath no man...", "Love the Lord with...", "Thou shalt love thy..." When I was a child, the common saying was, "God is love." How true that is!

However, I want to discuss the love we should have for each other rather than the love God has shown to us. That love requires its own consideration and is preached about often by the elders.

There are many references in the New Testament where we are exhorted to love one another. If mankind would respond positively to those exhortations, the problems of the world would evaporate. If we could put aside all selfishness and be generous with our love and treasure, we could solve all the problems, for surely there are enough resources on the planet for all. If through our own generosity and love we would provide for the truly needy among us, we could have a paradise on earth.

I want to give scriptural references to love and briefly expound on them. Take out your Bible and read the exact text, if necessary.

In Matthew 5:44-47 Christ tells us to love our enemies and not just those who love us, for even the Publicans loved one another. If every person followed this simple guide there would be no enemies. We could live in peace and harmony with all. There would be no gang war or wars among nations. The murder and mayhem in our streets would be no more. The Prince of Peace would have prevailed in our hearts.

In John 13:34 Christ gives a new commandment, that we should love one another as He has loved us. Just think, if we are willing to lay down our lives for friends, as Christ did for us,

surely we can be kindhearted and generous. Remember, the scriptures say, "...be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). This, again, is a call to love one another.

Paul tells the Romans in 12:9-10, "Let love be without dissimulation [disguise]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love..." He also says in 13:8-16 to "owe no man anything except to love one another." If the people of the world do this they will not commit adultery, they will not kill, they will not steal, and they will not bear false witness and will not covet. Paul further states that any other commandment is briefly understood in the statement, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

II Corinthians 13:11 says, "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." Love allows us to do this and live in harmony with one another.

In the Old Testament, Proverbs 10:12 states, "Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins." One might say love conquers sin. Please read I Corinthians 13, remembering that charity is love.

Paul writes to the Galatians in 5:13-14, "...by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In subsequent verses he lays out another list of sins that one without love would commit. Paul goes on to list some fruits of the Spirit (starting with love) and tells us that if we live in the Spirit, we should walk in the Spirit. He concludes the chapter by admonishing us not to be "desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." These traits are the antithesis of love and cannot be pleasing in God's sight.

Paul writes to his spiritual son Timothy, in II Timothy 1:1-7, that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

In Hebrews 13:1-3 we are told to "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." This reminds me of saints having had needs which some stranger fulfilled and then disappeared.

Saints often talk about the love we show toward one another. Let us just as often speak of others of the power of love and the benefits we reap when we show true love for our fellow man. We cannot love God and not love others.

When we show this unrequited love to others, we are doing Christ's bidding. For He says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these...ye have done it unto me." Then our problems will be over, and we can devote all of our energies to serving and praising God.

## Notice

The Print House is now the only avenue through which you can order the CD's entitled *Why We Sing, Wave the Flags of Zion and Stand Up for the Restoration*.

The cost of the CD's is \$12.00 plus shipping and handling. To order, write, call or E-mail:

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The Champines are no longer producing cassette tapes. The Print House still has a few *Why We Sing* and *Just Praise the Lord* cassettes in stock.

## Trust

*By Sister Linda Calabrese*

God surprises me continuously with His unwavering mercy towards me, even when I least deserve it. My journey begins with the California Youth Retreat held June 4-6, 2004 at Lake Perris. The theme for the weekend was "Keeping the Commandments." In all honesty, I thought that the seminar would be a waste of my time. "Keeping the Commandments" seemed to be a very elementary thought that I would teach to the children during Sunday School. We are never too old, though, to be reminded of the simple truths.

Being born and raised in the Church has its advantages. I never really struggled to find God. I might have struggled to surrender my life to Him, but I knew He was there. This summer will mark my 7<sup>th</sup> spiritual birthday, and as always, I will be reminded of what I need to do better. The seminar taught at the Youth Retreat brought such a reminder. It didn't focus on what exactly the commandments were, but how we apply them to our lives. Do we obey the commandments out of fear of being punished or do we obey the commandments because we love God?

That very thought hit me like a ton of bricks. Of course, I thought we obey the commandments because we love God. Immediately I began running through the past seven years in my head. My walk with God disappointed me. Serving Him seemed like a crutch at times rather than a reciprocation of love.

One of the scriptures Brother Steve Kirby used for the seminar is found in 2 Nephi 4:4. Lehi is speaking to his children telling them to keep the commandments of the Lord and they will prosper. I continued to read and came to verse 28, one of my favorite pieces of scripture that many of us know, "Awake my soul! No longer droop in sin." I started to feel a connection with the words being cried

out to God. As I reached the 34<sup>th</sup> verse I could no longer read anymore. This verse started running through my head repeatedly, "O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm."

That evening we had a campfire meeting. A common theme that wasn't spoken out loud emerged from the testimonies and requests for prayer: TRUST. Some were struggling with being called to do a greater work for the Lord and feeling like they couldn't do it. Another sister struggled with a fear, and she knew that fear wasn't from God. Again, TRUST.

The weekend wrapped up nicely, and my cousin and I stayed that following week for vacation in California. I did not think anything of the scripture from the retreat anymore until the Wednesday night service at the Anaheim Branch. Brother Mark Rabe taught the young people's class and his topic was "Trust." He kept asking if anyone had anything to relate on trusting God. Finally, at the very end, I related the scripture and what I had experienced at the retreat. I felt that I had fulfilled God's purpose by relating this to the class. Afterwards, I let the thought slip to the back of my mind and continued on with my vacation.

I returned to Pinetop, Arizona on June 12, where I am spending the summer. The next day was Sunday and I was very excited to go to Church. I do not get to go that often since I moved to Maryland so this opportunity seemed extra special to me. Brother Skip Smith taught the Sunday School lesson and the class had been studying from 2 Nephi. The class picked up on Chapter 7. Nephi is relating Isaiah's prophecy against Israel: "God has never left us; we have turned away from him." If we are obeying God, how can we walk in darkness? Continuing with Chapter 8,

Israel is told to look back to their heritage. God has helped them, and he will help us now. Again, "Trust" seemed to stand out in my mind. We have to trust that God is still the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Brother Tony Piccuito visited the Pinetop Branch that Sunday as well. He opened up the meeting with a portion of scripture found in John 14:6. Christ is answering Thomas' question, "We know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Christ answers, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." I continued to read down to verses 12-15, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Sometimes God has to hit you with something over and over until you get it. The very last verse that I read on Sunday, "If ye love me, keep my commandments," is the very topic that started this roller coaster of thought the week before. My walk with God starts with me believing like Thomas. I believed, I just couldn't see the way. The way is laid out in the commandments. I must love God and keep His commandments.

Finally, throughout all of this, I must trust that God can bring me through the smallest of struggles to the largest of trials. One of my biggest downfalls is being self-sufficient. This can be good at times but I need to be self-sufficient in taking things to God, not self-sufficient in fixing my own problems without God's help.

I feel so blessed that God took the time to reemphasize this theme in my life. Trust in God, not in the arm of flesh. Love him by keeping his commandments. Simply believe that the God we serve today is the same God in the scriptures. May God bless each of you!

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity" (Ether 2:9).*

It's time again in the United States to elect a new President. I've heard it said from many people that both candidates are a poor choice. People in this land are looking for a leader who will eliminate all of the economic, social, and military problems that this nation has been buried under for so long. Unfortunately, no man can ever restore this nation to its former glory and peace until iniquity is eradicated and Jesus Christ becomes our "Commander-in-Chief."

*"Behold this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" (Ether 2:12).*

This land can be a blessing or a curse to whoever possesses it. There is no doubt this nation has been blessed abundantly by God. When you travel to different countries and see their conditions, it becomes very obvious how the favor of God has been upon us. This is the blessings of God. God promised that the Gentiles would occupy this land in the last days, and they would be blessed because they would serve the God of the land. We have reached a point, however, where iniquity is running rampant, and it is no longer acceptable to recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as the reason for our blessings. The name of Jesus is being removed from every political reference, and is being replaced by a generic "god" who is not offensive to the numerous religions that exist. It is not enough for a political candidate running for President to simply mention "god," but it is necessary for a political candidate running for President to realize that Jesus Christ, and His teachings, must be the only political agenda that will restore this land to its former glory. Unfortunately, the Book of Mormon is not very hopeful that this will happen but predicts that the Gentiles, just like the Nephites and the Jaredites, will be swept off the land because of sin, and the government of Jesus Christ will be established forever. This is the day we long for, the Peaceful Reign. This is the day when this land will be returned to the descendants of Joseph, as God had promised, as well as the righteous from all nations. It will be a day when this nation will be like the Garden of Eden.

Years ago, the politicians questioned brothers from The Church of Jesus Christ about this teaching. They wanted to know if our Church was planning to overthrow the government. Our brothers responded that if this nation does not turn to Jesus Christ, it will overthrow itself. The Church is merely sending the warning to the people. That warning is more real today than it was years ago. As I listened to the presidential candidates speak and the people cheer, I felt a sadness and a burden for the people of this nation. The sadness comes from the fact that when God's wrath is unleashed, the wicked will be destroyed, just like in the days of the Jaredites and Nephites, and many will lose their lives and worse, their souls. Sure, there are pockets of people who understand this, but as a nation we have turned from God. The Church of Jesus Christ is not a Democratic church, or a Republican church or an Independent church, it is The Church of Jesus Christ.

So, this election, what is much more important than your vote, is your prayers. Prayers that you and your loved ones, and as many as you can reach will turn their hearts over to the real leader of this land, Jesus, and prepare for that day when the government of Christ will be established. During that election, there will be no need to vote, and there will be no opponents, praise His name!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## God Will Help You Learn the New Ways

(1 Samuel 15, 16, 17 & 18)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever gone somewhere new and felt nervous about how to act? Have you ever worried that you weren't as smart, or rich, or that you wouldn't know how to fit in or understand even the jokes and the real meanings behind what people were saying? Have you ever wondered whether you would meet someone you could trust as a friend in the new place?

In the Bible we have the wonderful story of a young boy who loved God and ended up living a life of amazing adventure. This boy's name was David. He was the youngest with seven older brothers. They were all busy doing business or serving in King Saul's army. David was sent far out in the rocky hills to protect the flocks of sheep that belonged to his family. In those days there were no flashlights to see in the dark, no telephones to call for help, and no guns to protect you when wild animals came around to attack and eat the sheep. All David had was his faith in God's protection, his own courage and his practice using slingshots and other weapons like spears or knives. A bear attacked his sheep; David killed him and saved the sheep. A wild lion attacked the sheep. David hit him with a weapon; he dropped the sheep and turned on the young man. David caught the lion by his beard and struck him and killed him also. With God's help, he saved his family's flocks.



David realized God was with him and he made up many beautiful songs, called psalms, to sing God's praises. David played a harp as he sat under the starlight or out on hills. Then one day, a messenger from David's father came rushing out to find him. The great prophet, Samuel was at his house! His father wanted him to come now! God had told Samuel that he was going to anoint and pray for the next king of Israel. The famous King Saul had sinned and God was going to replace him.

Samuel had met each of David's seven older brothers but none of them were God's choice. The Lord told him, "Don't look on the appearance or the height of the person, for the Lord looks on the heart..." He picked the boy David. How would you have felt? How do you think David's older brothers felt? Everyone was also afraid that King Saul would find out and kill them and Samuel. Don't you think David wondered what God had in store for him?

The Spirit of the Lord came upon David. God's spirit left King Saul and an evil spirit troubled him. Saul's servants had the idea to find someone to play calming, peaceful music for King Saul when he was disturbed. Someone suggested that they get David, and it was done. The boy from the country began learning new ways.

Soon a problem arose. The Philistine army was at the border. Their meanest warrior, a giant man name Goliath, had come out every morning for forty days, mocking God and defying the armies of Saul. Goliath said he would do battle and whichever man lost, his people would be the slaves of the the other army. David

had gone home when Saul had gone to battle. His three older brothers had followed Saul to battle. Their father knew they needed food so he sent David with supplies. As David came near, he heard the threats the giant, Goliath was making.

The power of God was with him and he volunteered to stand up for God and fight the giant! That's when a boy who loved and trusted God took a slingshot and killed a giant. That's when a nation of soldiers noticed a boy who was not afraid to fight for right.

Soon after, David, now famous

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### WORD SEARCH

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## New Jersey Local MBA Dinner

By Sister Terri Bravo

On March 30, 2004, the young adults of the New Jersey Local MBA planned, prepared and served a dinner in appreciation for the many brothers and sisters who helped them in their spiritual growth and development. It was such a surprise to be thanked for something we consider to be our privilege and reasonable service to God. We thank them for the delicious dinner and love they always share with us.

Their involvement in MBA has played a vital role in their ability to be workers for the Lord.

In May of 2004 in Greensburg, PA we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Missionary Benevolent Association. We were reminded that Brother Alexander Cherry was inspired to organize the MBA to promote the spiritual welfare of the youth in our midst, and to give them the opportunity to assume MBA responsibilities. We see this happening with our young people and it gives us great joy. Participation in the MBA on the Local, Area or General level is a training ground for the youth to develop as spiritual leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ. Like the generations preceding us we can testify that we learned so much about God, Jesus and His Church by participating in MBA activities.

The MBA was organized to financially assist the Church's missionary effort and to provide for the needy. Our young people are active in planning for and meeting the special projects requested by the GMBA. Last year, the local supported and enabled a young person to attend the Youth In Action program. It is a means of training our youth to jump in and get involved in missionary work!

The young people's participation in Local, Area and GMBA activities has added to their ability in service to God. The excitement they generate is not specific to the NJ Local but must be characteristic of the locals throughout The Church of Jesus Christ. The MBA is a vital auxiliary! It is in God's plan and it is through His Grace that the organization has thrived and is continuing to grow. Let's keep supporting the MBA in this new century.



## God Is the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

By Sister Carolyn O'Connor

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Never has this message been so clear as recently through an experience at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2. His healing power, His ability to perform miracles and even His ability to raise the dead is still prevalent today.

Sister Maria Korotney can testify to God's power after a recent experience in her home. Sister Maria began coming to church when her mother, Sister Clara Gentile, passed on to her eternal reward at the age of 92, some 11 years ago. Her desire, like her mother's, has been to see her family come to the Church.

Sister Maria awoke on February 26<sup>th</sup>, at about 5:15 a.m. and began preparing for her day. When she

walked into the front of the house, it was very cold. Assuming that her son Eddie had gone outside to smoke and must have dozed off, she went to wake him. She found Eddie sitting on the porch outside. When she called his name, there was no response. She tapped him on the face and again no response. His face was very cold and hard. She knew immediately that something was wrong. She turned the porch light on to look at him and saw that his eyes were wide open and fixed, his mouth was open, and he was blue from his nose down to his chin. Maria knew deep down that her son was gone.

She called 911 and fire rescue was the first on the scene. Upon seeing Eddie, they checked for a pulse, but were unable to find one. They said that they were sorry but there was nothing they could do for him. They left him on the chair on the porch and went into the house. Sister Maria and Eddie's daughter, Chiara, begged them to do something, but they insisted that it was too late. When Sister Maria and Chiara saw that they were not even going to try to revive him, they knelt down and begged the Lord to help him, and give them the strength they

needed. When they finished their prayer the young man next door yelled to the fire rescue that he had seen Eddie move. They disagreed with the young man but he insisted that he saw him move. To avoid the disagreement they went outside, carried Eddie into the house, and put him on the floor. She asked again if they were going to do something and again they said no.

When the ambulance arrived, they too said the same thing, "It's too late." Sister Maria and Chiara begged and pleaded for them to do something and finally the paramedics decided to attempt to work on him, mostly to confirm to his mother that he was dead. As they began shocking Eddie's heart to try to revive him, Sister Maria and Chiara got on their knees to pray again. They shocked him three times with no response. One of the paramedics said, "That's enough." The other paramedic said, "Let's try a fourth time." They tried again and still nothing.

Sister Maria knew that she needed the assistance of the ministry of the Church and ran to her phone to call her brother, Brother Alex Gentile.

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## Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Continued from Page 7

When he picked up the phone she cried, "Eddie's dead, Eddie's dead. Do something. Please pray!" Not knowing the situation fully but understanding her request, Brother Alex began to pour out his heart to the Lord. As he was praying, and as he called on God's power to intervene, he could hear the paramedic say, "We have a pulse."

How miraculous His power! What great faith we must have to call upon the Lord even when we are faced with what appears to be a hopeless situation. The paramedics had said that there was nothing they could do, that Eddie was gone. They only made an effort to revive him to appease the pleading of a mother for her child.

Eddie was brought to the hospital and released two days later as if nothing had ever happened. He has lead a troubled life and this has surely given him the incentive to seek God in his life.

If ever you doubt the power of our Lord, remember that while we are blessed in this nation with incredible health care, only God can give life with the mere touch of His finger through a whispered prayer. In these modern times, situations are different. There was no paramedic to be called to the bedside of Lazarus, but the Great Physician is the same, **yesterday, today and forever.**

## Blessings Bestowed in Glassport, PA

Greetings in the love of Jesus Christ to all our brothers and sisters. Just a few lines to give praise to our wonderful God and to share with you our recent blessings!

Father's Day, June 20, 2004, truly became the Heavenly Father's day as He saw fit in His infinite mercy to call another soul into The Church of Jesus Christ. With one meeting planned for that Sunday, Brother Chatman Young,

visiting from Herndon, opened our preaching service. Brother Chatman expounded upon the responsibility of fathers to their children, relating to many scriptural examples and his own personal life. The admonishments of our brother uplifted all to be good fathers by our example and willingness to sacrifice. Words of encouragement served as spiritual food for all present.

Brother David Nolfi followed the subject matter expanding on fatherhood and Heavenly Fatherhood: The Apostle Paul, never married, but was indeed a spiritual father by virtue of his labors among the Gentiles. He was used of God to be a spiritual father and spiritual example to all. Brother David referred to several verses in St. John, chapter fourteen, and "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Keep the commandments, not the ten written in stone, but those of Christ, repent and be baptized! The words of our brothers sent forth by the Spirit of God in faith to the hearts of all present.

Testimonies followed, with Alicia Nolfi standing to give thanks and stating that she did not want to live without Christ any longer. "I want to be baptized!" The meeting continued at the river shore as Brother David Nolfi baptized his daughter Alicia. Praise God! Back at the church, Brother Chatman Young was used of God to bestow the Holy Ghost! Saints came forward to greet our new sister, love abounded. Testimonies flowed forth confirming the calling of our new sister. All glory and honor to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Sunday, July 11, 2004 (another day planned for one meeting due to members at the campout) brought Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. and Brother Bob Buffington, Sister Arlene and members of the Imperial Branch to worship with us. Piano, violin and guitar accompaniment of the *Songs of Zion* provided all present with a joyful time of singing. Sister Arlene related the experiences of the new songs (numbers 110, 111 and 112) added to the *Songs of Zion*. Brother Bob Buffington opened our preaching with the sweetness of the Word of God. He entwined many experiences with

different scriptures into his words of exhortation! The Spirit was delicious to the souls of all present. We lost track of time as the saints were blessed and the visitors were called to salvation! Testimonies were offered to the praise of God while our visitors, who normally leave after preaching, were drawn to stay and enjoy the sweet presence of the love of God. An invitation was extended to any and all who needed anointing to come forward, with special emphasis on those visitors who might be struggling with the decision to commit their lives to Christ.

The angels of Heaven watched as Jared Nolfi came forth for prayer. The all-seeing eye of the Lord looked upon a humble repentant heart of a sinner. The prayer of the Ministry, the prayer of faith, the calling of God descended upon a broken heart. The hands of the Ministry, the prayer of faith, and the amen brought the strength of God to choose salvation. The angels rejoiced as Jared Nolfi asked for his baptism. The meeting continued at the river as Brother David Nolfi baptized his natural brother, Jared Nolfi. We returned to the church. The Lord used Brother Bob Buffington to bestow the Holy Ghost upon Brother Jared. Praise and honor to our Great God! The saints came forward to welcome our new brother.

We thank God for the new saints added to the Glassport Branch.

## Hollywood, Florida

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

The Hollywood Branch has been very busy lately! On June 20, 2004, the sisters and young children prepared a delicious breakfast of eggs, bacon, strawberries and Cool Whip, bagels, breakfast potatoes, and more. The brothers sat down to a patriotic table setting; red white and blue plates and silverware, as well as star tablecloths. All of the sisters worked hard in preparing the morning event, and all the children were excited to serve the

fathers. The fathers were also presented with cologne as a gift from the Sunday school class.

As part of our Father's Day, the branch also held a fundraiser; we sold Candy Grams. Everyone wrote a special message for the fathers of our branch and they were presented these messages on Sunday after church. The Hollywood Branch has been very busy with one thing or another. We continue with fundraisers for our building fund.

The sisters have been full of activity preparing for our Vacation Bible School that will be held June 28 to July 1. The children are getting excited about going. Our theme is "God Keeps His Promises." We will have more news for next month's article about our Vacation Bible School.

The Hollywood Sunday School has started a wonderful project. We are supporting two young men in Iraq. We are sending them boxes filled with different items like eye drops, Q-tips, Kleenex, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Band-Aids, toilet paper, snacks like nuts, snack bars, "Slim Jims," bug repellent, sun block, newspapers, socks, Frisbees, etc. Anything you can think of, they would love to get. We sent out our first two boxes on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The soldiers should be receiving them within the next week or so.

We were also given the names of three men and two women that we are sending cards to as well. All of them are young men and woman from Pennsylvania. Richard Lowther, from the Vanderbilt, PA Branch is in Iraq and has given the names of these people to his father, Brother Richard Lowther, Sr. These men and woman do not have anyone that is supporting them from the states. Our Sunday School has taken on two of these young men and women to support with goodie boxes. We will be sending these two people boxes every five to six weeks. The other three, the Vanderbilt branch is supporting with boxes. According to Richard, there are a total of 27 men and woman in this troop that do not have anyone writing or sending them anything. We

need to support our troops.

Here are just a few things that happened to confirm our desires. Before the four sisters went into the store to purchase items to send to Kenneth and Hyman, our supportees, they took a few moments to ask the Lord to direct them in shopping. The spirit of the Lord filled their hearts with joy and they entered the store with such a humble feeling. As the items began to fill the cart, Sister Barbara began to cry. Looking at the items, she said, "Can you imagine how the young men will feel when they open their box and it is filled with all of these items." We do not even know who they are and we are so excited and blessed to do this for them.

While they were shopping, the sisters were telling all of the employees and customers what they were doing. They (Wal-Mart) instructed us to contact the management the next time we go to shop and they will give us gift certificates to help with the cost of the things we are sending in the boxes. As the sisters were finishing, tears ran down their faces. God is so good.

The boxes were 12 inches by 12 inches and they were filled to the top. We also put Church literature in the box and a card signed by all in attendance during our Sunday service. The box was closed, sealed and shipped out. We can't wait to hear from them, letting us know that they received our gift of love. Next month we will be sending out two more boxes. All of the items were purchased from the donations of brothers and sisters of the branch and we are getting ready to go shopping again.

If you are interested in supporting any of the young men or woman, you can contact Brother Richard Lowther. Can you believe we are doing missionary work in Iraq? Who knows maybe one of these men or women will find the Lord, and when they come home, attend one of our branches or missions.

We will keep you posted on our new venture. We will continue until the two men come home from Iraq. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to serve the Lord, and do God's work.

## The Church of Jesus Christ

### PROCLAMATION

Dear Readers,

This letter is written to explain and affirm the belief of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Church of Jesus Christ (headquarters at Monongahela, PA, USA) is a Church completely separate from any other church or religious organization. Our Church name may be similar to other organizations; however, we have completely separate beliefs and are not affiliated with any other church group. The Church of Jesus Christ is recognized and registered as a distinct church organization by the United States government. The Church of Jesus Christ is registered in several countries throughout the world. We state our basic beliefs for your understanding and reaffirm our desire to uphold the laws and requirements for a church wherever we are registered.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes first and foremost in the salvation of mankind through the atonement of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The scriptures teach and we believe that only by the grace of God, can men and women live eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven. This atonement, or the covering of sin, is only possible through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I John 2:1-2 states, *"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation [atonement] for our sins; and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* This is the belief of The Church of Jesus Christ. We believe in one God, the eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes in the spiritual restoration of the ancient people of God, the twelve tribes of the House of Israel. This

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## Proclamation

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belief is described in two records which we believe to be the Word of God; the Bible and the Book of Mormon. We believe the Book of Mormon to be a record of one of the lost tribes of the House of Israel in the Americas. Jesus himself stated that there were other people of God throughout the world; "... *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice* ..." (John 10:16). This record also proclaims Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the salvation of mankind through the atoning power of Jesus Christ. We are not, nor do we have the same faith and doctrine as other Restoration groups. We are completely separate and distinct in form and belief from these organizations. We believe that all of the lost tribes of the House of Israel will soon be brought back to the knowledge of the atoning power of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ is active in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many nations and tribes of people throughout the world.

The Church of Jesus Christ is registered in many countries to proclaim the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and through Him the opportunity of eternal life. We seek only to offer spiritual knowledge and salvation to any and all of the many people throughout the world.

Dominic R. Thomas, President  
The Church of Jesus Christ

Paul Palmieri, First Counselor  
The Church of Jesus Christ

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the  
Church of Jesus Christ,

I must write this letter to thank all the compassionate brothers and sisters of our Church who have uplifted us at this tragic time through the recent loss

of our precious son, Brother Anthony Calabrese. Countless brothers and sisters from all regions have sent cards, gifts, flowers, and enveloped us with love, prayers and support. The true love of Christ was certainly shown under the banner of the Restoration.

The Lord has shown many brothers and sisters that this was the time He was able to redeem Anthony in the Kingdom of God and, therefore, He has chosen to call our son home. Although our hearts are still broken by his passing, we must still confess even in sadness, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Our Lord has been quite generous to us with confirmation by scriptures and revelations from brothers and sisters not only in our family, but across the country from saints who never knew Anthony. It has been revealed to a sister in Lorain and a sister in Maine the same experience that Christ has Anthony in His arms now. He's safe now, Jesus saved him, just like the beautiful song of Zion by that name that we sang at his funeral. The song sure seems to have been written about Anthony. It is no doubt better to have saved his soul now than to have Anthony for another few decades, only to lose his soul to outer darkness. God knows all things, we can only see through a dark glass.

Please continue to keep our family in your prayers as he had two young sons who have been left behind. We still miss our son very much every day. Fervent prayers are still needed to keep us all afloat. I also thought I would share a poem given to me on Anthony's passing.

With much love and thanks,  
Brother Tony and Sister Aileen  
Calabrese, Lorain, OH

How great is my God?  
There is nothing He doesn't know,  
That is why He had to come for you  
now.  
It is why now was your time to go.

Who am I to question God?  
Or to think I know more than He.  
Can I really do anything without Him?  
Is there anything I could make him see?

I only live because He has let me,  
So could I say His plan for Anthony  
just wasn't right?  
Did I have a glimpse of the rest of  
Anthony's life?  
The rest of his road, was I given any  
insight?

No, my God kept that from me,  
Revealing it beforehand would have  
brought too much pain.  
God knew exactly how to carry the  
plan out  
That would give us the most spiritual  
gain.

You see, that is the God I serve,  
He's all knowing, all seeing, He's  
everywhere.  
He has the perfect plan to capture a  
soul,  
And take it out of such earthly despair.

The human mind has so many  
limitations,  
Only looking with the spirit can we  
gain some kind of view  
That is the only time we can really  
understand  
Why God did what He had to do.

So just wait on His revelations,  
That is the only way we can make it  
through.  
Then we will finally go to Anthony's  
home  
To see his face again and begin our  
life anew.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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858-451-2109

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317-385-1836

Giannetti, Joe and Tina  
4924 Carrotwood Dr.  
Keller, TX 76248  
817-741-3629

Komjathy, Tom and Kim  
237 Pepper Tree Lane  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Lowther, Richard, Linda and Melissa  
2003 Second Street  
South Connellsville, PA 15425

McKees Rocks Branch  
Fax 412-771-1686

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725 N. Dobson Rd. - Apt. 131  
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480-598-8666

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Staley, Cameron  
25773 McCrory  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
248-446-0613

Zinzi, Gelsa and Pearl  
8344 Emerald Ln. E.  
Westland, MI 48185-7634  
734-414-7237

## Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal

Continued from Page 2

letting everyone know He was pleased with what was being done.

We shared tears of Joy with all who were present to witness the events. At the conclusion of the meeting, Brother Phil Jackson had a desire to offer a prayer of blessing upon the work in Kathmandu. While he was praying, Sister Praba had a vision of the Lord with His hands cupped together catching the tears of Brother Phil, not letting them fall to the floor.

This meeting served as a conclusion to a wonderful week with the brothers and sisters of Nepal. This is truly God's work.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

for killing Goliath, was invited to come to Saul's palace. From the minute David woke up to until he went to sleep he was surrounded by strangers. Some probably would pretend to be his friend because he was famous. Some were just jealous because God gave him courage to do great things. But one person, King Saul's son, Jonathan, was trustworthy and became David's dearest friend. He, no doubt taught David the new ways of the palace and the busy people inside. Imagine how different life in the palace was from life alone guarding sheep.

David quit being just a harp player. As the years passed, he became a soldier and then a warrior for a living. When David killed many enemies so King Saul would let him marry his daughter, Michal, Saul became angry at David's success. The bad spirit troubled Saul and he tried to kill David. When Jonathan stood up for David, Saul threw a spear at his own son. Jonathan advised David to leave the palace and go far away from angry King Saul.

David left the country but he never forgot God. Even in later years, if he sinned or made a big mistake, he begged God for forgiveness and started over. Soon David had a large family and also many soldiers following him. When King Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, the shepherd boy who loved God became the new king. God had a plan to teach him new ways and he did.

God has a plan for you too. Love him. Pray as David did and tell the Lord your real feelings and thoughts. He knows them anyway but wants you to take the time to talk with him and listen to him. Be sorry when you are wrong and start over doing good. Ask God what He wants you to do. Learn the new ways but be like David and never put aside the true ways and laws of God. Who knows what great things God has in store for you? He is just waiting to hear from you!

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Children Blessed

Aidan Thomas Sweet, son of Brother Don and Sister Rebecca Sweet was blessed on April 25, 2004 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Sebastian Vito Altomare, son of Sam Altomare, Jr. and Molody Lynn Sanks was blessed on April 11, 2004 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Zane Anthony DeMercurio, son of Brother Nephi and Sister Jennifer DeMercurio, was blessed on July 4, 2004 in the Lorain, Ohio Mission.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Bob Collison was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on April 27, 2004 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Sister Alicia Nolfi was baptized on June 20, 2004 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and was confirmed by Brother Chatman Young.

Sister Elizabeth "Liz" Anderson was baptized on July 4, 2004 in the Anaheim, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Flip Palacios.

Brother Scott R. Supansic was baptized on July 4, 2004 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chatman Young and confirmed by Brother Joel Calabrese.

Brother Jared Nolfi was baptized on July 11, 2004 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Nolfi and confirmed by Brother Bob Buffington.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Chastity Marie King and Brother Jared Ray Bright were united in holy matrimony at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch on May 1, 2004.

Nicole Davella and Paul Horn were united in holy matrimony in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on May 28, 2004.

Sister Eva Tarbuk and Daniel Ziegler were united in holy matrimony at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on June 5, 2004.

**Spiritual Anniversaries**

Sister Elsie Ensana of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary on April 22, 2004.

Sister Helen DePiero of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary on June 10, 2004.

**OBITUARIES**

**FRANK CERVONE**

Brother Frank Cervone of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto his reward on March 3, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Mary Jane Cervone. He is survived by his daughter, Sister Cheryl Cervone; son Timothy Cervone; one brother, Edmund Cervone; and three sisters, Delores Wooded, Caroline McVitty and Doris Marcol.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**RACHEL (MEO) FALLAVOLLITA**

Sister Rachel (Meo) Fallavollita of the Bell, California Branch passed onto her reward on March 13, 2004. She is survived by her husband, John Fallavollita; four children, Cindy Matthews, Stephen and John Jr. Fallavollita and Kathy Hadden along with their spouses; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, one brother, four sisters-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

**MARGARET HEAPS HENDERSON**

Sister Margaret Henderson of the Anaheim, California Branch passed onto her reward on March 29, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Brother Lloyd Henderson; three sons, Larry, Jim and Bobby Henderson and their wives, Cindy, Dottie and Karen; six grandchildren; two sisters and brothers-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

**ALEX MARCHANDO**

Brother Alex Marchando of the Hollywood, Florida Branch passed onto his reward on May 15, 2004. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife Barbara, two sons, eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, as well as one brother and two sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews.

**EDWARD PAUL STROKO**

Brother Edward Stroko of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto his reward on May 17, 2004. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Huldah Stroko; sons Thomas and Joseph Stroko; daughter Bonnie Shipley; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

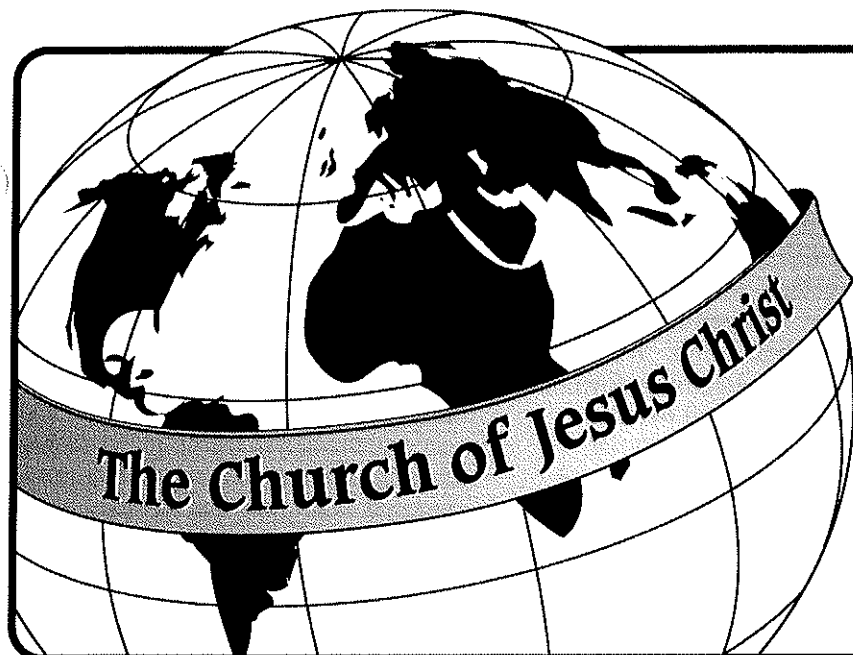
**CHARLIE OLIVER, JR.**

Brother Charlie Oliver, Jr., of the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch passed onto his reward on May 22, 2004. He was preceded in death by his son, Norman Oliver, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Sister Bertha Oliver; son Raymond and daughter-in-law Geraldine; son Jim Charlie III; daughter Debra and son-in-law Cornell Fears, Sr.

**GRACE (FALLAVOLLITA) LAVELLA**

Sister Grace (Fallavollita) Lavella of the Bell, California Branch passed onto her reward on July 20, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband Lou Lavella, one son, Lou Jr. and one daughter, Barbara. She is survived by two daughters, Sister Cheryl Lavella and Pam Lavella along with grandchildren, great-grandchildren, one brother, three sisters and several nieces and nephews.





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

October, 2004

Volume 60, No. 10

## GMBA Conference May 2004

By Sister Christine Maddox

This past May, the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ gathered at the General Church Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the General Missionary Benevolent Association, better known as the GMBA. This much anticipated event drew many brothers and sisters from all corners of the country to come and rejoice in the blessings that God has bestowed upon us through the many years that the GMBA has been functioning as a tool to strengthen the saints, reach out to young people, and pave the way for missionary work to be done, both domestically and in foreign lands.

The Conference began on Saturday afternoon, and as brothers and sisters slowly filed into the auditorium and greeted one another, each current or former GMBA officer received a corsage or a boutonniere. After the opening prayer, the congregation sang, *I've Got the MBA Enthusiasm*, a light-hearted song derived from the well-known tune, *I've Got the Joy (Down In My Heart)*. GMBA

President, Brother Jeff Giannetti addressed the congregation, welcoming everyone and thanking God for the awesome privilege of growing up under the sound of the Gospel in the GMBA. He then shared some interesting history of the organization of the MBA, including its adoption at the local level in 1904, followed by its adoption by the General Church in 1905. Brother Jeff also shared that the first president of the organization was a sister in the Church, an interesting fact, considering that women did not gain the right to vote in the United States until 1920. Brother Jeff then introduced the afternoon program by reminding us that our purpose for the weekend was to glorify God for 100 years of blessings and memories in the GMBA and to become inspired by our celebration of the past to seek blessings in the future.

Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine shared a song, which proclaimed that "after all of these years, through the laughter and tears, I can still sing the song of God's love," reminding the congregation of how the GMBA has given many of us a chance to be acquainted with God's love and fellowship of the saints, bringing much joy to our lives. The GMBA officers then invited those in the congregation who had been members of the GMBA for 20 to 40 years to gather at the front of the

auditorium to sing and share some testimonies. After singing *I Surrender All*, these brothers and sisters shared many testimonies about what the GMBA meant to them and how it has been a blessing to raise their children in the GMBA. The mood then turned comical as the group shared funny stories from GMBA events.

Brother Paul Palmieri then made some comments on the role of the GMBA as it pertains to the General Church, noting that it has raised funds for special projects and activities, such as the World Missionary Conferences and the printing of the Book of Mormon in languages other than English; given experience to brothers and sisters in holding offices in the Church; and helped the Church grow and broaden its horizons in spreading the Gospel and sharing the love of God. He then summarized the purpose of the GMBA very simply: to have fun while worshipping and serving God! Brother Paul then quoted Moses' words to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:7, encouraging us to "be strong and of a good courage," taking the joy we have felt in the GMBA and in the Gospel to others, bringing souls to salvation. Just as Joshua was entrusted with leading the Israelites to the land of their inheritance, we must lead dying souls

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## GMBA Conference May 2004

Continued from Page 1

to the Christ, which is the inheritance for all those who will believe in him. Brother Paul emphasized that many brothers and sisters have the Gospel today because someone took the time to share it with them, and that it is our duty to share it with others.

After Brother Paul's words, all the former GMBA presidents, vice-presidents, and chaplains were called upon to sing and share testimonies about their experiences in serving the GMBA. The brothers told stories that both made us smile and also rejoice in God's healing power, including fun times playing sports and even instant healings received on the baseball field and at campouts throughout the years.

Following these testimonies, Sister Tammy Valenti was glad to share some GMBA trivia with the congregation. We learned that the first Special Projects Fund of the GMBA was designated for the printing of the Book of Mormon in Italian. Next, the sisters involved in the planning of the weekend were asked to testify about the experience. Sister Sharon Staley, Sister Karen Progar, and Sister Karen Pandone each told of the blessings they received in helping to organize the weekend's events and how the GMBA has enriched their lives.

Saturday evening brought perhaps the most memorable part of the weekend, which was a video presentation documenting the GMBA's history and its impact over the past 100 years. Former presidents shared stories and testimonies on camera, which touched the hearts of the viewers but probably caused more laughter than anything. Brother Don Ross told of the infamous water fights that occurred at GMBA campouts, including an incident in which a young man soaked Brother Gorie Ciaravino, then president of the Church, just as he arrived for a Church service, dressed accordingly in his suit. Brother Paul Ciotti commented on the peculiar dietary habits of some of the campsites hosting the GMBA, which incited quite an uproar of laughter from the

congregation. The video also featured many photographs that brought back many memories and the feeling of joy that accompanies them. Young people saw their parents' laughing faces as they enjoyed themselves at campouts in their youth. We also saw tears of joy streaming down the faces of our peers and parents as they were baptized unto Christ.

When the video concluded, it received a sincere standing ovation. The film truly captured the joy and love that each of us feels when we gather with the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The GMBA choir, led by Brother Ken Lombardo and accompanied by Sister Flo Lombardo, then sang a selection of songs to celebrate the 100 years of blessing in the GMBA. As the choir began its program, Sister Flo LaRosa, who sang a verse of *Precious Memories* 50 years ago at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the GMBA, sang the same verse, praising God for His continued blessings. The song featured a verse added to the original text pertaining more specifically to the GMBA and its impact on the lives of the saints. The choir also sang a beautiful arrangement of *We Shall Sing On the Mountain of the Lord*, as well as *Joy*, a *Let It Shine* medley, and *Consume Me, Lord*.

Brother Joe Giannetti began Sunday's meeting with an inspirational rendition of *It's My Desire*, the 1997 GMBA Campout Theme Song. After Brother Paul Benyola's opening prayer, Sister Carolyn Griffith, Sister Marilyn Scolaro, and Sister Kathy Perkins sang *Hallelujah, The Gospel Is Restored*. Brother David Catalano, GMBA Vice-President, then informed the congregation that God has prepared spiritual food for us to eat, just as he provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, and that it is available to us if we would only gather with sincerity to eat it. At this time, the choir was asked to sing an encore of *Joy* and *We Shall Sing On the Mountain of the Lord*, in which the congregation joined in to sing very powerfully and beautifully.

Brother Paul Ciotti opened the preaching portion of the service and

introduced his own interpretation of the acronym "GMBA": God Making Blessings Available. This would become the theme for the day and would not be easily forgotten. Brother Paul spoke from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of II Kings, in which God miraculously multiplied a widow's oil so that she might sell it to pay off her debts. The oil was likened to the Holy Ghost that dwells within us and will not decrease because God gives the increase when we are willing and empty vessels. If we choose to take the blessings made available to us, the Lord will do great things in our lives. Brother Jim Huttenberger followed, pointing out that the key to the widow's blessing in the story was her obedience to the will of God. He also encouraged us to seek great blessings so that the future will be even greater than the last 100 years in the GMBA. Brother Jim quoted Hebrews 12:1, saying that we must "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" so that we may "run with patience the race that is set before us." Brother Jim insisted that we not let Satan discourage us by blowing out our light that is Jesus Christ. More specifically, he said, "Don't let Satan 'WHOO' it out, referring to the song the choir sang in a medley, *This Little Light of Mine*. Brother Flip Palacios spoke next, reading from Joshua 24:15, urging the saints of God to choose to serve the Lord with diligence, looking forward to the gifts of God ahead of us, expecting even more than the blessings of the past. Brother Flip also made the point that we should never live life with the mindset that someone else is going to do the work because we are the vessels chosen of God. Brother Paul Palmieri ended the meeting by encouraging the congregation to fast and pray and continue to labor in our own branches and missions to promote spiritual growth.

The May, 2004 GMBA Conference was a beautiful experience that made the brothers and sisters very grateful to be a part of the GMBA and The Church of Jesus Christ as a

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## Some Say That Zion Is Only a Dream

By Evangelist John DiBattista

In the Book of Luke chapter 17 verses 20 and 21 Christ says, "*The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*"

Many in the world think that the kingdom of God is an internal experience for those who believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior and see no other meaning. However, when the scriptures are looked at as a whole we see another thought emerging. Jesus taught us to pray saying, "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven...*" (Matthew 6:10) indicating to us that an earthly kingdom patterned after the heavenly kingdom was to come to earth through our efforts. We also know that this kingdom will be with observation, will be a physical kingdom and be visible to the human eye, and will be patterned after the heavenly with Christ in our midst (III Nephi 21:25).

Throughout the ages of time, men and women who understood the Gospel have searched for and have tried to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. We have references as early as Enoch the seventh generation from Adam walking righteously before God and trying to live an earthly life patterned after the heavenly. We read in Hebrews 11:10 and 13 where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob searched for "*a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*" but "*not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them...*" During the same time period the priest Melchizedek, who was called the King of Salem, established through faith a righteous kingdom (Alma 13:17) by preaching repentance and performing ordinances that pointed forward to the coming of Christ. This Salem, the historian Josephus tells us, became the city Jerusalem which David conquered many years later (circa 1100 BC) and knew it as "*the*

*stronghold of Zion*" (2 Samuel 5:7). It was here that David brought the ark of God and which became the eventual site of the glorious temple that Solomon built according to the heavenly pattern given to his father, David. It was also here in Jerusalem that the glory of God filled the temple and the most Holy One dwelt among the children of men.

We could continue our scripture study of Zion through the restoration efforts of Ezra and Nehemiah, and certainly of the twelve apostles and those of the apostolic era. We see, in the apostles' request to Jesus in Acts 1:6, "*...wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel,*" their hope of the physical kingdom coming to earth and the literal gathering of Israel.

All of these people had one common vision or dream and that was for the Kingdom of God or Zion to be established among them so that they could commune with the Lord. This Kingdom was the very thing that was lost when Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden, but it was not time for them to build it.

With the coming forth of The Book of Mormon the hope of building Zion came alive in the hearts of men once again. Joseph Smith and his followers began to build Zion in Kirtland, Ohio and then again in Richmond County, Missouri. After Joseph and his brother were killed the various factions all had in their minds the desire to build Zion and establish God's kingdom on earth. These dissenters of the main body of the Church all had for their goal to begin the gathering, as did Sydney Rigdon in the Emlenton Valley of the Allegheny Mountains. But it was in times past; it was not yet time. The Church was not ready; for the hearts and minds of the people had not been purged of false doctrine and erroneous revelations that had entered into their midst. They had not proved themselves capable of keeping the Gospel in its original form. Zion

would only be built by those people who worshipped in *spirit and truth* as Jesus told the Samaritan woman in John 4:24 and Israel would only be gathered "*to the true church and fold of God*" (2 Nephi 9:2).

William Bickerton had witnessed all of these machinations in his day

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## New Songs of Zion

(Editor's Note: Starting in April of 2004, new Songs of Zion have been given to the Church after 15 years. At this time, seven new songs have been received, and we pray God will send more. Each month, we will print a new song or songs for you to read. This song was the second one to be given on April 29, 2004.)

### None Can Bring This Kingdom Down

Wake the earth and rouse the nations,  
Let the bells herald the sound;  
Midst the war a kingdom rises,  
Midst the ruins a city found.

Many men have tried to build her,  
Many more to tear her down;  
Neither war nor any nation,  
Ere can bring this kingdom down.

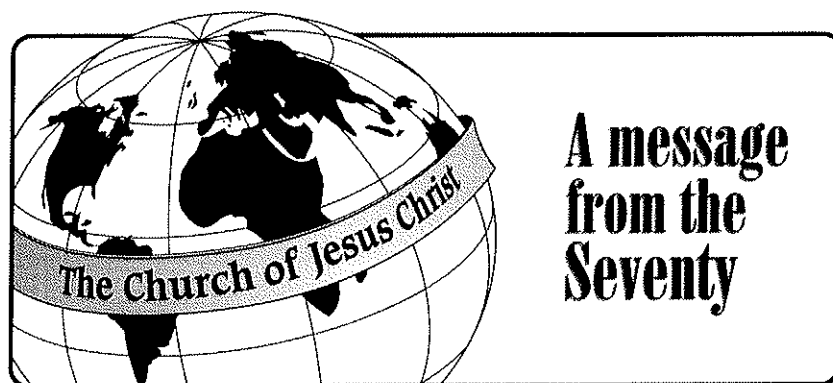
Hear the rumbling in the distance,  
As the warplanes leave the ground;  
Jesus Christ alone can save us,  
For His kingdom we are bound.

Blow the trumpet, Christ is coming,  
To His kingdom here on earth;  
Precious nation, precious baby,  
Ring the bells, proclaim the birth.

### CHORUS

From the dust and from the ashes,  
Rise majestic from the ground;  
Nations fall and cities crumble,  
None can bring this kingdom down.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
April 29, 2004



## Ministry on the Move!

*By Evangelist Eugene Perri  
President, General Q70 Evangelists*

The Quorum of Seventy recently forwarded a list of thirty-six Evangelists to every Region of the Church, notifying them of their availability to preach the Gospel wherever they are called upon to go throughout the United States and Canada for the purpose of encouraging the saints and extending an invitation to those who have not obeyed the Gospel yet.

The work has already begun in several Regions with positive results on the way. We have heard some say, "They were slack in their duty before the Lord, but now they feel revived as a result of the Evangelistic services and are on their way back to the Church." The comments in one communication were, "Your visit (by the Quorum Brothers) was so well received by all . . . I am still getting great feedback." Another comment was, "I enjoyed your visit in California and thank you for uplifting our Region. I have heard so many positive comments, your trip was successful and God was surely in the matter."

A visit to the Atlantic Coast by another Evangelist also brought similar comments. Brothers and sisters said that the meetings were filled with the Spirit of God.

In another report an Evangelist was traveling on the New York Turnpike four years ago and met a Native American man to whom he gave a testimony of the Gospel. To his surprise, this man was in their meeting this past July in Muncey, Ontario,

Canada. This brother did not recognize him at first, but later in conversing with him, recalled their acquaintanceship. He is not a member of the Church yet, but he was deeply touched by the Spirit of God in the meetings and was moved to tears. Several have been touched by God and are getting closer to the Lord because of their visit. He writes the blessings of God's spirit poured out upon them during their services. It brings joy to the saints to hear the good news of the Spirit of God having such a profound effect on the souls of men and women.

The Church at home must be strong to support the work of carrying the Restored Gospel to the entire world through the instrumentality of the Ministry. The support of the membership in prayer and fasting and physical and financial aid is essential to the furthering of this great work.

The dedicated members of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ give of their time and resources knowing that it is the will of God to carry the Gospel to the entire world to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. When they are in the field of labor, they move forward confidently that the Church at home in America is praying for them while they are away from the main body endeavoring to proclaim the good news of God's plan of salvation.

The Savior, Jesus Christ, has commanded us to do the work while the opportunity is at hand. He said in John 9:4, "the night cometh, when no man can work." The Church in the world needs the nourishment of the word of God for their spiritual growth as the Apostle Peter wrote in his epistle 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the

word, that ye may grow thereby." Again in Jeremiah 3:15 He said, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

From August 21 to September 13 was a time of rejoicing and encouragement by the visitations of Apostles and Evangelists among the branches and missions in the Southeast Region. The Zionees were present during the Southeast visitation to refresh the saints with the songs inspired by the Spirit of God. A similar visit for the Ohio-Midwest Region was from September 6 through the 23. Lockport and Rochester are on board for the same kind of visits and the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region is scheduling a series for the future.

The Church has truly been blessed with those who are called with this Divine Commission and gifted to carry the Gospel message to people of all nations. We solicit your prayers for the expansion of opportunities to proclaim the true Gospel everywhere. The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few.

## Evangelistic Services in Atlantic Coast Region

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

At the General Quorum of 70 Evangelists Conference last April, approval was given to four Evangelists to visit all the domestic Regions throughout the Church. The purpose stated was to uplift and encourage the saints in their service to God and to invite friends, co-workers and relatives who are not members to attend. Generally, it was agreed there is a great need for all of us to become more involved in the "great work of the Lord" and to help promote the adopted Church-wide "Let's Grow Program" to grow our branches and missions.

Correspondingly, the Atlantic Coast Region Quorum of 70 invited Evangelist Paul Ciotti, Sr. of the McKees Rocks, PA location of the

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content"* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:5-8).

In another part of scripture David states that he has never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread. Certainly, we can say as saints of God, that He has given us sufficiency in the natural things of life. However, if we compare our possessions with those around us who have more, and wonder if God in some way has abandoned us, then we do err in that thought. In fact, according to this scripture, if we equate natural prosperity with godliness, we have a "corrupt mind" and are "destitute of the truth." Pretty strong words, I would say. Unfortunately, it is in our fleshly nature to desire the finer things in life, and then to proclaim that the "blessings of God are upon us." How foolish.

I currently work for a company that is considered to be in the "luxury" industry. The products we sell cost thousands of dollars (products you can find elsewhere for a few dollars). I don't sell or promote the products; I just work in the Human Resource aspect of the company. Our customers like to be dripping in our product, and look down on others who cannot afford it. In the Church, we simply call these people "worldly." However, if we in the Church feel the same way (even if it is to a much lesser degree), we really are no different than they are. When we see someone who is poor, or has had bankruptcies, or is struggling to make ends meet, we must NEVER say or even think that this person has in some way disobeyed God. If anything, if we have a lot of money or possessions, we are in far greater danger of losing our way than they are.

*"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows"* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10).

Many times in The Book of Mormon, the people began to prosper, and when they did, they forgot about God. The problem wasn't that they were prospering; the problem was they forgot about God. We should be content with whatever God gives us, great or small. The truth is, it all belongs to Him anyway. The things we own are only loaned to us. In the end, we take nothing with us, as the scripture states. God will always provide just the right amount for us, and we should never complain. Yet, I hear many of our people complaining about how they wished they had more, or that they just can't make ends meet. I always ask them if they have food to eat or are they starving. Also I ask if they have clothes to wear, or are they naked. Usually, the answer to both questions is yes, they do have food and clothing. Look again at the scripture above and see that with having food and raiment, let us be content. We can gain so much in our spiritual life if we are godly and content with what we have. Our focus can then be on our spiritual life, which WILL go with us when we die. That is what God will be concerned about when we face Him and a decision is made where we spend eternity. Kind of a sobering thought, huh?

Let us be content with what we have, and not even think about it. Possessions will not bring happiness. I meet so many wealthy people in my line of work, and you would be surprised how many are so unhappy, or in therapy. Let us be like our ancestors who lived through the Depression, who were thankful to even have something to eat each day. And how God took care of them! I am convinced; as David was that He'll take care of you too!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## The Prophet Who Told the Truth

(1 Kings 22)

Dear Friends,

Did you ever wonder how the Church of Jesus Christ picks the men to be our Elders and Ministers? Did you know that they are chosen by the revelation of God? They may or may not have gone to some special schools to study some subject. They may or may not be men whose families have wealth. Those are not important to God. What is important to God is a person's heart.

God can tell whether someone will stick up for Him and do the right thing. God can tell whether someone is just trying to be popular and wants to be liked. God can tell if a person will trust in God and tell people when they are doing the wrong thing. God knows every man's thoughts.

In the faraway days of the Old Testament in the Bible, the nation of Israel had split into two kingdom's, Judah and Israel. There had often been war between them, but then the two Kings had their children marry and they became friends. Wise King Jehoshaphat trusted and feared God. But King Ahab was a wicked and powerful man who always wanted his way and even killed people who disagreed with him. God had warned him many times to stop his evil ways.

One day, King Jehoshaphat had come to visit Ahab. "Will you come help me win back some of my land from my old enemy, Syria?" King Ahab asked.

"Yes. My army and I will go



and help you in this fight," Jehoshaphat said, "but first let's ask God's advice."

Ahab agreed. In his palace he had about 400 men who called themselves prophets. King Ahab paid all their bills and gave them whatever they desired. The King was like their boss. They wanted to please him. So when they were asked if God would support them and protect them when they went to fight, what do you think they said? They knew what King Ahab wanted. They cared more what King Ahab thought than what God thought. They let themselves be fooled by a lying evil spirit and they said, "Go King! The Lord will let you win over our enemies!"

But King Jehoshaphat was not convinced by these men. "Isn't there any other prophet of God that we might ask?"

And Ahab answered, "Yes, there is one other man, Micaiah, the son of Imiah, that we could ask; but I hate him. He never prophesies good things for me, but only bad!"

King Jehoshaphat trusted and served God. He knew that King Ahab did evil whenever he wanted. Jehoshaphat truly wanted God's advice before he started a war. "Get this prophet, Micaiah for us," he told the servant.

When the servant went to the prophet, Micaiah, to tell him the king wanted him, he told the prophet, "Listen, all of the other 400 prophets said good things to King Ahab. Let your words be like the word of one of them and say nice things."

And Micaiah said, "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me I will speak." He was not afraid to make the king angry if God had a hard

message to give

When Micaiah came before the kings, Jehoshaphat asked him, "Shall we go against our enemies to battle or shall we not go?"

Micaiah told him, "I saw all of the armies of Israel scattered upon the hills, like sheep that don't have a shepherd watching over them, and the Lord said, 'These soldiers have no leader. Have everyone stay at home, not fight.'"

When King Ahab heard this he understood that it meant if they went to battle, something would go wrong. He would be gone and his soldiers would have no leader. Maybe he would even be killed. Ahab was furious! "Didn't I tell you that he would proph-

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

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## Our Women Today

### The Fellowship Weekend

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

In the June 2004 issue of the *Gospel News* our General Ladies' Uplift Circle President, Sister Karen Progar, encouraged us to become involved in the Ladies' Uplift Circle because in The Church of Jesus Christ, it is a high calling to participate in "women's work." Women's work is not demeaning but an honorable calling to serve God through teaching the children, nurturing the young women, helping the sick, poor and needy. Basically, we recognize and take advantage of the opportunities that we are presented within our daily lives.

The groundwork of our next spiritual year was set when the sisters met in Tampa, Florida from June 24 through June 27, at the Tampa Airport Marriot Hotel for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend. Our Sister Cindy Onorato, was inspired to prepare a seminar on the theme, "Safe, Secure and Saved in the Arms of Jesus." The Lord was the leader as the sisters prepared for the weekend's activities. We testify that there is joy and fulfillment in using one's talents and gifts in serving the Lord. If this is woman's work, we will gladly serve the Lord.

To name each sister who contributed their time, effort and spirituality would take more lines than we are permitted in this article. Suffice it to write that we have a gifted group of sisters who can plan and organize events, write and lead seminars, write inspired hymns, plan fun activities, speak on timely topics and see that everyone is comfortable and that special needs are met. If this is woman's work we will gladly serve the Lord.

We must make a special mention

of our youngest seminar leader, eleven-year-old, Emily Eskut, who volunteered to take care of the young children! The children loved Emily and enjoyed their time with her. We were surprised when they decided to present a puppet show on Noah and the Ark. The foundation of woman's work starts with the training of our children. If this is woman's work we will gladly serve the Lord.

On Saturday we conducted a business meeting that was touched by God's spirit. We had keynote speakers that spoke on the importance of nurturing the young women, preparing circle lessons, and fund-raising. The Area Presidents presented their activity reports on good works, support of the sick and needy, spiritual studies and fund-raising activities. Our excitement grew as we felt the Lord guiding us to take part in the missionary efforts and growth of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We were directed to establish a Circle Development Committee which will prepare lessons and guidelines for women in missionary fields or any domestic mission or branches. This material will allow the women to meet together and determine interest in establishing a circle.

The most sacred task was proposed by the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Ladies' Circle. The Area brought to our attention the need for the younger generation to learn how to make Communion cloths. The Area Presidents were encouraged to develop sewing classes because as the Church grows there is a need for cloths both in domestic and foreign branches and missions.

To conclude our business meeting, we distributed funds and voted on special projects. If this is woman's work we will gladly serve the Lord. Throughout the afternoon we enjoyed a spiritual time in testimony and in singing praises to the Lord. Our General Circle Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, presented us with a beautiful embroidered map of Malawi from our sisters in Malawi. The Lord blessed us as we prepared spiritual skits on our theme, "Safe, Secure and Saved in the Arms of

Jesus." The Lord was with us as we gladly served the Lord.

Our Sunday service was an open meeting that began with the sisters from the Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle singing two hymns that were written for this special occasion. The meeting was opened in prayer and Communion was served by our brothers, Paul Benyola, Sam Risola, Eugene Perri and Joe Perri. Our brothers spoke encouragingly about our role in The Church of Jesus Christ, noting that sisters bring a softer side to the Gospel and there is a place for us. Brothers and sisters working together are like a melodious song.

Our General Ladies' Uplift Circle liaison from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Brother John Griffith, was our keynote speaker. He asked us to examine our relationship with God and noted that our relationship with Him should be our paramount concern. We can find our place in the Church by looking at ourselves and seeing what we have to offer. The most rousing challenge was when he asked us if we are like our ancient sisters of old. Are we a Deborah? He continued with Esther, Dorcas, the virtuous woman and Phoebe. There was God's power in the words of our brothers and we only need to recall them to feel their power. We will join our ancient sisters and gladly serve the Lord.

We had a short season of testimony and it was time to bring our weekend to a close. Sister Karen

(Continued on Page 11)

### Announcement

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Business Meeting is going to be held on, Saturday, October 9, 2004. The meeting will be held at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch and will start at 10:00 AM. All are encouraged to attend.



## Monongahela, PA

The saints of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch are thankful for the outpouring of God's blessings over the past several weeks. On Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed an abundance of food and fellowship at a picnic at the Griffith farm. Many visitors from other regions of the Church were here to witness a baptism the following day. Eric Darr had asked for his baptism at the GMBA Campout.

At 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, we gathered on the shore of the Monongahela River as the morning sun reflected off the surface of the water. Brother Karl Kirschner was inspired to read a few verses from Helaman. The words caused us to focus on the necessity of baptism as the means of earning salvation. Brother Chuck Maddox, visiting from our Cincinnati, Ohio Mission, addressed the group on the seriousness of baptism and the need of those who are not baptized to pray for God's calling. Usually, this is done following a baptism. Brother Chuck then led Eric into the water to be immersed. After greeting our new brother, we left for the Church to prepare for our services.

Lively congregational singing promoted the joyful atmosphere that would last throughout the day. After the meeting was opened, our Presiding Elder, Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. reviewed the need and procedure for bestowing the Holy Ghost on one who has been baptized. Brother Doug Obradovich, visiting from the LaGrange, Kentucky Mission, confirmed our new Brother. Our opening speaker was Brother Rick Scaglione from the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He spoke from the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Alma. Alma reminded his people of how God worked upon their fathers and brought them salvation. Brother Rick said that God is calling us to do His work. We must allow God to change our lives, as we cannot do this on our own strength.

Sister Christine Maddox sang a

song she recently composed, *You're Now a Soldier for Jesus, the King*. Brother Chuck Maddox followed, stating that the invitation has been given to come forth and receive salvation. We must open the door and allow God to enter our hearts. In his closing comments, Brother Nicklow emphasized we are redeemed and become God's sons and daughters when we answer His invitation for baptism.

After eating lunch, we returned upstairs for our communion and testimony service. Meanwhile, Kristina Carson remained downstairs, talking with Brothers Doug and Chuck, who were her seminar teachers at the Campout. They knew God's Spirit was working with her. When they came upstairs, their smiles and motions clearly told that Kristina had asked for her baptism. Immediately, Plan B – God's Plan – was put into action. We would open the meeting, administer communion, and then return to the river for Kristina's baptism. Brother Karl Kirschner opened with the message that Christ is our solid rock and foundation that will keep us on that straight and narrow path.

A passing train's shrill whistle, motor boats on the river, and people fishing and swimming could not overcome the solemn atmosphere of this most sacred ordinance. As Brother Obradovich led Kristina into the water, a passing boat brought disruptive waves and a moment's delay. Another boat brought more waves. However, this time the approaching waves suddenly calmed before reaching them to allow a peaceful immersion. Many on the shore testified of this small miracle which showed God's approval and pleasure.

Sister Kristina was confirmed by her grandfather, Brother Richard Scaglione. Our two new members were asked to bear their testimonies. They both told of the struggle they had before their calling, something most of us have experienced. Brother Eric related an experience he had as he wished his older brother, Aaron, could be here to witness Eric's baptism. Aaron had died a few years ago. Eric had a vision in which he saw a cloud

and a cross in the sky. As the cross went up into the cloud, Aaron appeared. Eric also had a dream that he and Kristina would be baptized the same day. Other experiences were had that bore witness to their calling. We were blessed with visitors from almost every region of the Church who helped make this a special day.

More blessings were to follow. On Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, a local "Youth In Action" activity was scheduled as part of the "Let's Grow" program of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. Twenty-eight young people took part – 16 from our branch, eight from Ohio, two from other Pennsylvania branches, one from Erie, and one from Kentucky. We met at the church building for a 9:30 AM Chapel service. Six teams were formed, each led by one of our Elders. Maps were handed out showing the streets to be covered. We would knock on doors and hand out invitations to attend a Singspiration the following evening. Of course, the devil did his part to discourage us into canceling the activity. However, there was no hesitation from our wonderful young people to proceed as planned, knowing that God would answer our prayers and stop the rain that was falling. It was still raining hard as the teams headed for their assigned areas. Within 10 or 15 minutes the rain eased to a mere sprinkle, even stopping at times. This evidence of our faith and desire showed us that God was pleased with our efforts.

We returned to the branch for lunch and to review our progress. We went out again to complete our assignments. As we met to conclude our day, we found we had covered more streets than planned, giving out 655 fliers. We had numerous positive responses.

We continued to feel God's blessings during our Sunday services. All of the young people stayed and shared their testimonies of their desires to work for the Lord. The evening Singspiration brought two visitors. Yet, we counted our efforts a success as we observed them enjoying God's love and fellowship they had never before seen. Also, we sowed many seeds and trust they will bring forth fruit in

the future. In addition, this activity created much enthusiasm in our branch, especially among those who participated.

God's blessing continued. Our Wednesday evening meeting started out as usual, with speaking, hymns, and testimonies. The first person to bear his testimony was Garek Renk, the fiancée of our Sister Raychel Robinson. He told of how God has blessed him and his desire to read the scriptures. Then he calmly said, "I want to be baptized." We all felt God's blessings during the entire meeting. Plans were made for our new brother to be baptized on Sunday morning.

As we gathered at the river shore, we noticed the quiet, calm scene which was not to be disturbed. Brother Alex Cherry led Garek into the water and he came out as a new person. Brother Garek was later confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Our prayer is that God will continue to call others into His Kingdom.

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he continued preaching and teaching, other truth seekers were slowly added to the fold so as not to destroy the root structure or the doctrinal beliefs of the Church, as referenced in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jacob, and simultaneously God began unfolding the true meaning of the restoration to The Church of Jesus Christ. God added *precept upon precept* until the Church began realizing its Great Commission to the Seed of Joseph, to the entire house of Israel, and to the whole world as well.

God opened our elder brothers' minds to the scriptures, and they soon realized the Restoration held much more than the return of the Gospel, the priesthood authority, the Church and the gathering of Israel. It meant that all things that were lost due to sin over the ages would be restored to their original and perfect created condition due to righteousness. Isaiah tells us that Eden's glory will return (51:3), men will once again live to the age of a tree (65:20), there will be peace, and no one will hurt or destroy in Zion (11:9). Obadiah 1:17 tells us that all of Jacob's possessions will be returned to him, and Zephaniah 3:9 and 10 reports that a *pure language* will be returned, the one confounded at the Tower of Babel. Haggai 2:9 assures us that the latter day glory of the Lord's house will far exceed the former (that was constructed by Solomon). The New Jerusalem will be built on the land of America (Ether 13:8), a Seer will emerge from Joseph's ranks (2 Nephi 3:11), and the "*earth shall be full of the knowledge of Lord, as the waters cover the sea*" (Isaiah 11:9). The proceeding references are just to refresh our minds to a few of the prophecies.

Now one hundred forty-one years later the Church stands on the threshold of realizing its great purpose. God has proved the Church as he did Israel for 40 years in the wilderness. He has placed His divine seal of approval upon the Church and is allowing the Gospel to spread to many peoples and nations through His power. This would not have been so had the Church been caught up in false revelations as were

## GMBA Conference

Continued from Page 2

whole. The last 100 years have been amazing, and the weekend was spent in thanksgiving and anticipation of blessings to come. Many were reminded of their own commitment that they made to the Lord at GMBA activities, but all were inspired to recommit themselves to Him by increasing their level of spirituality and obedience in order to be used as instruments in His hands in the great work He has planned for us.

## Zion Is Only a Dream

Continued from Page 3

but by exhibiting a strong desire to be obedient to the Lord, he received a revelation not to deviate from the Bible and The Book of Mormon or he would suffer horrible consequences. He reported, "*being carried away in the spirit and placed on a high mountain just room enough for me to stand, the Lord told me unless I went ahead and preached the Gospel I would fall and be torn to bits.*" As

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## Zion Is Only a Dream

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our restoration predecessors. But instead the pace is picking up, and He is leading us on. We can hear the spirit saying, *"the day you have dreamed of is here."* See the hand of God moving. But alas, He has been waiting for us all along. The restoration process began before our involvement, as evidenced by the the scripture found in Ether 4:17, *"...when ye shall receive this record ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the land."* God is directing the movement, preparing the way, and opening the doors for us. We need only to be obedient.

Italy — it was so natural for our brothers to return with the good tidings of the Gospel to that country in the 1940's, but Nigeria seemed so far away in 1954. Who would have thought that we would have had the success that we have seen in the Hindu country of India, or in Mexico, Ghana, Kenya, Columbia, the Philippines, Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela, Nepal, Malawi, Dominica, with direction to go out still to China, Romania, Egypt, Vietnam and the Republic of the Congo, to name just a few.

*"I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth"* (1Nephi 14:12).

Brothers, sisters and friends, we are the generation now entrusted with this magnificent dream. Like those who have gone before us, we should turn our backs from the sinful world in which we came and look toward the new world which must be built. We must show the world that through faith and the power of God, His kingdom will come on earth as Jesus prayed. We are the generation that will build Zion!

On Saturday November 5, 1989, I had an unusual experience. I had just spent a full day studying the Gospel Restored with Brother Joseph Lovalvo. That evening after prayer, we retired to bed. About 5:00 AM I was taken in the spirit by the hand of an angel to stand before the Lord in heaven. For

twenty-one minutes the Lord instructed me to preach the message of the restoration and the building up of Zion. I was confused by this, because at the time I was not ordained into any office.

The next day I was in the Modesto, California Branch and was asked to sit on the rostrum with the Elders. I was very uncomfortable being a member of the Church sitting with two Apostles, an Evangelist and an Elder. I was determined to sit there and not participate. When the visiting Apostle, Brother Paul Palmieri, finished his sermon, the Presiding Elder (Brother Leonard Lovalvo) asked me if I would go to the pulpit and give my testimony. I thought that was easy enough. However, as I approached the pulpit my spirit and my body separated and my physical body began to preach the message delivered to me that night, *"...The angel said, 'Be of good cheer. Hold up your head now, and don't put it down; The day you have dreamed of is here.'"*

Submitted in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Brother John DiBattista

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 4

Penn Mid-Atlantic Region to come and hold a series of three meetings and Brother Panfilo DiCenzo from McKees Rocks to sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving to our God with his talented voice. Brother Jason Monaghan, an Elder from Greensburg, PA, was asked by Brother Ciotti to accompany them.

At each location where the meetings were held, a good representation of brothers, sisters and friends was in attendance. The house of God was filled with anxious souls, waiting for the message of encouragement they came to receive. Services were conducted in the following locations.

Friday evening, August 6, the service was held at the Levittown, PA Branch. The theme for the evening was "Feasting at the King's Table Continually." Scripture reading was

taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

On Saturday afternoon, the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch was the place. Brother Paul took his text from 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi, Chapter 18. The theme for this meeting was, "Working the Timbers of Your Life."

The Sunday morning worship service was held in the Hopelawn, NJ Branch. There was an overflow gathering brothers, sisters and many friends. The scripture was from Ezra Chapter 5, the theme being "A Time To Rally, A Time of Renewal." God blessed our visiting brothers with divine inspiration, encouraging the saints to feast at the table of our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, and continue to build our spiritual lives. That it was a time of renewal and rededication of our lives to God, the Church and to each other was emphasized. Each song Brother Panfilo sang was appropriate and in concert with the sermon for that service.

Congregational singing was filled with the wonderful spirit in each meeting. Our area MBA young people sang a few selections, as did our brothers and sisters who at one time had sung in the New Jersey Choir. Hymns sung under inspiration to the honor and praise of our God cannot be compared to other songs that are sung by various individuals

When asked, Brother Ciotti summed up his visit to the Atlantic Coast Region, as follows:

"I believe we were very well-received by the membership and your Quorum as well as other members of the Ministry for which we offer our thanks to all. Each service was spirit-filled and I felt much liberty in preaching the Gospel. Brother Jason was very helpful in following the subject and adding to the message. Brother Panfilo's singing and testimony added another flavor to each service.

"At each meeting, the membership appeared to be very excited and enjoying the atmosphere which prevailed. This was evident in the singing which at times seemed to raise the roof on the building. We brothers who visited were very uplifted. It provided a way for us to renew old friendships and make new friends in Christ."

Our Region membership felt blessed and commented we should continue to have these kinds of revival meetings. The AC Region Quorum of 70 invites any Evangelist who feels inspired to hold a series of Evangelistic services to inform us of their intent and we will be pleased to accommodate them. Any singing group which may feel to share songs of inspiration is also invited to visit our region. This is an open invitation.

The blessings of God were felt during the three days of Evangelistic services!

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

easy no good concerning me, but only bad!"

Micaiah kept talking. "I saw a vision of God in heaven. He said you were going to fall [die] in this battle. He said that all of your other prophets would speak with a lying spirit and tell you to go and be safe."

And the wicked King Ahab said, "Take Micaiah and carry him back unto the city! Put him in prison and feed him bread and water until I come home in peace!"

And God's truthful servant, Micaiah, replied fearlessly, "If you come home in peace, then God didn't speak to me. Hear me, O people, and watch the Lord."

So the two kings went up to battle. And King Ahab said, "I think I will disguise myself. I will enter the battle, but only wear regular clothes, not my royal robes." (Do you think he was believing the words of God as Micaiah had warned him not to go?)

The leader of their enemies, the Syrians, had instructed his soldiers, "Find King Ahab. Don't fight with the great or the small, just fight with Ahab!" When they saw King Jehoshaphat they all turned aside to attack him. But when the soldiers realized it wasn't Ahab, they turned away.

Another enemy soldier took aim with his bow and arrow and shot into a chariot rushing by them. He hit a man in the chariot. The man who was hit

with the arrow was King Ahab, dressed like a regular soldier! His wound was terrible. He stayed in the chariot all day, slowly dying. The battle got worse that day, and the wounded King Ahab died in the evening! A huge shout went up in the army for every man to quit the battle and go to his own home.

The truthful prophet of God was right. Wicked King Ahab was dead. God was not impressed by someone who was just rich or powerful. He worked with his faithful man of God, the prophet Micaiah. He showed his power to the people of Israel. Today our Elders are like Micaiah. They too pray and fast and follow the words of God. They teach us each to ask God what is right and do the right thing, not just the popular thing. Stand up for God. He will protect you. He knows our hearts and loves each of us. Pray and ask him for guidance. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Our Women Today

Continued from Page 7

spoke of how God says that the work of the Ladies' Circle is women's work. He has a place for each circle member and He has given each of us something to do. Do not hesitate to find your place in God's service. She acknowledged the diligent work of the sisters of the Southeast Area Ladies' Circle and thanked all those that helped make this weekend a blessed event.

As we look back at our Fellowship Weekend we realize that the Lord directed us and helped us to define women's work. The activities that are planned and the challenges presented to us are the foundation from which we can build upon in this new era of time. The last words of our weekend belong to the Lord. After the closing prayer Brother John Griffith spoke in the spirit, "Thus saith the Lord I am with you." Amen.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Shannon Sapko and Timothy Uzman were united in holy matrimony, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on July 31, 2004.

## Births

Sophia Maria Saeli, daughter of Anthony and Julia Saeli was born on July 20, 2004.

## Children Blessed

Gunnar Joseph Joswiak, son of Joshua and Lisa Joswiak, was blessed in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Tony DeRoo, son of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed in the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

Jared DeRoo, son of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed in the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

Alexandria DeRoo, son of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed in the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

Caroline DeRoo, son of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed in the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

Autumn Stella Anderson, daughter of Brother David and Sister Janice (Benyola) Anderson was blessed August 1, 2004 in the Leesburg, Florida Mission.

Wesley Ryan Griffith, son of Brother Scott and Sister Mandy Griffith was blessed on Sunday, August 8, 2004 by Brother John Griffith.

Summer Elizabeth Schweitzer, daughter of Warren and Sister Joanne (Azzinaro) Schweitzer was blessed on August 8, 2004 in the Simi Valley, California Branch.

Daniel Christopher DeRoo, son of Brother Chris and Sister Becky DeRoo was blessed on August 15, 2004 in the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Children Blessed

Continued from Page 11

Julianna Rose Miller, daughter of Brother Brandon and Sister Christina Miller was blessed on August 15, 2004 by Brother Bob Pizzaia in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Anahi Alvarez Alcazar, daughter of Jose Cruz Alvarez Torres and Maribel Alcazar was blessed on August 29, 2004 by Brother Len Nardoizzi in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Joanne (Azzinaro) Schweitzer was baptized in the Simi Valley, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Sal Azzinaro and confirmed by Brother Edward Buccellato.

Desiree Morris was baptized on May 23, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Philip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Ron Genaro.

Joshua Morris was baptized on May 23, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Len Nardoizzi and confirmed by Brother Don Pandone.

Easley Mott was baptized on July 4, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Philip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Len Nardoizzi.

Sister Juliet Marie Bogle was baptized on July 18, 2004 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Mark Palmieri and confirmed by Brother James Gibson

Sister Kristina Carson was baptized on July 25, 2004 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich and confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Brother Eric Darr was baptized on July 25, 2004 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chuck Maddox and confirmed by Brother Doug Obradovich.

Sister Ashley Rose Gula was baptized on August 8, 2004 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Brother Greg Kocuba of the Butler, Pennsylvania Mission was baptized and confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino on August 8, 2004.

Brother Garek Renk was baptized on August 8, 2004 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Alex Cherry and confirmed by Brother Fred Olexa.

Sister Marianna Cappel was baptized on August 22, 2004 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Frank Natoli.

## Ordinations

Brother Andrew Jackson was ordained a Deacon in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch on August 22, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Phil Buffa and he was ordained by Brother Howard Jackson.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ANTHONY SCHIPANI

Brother Anthony Schipani of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on August 7, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Luanne; daughter, Toni and son, Dominic.

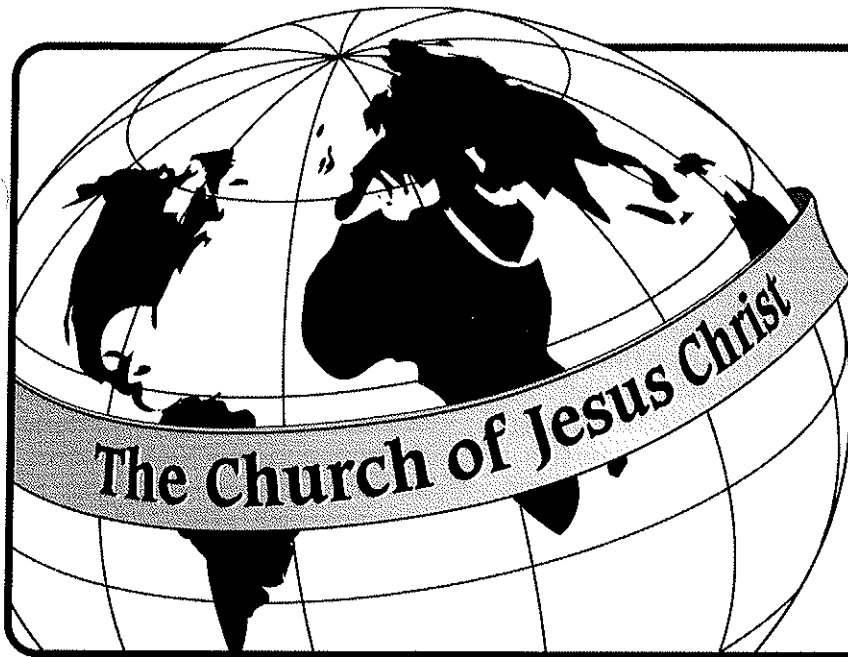
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

November, 2004

Volume 60, No. 11

## The Effect of Christ's Life

*By Apostle Joseph Calabrese*

1. In the Church
2. At home
3. At work
4. In school (learning)
5. The world

We are part of The Church of Jesus Christ, which is *restored* (Revelation 14:6,7) to go throughout all the world. This being His Church, it therefore means that His life or way of life has been established in it by the example He set and the teaching He gave for all to follow.

First, we will discuss how His presence affected its establishment and organization. During Jesus' mission on earth He set up His Church with apostles, evangelists, elders, teachers, deacons, helps and governments, etc. (Ephesians 4:11, Corinthians 12:28). Having done this, He taught the people as one having authority (Mark 7:29). Very soon the multitude witnessed this authority as He showed them the power of healing. The leper was cleansed (Mark 1:40-44), Apostle Peter's mother-in-law was healed (Mark 1:29-34), the sea was stilled (Mark 4:35-41), devils were cast out into the swine (Mark 5:17), and many more miracles were performed. He

continued to show His authority as He "overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves . . . and he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Mark 11:15,17).

Thus, He established (in brief) His Church by showing examples, and preaching sound doctrine, with love and kindness to the human family. Further, knowing He was going to be crucified, Christ prepared to give His apostles the same authority. After His resurrection He ordained them into His priesthood, instructing the apostles with the great commission, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Today in The Church of Jesus Christ (the *Restored Gospel*) the same organization has been instituted. In Revelation 14:6,7 this scripture

says, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." The angel in these verses came to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on May 15, 1829. He (the angel) bestowed upon them the same priesthood authority that Jesus did pronounce upon the apostles of old. Thus, the same officers and organization was restored. Also included was the same miracles, gifts and blessings. God has confirmed this by the way of revelation to The Church of Jesus Christ that, indeed, it has the purity of the Gospel more than any other people. Note, we are not saying that we are the only people with the love of God. We are saying that the Priesthood, the true authority after the order of the Son of God, has been preserved by our Church. A former President of our Church has stated that we will not deviate from the true principles of Christ, for no one. Further, he stated that we will not widen the road as a Church to allow room for false teaching to enter in.

(Continued on Page 2)

## The Effect of Christ's Life

Continued from Page 1

Having very briefly stated how the life of Christ was instilled in the church organization and in the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ, let us examine how belonging to His church affects our lives in our homes.

### CHRIST'S EFFECT AT HOME

First, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

When we repented of our sins the life of Christ affected us immediately. I could remember that I felt like a new person, having no ill feeling, but just love for everyone. This was certainly a great change for me, because before my baptism I hardly knew anyone else existed, including my family. It was then that I realized what home life meant and the responsibility I had toward my wife and children. Our house became united in the cause of Christ. The affect was so strong, that my personal friends wondered what had happened. A complete change took place that made me feel for the first time who my true friends were. This meant that we needed to make adjustments in our lives. We needed to first counsel with God and Christ in all our necessities both natural and spiritual. Another way to say this is that we would do our best to plan our life around Christ and His Church, not His Church around our lives. As I mentioned, my children and my wife were important to me. So as a parent who promised to serve God to the best of my ability, I felt it became my duty to bring up our children "in the fear and admonition of the Lord." Doing this I felt that we were just doing that which is required of us as parents.

The Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy says "that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15). Timothy's parental background gave him the ability to exercise his agency in right

choices and made him wise unto salvation, a child of God. We could go on and mention many other children, such as the two thousand young stripling soldiers (Alma 56:3-6); Nephi, son of Lehi (I Nephi 1:1); Moroni, son of Mormon (Mormon 1:1). These Holy men were all affected by the life of Christ through godly parents. Yes, when parents endeavor to serve God, the light and life of Christ will affect even the children. As the saying goes, "The home that prays together stays together."

### CHRIST IN OUR WORK LIVES

In our endeavors to labor for our daily bread, I believe that the life of Christ is very effective. Soon your fellow man will notice a difference. Where once you may have indulged in vices unbecoming a saint of God, you now do not partake or participate in ungodly habits. Soon your friends of the past ask why? This opens the door to give your testimony. Not only can you give testimony of God's goodness but very soon you will have much respect. Many of our older brethren have shown how Christ affected their lives in their place of employment. Whether it was in the coal mines, steel mills or offices, they all left a good example for others to follow and many were converted to serve Christ.

### CHRIST IN OUR SCHOOL LIVES

Words cannot tell how wonderful Christ can help our young people in school. It is very important to take Christ with you as you seek to study and learn what will probably be your lifetime vocation.

In years past, many young people had to quit school early to go to work. Their income was needed in the home. Today it is different. Children have an opportunity to complete high school and also go on to college, for without a college degree it is very hard to find a good job. This means the best years of a young person's life in school can take up to 20 years, sometimes even longer,

depending on the vocation. Now can we see how important it is to take Christ with you throughout those many years? I have personally heard many young people testify that they never would have made it through without the Lord Jesus Christ. Many confessed that when it came time for exams, it was the time they prayed the hardest to have His help to see them through to pass the tests.

Very early as our children start school, parents counsel their children to choose good friends—that means in grade school, junior high and high school. Then comes college when many students leave home to attend the school of their choice. A good Christian friend and roommate will be very important. We all need someone to confide in, pray together, laugh with and, yes, even cry with at times. Many times, the right person will be as important to you as a father or mother.

Another area of concern should be the subjects and majors that will affect your life. Carefully select subjects that can be best used to promote the work of the Church. This I know; people that have applied their learning for Christ have not only received a blessing in the work but have risen to the top positions of employment. II Nephi 9:29 says, "But to be learned is good if they [men] hearken unto the counsels of God." Learning can be of great help both spiritually and naturally.

I believe that we will all agree that the Apostle Paul was well learned. If he, with all his learning, was able to show the life of Christ in his life and how it affected him (not only was he willing to suffer, but to die for Christ), why then can we not be affected in the same way?

### CHRIST IN THE WORLD

In the world today we find trouble on many fronts. In Mathew 24:3-8 it states: "... the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the

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## Christians or Saints Who Are We?

By Brother Phil Jackson

Have you ever wondered if there was a difference between a Christian and a Saint? Should we be called by one name or the other? If you have ever questioned this before, let's look at these words, and the word of God, and see what we can learn.

The word Christian appears in the Bible three (3) times. The formation seems to be Latin, meaning "adherent of Christ." Adherent means, a support of, thus meaning a support of Christ. The ending of the word Christian, "ians" denotes a soldier or slave of the one whose name it was compounded, such as Christ's slaves.

**Acts 11:26** "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Antioch has an important place in the early history of the Church. One of the original deacons was Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch. The first Gentile church was founded there. Many followers scattered there at the death of Stephen. Barnabas was sent there by the church in Jerusalem to assist in the work. After working there for a while, he summoned Paul from Tarsus to assist him. Paul made three (3) missionary journeys to Antioch. The city was well known for its invention of nicknames, so it's no surprise to see the name Christians for the first time. The verb used for *were called* (disciples were called) is a Hebrew word, *chrematisai*, which means to be directed by God as if by divine oracle. Could it have been that the name Christian was divinely given? But the verb could be used more loosely, and perhaps means no more than that the name came into popular use in the first city where a distinctive name became necessary.

**Acts 26:28** "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Agrippa recognized that to

believe what Paul preached would make him a Christian.

**I Peter 4:16** "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

Peter accepted the name as in itself basis for persecution.

In the Book of Mormon, the word Christian appears four (4) times.

**Alma 46:13, 15-16** (Moroni waves his rent garment) "and he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren, so long as there should be a band of Christians remain to possess the land. And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come. And therefore at this time, Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians and the freedom of the land might be favored."

**Alma 48:10** "And thus he [Moroni] was preparing to support their liberty, their lands, their wives, and their children, and their peace, and that they might live unto the Lord their God, and that they might maintain that which was called by their enemies the cause of Christians."

In these verses, we are led to understand that the term Christians was used by those that took on the name of Christ. One commentator says that Christians was a word used by Gentiles and adopted by the disciples of Jesus. The word Saint, on the other hand, is in the Bible ninety-five (95) times, and the Book of Mormon twenty-nine (29) times. In the King James Version, the word Saint is used to translate two (2) Hebrew words, *qadosh* and *hasidh*. The root idea of the first is separation. In a religious sense it means that which is separated or dedicated unto God, and therefore removed from secular use. The word is applied to people, places and things, as: the temple, vessels, garments, the city of

Jerusalem, priests, etc. The root of the second word is personal holiness. The emphasis is on character. It has a strong ethical connotation. These words are used either in the plural or with a collective noun. The reason for this is that a person's standing before God is regarded as a matter of his belonging to a larger whole, such as the church, this larger whole standing in covenant relationship to God.

**I Corinthians 1:2** "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints."

**I Nephi 14:12** "I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were called the saints of God."

**I Nephi 14:14** "And it came to pass that I Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord."

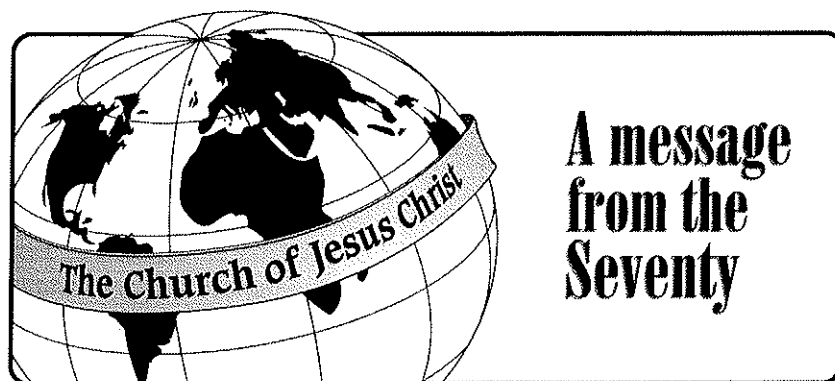
The Church is comprised of people called out of the world by God, to be His own people. All who are in a covenant relationship with Him through faith, repentance, and baptism, are regarded as His saints. Objectively, the saints are God's chosen and peculiar people, belonging exclusively to Him. Throughout the Bible and Book of Mormon, the saints are urged to live lives befitting their calling.

**Mosiah 3:19** "Unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."

We as Saints have a high calling of God to perform many duties while here on earth, and a higher calling in the life to come in Christ's Kingdom.

**I Corinthians 6:1-3** "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the

(Continued on Page 10)



## International Missionary Operating Committee Workshop

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

*"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).*

International Missionary Operating Committee workers of The Church of Jesus Christ gathered on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch to hear more about the great work of the Lord and to learn more about the missionary endeavors.

Apostle Paul Palmieri set the tone for the day with the scripture on Alma and the four sons of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon. He spoke how our current missionaries need to possess the same qualities and characteristics demonstrated so many years ago. As the saints go out into the fields they must have the spirit of prophecy, revelation and be taught with the power and the authority of God. These instructions are the same today as they were for the cited brothers and those who went out in the times of Christ.

The instructions were centered on how to become successful missionaries. One must be strong in the knowledge of the truth, fast and pray often, and be willing to serve the Lord under all circumstances in good times, trying times or difficult times. As Alma and the four sons of Mosiah, the feeling must be as though we would not want one soul to be lost. If not, it is necessary to begin to petition the Lord; He will soften our hearts.

The question was raised, "Have you ever wondered why, as a church,

we want to go out and share the Gospel? The answer is simple, because the Lord has instructed us to do so. The four sons of Mosiah were told to be "patient in long-suffering . . . show forth good examples unto them in me, and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls" (Alma 17:11).

The ancient brothers knew their missionary efforts were not going to be easy. They were going to face hostile conditions, but they were convicted and they were prepared. They knew if they did their part, the Lord would follow through on His part. We know, as they knew, the Lord goes before us and prepares the souls of men.

It must be believed that, even in trying or hostile times, the righteous participants in spreading the Gospel will receive unspeakable joy and happiness because of the harvest of souls brought to God through missionary work.

Knowing and living in the truth, when the Gospel goes to a nation and the people accept the truth, the blessings of God will come to that nation. Many beautiful experiences from the fields were given of how the Lord has blessed countries and their people because the Gospel was introduced in their area.

Instruction was given my many of the dedicated and experienced brothers throughout the day. Among them

## Trip to Italy

*By Sister Cathy Gentile*

Visiting with our brothers and sisters in Christ, whether it be in our cities, the reservations, the jungles of Africa, or the sleepy town of San Demetrio in the mountains of Calabria, Southern Italy, is an unforgettable blessing. My husband, Brother Alex and I were privileged to join the group of saints who have faithfully serviced the work in Italy over the past six or seven years. We met these brothers and sisters at the Rome airport on May 18, 2004 and with our many pieces of luggage, carefully arranged ourselves into two vans and traveled six hours to our destination.

Our first stop was to visit Brother Oliva, almost 100 years old, a faithful minister of the Church. He greeted us with much love. His son Francesco, one of 15 children, was at his home also. Within five minutes of our arrival, Francesco told Brother John DiBattista he was waiting for him to come so he could be baptized. He would be the first of Brother Oliva's family to join the Church. We were excited but also so aware that the enemy of our souls would not be happy about this event.

Our next stop was the church building. The small, square, white-washed building had the words above the door, "LA CHIESA DI GESU CRISTO," so we felt at home.

The first service was that evening, the first of many spirit filled meetings to be held that week. The shutters and windows were thrown open and we sang loud in Italian and English hoping those outside would hear. We prayed that some would venture inside.

As the brothers and sisters and children of the saints began arriving from the North, our joy increased with every carload. Some had met before but many were meeting for the first time. When Brother Oliva entered the service with everyone there, the brothers and sisters got out of their seats to greet him. After many embraces and kisses, young Brother

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There is a story in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings about a man named Naaman who was seeking healing from the terrible disease of leprosy. He was a Syrian, and his wife had a little maid working for her who was from Israel. This little maid told them that if Naaman were to go to Israel, that the God of Israel would heal him. And so the king of Syria (who valued Naaman greatly) sent this request to the king of Israel along with gifts of gold and silver. The king of Israel, thinking this was some kind of trick, was too suspicious to help Naaman. But Elisha of Israel heard of the situation and requested that Naaman come to him. When Naaman did, Elisha sent a servant out to Naaman to inform him that Elisha said to go into the river Jordan and wash seven times, and he would be healed of his leprosy. Naaman was expecting Elisha to meet him personally and perform some powerful healing, and when Elisha did not, Naaman was angry and ready to leave Israel. He even claimed that there were other rivers cleaner than Jordan which he could wash himself in. Fortunately, the servants of Naaman convinced him to do as Elisha had instructed, and Naaman washed seven times in the river Jordan. You can guess the rest of the story. Naaman was healed, and was even converted, proclaiming: "... Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel ..." (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:15).

Naaman knew he would have to return to his homeland, and in advance, asked God for forgiveness because he knew he would be required to be involved in the worship of the Syrian god. Naaman offered gifts to Elisha for helping him, but Elisha, understanding that it was not him who healed Naaman, but God, refused the gifts. But that is not the end of the story. A greedy servant of Elisha went after Naaman who was leaving Israel, and lied and said that Elisha did in fact want the gifts to give to someone. This servant tried to obtain these gifts for himself. Naaman gave the servant the gifts, and when the servant returned to Elisha and tried to cover up his actions, Elisha pronounced that the leprosy that Naaman had would be upon the servant and his seed forever as a punishment. "... And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow" (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:27).

The blessings of God can never be viewed as a transaction. In this life, everything we receive we work for and pay for. When we are in need of a healing or a blessing in our lives, it is impossible to "purchase" it from the Lord. It is also important to realize that NO ONE can give you this blessing except for the Lord. Even when the Elders anoint you for an affliction and you are healed, it is not the Elders who have healed you, but the act of anointing is a demonstration of faith. God does the healing. Naaman learned these lessons by not actually meeting directly with Elisha and by not being able to give Elisha any gift in return for God's healing. We cannot repay God for what He does for us. We cannot say to the Lord, "If you heal me Lord, I'll be a better person." When we have thoughts like this, we have got it backward. First we must be a better person, and then God will heal us. Naaman demonstrated that he was becoming a "better person" by coming to Israel and eventually doing as Elisha instructed. By demonstrating a little bit of faith, he was healed. It is the same way with us. We cannot make "deals" with God, but we must show a little bit of faith, and He will come to our rescue every time.

Then there is the other lesson in this story about taking advantage of God's blessings. The servant of Elisha saw this situation as an opportunity to make some financial gains. How foolish. He ended up paying a dear price by being inflicted with leprosy, and all his seed after him. This is like God blessing you with a great job, and you hoard all the money for yourself to buy unnecessary luxuries instead of helping those in need, or the Church. We cannot afford to take advantage of the way God blesses us, but instead like the people in 4<sup>th</sup> Nephi, we should celebrate God's blessings by being righteous and happy!

This Thanksgiving, let's consider carefully how we seek after and respond to the blessings and bounty God has given us. Certainly there is a "God in Israel" who wants to bless us, but let's handle His blessings by simply loving Him back.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## What To Do When You Are At a Crossroad in Life

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever been at a crossroads place in your life when you could turn one way or the other and you needed to know which way was right? Have you ever been really worried you were making the wrong choice and needed help? Did you remember that we serve a great, big God who loves us? Did you think to pray to Jesus to be by your side and guide you?

Over 4,000 years ago in the Bible, Abraham was at a crossroad. His son, Isaac, was old enough to want a wife. He did not want a wife from the country they were living in because they were from a different religion, who worshipped statues, not God. Abraham was too old to travel, so he decided to send his most trusted servant back to the country where he had come from many years ago. His servant was scared. "How will I know which is the right girl?" he asked Abraham. Abraham prayed and told him that they would ask God for a sign. The sign was that when he reached the city where he knew God's people lived, the servant would stop at the city well and ask for water. They prayed that God would send the girl for Isaac out for water and she would also offer to give water to his thirsty camels.

A young girl named Rebekah did exactly as the servant had asked God. She offered water to the thirsty



camels. Her family welcomed Abraham's servant. They turned out to be distant relatives of Rebekah's. She wanted to go. She willingly left her city to go and be a wife for Isaac. She made a wonderful wife for him.

Then, about 2,600 years ago, the prophet Lehi was at a crossroads. God told the prophet and preacher, Lehi that a huge war was coming and their city of Jerusalem was going to be destroyed. God told him to take his family and friends and leave them for a far away country. The older sons and their friends fought and argued to stay behind. They didn't believe their way of life would soon be gone. God gave Lehi the power to force his stubborn sons to leave and go into the wilderness.

There were no stores where God directed them. Everyone had to carry things on their backs that they needed. The older sons and their wives complained bitterly. They did not want to sleep in tents or learn how to live in rough places. The Book of Mormon says that eventually the women's bodies grew hard and strong like the men's (1 Nephi 17:2), but it took years.

At times they suffered and were hungry. One day, when Lehi's son, Nephi, was hunting, he accidentally broke the steel bow he was using! The other bows had already lost their spring. The families were also hungry. His older brothers were so angry they wanted to hurt him. They were mad at God and their brother and wanted to go back to the city of Jerusalem. Even Lehi complained to God about their suffering.

This time, Nephi was at a crossroads. And Nephi trusted God. He knew what to do. He told his brothers

and father to check the words written on the Liahona (the compass type of ball that God used to lead, guide and direct them). The words scared his family out of complaining.

He prayed and it worked. God showed him how to make a bow and arrows. He told his father, "Ask God where I should go to hunt for food." The Liahona said to go to the top of the mountain. He took his bow and his slingshot. When he was up there, he found animals, killed them and brought them back to feed his family. Every-

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

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## Shine Jesus Shine!

### Blessings at the Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout

*By Sister Michelle Huttenberger*

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on August 27, 2004, the saints attending the Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout in the mountains of Wrightwood, California clicked on their flashlights, pulled on sweatshirts, and walked together to the waters of baptism. For many in attendance, it was the first night baptism they had ever witnessed, and the event will be remembered as one of the many beautiful blessings of this year's campout.

Friday evening after the night service at the campout, the ministry remained in the chapel so as to make themselves available for those who wanted prayer for either spiritual or natural strength. There was a powerful spirit present as Kevin Picciuto from the Modesto Branch asked for prayer, as he had yet to make a commitment to the Lord. Brother Jim Huttenberger invited all of the elders in the circle to put their hands upon Kevin's head as he offered prayer. Afterward, Kevin arose from his seat and asked the ministry, "How do you feel about a night baptism?" Everyone who was still awake at 11:30 p.m. walked down the trail to the lake near the edge of the campsite. Using the headlights of a brother's truck to illuminate the scene, Brother Kevin was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus. Immediately afterward, Brother Kevin knelt down on the lake's shore as Brother Matt Picciuto confirmed upon him the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The ministry could not leave the baptismal site without asking if anyone else wished to join Brother Kevin in his commitment. When that question was posed, Sam Cardinale, a young person from the Anaheim branch, answered the call. He too entered the waters of

baptism that night and came up a new creature in Christ.

After the two baptisms, a sister said that as each candidate was baptized, she saw a large book open in front of the throne of God, and the names of the two candidates were written in the book. Another sister said that the previous evening she had a dream in which she was holding two new beautiful baby boys in her arms, and she knew that the Lord would be calling at this campout.

We are so thankful that the Lord called our two new brothers into the Church in such a powerful way. However, the blessings did not stop there. During the season of anointing on Friday evening, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was, "I love my children. I love my children. I love my children." The following night, the ministry conducted a similar service of prayer, and as they were anointing a young woman, a vision was had that a glowing halo was placed upon her head, and two large arms encircled the ministry. That evening, Brother Flip Palacios, Pacific Area MBA Chaplain, was inspired that the young people encircle the ministry and offer prayer on their behalf. The young people made a large circle around the elders and several felt to offer beautiful prayers for their strength and guidance.

Sunday morning, a small group of saints gathered for a prayer service before the start of the regular morning meeting. Brother Jim Alessio confessed that he had been suffering with headaches all weekend, and he asked for anointing that morning. After the prayer service closed, Brother Jim announced that his headaches had ceased. Praise the Lord! As the saints assembled in the chapel and the worship service began, a sister saw Christ enter into the building surrounded by a beautiful cloud which she knew to be the Holy Spirit. She then saw that the cloud rolled over the rows of saints in the congregation, and she knew that each one would receive a blessing.

Brother Jim Huttenberger opened the service with the third chapter of Ether. He encouraged the saints to be illuminated with the Holy Spirit just like

the stones that Jesus touched for the Brother of Jared. He said that sometimes in our spiritual lives a light might burn out, and that at these times we must ask for a touch of the Master's hand. Afterward, Brother Flip Palacios brought the young people up to the front. He had coordinated the young people's seminar and wanted to present them with a memento he had forgotten to give to them the previous day: gold rocks with a scripture inscribed upon them, and the scripture was none other than Ether 3:4. Praise God for His inspiration!

We thank God for His immeasurable blessings at this year's campout. As the camp theme was "Shine Jesus Shine," all of the saints were able to go home with an increased desire to shine their lights to others. All honor and glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ for everything that transpired on the mountaintop.

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## New Songs of Zion

*(Editor's Note: Starting in April of 2004, new Songs of Zion have been given to the Church after 15 years. At this time, eight new songs have been received, and we pray God will send more. Each month, we will print a new song or songs for you to read. This song was the second one to be given on April 29, 2004.)*

### #112 They Can't Burn the Flag on Zion's Mountain

Morning breaks to burn away the blackness,  
And music breaks to burn away the fear;  
While angels smile to see the scene before them,  
And singing breaks the silence in the air.

Nothing shines as bright as Zion's mountain  
And nothing stands as high as Zion's hill;  
And all that enter leave their tears behind them,  
Where nothing hurts and nothing ever will.

There's no joy that's greater than is found there  
And there's no love that's greater anywhere,  
No trembling hands nor feeble knees are found there  
No blessings greater than the blessings there.

#### CHORUS

And they can't burn the flag on Zion's mountain,  
And they can't take that city on the hill;  
And they can't dim the light that shines around her  
For all that God has promised He'll fulfill.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
June 11, 2004

### #113 Arise And Weep No More

Oh Israel, my lovely child,  
My nation born this day;  
All wood and hay and stubble burn,  
And take the dross away.  
And take the dross away.

Oh, Ephraim dear, my pleasant child,  
Arise and weep no more;  
The beauty that thy land has lost,  
Thy Father will restore.  
Thy father will restore.

The stone that brought the image down,  
Has rolled to Zion's shore;  
The towers that the wicked build,  
Alas, shall be no more.  
Alas, shall be no more.

How beautiful is Eden's land,  
This garden of the Lord;  
The prophets wrote of its return,  
And we believed God's word.  
And we believed God's word.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
July 4, 2004



## Branch and Mission News

### Spirit-Filled Day at Detroit, MI Branch #1

By Brother Tom Komjathy

The weather may have been gloomy in the Detroit area on Sunday, August 29th, but the Lord's spiritual sunshine beamed forth within Branch #1 nonetheless. The day had been set aside for the ordinance of feet washing, and it was evident from the beginning that the congregation came expecting the Lord to deliver blessings.

Brother Larry Champine opened our service by posing a question that was appropriate for the day. He quoted Alma 5:27 and asked, "Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have

been sufficiently humble?" The convicting nature of this verse had been upon his heart for several weeks and encouraged us to examine ourselves in like manner.

Brother Larry gave several scriptural and modern-day examples of the dangers of pride and the blessings of humility. He first read Proverbs 16:18-19, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." He asserted that Christ set the example of humility that we are to follow in our lives. Although all power was given to Jesus when He walked on the face of the earth, He chose to submit to the will of His Father. He chose to be crucified despite the fact that the utterance of a single word could have spared Him the agony. Therefore, we too should choose to be humble even though our flesh is inclined otherwise, and in spite of the fact that we may have natural

gifts or talents to be proud of.

After a short lunch break during which we celebrated the recent baptism of our new sister Marianna Cappel, we began our afternoon service. Brother Brett Gibson focused our attention on the difference between freely choosing to be humble and being compelled to do so. He read Alma 32:14-15, "And now, as I said unto you, that because ye were compelled to be humble ye were blessed, do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word? Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed — yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble because of their exceeding poverty." Brother Brett encouraged us to approach the ordinance of feet washing with a humble heart, rather than waiting to be humbled by the ordinance. The love of God and the peace of His spirit dominated the room as we

washed one another's feet. It was a joy both to participate in the ordinance, and to watch the great blessing evident on the faces of our brothers and sisters. Afterwards, we heard moving testimonies of how the Lord has blessed our congregation. Our cups were filled to overflowing, and as one sister aptly put it, our desire would have been to linger in the building in that spirit forever.

## Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise the Lord

Have you ever caught a glimpse of the union of Heaven and Earth? In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, there it is before you. It's at that time, that moment, you are witnessing the glories of heaven descend and the good of the earth meet. What's transpiring? God's will. It's at that time you behold everything that hath breath praising the Lord.

Yes, again a few meek humble followers of the Lamb met at the beautiful waters of Mormon as we call them, to behold this heavenly union.

Yes, again we met the ducks gliding gently upon the peaceful waters that appear to take pleasure in their presence as each speaks kindly one to another.

On the other side of the river, a scene I never captured before...a stream of pure water flowing gracefully and joyfully into the river. Awesome surroundings, all in a special way responding in reverence to the presence of the Almighty.

Yes, there were four visiting souls watching this scene of God's love and mercy. The pure waters seemed to be anxiously waiting to receive Terrance Robinson.

Mr. Robinson had been visiting the meetings. He was under medical care and the extensive x-rays, scans and diagnostic procedures revealed cancerous tumors. The tumors were removed and he was to start chemotherapy. He continued to attend the meetings and on Sunday, August 22, 2004, he requested baptism. That same week, he was readmitted to the

hospital and a stomach tube was inserted. Saturday came; he told the doctor that he had to be discharged as on the morrow, he was going to be baptized. Of course the doctor was not too pleased with this, but did grant the discharge, requesting that he return on Monday to continue the chemotherapy.

As this soul, a man who exercised great faith, walked into the waters of baptism, hand-in-hand with Brother Mitchell Edwards, the heavens united with the earth. The call was from heaven, and the work was being performed on earth by one having the Divine Authority to perform this holy work. The Elder raised his hand to heaven, getting the attention of God and the host of heaven, following the commandments of the Father to baptize those whom God has called. They walked together into the quiet waters. The heavens opened and angels were seen descending out of heaven – the union of Heaven and Earth.

Yes, another witness. The Spirit of God penetrated the soul of Mr. Terrance Robinson, drawing his soul to this climatic moment. His countenance glowed. He admitted to the pain which prevailed in his body, but his soul was being nourished. As the union prevailed, tears trickled down dropping to the ground. We worshipped God, speaking praises unto Him, as we were captivated by the glory and reverence of this union. The waters graciously received the old man earthly, and the heavens received the new Terrance Robinson – angels bearing witness. These are moments never to be forgotten as they are inscribed in the heart and sealed by the soul.

We lingered at the water's edge to see the completion of this scene. The scene never faded. The waters returned to the peaceful reverent serenity. The ducks returned and continued their praises to God. The stream continued to flow. The saints continued to raise their voices in praises unto God.

Our new Brother Terrance Robinson testified that after he received the Lord's Supper, the pain left his body. For these glories **"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."**

## Hurricane News Hollywood, Florida

Praise God we are found rooted! Not like the trees in our area that are down everywhere. Even the 100 foot trees, are over on there sides with roots sticking out. Branches are off everywhere you look.

Today's service was wonderful. Brother Andrew DiNardo honored us by singing *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*. Sister Rebecca Rogolino then set the Lord's table, what a blessing.

The Lord directed Brother John Catone with his sermon this day on preparation of our souls—how to guard our souls from the storms of life. Are you preparing to guard your soul or are you like the natural man guarding his home with tape or with shutters? We need the best preparation we can do! Today is the day for our preparation. It is time to be serious and be ready for the storms of life. Fasting, praying and reading the scripture is a plan given to us by God. We must take it seriously. Examine your life spiritually. Again are you prepared for the storm? If you are not, you will be tossed to and fro like the trees during the hurricanes.

Take on the whole armor of God so when the storms of life come you will be prepared. Where is your faith today?

All in attendance were truly blessed during our testimony service. We were all thankful that the lord spared us all from the natural storms Charlie and Frances. Everyone was prepared with shutters or wood to cover their windows. We were all praising God that our damage was not worse than it was—trees down and a few shingles blown off.

This is how wonderful God was to the members of the Hollywood Branch. Many suffered no damage but a few were without power and lost food. Some suffered minor damage and loss but all were pleased to announce that God is good and has spared them once again.

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## Hurricane News

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Praise the lord we all weathered the storms Charlie and Francis. Our prayers go out to all those who had loss of their loved ones, their home, vehicles and jobs.

We are so thankful to be found safe and sound here in Hollywood. May God bless all of His people everywhere. When the storms of life come will you be found ready, or running around at the last minute trying to protect what you have? My prayer is that we will all be found ready. GOD IS SO GOOD.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving  
To All Our Readers*

## The Effect of Christ's Life

Continued from Page 2

end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of war: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

It appears that this prophecy is now taking place. All we need to do is to turn the television or radio on to see and hear these very words of Christ

happening throughout the world. How much better it would be if men and women of all nations would take upon them the name of Christ and let His life affect them, such as it affected all people that have loved and served Him throughout all the generations of time. The peace that is felt leaves the effect that makes us all want to someday see Him face to face. A hymn we often sing says: "It will be worth it all when we see Christ!" Our prayer is that the life of Christ will continue to work through you and me. Let our desire to be used to help others be affected the same way. In setting this goal, we are contributing to help build His kingdom "in earth as it is in heaven" (Mathew 6:10), and bring peace and good will to men everywhere.

## Christians or Saints

Continued from Page 3

*saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"*

If we walk worthy of our calling then Christ has promised His Saints a blessed life. He also tells us that He will make intercession for us to God (**Romans 8:27**).

Some people feel that a Saint can only be a person that has passed on to heaven to be with Christ. It is true that in the scriptures many places refer to the resurrected beings as Saints, but it never tells us to pray unto them or worship them.

Many times the word of God says, "*the blood of the saints cry unto me.*" Meaning, these are mine, beloved of the Lord, and I will repay. So God truly honors those who are righteous, and avenges that righteousness upon the heads of those that do not serve Him.

**II Nephi 9:18** "*But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses*

*of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever."*

Amen! Amen! Well I hope through this study you have seen the difference between a Christian and a Saint. I am glad that the word Saint is not as loosely used as the word Christian is today. Many people today claim to be Christians. Maybe you have too from time to time. Are they a slave to Christ? Are you? I would much rather be called a Saint of the Most High God knowing that I stand in a covenant relationship with Him. I would like to end this study with the words of hymn #81 in the *Saints Hymnal*.

Rejoice, Ye Saints  
of Latter Days

Rejoice ye saints of latter days,  
Lift up your heads and sing;  
With one accord unite to praise  
Your everlasting King.

For it's good to be a saint of latter days;  
For it's good to be a saint,  
For it's good to be a saint,  
For it's good to be a saint of latter days.

## IMOC Workshop

Continued from Page 4

were sector leaders. The speakers were Evangelists Philip Jackson, Joel Gehly, John DiBattista, Dennis Moraco, Paul Liberto, Paul Aaron Palmieri, Ken Staley, Nephi DiMercurio and Elder John Straccia. I wish that each and every one of you were there, for it is too much for me to put into words. The information indicated how strongly the Church is moving forward and why so many more laborers are needed. There is so much to be done, and every hand, every talent and every prayer are needed.

We each owe our membership in the Church to the faithfulness of

others. Like them, we must work, because we have been instructed to work. There does not need to be an invitation to work. Christ has already offered it: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). Invitation extended!

General Church President, Apostle Dominic R. Thomas also gave a touching account of how the Lord rewards us for the work done for Him and His Great Work. He thanked all who labor for the Gospel of Christ. He reviewed the way Christ fed the 4,000 and the 5,000. He could not send them away without being fed. Brother Thomas, who has been the General Church President for the last 30 years, recapped the goodness and mercy God has shown him in his life. His inspiring talk was a big blessing in view of how God has brought him through a very serious affliction and has given him the ability to be present.

Brother or sister, it was concluded, old or young, ordained or not, there is work. There is work, because there are souls. All are welcome and all are used. When the next announcement goes out for a missionary meeting, go! When there is a prompting in your heart to work for the Lord, don't hesitate to become involved.

Brother Liberto is the Chairman of the IMOC, and Brother DiBattista is the Assistant Chairman. Sector and field committee members had also met the previous day.

## Trip to Italy

Continued from Page 4

Georgio asked Brother Oliva to pray for him that he would be made stronger. Brother Oliva's faithfulness, endurance, and the fact that his life had been spared three times was an inspiration to this young soul. (There were approximately thirty-five in this service. I kept thinking of the seventy brothers and sisters I meet with each Sunday in our home branch and how prayer help is only a phone call away.

I needed to remember this when I got home.)

Late that evening, my daughter Christina managed to reach us by telephone. Her first words were, "How is your back mom, how are you managing?" My back problems were greatly considered before committing to the trip. I did not want to be a hindrance. After an eight hour plane trip, six hour van trip, walking up three long flights of stairs several times a day to get to our room, I was doing great and told her so. I omitted, "Thank God." During the night, I was awakened by horrendous cramps in both my legs, the kind that make you want to cry out loud. I immediately remembered my conversation with Christina and how I forgot to thank God. I started to thank Him and praise Him immediately. Alex prayed in English and then in Italian and eventually I fell back to sleep. I woke up feeling good, and the remainder of the trip was great. I did not forget to thank my Lord often. My children also continued to pray for me.

Saturday morning was to be the baptism of Brother Francesco. Friday evening we met in the Church. We were enjoying our singing. Earlier in the day Sister Rosanna and Sister Marinella encouraged five women who were working, cleaning the road, to come in and meet with us. They said they would for a few minutes. They stayed a while, sang with us and left with our songbooks. This evening Sister Rosanna was having a problem. She had stopped singing, closed her eyes and her countenance had changed. She called Brother Rosario out of the building and after a brief conversation they returned to their seats. Brother John DiBattista asked whether anything was wrong and Brother Rosario said she was having trouble breathing. She was called up for prayer. We all knew that she was being bothered by an evil spirit. As Brother John Buffa began to pray, a spirit of peace fell over us. There was no doubt the Lord would restore Sister Rosanna. She told us she had felt hands on her shoulders, shaking her back and forth so hard she couldn't get her breath. After Brother John Buffa

prayed, she was freed.

Every moment of the trip was precious. We shared with each other, ate meals together, walked together, sang together, and prayed together. As we were saying good-byes, Sister Rosanna embraced me and said, "I love you" in English. I know she loves me. I love her. By worldly standards we are almost strangers. As children of God we are sisters in Christ.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

one rejoiced that God sent them food (1st Nephi 17th chapter).

Thirty-two years ago I was just out of university and was at a cross-road in my life. I'd moved far from Church in upstate New York to live with friends. I was barely going to Church and my life felt meaningless. But my mother and grandmother and uncle never gave up praying for me.

Mother told me to go to the New Hope, New Jersey campout and our Kansas MBA would sponsor me. I went. Oh, the beautiful spirit of God was there. I prayed with the other young people and felt the power of God. I had forgotten those goose bumps of God's power and revelation.

I began begging God to forgive me for being a forgetful servant. I had sinned against what I knew was right. I began to fast and pray for God to show me where to move to. I knew I needed to live near the Church people. I left my worldly friends in New York and stayed with the Link family.

I was prayed upon for guidance many times. I began to ask God, "Show me the branch (of the Church of Jesus Christ) where I should live. Take me to the place where I will be the biggest blessing and receive the biggest blessing. Show me where to live."

My journey began as my sister Lana and I visited in many states and met many wonderful people who

(Continued on Page 12)

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Vera Abruzzi was baptized on August 22, 2004 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Jim Sgro.

## Children Blessed

Timothy Gene Davis Hill was blessed on February 22, 2004 at the Six Nations, Ontario Canada Mission.

Konrad Gregory Anderson-John was blessed on February 22, 2004 at the Muncey, Ontario Canada Mission.

Donald Demothi Salter was blessed on February 22, 2004 at the Muncey, Ontario Canada Mission.

Julia Rosa Vitiello was blessed on September 26, 2004 at the Six Nations, Ontario Canada Mission.

## OBITUARIES

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

### MILDRED DOMURAT

Sister Mildred Domurat of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on February 28, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband and daughter. She is survived by her son, Chuck Allis; daughters Tina Mifflin and Sister Grace Visconti; and 14 grandchildren.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 11

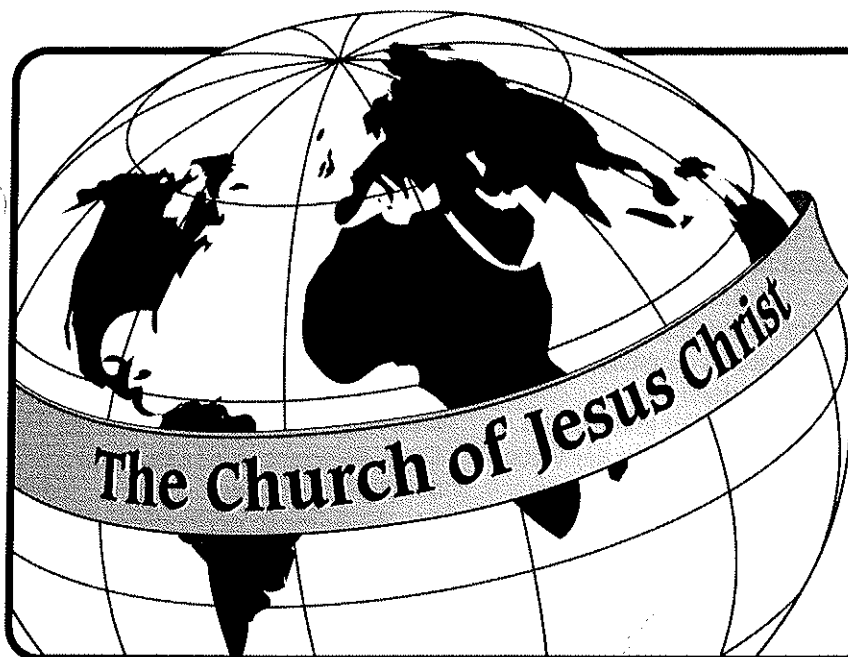
became lifetime friends. When I came to Detroit, I stayed with the Milantoni family. A group of us young people went to Greenfield Village. Imagine my surprise when I recognized it from a dream I'd had nearly a year before.

In my dream, I was in a strange place with people I never knew. I saw the people that we were with who now were my friends. I was joyful and felt like I belonged there. The dream was coming true. I told the Lord, "If this dream is really from you, I need a job and a place to live." That week, Sister Donna Amormino called to say she happened to be reading the newspaper want ads and saw a job for a teacher. I went for an interview and they hired me. At church on Wednesday night, someone told me a young sister was looking for a new roommate. Her roommate had moved home. We talked it over and I moved in.

That was thirty-two years ago and I still go to Branch #2, Allen Park. God opened doors. He gave me a dream. When I was at a crossroad, He showed me which way to go. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Call on Jesus (Hebrews 13:8). With prayer, with guidance from our elders, we each can find our way safely through the crossroads of life to the place of joy where God wants us to be. Ask for a sign; pray and watch. We serve a living God. He cares for you.

With love,  
Sister Jan





# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

December, 2004

Volume 60, No. 12

## Peru

By Apostle Richard Christman

The Book of Mormon states God will raise up men to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Alma 29:8: *"For behold, the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach his word, yea, in wisdom, all that he seeth fit that they should have; therefore we see that the Lord doth counsel in wisdom, according to that which is just and true."*

It is beginning to happen in Peru. We have been traveling in Peru for nine years and were concerned there was not anyone to help preach the Gospel in the mission among the Peruvian people. God, however, made good on His promise. On a trip to Peru with Apostle Paul Palmieri and Evangelists Miguel Bicelis and Phil Jackson, we were directed by the Spirit of God to ordain Brother Juan Mestas an Elder. He is a Peruvian Indian whose parents were from a tribe called Quechuan who are descendents of the Incas.

Brother Juan and his wife, Sister Carmen, who is a Deaconess, have worked diligently in their efforts to spread the Gospel. On a recent

trip, Evangelists Bicelis and Paul Aaron Palmieri, along with Elder Frank Rogolino, ordained Brother Vincente Gongora a Teacher. On our latest trip in August, I saw how Brother Vincente was beginning to fulfill his responsibility as an ordained Teacher.

We know Satan strives to discourage and frustrate the people of God. Our brothers face many obstacles in other countries, as well.

Your prayers are being requested for these two brothers and all of the brothers and sisters in Peru and throughout all the Church missions around the world. It is good to see brothers and sisters assume the responsibility of their callings. They do not have the advantages of many years of experience and heritage available to us through associations with the many saints who preceded us and were fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn and interact with many fine Gospel workers. As nursing fathers and mothers, we cannot abandon our responsibility to help nurture, mentor, and train.

In the book of Jacob, the servants were directed by the Lord to work among His trees of the vineyard, to prune and nourish, to graft, and to persevere, and finally to lay up fruit. The servants were few, but they obeyed the commandments of the

Lord of the vineyard in all things. This is our mission. This is our job. We cannot plant and leave, never to return to care for the vineyard. It would be better not to plant, if we look away and forget the recurring need to nourish and work among what was planted. God is mindful that it is a difficult task, but He promises us we shall have joy with Him.

We have seen the blessings of God and the glorious creative capabilities of our Lord in part; but won't it be wonderful to experience the joy of God when He enjoys the fruit of His vineyard and invites us to share in that feast and celebration? Our Lord and Saviour will present His servants to the Father and the joy of that moment is beyond our comprehension. God made man that he might have joy; and that joy is the joy of God.

Yes, God will continue to raise up servants to preach in their own tongue among their nations. But we as members of the Gospel are among the few who must work in the vineyard and must work with all our might.

Among all our responsibilities in the Gospel, to work diligently in the vineyard is the most important. We must be supportive of the responsibility to develop and maintain the vineyard, to harvest the fruit and to bring joy to our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

## Experience and Testimony of Birdie M. Furnier

*(Editors's Note: This is the testimony of the late Sister Birdie M. Furnier.)*

I was raised by Bible reading, believing parents from the time I can remember. Anything that troubled me, I went to the Lord in prayer, and I realized that God answered my prayers. I lived to be twenty-six years old before I ever had a direct experience from the Lord. I was married and had two children, and lived in a little country home with about four or five acres of land, located beside the Smock, PA reservoir on Highway 51, not far from Uniontown, PA.

One day I was all alone in my little country home. My husband was at work. My two children were at my mother's home. I always had good health and loved to work. I am not a good singer, but I would sing all day while working. I loved to sing hymns as well as good songs. With all the good desire I had, I never had my name on a church book in any church. I respected all churches, never found fault with any, and thought they were all right, and to this day, I believe there are good people in every church.

What I want to do now is give my testimony as to how I came to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ. Being alone in my humble little farm home, I was very busy, and singing the hymn, *Is Thy Heart Right With God?* I know it was something from heaven, something I had never witnessed before; I knew it was the voice of the Lord. I fell on my knees, and I talked to God. I said, "Lord, I know this is you, what will you have me to do?" As I prayed there alone, a blanket of love completely covered me. I left myself in His care. As I recovered from this blessed experience, I went back to my work. When my husband, Thurman, came home, I told him of the wonderful experience I had; we both rejoiced together. A

portion of this wonderful experience stayed with me for weeks and months. I know I was in the hands of the Lord, and that He had spoken to me, just as I would speak to anyone, and ask them a question. Only He questioned me with compassion, like no man has ever done.

I loved my mother and always talked everything over with her when I was confronted with any problem. As I carried a blessing from this experience, I also carried a problem I could not solve myself. So I talked it over and over with my mother. She was a very devoted Bible reader, and would console me. She told me of a woman she had talked to that was a Bible reader. This woman did not mention the name of a church, or invite her to come to church, but she left the impression with my mother that I might want to talk to her. So the next time I had a visit with my mother, she told me about her conversation with this woman. So I said, "Where does this woman live?" She told me. I went straight to her house; one of the daughters came to the door when I knocked. I asked if her mother was home, she told me no, so I asked, "Is your father home?" She said, "Yes, he is upstairs sleeping." It came to my mind right away, I must talk to him. I had never met him, I had never heard a word about him, but I felt a great desire to talk to him. So I asked the girl if I could talk to him a little while, and she said, "He will be glad to talk to you." She went upstairs and told him I wanted to talk to him. He got up right away, and came downstairs. I introduced myself, and told him I wanted to talk to him about the Bible. I being a Bible reader myself, I asked him many questions as to what he believed, not knowing he belonged to any church or professed any religion. I continued to ask questions. Here are some of the questions I asked him: Do you think people should take sacrament? Do you think it is right to wash feet? Do you think it is right for women to preach?

I asked question after question, as he answered me to what he believed. He allowed me to talk

about the Bible quite a while, then he said, "Would you like to have a prayer meeting in your home?" O, those were the sweetest words to me. I said I surely would. He then told me that he was an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. This was the first time I had ever heard of him or had ever seen him. His name was Martin King, he was an Elder and later became an Apostle.

He came to my house with his family. I called in a few of my farm neighbors. We had a nice cottage prayer meeting. Brother King held many meetings with us from that time on, not only prayer meetings, but Sunday meetings. The rest of my family, including my husband, became very much interested. Brother King had asked some of the other brothers to come up from down the river, from Monongahela, Roscoe, Little Redstone, and Coal Valley, PA. The word soon got around of the new interest Brother King had found, and many of the brothers and sisters met with us.

It was on Sunday, August 23, 1914, the meeting was held in my sister Alverdia Gibson's home. A wonderful blessing was being poured out upon us.

While Brother William Bailey was bearing his testimony, I was so filled with a portion of my early experience, when God's voice asked me if my heart was right with him. The spirit of repentance fell upon me. I felt as if I was right in front of Jesus at His feet. I asked for my baptism, and seven of my family followed. We were buried in the water in the reservoir beside my home on Route 51. It was a beautiful evening, just before sundown. My husband, Thurman; my sister, Alverdia; her husband, Henry Gibson; my sister, Bladys; her husband, Ray Hillen; and my youngest brother, Winfield Rikken, made our promise to God to serve Him. We were confirmed in my home.

I thank God for that day. I am now past 75 years old, and I wouldn't trade the last 50 years of my life for all the gold in the world. Being baptized in August, I was privileged to go to conference in October at a small place called Hawk Eye, near Scott-

dale, PA. It was the most glorious conference I was ever in. As I have said, I was always well and healthy, never sick in my life, since I can remember. I was only baptized two weeks when I took sick. I went to conference sick, and when I returned home, I fell in my bed and never got out for several months.

My illness all started with typhoid fever, which left me a complete cripple, not even able to raise my hands. They fed me soup which was strained through a cloth. I was completely helpless, and did not weigh 75 pounds. When the next January conference came, I wanted to go. Sick as I was, my mother and father argued over ever thinking of such a thing as taking me out in snow and ice in January. My mother said I was going to die anyway so she arranged with a farm neighbor to take me to the railroad station to McKeesport, PA to conference. I was rolled in blankets and carried like a baby to a horse and buggy, carried into the depot. When the train came, the conductor got off the train and helped the farm man put me on the train. At the other end where I got off the train, Brother Nephi Federer's son was there with a horse and buggy; they carried me from the train just as they carried me on when I got on the train.

I was taken to conference, which was held on the second floor of a lodge hall. I was carried up eighteen steps, and set on a chair, with my feet on another chair. I sat all day on Saturday. On Saturday night they got me a room close to the hall. On Sunday I was carried back up stairs for the Sunday meetings. There was about three hundred people there, outsiders as well as saints. I had been anointed by just about all the Twelve Apostles, and our President, Brother Alexander Cherry, during these months of sickness, but was not healed or even benefited. I still lay sick, not even able to move myself. When they took me to Sunday meeting, they set me on a chair in the back of the hall. I enjoyed the morning service. When the afternoon meeting opened for testimony and Sacrament, a voice spoke to me. I recognized it

## Brother Michael Piacentino Leaves Office After 57 Years



At this past October General Church Conference, Brother Michael Piacentino asked to be relieved of his office as General Church Recording Secretary after 57 years of faithful service, because of failing health. With regret, the conference granted his request, and everyone stood in honor of his many years of service.

Elected to the Secretariat in July 1947, Brother Mike has been a fixture ever since. His preparation, attention to detail and finalization of both the conference agenda and minutes will remain as the ongoing patterns to follow. His devotion and reliability have been noted many times in the past. His experience and dependability have been most valuable in assisting the Presidency and other Church officers over the years, and his loving and caring demeanor have always been highly exemplary. He felt being the Recording Secretary allowed him to do his part for the work of the Lord. He is a perfectionist and has had great respect for the Church and the Ministry.

Born on December 3, 1918 and baptized on December 17, 1933, he and his wife, Sister Theresa, were married on March 15, 1941 and have been residents of the Detroit, Michigan area throughout their lives. Sister Theresa was baptized on March 2, 1941.

They were blessed with two children, Joseph and Mrs. Patricia Francis, and two grandsons.

as the same voice that had spoken to me when I was alone in my little farm home. This is what it said, "Now is the time?" I spoke right out and said, "Brothers, if you will anoint me, now is the time." Two Elders came back to me and carried me to the front of the hall. They anointed me with oil, and made a very simple, plain prayer, with their hands on my head. I was healed right there, one hundred percent back to perfect health.

I got up from the chair I sat on, walked back to my seat, went home with the crowd, in perfect health. The next day was Monday, I went back home on the train, walked to my home in the country, two miles, and have been blessed with good health ever since. I praise God for this wonderful testimony.

I feel that God has spoken to me twice, in a very special way, in the 50 years I have tried to serve Him. The first time when He spoke to me and asked me the question, "Is your heart

right with God?" was in preparation for the saving of my soul, and the second time was for the healing of my body. I very seldom speak of the healing of my body, but I will never forget the experience of the way God visited me when He called me to serve Him. The healing of my soul means so much more than the healing of my body. I thank God with all my heart for His loving care. My desire is to serve Him as long as I live. I know for sure with a testimony as I have given it to you, will either stand for me or against me. I ask an interest in all your prayers, that with God's help, I will be able for it to be for me. I am not seeking any honor or glory, only to give Him the praise that He ever saw me worth speaking to, and that I have been privileged to become one of His servants with the rest of all who are trying to serve Him. May God bless the Church in these trying times, is my prayer in His Holy Name.

## She Came From Heaven By Way of China...

*By Sister Linda Scolaro*

One day, I prayed that God would grant us a child, and I had no idea the amazing journey and plan that God had in store for us. I prayed this prayer many times. However, this time I was driving on the Garden State Parkway. As I finished my prayer, I looked up into the sky on a beautiful sunny day in August, and I saw a vision. The Lord showed me a baby girl's face in the clouds. I knew the baby was a girl because she was wearing a "pan" collar. Then, I looked again, and I saw the profile of an elderly woman looking at the baby. At that moment, I realized the woman was my grandmother, who had gone on to her eternal reward. I felt such a peace. It was as if God was telling me that (in the context of my prayer) we would be granted a baby girl.

A year later, I heard a radio program where a woman was describing how God led her and her family to adopt a baby girl from China. Although I was aware of the one-child policy that the government imposes on families in China, I did not know the plight of girls in this culture. The families have to pay a stiff penalty if they have more than one child. Many cannot pay this fee. If they have one or more girls, they may abandon them until they have a boy. The Chinese culture values males and their role in supporting their families financially. In the meantime, many baby girls are found along the sides of highways, in cornfields, marketplaces, etc. Then they are brought to orphanages.

When I heard this, it weighed on my heart so heavily. The Lord began to place on my heart to adopt a baby girl from China. I told my husband of my vision and God's prompting. I began to research the adoption process. The Lord miraculously directed us to a Christian adoption agency. Their mission statement is based on James 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself

unspotted from the world." God then directed us to a Christian social worker who completed our homestudy. She even prayed for us when we experienced some hurdles.

Finally, after almost two years had passed, we got the phone call with information about our daughter. She had been matched with us. The next day we received her picture and medical information. As I looked at her picture, I realized she was truly the baby that God showed me in my vision. We grew so attached to her picture, and we showed it to family, friends, coworkers, etc. who all shared in our joy.

Two weeks later we received another call. Our daughter was ill, and in the hospital. The question was posed, "Do you want another child?" Our immediate response was, "No." We wanted to know the details of her illness. Through a very frustrating few weeks we tried to obtain information. We used a Chinese translator via AT&T and spoke directly to the orphanage director. To this day, we are not truly clear about all the details of our daughter's illness. We were unable to travel with our designated travel group as scheduled because we had to wait for our daughter to come out of the hospital and gain strength to make the trip to the United States. We prayed, and the brothers and sisters of our branch prayed. Even the workers in our adoption agency prayed. Within a couple of weeks, we received an e-mail from the orphanage along with some pictures of our daughter so we could see how she was doing. She was out of the hospital. The most significant thing is that in the pictures, she was wearing the "pan" collar that I saw in my vision. I knew without a doubt that she was surely the one that God planned for us.

We made the trip to China, and adopted our daughter, Caterina, on August 6, 2002. My grandmother's

(Continued on Page 11)

## News from the Finance Committee

### Thank you for your donations in 2004!

Donations to The Church of Jesus Christ support many aspects of the entire Church. A portion of your donations support your local branch including local missionary efforts. Another portion of your donations support Region activities which focus on spiritually strengthening our membership. Your donations also support the General Church and their efforts to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have developed a formula that allows for the finances to support local, regional, national and international efforts. We feel it is important to share what we have grown to know and love, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These efforts include outreach programs through our branches and into our local communities. Other efforts are focused on sharing the Gospel throughout the world. Today your donations go to support missions and missionaries not only in the United States and Canada but in over 31 countries throughout the world.

In 2004 The Church of Jesus Christ made significant progress in missionary work both domestically and internationally. Your continued financial support helps to maintain these established missionary efforts and allows us the opportunity to share the Gospel with those around the globe who have inquired about the Church. Corinthians 9:6,7 states "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." We would like to thank all who have financially supported The Church of Jesus Christ in 2004. Your donations are appreciated.

If you feel to financially support the Church, please send your donations to P.O. Box 15667, Pittsburgh, PA 15244. Again thank you for your donations.



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever" (Exodus 14:13).*

We all know the story of how God parted the Red Sea for Israel to have a way of escape from the Egyptians, who were pursuing them. Israel murmured and complained to Moses, because they were backed up against the Red Sea and thought they had been trapped by the Egyptians, who would now be able to destroy them. Thinking about this situation logically, sure, you and I might react the same way, not really seeing how we could escape. An entire sea of water had never been parted before. Probably none of them even thought that this was how God would save them.

There are times in our lives when situations arise in which we cannot see a route of escape. We feel "trapped," like our backs are up against a wall. Like Israel, we can't even imagine how God would deliver us, because we have no one else to compare our situation to. Perhaps no one that you know of has ever been in a situation like you are in. It is easy to throw in the towel and give up, not realizing that God may do something in your life that has never been done in any other person's life. God may "part the Red Sea" for you, and allow you to escape from the problem, or from the enemy who is pursuing you. I believe everyone is dealing with some kind of entrapment that they wish they could escape from or overcome. It could be an addiction, habit, destructive friendship or relationship, illness, disagreement, contention or conflict with another. In all of these situations, you are standing at the banks of the Red Sea, and probably will either become discouraged or just decide to stand there and allow the situation (enemy) to overtake you. In these last days, Satan is going about as a roaring lion seeking to devour you and I. He wants us to throw in the towel. Brothers, sisters and friends, we can't afford to give up. It may be this one situation that causes you to completely backslide from the presence of God. That is how Satan works. He wraps the silken cord around us one tiny strand at a time, until we cannot move.

But we know that all things are possible through Christ. God told Moses, *"Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward"* (Exodus 14:15). In other words, why are you begging me for this miracle? Don't you know that I, your God, can do all things? Instead, cry unto the people that their faith might be increased knowing this. When we find ourselves in these desperate situations, we should KNOW that God can deliver us, no matter how bad it may seem. If He doesn't, it simply is a result of our lack of faith and our doubt that He can do it. The God who created all we see and the entire universe can surely fix your problem. Living with this confidence will cause you to easily overcome every obstacle in life. Trusting that God will part every Red Sea for you, will allow you to have perfect joy in life. This is what God intended for you and me.

This month's *Gospel News* has a new *Song of Zion* printed that speaks about how God will lead us, like he did Israel, with his "very high hand" (*"...and the children of Israel went out with an high hand."* Exodus 14:8). Not only in our individual lives, but as God's people, we will be led, like Israel, to the Promised Land some day. This land will be delivered back to Joseph and to the righteous. The Church of Jesus Christ will cover the earth, like the waters cover the sea. No more will we have to worry about being pursued by the Egyptians, because just as they were swallowed up in the Red Sea, so will Satan when he is bound during that new era of time that awaits us.

This Christmas, the gift of God's deliverance in my own life and deliverance for His people is the greatest gift I can unwrap. It is a gift that God has already promised when He sent His son Jesus, to be born and to die for you and me. This Christmas, I know God will part the Red Sea for me. How about you?

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## A Special Man

Dear Friends,

How would you feel and what would you do if someone you loved very much and planned to marry told you she was going to have someone else's baby? Then what would you do if they told you this was God's plan for you?

Well, when Joseph was engaged to Mary this happened to him. The Bible tells us that he was a fair man, a "just" man. In those days a girl who had a baby without being married could be put to death by people throwing stones at her. But Joseph must have cared a great deal for Mary; he decided to "put her away privily" or privately, not marry her.

Joseph must also have had high values about right and wrong. How his heart must have ached when Mary first told him her secret. But as Joseph was planning what to do, an angel of the Lord came to him.

The angel told Joseph, "Don't be afraid to take Mary for your wife. The baby she is carrying is from the Holy Ghost. She shall have a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will save His people from their sins." And the angel reminded Joseph that many, many years before holy men who told the future, prophets, said that Jesus would be born like this.

Joseph did as the Lord told him, and took Mary for his wife. Many months later while they were in Bethlehem to pay taxes, the beautiful Christ Child was born! Angels sang to shepherds, and wise men from far away came to bring gifts to the precious baby Jesus.



When the wicked king of the land, Herod, heard about the wise men searching for a special newborn who would someday rule the world, he was furious! He sent soldiers to the city of Bethlehem to kill every single baby two years old and younger in that city.

A second time God sent an angel messenger to warn Joseph in a dream to hurry and leave Bethlehem. The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Arise, take the young child and his mother and go to another country. Stay there until I come again to you, because Herod will try to find the baby and kill him."

Joseph did not wake up and argue with himself. He didn't say, "Oh, that's just a dream! Even if it was true, God could protect the baby," and he didn't say, "No! I can't leave for another country! I don't know their language! What would happen to my business? After all, I'm my own boss. I have carpentry customers to think of! I'd better just hurry and go back to my own city."

Instead, Joseph had faith and trust in God. He got up, packed up Mary and baby Jesus and left in the night. There were no telephones or televisions or newspapers and magazines in those days. When Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem to murder the other babies, news traveled slowly. We can imagine how frightened and heartsick Mary and Joseph's families were while they awaited news and wondered what had happened to Mary's baby.

We don't know how long Mary and Joseph's families waited to see them again. We only know that they lived in a faraway land until God told them it was safe to return. For the

third time, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel, for Herod, who tried to kill him, is now dead."

So Joseph again trusted his spiritual dream, and he took his family and came into Israel. But when Joseph heard then that Herod's son was ruling, God warned him in another dream, and he turned and went to Nazareth. This was another thing that the holy men of God had said years before. They said, "He [Christ] shall be called a Nazarene [from Nazareth]."

God must have carefully selected Joseph for his faith and his strength to follow God's messengers. Not everyone would have a dream and then follow it. It must have taken courage to go live in a strange country far from home, waiting patiently for another dream to tell you what to do.

The man who loved and raised the baby Jesus must have had energy—how quickly he moved to pack up and leave in the middle of the night.

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

|         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| JOY     | TO     | FEARED |
| SPECIAL | EGYPT  | BABY   |
| FATHER  | WICKED | JESUS  |
| ANGEL   | KING   | GOD    |
| WARNED  | HEROD  | SAVED  |
| FLEE    | HATED  | HIM    |

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





## Ordination and Baptisms at McKees Rocks, PA

By Sister Diane Giannetti

August 29, 2004 was a special day for the McKees Rocks Branch as we gathered for the ordination of Brother Patrick Monaghan as an Elder. We had many visiting brothers and sisters, as well as many of Brother Patrick's family, join with us to witness this special event. As the Elders assembled for prayer prior to the meeting, God spoke through one of our brothers that we should wait on Him and we would see His power.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., welcomed all who were in attendance. Many songs of praise were sung as we prepared our hearts for God's blessings. The opening speaker was Evangelist Nephi De-Mercurio of the Great Lakes Region. His scripture reading was taken from The Book of Mormon, Chapters 17 and 18 of Mosiah, referencing our covenant with God as well as God's covenant with us as His children. Brother Nephi stated the authority, which Alma possessed at the waters of Mormon, would be bestowed upon Brother Patrick today. Our Brother would be anointed by God into the holy priesthood and given the privilege to perform all of God's ordinances, to preach the gospel and to be a witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul Palmieri followed Brother Nephi on this subject and encouraged Brother Patrick to be faithful in his calling as an Elder.

Brother Patrick's feet were washed by Brother John Mark D'Antonio of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was then ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. As the prayer was being offered God spoke the following to Brother Patrick, "Go forth now and do my work, thus saith the Lord, Amen and Amen." Brother Patrick has been a faithful member,

Deacon and Teacher and we know he will be a wonderful asset to our branch as an Elder.

Following his ordination, Brother Patrick was given the opportunity to speak to the congregation. As he spoke, the word of the Lord was given as follows: "Oh how I have waited for you, thus I will give you a new flock, thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord." This promise immediately began to be fulfilled when at the close of the service, Paul Ciotti, III requested baptism. Truly we felt the same spirit as those who gathered at the waters of Mormon, as the joy of the saints was prevalent in our meeting.

Prior to going to the baptismal site, a luncheon was served for all in attendance. At this time, another young person, Robbie Bradwell, requested baptism and the saints continued to rejoice. We then proceeded to the waters to witness the baptism of Paul Ciotti III. His father, Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., baptized him. As the invitation was given for any others to accept the call of God, another young person, Jamie Hess, exclaimed, "I want to be baptized." The glory of God was upon her countenance as she embraced all the saints. The baptisms of Robbie and Jamie took place the following Sunday.

We returned to the church for the confirmation of young Brother Paul. As he was being confirmed by his grandfather, Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., a brother spoke in the spirit, "I have called a mighty soldier, I have called a mighty soldier, thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord."

As God revealed at the beginning of our day, by waiting on Him, we would see His power. Truly His word was fulfilled in our midst and we give Him honor and glory for the great things He has done.

## News from the Herndon, Virginia Branch

By Sister Hythia Young

"Wo be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God,

and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough! For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have" (II Nephi 28: 29,30).

We were blessed to be able to set aside the July 16-18, 2004 weekend to be attentive to God's counsel, to receive His blessings and to seek to increase our knowledge and understanding of the things of God. The saints from Omaha, Nebraska traveled to Herndon, Virginia to fellowship and share with us the gift of love and to feast upon the words of God.

On Saturday evening they presented a beautiful program entitled "The Dispensation of the Father" which reenacted for us the life of Christ, His dealings with the House of Israel and the Seed of Joseph, and His promises to all who will serve Him. The players referenced the pruning of the vineyard and the grafting in of the wild branches. We were reminded that until the pruning is complete, there is work in the vineyard. The play ended with the actors singing *Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown*.

We gathered early Sunday morning for our service and we were truly blessed throughout the day.

Before our elders spoke, Joe Harris, the husband of our Sister Sherri Harris, was anointed for physical afflictions. Afterward, Sister Iva Bordeaux rose and said that as Joe was being anointed the words of the Lord came to her and said, "I will heal the body but I will also heal the soul." Brother Clifton Wells opened our services reading from Jacob 5 concerning the parable of the tame and wild olive tree, and from John 15 which speaks of the relationship of believers to Christ, to each other, and to those in

(Continued on Page 8)

## News from Herndon, VA

Continued from Page 7

the world. "God is the true vine, we are the branches," Brother Cliff reminded. "We have the righteousness of Jesus Christ; not righteousness in and of ourselves. Our eyes must be stayed on the glory of God so that He will shine forth from us. The fruit must be glorified in the things of God." He exhorted us to know our God and unite in Him!

Brother Clifton continued: "The word of God has purified us. We are to cling to His word. We are working out our soul salvation on a daily basis as we get into the Word. We must be about our Father's business and constantly look for opportunities for God to use us."

"Perfection," he said, "comes from obedience to the word of God." He exhorted us to let the glory of God shine forth from us. "God deals in truth," he continued. "Be obedient to and diligent in His word, for without Him we can do nothing. God loves us and wants us to love one another. We must take upon ourselves the name of Jesus. We must let no one take us from the things of God." Brother Cliff also read from Revelations 10.

Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr. followed Brother Cliff. He said, "There are some in the world who seek throughout their lives to find a purpose. Our purpose is to bring forth fruit for the Father." He read from John 15:16 where God said, *Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you.* "God created man to bear fruit and our fruit should remain." He urged us to feed on the word of God; feed on His spirit. "The sons of Mosiah gave themselves to fasting and prayer; to reading and searching the scriptures. We should be as the sons of Mosiah. God has blessings waiting for us if we do the things that He would have us do." Brother Rick read from Isaiah 15. "Our work, our responsibility," he said, "is to shine forth the light of Jesus Christ — in truth and in deed. The doors of the storehouse are open. We must ready ourselves and be prepared to receive those blessings. The Lord isn't speaking to us in parables any-

more. He is speaking to us plainly. The scripture says He is worthy of our praise."

Our afternoon testimony service was spent giving praise, honor and glory to God. The testimonies were beautiful, and truly, the spirit of God was felt by all.

It was a blessing to have our brothers and sisters from Omaha in this part of the vineyard and to feast with them on the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We look forward to the day when we shall all meet again!

## Ordination of Brother Michael McGuire Dedham, MA

We opened our service by singing *In Thee Do I Live*. "Thy mercy sought me, thy love has brought me and thy grace has taught me."

Elders Present were Brothers Joseph Perri, James Crudup, Sam Sgro, Richard Onorato Jr., Darryl Onorato and Tom Curtin.

Many brothers and sisters from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Nigeria (residing in Boston area), San Diego, and family members gathered together today to witness the ordination of Brother Michael (Mickey) McGuire into the office of Teacher in the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission.

Brother Joseph Perri addressed the meeting in thankfulness. He continued saying that Brother Mickey was called into the office of teacher under the inspiration of God. The ordinance of feet washing was then performed. Brother Tom Curtin washed Brother Mickey's feet. We then sang hymn "*Ye Who Are Called To Labor*."

Brother James Crudup was inspired to offer a word of prayer. He humbly prayed that as we bow in reverence to God for our brother's calling, that he would be a beacon light put upon a hill and those who looked upon him would see something different.

Brother Joe read the duties of a teacher to Brother Mickey. He ex-

pounded upon the great responsibility of his calling.

Brother Richard Onorato Jr. ordained Brother Mickey into the office of Teacher.

Brother Richard spoke of Dedham's existence for some time. The area here needs willing workers to bring souls to Christ. Brother Joe continued speaking, stating there will come a time when many in the world will become tired and discouraged. They will search from one place to another for comfort and encouragement. We, The Church of Jesus Christ want to welcome them with open arms.

Brother Richard Onorato Jr. then continued on with the meeting speaking from the Book of Mormon about Jacob and Joseph magnifying their office. Jacob 1:19, "And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence; wherefore, by laboring with our might their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day." Brother Richard exhorted to us the serious responsibility of our calling in service to the Lord. "Jacob and Joseph as priests and teachers magnified their calling by teaching the word of God to the people with all diligence." He spoke, "When we obtain an office it puts us lower, we are in service to one another. We gain a greater responsibility. The things of God are extremely serious and it should be magnified in our lives."

Brother Richard remembered the beginnings of the work in Dedham and the great responsibility of those who labored for many years for the welfare of Dedham on a consistent basis. We have to continue with that same responsibility. God measures things differently and there is growth in Dedham. He ended in saying, "Magnify our office unto the Lord and grow unto the Lord, that our service will be more than somewhat."

We were asked to pray for Brother Mickey and his family as they

have taken on a greater responsibility. Brother Joe exhorted unto us to exercise faith, believe in God today and glorify His name. "Wherefore whoso believeth in God might with a surety hope for a better world." Thanks to God that we believe in a supreme being who has prepared a place of refuge. We live in this world and find opposition. Jesus said we would have tribulation. We are preparing ourselves, building upon our spiritual life to put to use in everyday life until we are transported to a better place. He said to feast on the good things God gives us. We shall have hope through the atonement of Jesus Christ. Christ has promised us hope. Corruption is polluting our world. Exercise faith on a daily basis to obtain that goal of salvation.

Brother Jim Crudup asked us, "What is our main responsibility?" The answer is, "Serve God!" We need that faith to do all things. It is our responsibility to do the work of Jesus Christ, to be better servants of Christ. We need to be more than "some-what." Apostle Paul said, "What shall we do then, shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" There must be a complete change in our life. Be abased! Let God be the Exalter! If we made that promise to serve God and we run from that responsibility, shame on us! Once we have seen the light and blessings of this Church, we are accountable. "Because Jesus saw you and me, He walked Golgotha's hill." God does the exalting. What shall we say then, when we see the goodness and greatness of God? Put our trust in God and we'll be victorious! It is our responsibility to look to Christ, our bright and morning star!

Brother Sam Sgro elaborated on Alma at the waters of Mormon asking us, are we willing to mourn and bare one another's burdens for baptism? He also read from Jacob 2:1, 2, "Now, my beloved brethren, I, Jacob, according to the responsibility which I am under to God, to magnify mine office with soberness, and that I might rid my garments of your sins, I come up into the temple this day that I might declare unto you the word of God." He stressed on the importance of, "according to the responsibility under God." He stated that

it is a great responsibility being responsible to God! It is the Elders' responsibility for the welfare of the souls that they take care of.

He tenderly spoke of the loving relationship he had with his wife, Sister Anna and the experience that was had when she left this world to be with the Savior. The angels surrounded her and took her home. Brother Sam beckoned us to tell people of the Gospel and the Son of God, to love God and to serve Him.

Glorious testimonies filled the room relating God's blessings and His goodness.

Brother Mickey expressed himself in serious thanksgiving to the Lord for working in his life. He related an experience where he received in the mail, his grandfather's picture. He looked at it and welled up inside with the spirit of God. He also had a dream that he was given a little baby girl all dressed up in white. She was so precious and beautiful. He related that to the new office the Lord gave him. He remarked that it is his desire to fulfill his responsibility to teach the word of God.

Brother Steve McGuire, Brother Mickey's son, testified that he wanted to resume his responsibility to serve the Lord and requested reinstatement.

Newly baptized Brother Richard Aredondo from San Diego, California came to New Hampshire for his job until mid-fall. He testified that he put his faith and trust in God to take care of him. The Lord opened the door for him to attend today and to continue attending in Brunswick, ME. He has a powerful testimony of how God changed his life completely.

Brother Richard Onorato Jr. passed communion. Brother Sam Sgro closed saying with a thankful heart, "This is a day, the Lord hath made."

Before ending in prayer, Brother Darryl Onorato remarked on how his mind was brought back to scripture that was given in the previous week's meeting in Maine which reinforced the message this day; "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). With responsibility comes accountability.

## A Midnight Visit

Our mother was in the hospital for nearly a week before she went home to be with Jesus forever. For several days, the family gathered at the hospital from early morning until late at night, hoping and praying that she would respond to the treatments being given her.

The night before our mother died, my sister and I stayed until very late. We wanted to remain by her bedside through the night, but the hospital staff insisted that everyone leave and not return until the next morning. Before we left the hospital room, my sister requested that I ask God to send a messenger to watch over our mother that night.

Very early the next morning, the night nurse telephoned our brother to say that two men in dark suits had come to see our mother. He told her he didn't know about them, but guessed they were ministers of the Church. The next morning, the nurse asked us again about the ministers that had visited our mother during the night. Although we had called for an elder a number of times that week, we knew nothing about this visit.

Then the nurse explained that about two o'clock that morning, she saw two men standing at the door of our mother's hospital room. She asked if she could be of any help to them. "We know Mary," one of them answered, "and we're here to take care of her." That's when the nurse telephoned our brother. Concerned that he did not know about the visitors, the nurse summoned the hospital's security staff to the floor. She told us that when the security guards arrived, the two men were gone.

We know God had answered our prayer, and had sent His messengers to watch over our mother that final night of her life on this earth. We are greatly comforted in knowing the care bestowed upon her by our Lord as we struggled with seeing her leave us. We wish to praise God and to share this beautiful experience with our spiritual family.

The Family of Sister Mary Fantazier

## Note of Thanks

*"Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in thy name" (Psalm 63:3,4).*

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Please accept the following words penned by my husband as though they were spoken by me. Due to the conditions of this life I am unable to present them personally.

Little did I ever think that I would experience a condition that would leave me handicapped. I have witnessed many in hospitals, nursing care homes and at home that have experienced the same. I am not complaining, for since I have chosen to serve God, I have heard many sermons of God's love and mercy unto His children. Also the scriptures are replete with God's words that have given me encouragement and determination to praise His name.

Since August 2000, when I experienced my major stroke, several residual effects have caused me to rely on others to care for almost all my needs. God has touched others to care for me. My daughter Sister Bonnie and Brother Ike Smith came to our rescue and offered to have us live with them in Arizona. We made the move in November 2000. During this time the rest of the children, Dennis, Cheryl, Candee and Joel have also contributed much personal time to help. This help has permitted my companion to continue attending Quorum and Conference meetings.

Presently, I am confined to a nursing care home. This is primarily because of a serious situation that developed. An infection attached itself to the ankle of my good leg and despite care and treatment it continued to spread. Without the drastic measure of amputation, I would have faced slow and most painful demise. The family was brought together to consider the advice of the physicians. Much prayer,

anointing, fasting and consideration went into this difficult decision. The final decision was made to trust in God and proceed with the surgery. Since that time I have made good physical progress. We are praying that God will continue to be with me to help me adjust to the point of becoming as independent as possible and thereby return home.

Recently I have been able to attend church at the Mesa, Arizona Branch, which has given me great encouragement. The brothers' and sisters' wonderful love for me cannot be expressed, except in the language of David in the Psalms, "Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live. I will lift up my hands in thy name."

I wish to thank God for the many cards and phone calls which I have received. While my personal family has been a great help, the family of God has a special place in my life and heart for the great love and concern for my welfare. May God's richest blessings be upon each and every one. Please continue to remember me in prayer.

Love to all,  
Sister Victoria Calabrese

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Your prayers, cards, calls, visits, flowers and food were much felt and appreciated during my recent surgery. It is a blessing from our Lord to know that God hears every prayer and heals us from our afflictions.

I thank you all for thinking of me and I praise the Lord for His countless blessings.

With love through Jesus,

Sister Pearl Nester and Family  
Simi Valley, California Branch

## New Songs of Zion

### #114 The Lord Will Lead With A Very High Hand

Exodus 14:8 Numbers 33:3

Come children to the Promised Land,  
Fear not, the Lord has a very high hand;  
And he leads His children carefully,  
Past the army that rides and through the raging sea.  
Past the army that rides and through the raging sea.

Come children to the Promised Land,  
The Lord will lead with a very high hand;  
And He sees the ones who've broken the backs,  
Of the weary ones and He marks their tracks.  
Of the weary ones and He marks their tracks.

Come children to the Promised Land,  
You'll leave this day with a very high hand;  
And the army that rides shall melt away,  
And they'll know the God of Israel lives this day.  
And they'll know the God of Israel lives this day.

Come children to the Promised Land,  
You'll see this day God's very high hand;  
As He did back then in a day long past,  
He'll bring His children home now again at last.  
He'll bring His children home now again at last.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
August 22, 2004

Merry Christmas  
To All Our Readers

## Notice

The Spanish Book of Mormon will be available for distribution by the Print House in January, 2005. This is the first foreign language Book of Mormon that duplicates the New Version English Book of Mormon. Whether or not you speak or read Spanish, this wonderful first print book is a part of The Church of Jesus Christ history.

The prices are as follows:

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Bonded Leather with tabs | \$35.00 |
| Hard Cover               | \$15.00 |
| Soft Cover               | \$ 5.00 |

Shipping and handling charges are separate.

You may purchase your book(s) from the Print House as follows:

MAIL 8282 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
PHONE 734-429-5080  
FAX 734-429-4714  
E-MAIL [cofjeph@msn.com](mailto:cofjeph@msn.com)

*A History of The Church of Jesus Christ* Volume 1 has been printed and bound to look like Volume 2. The cost is \$20.00 plus shipping and handling. To purchase this book contact the Print House as indicated above.

## In Iraq

*(Editor's Note: Listed below are those in Iraq that are Church members, relatives, friends and acquaintances. If anyone cares to write to them and offer encouragement, it would be appreciated.)*

SSG Richard Lowther  
13th SIG BN  
(A/28)  
APO, AE 09313

CPT Michael Higgins  
HHOC, 101 MI BN (FWD)  
Operation Iraqi Freedom, FOB Danger  
APO, AE 09392

SSG Allen L. Ward  
231 MP BN  
127th MP Co/Rangers  
APO, AE 09310

Romanski, Ric SFC  
301st Area Support Group  
APO, AE 09391  
email: [ric.romanski@us.army.mil](mailto:ric.romanski@us.army.mil)  
<http://www.301stasg.com>

LCPL, Robinson, Eric N., USMC  
MIWSS-373, COMM  
UIC 41116  
FPO AP 96426-1116

## Children Blessed

Sophia Marie Saeli, daughter of Anthony and Julie Saeli, was blessed on October 17, 2004 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Luke Albert Giannetti, son of Brother Albert and Sister Diane Giannetti was blessed on September 29, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Nkasiobi Mathew U. Kalu, son of Brother Mathew U. Kalu and Sister Glory U. Kalu was blessed on October 31, 2004 in the Aba Branch Abia State, Nigeria, West Africa.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Michael Anthony Bertolo was baptized on July 18, 2004 in the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Keith Lesperance and confirmed by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

Sister Laura Carranza was baptized on August 1, 2004 in the Detroit, Inner City Branch. She was baptized by Brother Daniel Mora and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSalla.

Brother Paul Joseph Ciotti III was baptized on August 29, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother Robert Neil Bradwell was baptized on September 5, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Sister Jamie Marie Hess was baptized on September 5, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. and confirmed by Brother William Colangelo.

## She Came from Heaven

Continued from Page 4

name was Caterina, and Brother Anthony's grandmother's name was Caterina as well. Praise God, Caterina is a very healthy, bright, and energetic daughter. She is so precious to us, and we are thankful that God has chosen her to be part of our family. The Lord has provided the means for us to adopt another baby girl from China which may happen in the next few months. So we are about to embark on another journey. Our prayer is that God may use our family to bring the Gospel to China and gather His children from the East to the West.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

This was the man who would teach his young son how to be faithful to the God of Israel. He was a father who took his son on a long journey to save his life, and on another long journey to go to the temple in Jerusalem. He was the man that the young Jesus looked to as an example. The carpenter, Joseph, was indeed special.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## Ordinations

Brother Steven Cihomsky was ordained a Teacher in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on September 12, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother John Cihomsky, and he was ordained by Evangelist Walter Cihomsky.

Brother Austin Landrey was ordained an Elder in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on September 12, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Herbert Hemmings and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Brother Patrick Monahan was ordained an Elder in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on August 29, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother John Mark D'Antonio, and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

with their spouses and families, including 12 grandchildren (including spouses) and eight great-grandchildren.

### NORMA J. MALETTA

Sister Norma J. Maletta of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on May 19, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Brother James L. Maletta; five sons; three daughters; eight grandchildren; sons and daughters-in-law and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

### ANTHONY SCARSELLA

Brother Anthony Scarsella of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on July 22, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Sister Marie; daughters, Penny Julian and Darlene Scarsella; sons Rick, Timothy and David; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### MARY PADOVINI

Sister Mary Padovini of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on July 26, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cedo Padovini; father, Brother Igazio Carrato; and mother, Sister Maria Carrato. She is survived by her daughters, Sister Violanda Quinlan and Sister Marylynn Kroth; son, M. Cedo; sister, Sister Josephine Messina; and her brother, Sal Carrato along with four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### GRACE EVERETT

Sister Grace Everett of the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her reward on September 25, 2004. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings. She is survived by her children Thomas and Cynthia, Dennis and Terri, Richard, and Diane as well as nine grandchildren.

### SPENCER EVERETT

Brother Spencer Everett of the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed

on to his reward on September 27, 2004. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings. He is survived by his brother, E. Roger Everett and sister-in-law, Sarah Everett. He is survived by his children Thomas and Cynthia, Dennis and Terri, Richard, and Diane as well as nine grandchildren.

### SHARON GREEN

Sister Sharon Green of the Six Nations, Ontario Canada Reserve passed on to her reward on October 17, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Brother Marvin Green, six children, 25 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

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

### MATTIE ROTINA ROBINSON

Sister Mattie Rotina Robinson of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on November 30, 2003. She was the daughter of the late Brother Clarence N. Robinson and Sister Pearl Gillijard Robinson. She is survived by her son, Steven Gregory Robinson; ten sisters; two brothers; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

### MARY FANTAZIER

Sister Mary Fantazier of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on January 25, 2004. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother John. She is survived by two daughters, Lucille Fantazier and Pegi Scuotto, and a son, John, along

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Elder English Webb of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated his 51st spiritual anniversary on September 6, 2004.