

# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

January, 2005

Volume 61, No. 1

## Kenya – Past and Present 2004 Visit

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

Time has a tendency of quickly passing by without our realizing it has. It is difficult for me to believe ten years has passed since my last visit to Kenya. The growth that has taken place in the Church there from 1994 through 2004 is even more glorious than one could imagine. In 1994 there were just two brothers in the Priesthood with just a few members. During this visit, we were introduced to 11 members of the Priesthood, some of them relating to me that they remember my visit along with that of my wife in 1994 when the Church had its beginning in the villages of Kenyanya and Kiogosi. The membership has grown from just a few in number to approximately 600 members in 15 villages.

On our recent visit of September 19<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup> with Evangelist Jim Crudup, as we traveled about from one Church village to another, the joy and excitement we felt being among our Church membership and the excitement coming from our beloved brothers and sisters because of our visit was overwhelming. The singing of choruses and testimonies given of

God's blessings in their lives will be treasured for some time to come

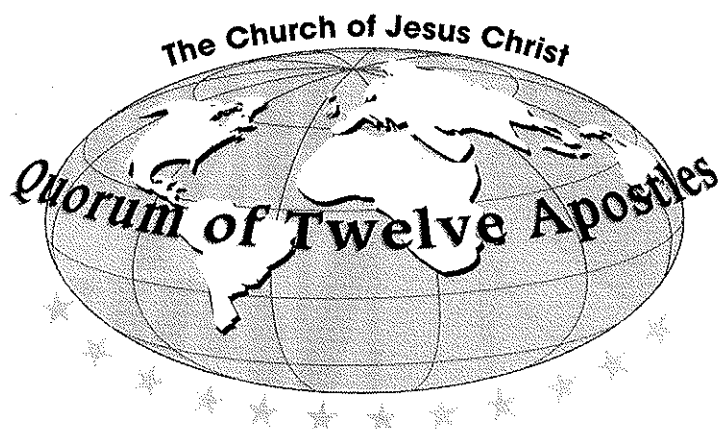
The first Sunday worship service was held in the Headquarters Building in the village of Ogembo. The brothers and sisters came by rented vehicle from various locations to share in our day's worship together. It was a blessing to see a large gathering of members and visitors alike and to feel the spirit of God in our midst. A number of choirs from various villages sang for us prior to our preaching.

My sermon was taken from St. John 15, the theme being the the great love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ towards mankind and His demonstration of love by giving His life upon the cross of Calvary to redeem our souls from the fall of our first parents. The purpose of Christ's dying on the cross was to prepare a place in the mansions of Glory, whereby, through our obedience to the Gospel and obeying the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ and in keeping the promise made the day of our baptism, we will be rewarded with the gift of eternal life. Some of the words from the song entitled *Isn't the Love of Jesus Something Wonderful*

were recited and would have been very appropriate to sing that morning if the words and music were available. Brother Jim Crudup followed, relating the importance that we (the saints of God) who are the branches must be connected to the vine who is Jesus Christ so we may bring forth much fruit. He concluded by using the words of Jesus when he said "For without me you can do nothing." Brother Jim and I had good liberty in preaching that Sunday morning. The large congregation was very attentive. During the meeting, I related how the Restored Gospel message first came to Kenya.

**(Some excerpts from that experience)** Upon our arrival in the town of Kisii in 1985, not knowing where the Osaka family lived, nor in what direction we were to travel, we turned our hearts to God in prayer asking Him to help us find this family. Brother Elizaphan had been corresponding with The Church of Jesus Christ in America for four years, requesting missionaries be sent to Kenya to preach the Restored Gospel to them. With all avenues exhausted in trying to locate Brother Elizaphan and when we thought our trip to Kenya would be a disappointment in not finding the Osaka family, a man from the town of Kisii led by the direction of God came to inform me

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## Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

"When you are in the service of your fellow beings you are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17). Though considered pillars of the Church, the Apostles of the Quorum of Twelve are your servants. In 1862, when our early brothers met in Greenoak, PA, revelation was received to set aside and ordain the Apostles. It was then that the power of God was manifested in our brethren to be servants and to direct The Church of Jesus Christ. At that time the Church was very small in number but great in power and revelations received. Whenever it was necessary to fill vacancies in the Quorum of Twelve, as we are now experiencing, our brothers would go into fasting and prayer for God to reveal who would be called to fill the vacancies. Presently we Apostles are doing the same... following the direction of God's will to call men with the anointing of an Apostle of Jesus Christ.

During the year of 2004, God has called home Apostles V. James Loyalvo, Russell Cadman, and Emeritus Apostle Joseph Bittinger, creating two vacancies. It is the desire of the Quorum of Twelve to replace our brothers as soon as God reveals those He has chosen. We are asking the entire membership to join the Quorum of Twelve in this effort. Pray that God will **reveal to the Quorum** whom he is pleased to call. As you may already understand, members' personal experiences regarding possible candidates to fill vacancies in the Quorum should not be revealed or discussed.

Filling the Quorum of Twelve is not the only important current work before us. Since our first meeting of this year in January 2004, the agenda has included many items of importance. "The great work of the Lord" includes the continued evaluation of our branches and missions. Every effort is being made to support the outreach program in every Region. The Quorum of Seventy has taken a special interest to expand evangelism with many brethren volunteering to support each and every region with special meetings to uplift and encourage the membership. Special efforts also include going from door to door to invite people to attend the meetings. Many good reports have been received. The *Gospel News* continues to prove its importance by printing the news of efforts in each and every region, as well as in foreign mission fields. Numerous proposals to improve the Church's operations are under consideration.

The volume of the Quorum's work has made it necessary to meet more often to take care of the effort. As we began the year in January, we also met in April, June and lastly in October. In between, we have also had conference calls among special committees in the quorum, working on items assigned to each. We take the time necessary to expedite our proceedings when we do meet at our appointed meetings.

The growth of the Church has made it necessary to consider expan-

## Apostle Emeritus, Brother Joseph Bittinger, Passes Away

Brother Joseph Bittinger passed away on October 13, 2004, after a life of service to God in The Church of Jesus Christ since his baptism on August 10, 1930. Born on August 20, 1902, in Maryland, Brother Joe was over 102 years old. Until recent years, he was remarkably active, traveling throughout the Church and belying his age with his keen wit and intense interest in the activities of the saints. He served the Church in many capacities for as long as he was able, and two years ago when physical limitations finally prevented his effectiveness, he served again in a different way, by requesting relief from active duty. He accepted status as an Emeritus Apostle in order to provide a vacancy in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles to be filled through the calling of a younger, active man of the Lord's choosing. Brother Joe is survived by his daughter, Sister Hulda Stroko.

In his youth, Brother Joe worked as a coal miner and met the Church through a co-worker in Bitner, Pennsylvania who was holding meetings in his home. Brother Joe was ordained an Elder in 1931, an Evangelist in 1940, and an Apostle in 1953. He served as Second Counselor of the General Church from 1956 to 1970. While assigned branch and district (now "region") responsibilities, Brother Joe was a ready and willing missionary. He was a principal in several mission fields. He was among the pioneers of the Church's Foreign Missions work, taking his first trip to Nigeria with Brother William H. Cadman in 1954. Brother Joe was also a key administrator of the Church: a charter member of the General Church Finance Committee, and, later, of the General Church Mission Board and, still later, of the Foreign Missions Committee. At various times, he served as Chairman

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## Educational Curriculum

The scripture continually reminds us that we must take every opportunity to teach our children the commandments of the Lord, the blessings of the Lord, and the ways of the Lord. God said to Moses, "...thou shalt teach them [God's blessings and commandments] diligently unto thy children...." Solomon recommends to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." King Benjamin strongly suggests to his people that "ye will teach them [the children] to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another." Alma urges his son, Corianton, to declare glad tidings to his people and to have them "prepare the minds of their children to hear the word...." The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, "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." When Jesus visited the Nephites, "he did teach and minister unto the children...."

It is evident that from the earliest times in scriptural history to our day and time, there has always been an intense desire to teach our children about the Lord and His Church. Sister Mabel Bickerton, a notable and recognized teacher of children, has been quoted as saying, "Teach the children. Our children should know the Gospel." Consequently, over the years, Sister Mabel and many brothers and sisters have written lessons for the purpose of educating our children so that they might gain knowledge regarding the Lord God, His son, Jesus Christ, His Church, His doctrine, and the Restoration of His Gospel.

The Educational Curriculum Committee (ECC) of The Church of Jesus Christ first met in September, 2002 as a study project under the Quorum of Seventy. It was established as a subcommittee of the National Education Committee (NEC) of the Church in 2003 with its mission to design a curriculum that would

encompass all aspects of the Church's doctrine, history, organization responsibilities, and scriptural beliefs. Currently, Brother Joel Calabrese, Chairperson, Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, Ass't. Chairperson, and Brother John Ford, Secretary, are the officers of the ECC. Brothers Peter Scolaro and John Griffith are Apostle liaisons to the ECC. Together with the ECC officers the following brothers and sisters form the steering committee: Brothers Tom Curtin and Joe Saeli, and Sisters Sally Curtin, Connie Frankenbery, Jacqui King, Darlene Markazene, Karen Progar, Alice Saeli, and Amy Urana. To date, approximately 40 additional brothers and sisters have volunteered to help with the further development of ECC projects.

The Educational Curriculum was developed and presented to the April, 2004 General Conference and was approved for implementation in all of our branches and missions. This comprehensive basic core curriculum is to be taught to our children in a sequence of presentations from the preschool years through the high school years. The Educational Curriculum's scope encompasses the following eight categories:

- Scripture stories and characters
- Life of Jesus
- Ordinances
- Life Lessons and Commandments
- Faith and Doctrine
- Structure of the Church
- Divine Gifts
- History of the Church

Two instructional tools have been developed to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. The ECC has designed a 2' X 3' **Curriculum Chart** delineating the scope and sequence mentioned previously, and it is intended that it be conveniently posted in every branch and mission throughout the Church. It is to be used as a guide to determine which lessons are to be taught and when they should be taught. The chart has recently been translated into Spanish and will be available in regions where the Spanish version is desired. In addition to the chart, the ECC has

created an instructional **Notebook** for teachers. It contains eight **Signature Lessons** which are example lessons for each of the eight categories listed in the chart. These lessons have been designed and formatted in a specific and clearly defined manner to assist teachers in developing their lessons as they work through the curriculum. Also, the notebook contains a section devoted to **Teaching Strategies** that will help the teacher develop skills and techniques for improving their instruction. Lessons written in the bimonthly *Fence Post*, an ECC subcommittee newsletter, are following the formatted design and are available for the instruction of our children. These newsletters have been mailed to every branch and mission. For more information regarding the *Fence Post* newsletter, contact Sister Chandra Young at: [fence@thechurchofjesuschrist-ohio.org](mailto:fence@thechurchofjesuschrist-ohio.org)

The **Curriculum Chart** and the Teacher's **Notebook** are currently in the process of being produced. Both of these items will be mailed from the Print House to the Presiding Elder of every branch and mission of the Church in the United States and Canada. The Region Presidents will assist the ECC by verifying that every branch and mission has received the materials. Soon afterward, the ECC will plan to schedule training sessions in every Region to help the membership and teachers of Sunday School and MBA classes understand and utilize the materials. It is expected that the training sessions will start in the first quarter of 2005. Announcements will be forthcoming.

The ECC has made presentations reporting their progress to the General Church Conference in April and October, 2004 Conferences, in FENCE Workshops, and recently to the October, 2004 General Ladies' Circle Conference. A great deal of interest, excitement, and enthusiasm has been received, and it is the hope of the ECC that this work will be expanded through the efforts of many

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## November, 2004 GMBA Conference

By Sister Christine Maddox

Greensburg, Pennsylvania had an unusually large amount of people at the World Conference Center on November 12 and 13 due to the 2004 November Conference. The Saturday evening meeting marked the end of the business portion of the weekend and the commencement of the spiritual part.

Brother Larry Champine welcomed everyone to the meeting, chose *A New Name in Glory* as the opening song and called upon Brother Ryan McDonnell to open the night in prayer. During Brother Ryan's prayer, a woman in the congregation was blessed with a vision in which she saw a cross with a light shining on it extending to Heaven. It was evident that God had entered our meeting and would remain with us from that moment forward.

Brother Jeff Giannetti followed the opening prayer and exalted the members of the Church to take ownership in the name sung about in *A New Name In Glory*. He said, "This night is a celebration of our names being written down in glory." Brother Jeff then invited all of the brothers and sisters holding newly elected and re-elected GMBA offices to come up front to be installed. Brother Chuck Maddox offered a prayer over the group, pleading with God to guide their decisions and continue to send blessings for the GMBA.

The Kids For Christ, children ages four through twelve, were then called up to present a program of their day's activities. They told everyone that they had been on a trip to paradise and visited "the palm tree of prayer, the beach of beauty, and the songs of sunshine." A slideshow of pictures from the afternoon followed their speaking and provided a blessing to all in the congregation.

Following the Kids For Christ presentation, Brother Jeff asked Brother Justin and Sister Christina Paxon to sing a duet. The two of them selected *Just As I Am* and melodious voices sang their praises to Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Palmieri presented the congregation with the question: "Can you still sing the song of redeeming grace?" Brother Paul explained that Jesus took us as we were and changed us so we would never have the desire to go back. "This is the story of our lives, and this power of the Lord Jesus Christ will affect people everywhere," he commented. Brother Paul continued by declaring that the power of Jesus Christ will "move the Church forward and captivate souls away from sin." He urged all in attendance to take no thought for tomorrow because "we already know where we're going." Instead, Brother Paul said to focus on "the purpose of our lives – to get busy for the Lord." By getting busy for the Lord, Brother Paul elaborated that we need to "touch people" and practice a "greater commitment of ourselves to the Lord by sharing our testimony." Brother Paul concluded his message with a powerful statement: "We need to get busy for the Lord. It's a matter of life and death."

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri addressed the congregation. He excitedly proclaimed that the "GMBA is on the move! Get excited and get ready for work – God has a plan." Brother Paul Aaron referred to Ammon in Alma 26 and asked if anyone could ever "glory too much in the Lord [or] say that God has been too good." He encouraged the brothers and sisters of the Church to live their lives as examples in order to give instruction to the people who are seeking the way into Heaven.

The meeting continued with a message from Brother Chuck. "I hope you're getting ready to testify. The call could come anytime, but it's going to come," he said. Brother Chuck pointed out that week after week we are getting the same message – now is the time to step up. "Are you hearing it?" he questioned. Brother Chuck directly addressed the people in the

congregation who are wondering if it is their time to answer God's call. "Is it your time?" he asked. "Being around The Church of Jesus Christ is contagious, and if you are thinking that it's not your time right now, you're in trouble. You're around the saints and this is contagious!"

Brother Chuck then touched on the speed in which we share our testimony. "Be quick to praise God," he said. "The evil one knows how to get you. Stay focused! Don't let Satan steal your peace." Referring to Philippians 4:13, Brother Chuck proclaimed, "Jesus Christ is so much more powerful. The evil one knows the power we have in Jesus Christ. But have no fear! There is no fear in Jesus Christ."

Following Brother Chuck's delivery, the young people were called up. They enjoyed a spirit of singing and testimony before heading back to their seats and listening to Brother David Catalano bring the meeting to a close. "Was it worth packing up suitcases to come here today?" Brother David asked. He read Alma 26:22 and encouraged everyone to "put this into action and the mysteries of God will be revealed."

Brother David asked everyone to pray for blessings and God's spirit in the Sunday meeting and asked adults and parents to "pray continually for the young people. The young need The Church of Jesus Christ. Mysteries will be revealed to them."

The Sunday morning meeting began with a welcome by Brother Larry Champine and a prayer offered by Brother Carl Frammolino. Brothers Jameson Staley, Issac D. Smith, Cameron Staley, Jason Monaghan, and Patrick Monaghan then sang *It Is Well* as an appropriate beginning to the day.

Brother Paul Palmieri introduced the communion portion of the meeting by commenting that "It is well with our souls and with the Lord." He advised all of the brothers and sisters to show the Lord how much He is loved by the taking of communion. Evangelists John DiBattista, Paul Ciotti, Ken Staley, Richard Scaglione, Tom Everett, Carl

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"*  
(Romans 10:2).

This month's *Gospel News* contains an article about a new committee in the Church, the Educational Curriculum Committee. This Committee is committed to teaching our young people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I quoted the scripture in Romans above because we can have a zeal for God, but unless it is according to knowledge, it is misguided. There are too many people today who believe in God and serve Him in their own way. They have created their own "Bible" and really have no need for the actual written Word of God. They have decided what righteousness means and the way in which they will obtain eternal life. Jesus, on the other hand, taught us that there is just one way. He taught us about a straight and narrow path that will lead us to Heaven.

Thank God that in The Church of Jesus Christ, we have always fostered an environment of learning through the numerous Sunday School teachers and other teachers who have, through study and inspiration, worked hard to help us become better rooted in the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most adults in the Church today have very fond memories of their Sunday School teachers from whom they have learned so much, not only by instruction, but by example. I am fortunate that my Sunday School teachers are still alive today, so I can thank them for all they have given me.

The Lord loves a people who will humbly be willing and ready to learn about His Word, His will, and His love. He loves a people who will accept any instruction and guidance His Church can offer, in order to grow in knowledge. The Church of Jesus Christ has a great opportunity, through this committee, to provide a very structured way of learning the Word of God, without taking away the ever important place for inspiration. Without learning, our young people will grow up like a tree that is not rooted. Every wind and doctrine will "blow" them in all the wrong directions. Naturally speaking, imagine if there were no schools! Imagine if children could just grow up and "figure things out" for themselves! What kind of world would it be? It is the same way in the Church. Our Sunday School and other avenues of learning are so critical to our spiritual success.

Learning is very contagious. Once it begins, others get involved and get excited. Learning helps us to be more confident in defending the Restored Gospel. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15). When we know what we're talking about, it is hard to be convinced of false doctrines and teachings. Unfortunately, there may be some who have left the Church because they never really studied the Word of God and became "ashamed" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not being able to "divide the word of truth." That is why creating a strong infrastructure of sound learning can ensure that not only are the "What's" answered, but also the "Why's." The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, and we are all guilty of putting off learning from the Word of God. But with our wonderful teachers, and with the wonderful materials the Church can provide, we can be sure that we will always have someone or something to "motivate" us to learn.

In Lehi's vision, the Word of God was likened unto a rod of iron which many were holding onto. I've always imagined this as many people trekking across a rickety bridge with a great chasm below, but a strong and solid handrail to hold onto. This prevents them from slipping and falling. The Word of God will keep us from slipping and falling. All we have to do is read, and increase in knowledge. How beautiful is it to have a zeal for God ACCORDING to knowledge! Then we can fully enjoy all that God has for us in this life, and ensure our spot in Heaven in the life to come.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## Seven Things That the Lord Hates

Dear Friends,

In January, as the new year begins, people all over the world think about ways they can change their lives and be better, richer, healthier, or happier. Many people want to change but aren't sure what to change or how to change for the better. We do not have to worry about that in our Church. We can read the scripture and get good ideas of what we can do to be better. We can listen to our Elders when they preach. We can listen to that little voice inside us saying, "Oh, I shouldn't do that."

In our Church, we have a deeper understanding about the way things really are. We know that there is good and there is evil in this world. The Lord tells us to pray to him about all things. He tells us to be wise as a serpent but gentle as a dove. He makes us brave by teaching us "Resist the Devil and he will flee [run away] from you." This lets us know God can make us better.

In Proverbs 6:16 there is a list of things that God hates. I read this list and thought about the times that I had slipped into some of these wrong ways. I felt sad and scared that I make so many mistakes at times. I want God to be pleased with me. Then I remember that God can take away our bad habits. God can make us strong so we can change even if our friends and families are not changing with us. We can be better and kinder the way we want to, all we have to do is pray and ask God to forgive us and change us.

The seven things that God hates are these: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and a person that soweth discord (causes problems) among the brethren (God's people). God hates these things so strongly that the Bible says they are an abomination to God! That means it is really bad to do these things.

"What do these words mean? When do I do them?" "you may ask yourself. Well, let's think. The last time people complimented you on something you had done did you stop to think about the reason you could do them? Did you think that God had given you the ability and talent? Did you think about the times that God had even kept you alive and well so you could do this? If you were proud about something that you had bought with money and riches, did you think that God had given you the chance to have those blessings and that it wasn't just up to you to act so proud and better than other people who did not have what you did?"

How many times have you caught yourself telling just a little lie, or a big one? Maybe you lied to get out of trouble. Maybe you lied to show off and impress someone or make yourself look better. Maybe you lied to get out of trouble instead of admitting you were wrong and saying you were sorry. Once we start lying to ourselves then we are really in big trouble. If we cannot face the truth about our weaknesses, then we don't ask God for forgiveness so we can change. We need to stop lying. God knows us and still loves us.

God hates hands that shed innocent blood. Nowadays, this usually only happens in war. But it also says God hates a heart that deviseth (thinks about and makes up) wicked things they imagine. God's people are not supposed to sit around thinking about things like that. We are supposed to be busy and loving and happily involved helping and loving others. Nowadays, the Internet has many, many bad things on it. God's people must stay away from dark places. We are the servants of Jesus, and we are supposed to be clean and let His light shine from our lives. Turn off that TV,

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### WORD SEARCH

GOD	SHEDS
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THE	BLOOD
PROUD	GO
LOOK	RUN
HE	TO
THAT	MISCHIEF
SOWETH	TONGUE
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BRETHREN	WICKED

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



## Ohio Midwest Area Ladies' Circle

*By Sister Teresa Pandone*

The Ohio Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted a Mother-Daughter Luncheon on Saturday, October 23, 2004 at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen in Middlefield, Ohio. Approximately 75 were in attendance. We enjoyed fellowship with one another, meeting new friends, and renewing old acquaintances.

Sister Katherine Cocco offered the prayer for our fellowship and lunch. After we enjoyed a delicious family-style Amish meal, President, Sister Rosalie Mott, introduced our guest speaker, Sister Karen Progar, President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Sister Karen's topic was "Hospitality." "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another... Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality" (Romans 12:10,13).

The following comments were made by Sister Karen: "Hospitality is a special gift given to The Church of Jesus Christ. Most of the stories we hear regarding the spread of the Gospel are that people heard of the Gospel from one of the saints, usually in their home(s). I firmly believe because of the generosity of our early brothers and sisters, they were richly blessed by God, both spiritually and naturally. From those early acts of hospitality came numerous members to the Church. If we look to the scriptures, we can read marvelous stories throughout God's Word of hospitality rewarded by God. Rahab and Lydia are excellent examples.

Sister Karen's discourse adequately addressed the following: (1) The beginning of hospitality, (2) What is necessary to perform this gift? (3)

Who can be hospitable? (4) How do you prepare? (5) To whom should we be hospitable? (6) Keep it simple. (7) Does this gift help to spread the Gospel? (8) What are the rewards? Her concluding comments were that "we all dedicate ourselves to show greater hospitality. Be prayerful, be prepared, be hospitable to everyone, begin immediately, make [have] a plan, stick to the plan, keep the burden factor low, accept your guest's assistance, be grateful for the opportunity and the ability to display this important gift. You will be blessed and will be a blessing to others."

Several sisters and friends in attendance were recognized and received token gifts.

Sister Carol Baird of Liberty, OH Branch, who recently made her covenant with the Lord and was baptized, was asked to give her personal testimony, which was enjoyed by all.

Sister Patty Gruver read a poem entitled "Finding A Friend." We sang, *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* and benediction was offered by Sister Elizabeth Kall.

It was time well spent in fellowship on a beautiful sunny, fall day. The drive to the restaurant was delightful as we viewed the beauty of the colored leaves of the fall season.

## Community Outreach Project

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

The Lord blessed the sisters of the Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle to organize and complete their first community outreach project. The sisters provided the seventy-five men, women and children of the Ozanam Homeless Shelter in Edison, New Jersey with toiletry bags. The toiletry bags consisted of items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shaving crème, razors, band aids, combs, hand lotion, etc.

The delivery date was November 10, 2004. We met at the Edison

branch and were thankful to have Evangelist Brother Jim and Sister Lydia Link join us in this activity. It was exciting to pack the bags and boxed items into our vehicles. Brother Jim offered a word of prayer that God would go with us.

We were warmly welcomed by the director, Connie Karli, the assistants and residents of the shelter. Our arrival and donation generated much excitement. It was very sad to see so many people deprived of a home and of the basic necessities which we take for granted. As we toured the facility, Connie explained that the residents become as a family and it can be difficult for them to leave the shelter because of the relations they develop. It was a cold night but the shelter was warm and there were caring people who have dedicated their lives to helping the poor and homeless. When we help them we become a part of the solution.

We returned to the Edison branch for our Wednesday evening service. Brother Jim led the service by speaking of how God can help us to do all things. That was an especially appropriate message for the sisters. The Lord touched our hearts to provide items needed for the cleansing of the natural man. Next we hope to bring the love of Jesus Christ that is most refreshing and cleansing to the soul.

After the meeting we enjoyed coffee and cake. We spoke of our hope that this will be the start of our work with the shelter.

We want to offer our thanks to the generosity of the sisters, friends and family members who contributed to the success of the project. The Lord touched our hearts to help those in need and multiplied our efforts as only He can do.

**Happy New Year  
to all our readers.**



## Branch and Mission News

### Mesa, Arizona YIA/ Vacation Bible School

*By Brother Dan Arcuri*

Truly it was a privilege and a blessing to have several young people attend the Mesa Youth-In-Action, June 19-27, 2004. Young missionaries came from all across the country to help uplift and support our branch. Those that participated were Peter Benyola, Linda Calabrese, Anthony Dyer, Kristen Elzby, Ben Hemmings, Erin Light, Chuck Maddox, Ryan McDonnell, Heather Onorato, Jessica Palacios, Stefanie Suska, Bethany and Rachel Smith, Dan and Kristina Arcuri, Jordan and Chelsea Giannetti, Courtney and Caitlin Ivey, Heidi Landrey, Michael Watson and Brother David Catalano, GMBA Vice President.

We engaged in such activities as canvassing, visiting the elderly, and having seminar lessons taught by the Mesa ministry. God truly showed His presence as He was with us all, while we were out canvassing and bearing the heat of the day (literally). While canvassing we put out around 1,500 fliers, focusing on the neighborhoods around our new building. We thank God for the brothers that drove the vans. While visiting the elderly we sang songs and prayed with them. It was such a blessing to hear stories of our Church's history and the testimonies of the saints. We witnessed healings, which was a blessing and a testimony for not only those who received, but for those who had never witnessed before.

Thank God for the sisters in our branch. As we would be out doing the work of the Lord, they would stay back and prepare lunch for us. After lunch we would participate in seminars, followed by the preparation for our first Vacation Bible School. The theme for our Vacation Bible School was "The Treasure Hunt Bible

Adventure." The VBS committee passed out 400 fliers to the surrounding neighborhoods. Much fasting, praying and preparation went before the Lord that He would bless our efforts.

Each day we had approximately 20 children. Some discouragement was felt on Monday when not one child came from the neighborhood. On Tuesday we did receive three visitors from one family, friends of one of our Church families. But as we continued to teach the children in attendance, the blessings flowed and the anticipation and excitement grew each day. Some highlights were the plays that were performed by John and Ben Scolaro every day reinforcing the Bible points the children were learning.

The children made crafts, ate treats, had games outside and learned songs that they sung with great enthusiasm. By the end of the week, the Lord showed us that our efforts were well worth it. Not only were the children blessed, but the bond of love grew immensely between the children, Youth-in-Action kids and the brothers and sisters helping with VBS. That brought all of us great joy and we praise the Lord for His greatness! God truly manifested His spirit in a blessed week that we shared together. The love of Christ has truly been present in our branch!

### Kenya

Continued from Page 1

that he knew Elizaphan Osaka. Words cannot express the joy I felt when I heard these words "I know Reverend Osaka." Brother Osaka was not baptized at the time, but he was known as Reverend. This man would accompany us in our rented vehicle directly to the Osaka home in the village of Kenyanya 25 miles in another direction from where we were in Kisii.

When we arrived at the Osaka home that Sunday morning, they were in the attitude of prayer. With prayer being concluded, I knocked on the door and when Brother Osaka opened it, he seemed to gasp for breath in seeing two men, complete strangers. Before he could utter a word, I introduced ourselves as being missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ. He began to weep and invited us into his home. We addressed the group assembled, telling them of our mission in coming to their home, and for the first time in the country of Kenya, the message of the Restored Gospel was heard. That afternoon, we spent many hours under a large shade tree with a cool breeze blowing, answering Brother Osaka's questions about the faith of our Church, The Book of Mormon, baptism, blessing of children, marriage, etc. Before we left to return back to Nairobi, Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka requested to be baptized. This experience will be kept alive in my memory, and I know Brother and Sister Osaka will also have it in their memory for as long as God will permit us to live. During our visit to the Poly-Technical school in Kenyanya, Sister Nina related word for word the experience she had the morning of our entrance into their home.

Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka were the first two converts baptized into the Church in 1985 during our first visit to this East African country. However, it was not until 1991 after six years of numerous visits to the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar's office in Nairobi, about 250 miles east of Kisii town and traveling to Kisumu and other places to see men of official capacity, the Church finally

### Notice

Memory Books, CDs and DVDs from the 2004, 100th Anniversary of the GMBA are now available at the Print House.

The cost is \$10.00 for each item or \$25.00 for all three, plus shipping and handling.

To order contact:

Print House  
8282 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48158  
734-429-5080  
cofjeph@msn.com

received Her certificate of registration to officially operate as a legal entity in that country. (End of excerpts)

After our service for the day was concluded, a number of the brothers and sisters told me they never heard the events of how the Restored Gospel came to Kenya and how blessed they were to hear how God directed us in finding Brother Elizaphan Osaka. They expressed their feeling of happiness and thanked God for the change in their lives since embracing The Church of Jesus Christ and Her teachings.

This was the first visit of Evangelist James Crudup to Kenya and he was very impressed by what he saw and heard. During the Sunday worship service at the Church Headquarters, Brother Stephen Osaka the Kenyan Church Director said history was being made by Brother Jim's visit. He was the first Afro-American member of the Priesthood to make a missionary visit to the Church in Kenya. These same words were stated in 2003 by Evangelist George Frank Arthur Director of the Church in Nigeria during Brother Jim's first visit there. Brother Crudup was shown a lot of respect and love as he traveled and has conversed with individual members of the Priesthood and membership.

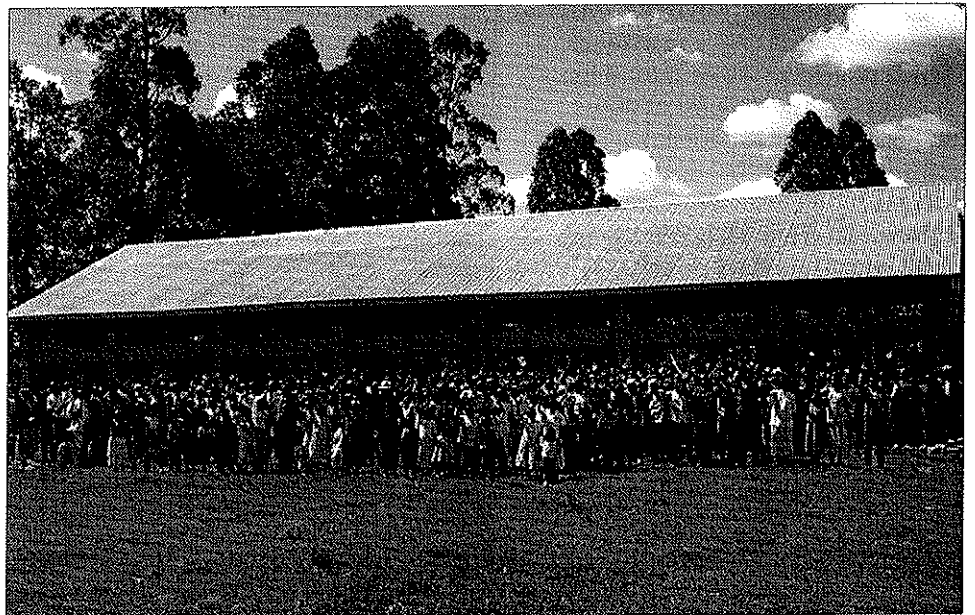
We both remarked our missionary visit to Kenya was highly noteworthy in experiencing the ride on treacherous, dangerous roads from Nairobi to Kisii and on muddy washboard roads into the villages to visit and worship God together with the brothers and sisters. Having traveled to Kenya from 1985 to 1994, I knew what the village roads were like. At times, with the roads being muddy from the heavy rains, we thought our vehicle would end up on the side of the road in a ditch or the vehicle would not make it up steep hills, muddy and partially washed away. However, Brother Stephen, with the Lord accompanying us, handled the Land Cruiser very well and we had no mishaps. I give praise and thanks to God for His protection. Over the years, I have been blessed in traveling to Kenya with other dedicated brothers besides Brother Crudup, such as Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Joseph Ross, Joel Gehly, and Frank

Natoli and of course my beloved wife, Sister Mary, who has been very supportive of my many missionary trips overseas. Our missionaries, who have traveled to Kenya and driven on these roads, understand what we experienced during our trip. We graciously say our visit with the saints was a treasured blessing and worth the uncomfortable ride.

Brother Jim and I were humbled by seeing some of the places and structures used for worship services. After a drive on a mud soaked road, we reached a village and were taken to a structure made of dried corn stalks and palm tree branches used as a worship hall. Driving up a mountain over a road with boulders that made

various branches, proving that the power of God is being experienced and demonstrated among our brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ by the exercising of their faith in our Great Creator.

A brother stood and testified, that, upon arising from bed each morning and before he leaves home, he offers prayer, thanking God for seeing another day and asking for protection upon his wife, children and himself. One morning he traveled to his farm to dig and cultivate the land for planting his crops. As he began digging, a snake jumped up to his thigh. When that happened, he became frightened and shouted the words "O God, help me." The snake fell back to the



**Gathering at Church Headquarters building.**

the vehicle shake and vibrate, we entered another village where the shelter used for worship was made of four inch tree branches with palm branches as part of the roof but no sides. The seats were two inch by six inch planks, just as it was in the building previously described. However, the Spirit of God was felt in greeting our brothers and sisters and the singing and testimonies heard, that made the difference, transforming both of these two shelters into the house of God for the day.

Following are a few experiences we heard during our visits to the

ground and disappeared into the bush. He gave thanks to God for not being bitten, because many snakes are poisonous and it can be fatal to humans if bitten and the individual does not receive immediate medical care.

In Kenya, like other countries, there are many people who become alcoholic. A number of people, both men and women, testified that once they were addicted to alcohol, but in coming in contact with members of the Church and being invited to worship God in The Church of Jesus Christ,

(Continued on Page 10)



## Kenya

Continued from Page 9

they began to understand the harm they were doing to their body, hurting their families, but above all, they were displeasing God because of their actions. Accepting the invitation to attend Church services, listening to the preaching, feeling the spirit of God and repenting of their sins, their lives were changed. One brother stood and testified that when he came to church and was converted and baptized, he stopped drinking alcohol and the friends he used to be with told him that his not drinking was temporary and would not last. But he said by the grace and help of God, his life has been changed. He has not gone back to drinking and has proven his doubting friends wrong. A sister in another branch related a similar testimony.

Several testimonies of non-baptized persons experiencing illness and going to the tribal doctors in their villages for medical attention were expressed. They each were given some type of mixture which was supposed to begin a healing process, but instead the individuals experienced more pain, bloating, and rashes on their body and, in some instances, shortness of breath. As in the other experiences we heard related, a brother or sister who knew of these individuals being ill

and not improving in health would go to the home of these sick people and invite them to worship services at their village church. The sick were encouraged to exercise faith in God and ask the Priesthood to anoint and pray to God for a healing. Prayers of healing were experienced. These persons who were blessed by God and received the healing expressed the desire to be baptized.

"How blessed we will be and how great the rewards we will receive by the exercising of our faith in the God we worship and serve." The testimonies and experiences of the saints of God in The Church of Jesus Christ are alive and have great meaning when related to our friends, neighbors and relatives.

It is written in James 5:14-15, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church: and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Concluding this article, the saints of the Church in Kenya have requested us to extend their love and regards to all of the brothers and sisters of the Church here in America and worldwide, asking they each be remembered in our daily devotion to God.

## Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Continued from Page 2

sion of the World Conference Center. During the last six months some remodeling has taken place. The Church had approved plans to have the large dining area changed to facilitate training rooms and to improve facilities for the Quorum of Seventy and General Church committees to meet. The Quorum of Twelve facilities were also improved.

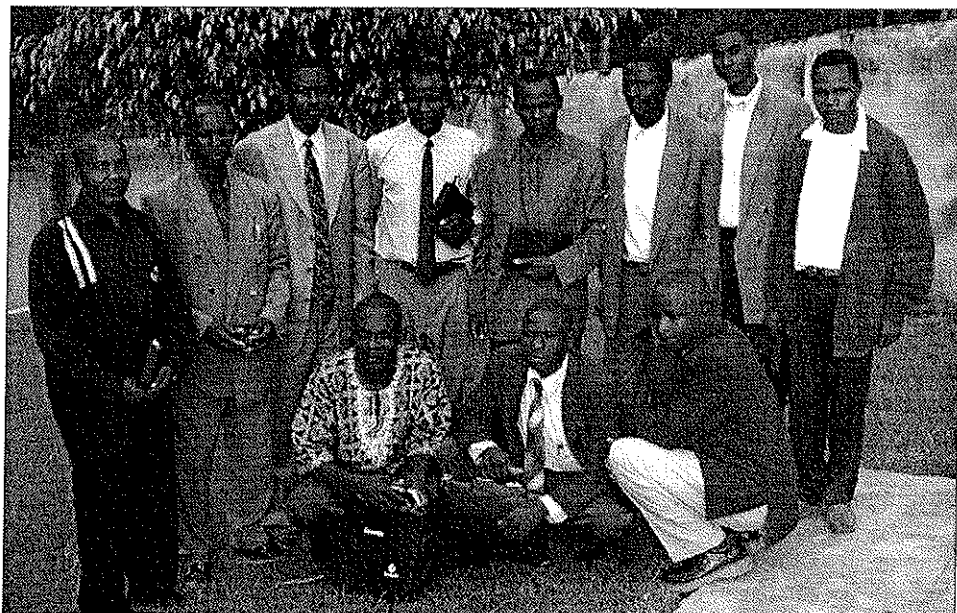
The Church's administrative and communications requirements have expanded significantly; it has been decided to appoint a secretary to support these needs. Space has been allocated for an office to facilitate this work efficiently. This appointment and the localized activities will help the General Church World Conference Center become better identified to interested visitors.

While the year 2004 has presented much sadness with reports of illness, problems of life and the loss of many called home to be with the Lord, we can lift up our spirits with the many that have been blessed. God has indeed given us many wonderful experiences. We have heard and read of God's wonder working power by the way of miracles and other blessings that have been reported via the *Gospel News*, telephone, and communications through email.

As we close the year the Quorum is working very hard. We will continue to depend upon the spirit of God to direct us. We can testify to all, the spirit of unity is very strong among us. We will, with God's help, do our best to direct His Church and stay close to Him. The fast and prayer service set by the General Church on the first Saturday of each month, along with as many more prayer services as are called by branches and missions throughout the world, will in the year to come be the weapons or tools that God has given us to defeat the enemy of our souls.

May God continue to bless one and all with His love, that in the year of 2005 His church may continue to grow both in spirit and number.

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles  
Brother Joseph Calabrese, President



Kenya Priesthood



## Brother Joseph Bittinger Passes Away

Continued from Page 2

of each of those Committees.

Brother Joe's life in the Church spanned several generations, and, as his roles changed through those times, he is remembered a little differently by each generation. Nevertheless, he was known by all to be a humble, loving, cheerful, and ready-to-work brother whose joy was indeed fully vested in the truth of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Educational Curriculum

Continued from Page 3

more volunteers. The ECC needs your help in creating lessons; reviewing lessons; developing crafts, art work, and illustrations; gathering or writing music; doing material research; training teachers; working on translation of materials; or developing website capabilities. If you are interested in helping, please contact:

Sister Darlene Markazene  
Greensburg Branch, PA  
(412)373-8958  
markazene@aol.com.

## MBA Highlights

Continued from Page 4

Frammolino, and Jerry Valenti were called upon to pass sacrament.

Following the blessed ordinance, Brother John Mark spoke on salvation and the change that leads to salvation. Using the scriptures found in Mosiah 5:1-2 and Alma 5:10-13, Brother John explained that Christ gives us salvation by taking care of what really matters in our lives. "People are looking for a change that can only come from Jesus," he said. Brother John added, "We serve a God that changes not. Salvation is the same as it was from the foundation of the world. But we have to change."

According to Brother John, "Change can erase bitterness and hate. [...] We must change daily. When we stumble and something wrong comes out of our mouths, we must change. God is perfect and doesn't need to change. We are striving for that perfection."

Following Brother John's address, Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine blessed the congregation with a song that said, "If you open your heart up, you will find that it's true. If you open your heart up, you can sing the song too."

Brother Don Ross followed the song by speaking on how Jesus Christ wants us to experience this change spoken of by Brother John and in the Champine's song. Referring to Hebrews 13, Brother Don commented on how "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Brother Don continued by saying that "The world needs a change that can be brought about by the Restored Gospel." He then compared the business world's seal of approval to Jesus Christ's seal of approval upon all those who enter into His paradise. "The man on the cross next to Jesus got 'the seal,' " said Brother Don.

Brother Paul Ciotti spoke next, saying that "We have been transformed by His [God's] grace. We have been translated from darkness into light." He explained that this was done because Jesus came down as a man of flesh. "Without Him, it would be impossible to change," he added. Brother Paul continued by saying, "Members of The Church should come unto Christ by way of commandment. Non-members should come by way of invitation."

Brother Jeff Giannetti brought the meeting to a close by asking each member of the congregation to dwell on certain aspects of the weekend on their trips home: "Rejoice in your heart for the change and recognize where we were headed and where we are now. Be joyous that we have been changed." Brother Jeff stated that God can change anybody. "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" he asked.

The young people were called up front to sing the closing hymn. Brothers,

sisters, and friends departed from the Conference Center feeling refueled to tackle the outside world and excited to share the changes in their lives with those around them.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

turn off the computer, don't play violent and evil games. They are bad for our souls.

God hates feet that are swift in running to mischief. We all know times when we, or someone we love go to wrong places, do wrong things, and cause troubles for themselves or others. That is not funny, and to God it is not a small thing. He hates for us to spend our time doing these things. With God's help we can change.

He hates a false witness that spreads lies. That means you had really better be careful when you talk about one another. It is so easy to exaggerate a story and make someone or something look really bad. Have you done this? Stop now. God hates us to say untrue things about anyone.

And the seventh sin that God hates is a person that soweth discord among the brethren. This means when we talk to one person about another, when we gossip, even a little and make one person think bad about another, God is NOT pleased. These are not small things to God. Gossip plants bad seeds about one person in another person's mind. It is wrong. Pray that you can understand and love that person you are mad at, or talking about. If they have truly done something that offends you, pray, go talk to them to their face. Bring a teacher from Church if you need to, but do not cause problems by talking about them.

As you think about keeping yourself strong and pure inside, remember that God loves you. He will help you change, even if people still try to get you to do one of the seven sins listed above. God has the power. You can count on Him. He loves you.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Tiffany Lynn Impastato and Jason Matthew Kieth were united in holy matrimony in the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on July 17, 2004.

Evan Donald Racz, son of Chris and Kim Racz was blessed on October 17, 2004 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Olivia Rose Benyola, daughter of Scott and Therese Benyola was blessed on October 3, 2004 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Children Blessed

Angela Raquel Mora, daughter of Brother Daniel and Sister Rachel Mora, was blessed on September 26, 2004 at the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch.

Jonas Michael Bodo, son of Brother Michael and Sister Denise Bodo, was blessed on August 29, 2004 at the Saline, Michigan Mission.

Christian Joseph Campitelle, son of Norman and Susan Campitelle, was blessed on August 29, 2004 at the Saline, Michigan Mission.

Anthony Julius Torcasi, son of Missy Gombkoto was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Rebecca Jean DeYoung, daughter of Sister Bridget DeYoung was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the Anaheim, California Branch.

Elizabeth Rose Tenorio, daughter of Brother Luis and Sister Lydia Tenorio was blessed on September 19, 2004 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother William B. Racz was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 5, 2004 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Sister Stephanie Crupi was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 25, 2004 in the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Sister Shelly (Cotellesse) Crow was baptized on November 7, 2004 in the Anaheim, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Cotellesse and confirmed by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Brother Darren Peshl was baptized on June 20, 2004 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Gary Coppa and confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Brother Frank Toman was baptized on September 26, 2004 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Don Pandone.

Sister Betty Toman was baptized on September 26, 2004 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo and confirmed by Brother Mike Italiano.

Sister Cathy Slay was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 17, 2004 at the Atlanta, Georgia Branch.

## OBITUARIES

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

### WAYNE E. MEHERA

Brother Wayne E. Mehera (Sam) of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on October 19, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, son Jacob and daughter Christe.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

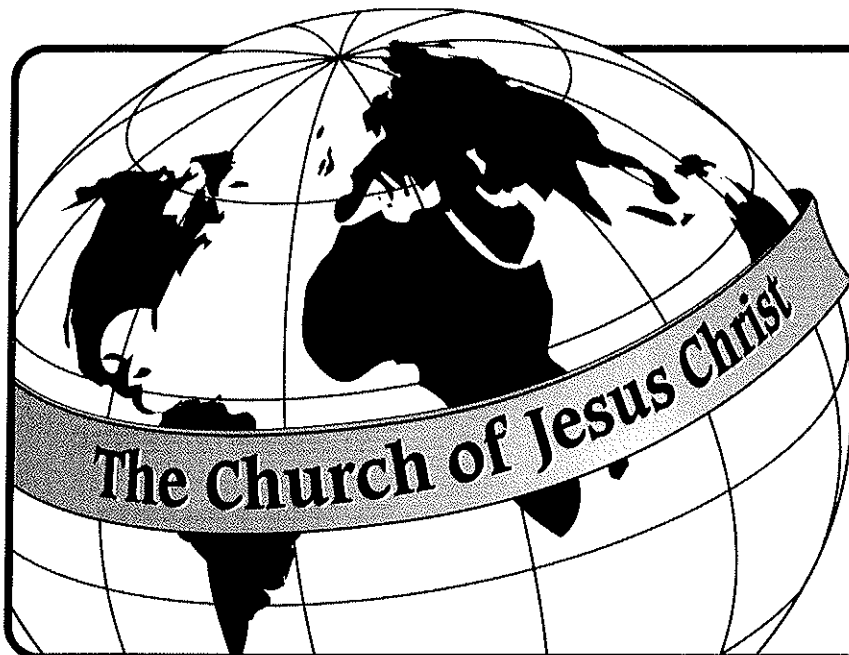
Robinson, Paul Sr., Connie, Raychel,  
Paul  
401 Crest Avenue  
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724-483-0710

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

February, 2005

Volume 61, No. 2

## The Lord Arose from the Grave

*By Brother Anthony Ricci*

“Yasu Andhakar Bata Biutanu Bhoyo!! The Lord Arose from the Grave!!” Praise God this is true in the Land of Nepal as it is here in America and around the world.

Nepal is located between India and China and is the only official Hindu state in the world today. It is a country rated as one of the economically poorest in the world. Compared to our standard of living, the conditions are unlivable. There exists a constant threat from in-country violence because of the Maoist uprising. There is an anti-conversion law that inhibits the freedom of salvation. The society is thousands of years old, still upholding the prejudices of class and racial status. Yet, in this little corner of Asia, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been established and the Kingdom of God has come to the land of Nepal.

This last year, I traveled with Brothers George Kovacic, Ron Giovannone, Phil Jackson, and Joel Gehly and we had the wonderful blessing of visiting our wonderful saints in Nepal. For me, being born in Vietnam and then coming back to Asia to have the opportunity to speak of Jesus was a “but for the grace of God experience.” As we traveled

the country from small village to small village and saw with our own eyes the lives of these people, I truly understood that, if God did not have His mighty hand in my life from the beginning, it could have been me or my family. I asked, as Enos asked in The Book of Mormon, “How is it done Lord?” How did you find me? How did you bring me the Gospel? In a small fishing village in South Vietnam, not even knowing of The Church of Jesus Christ, God preserved my family. What a blessing to stand in the continent of Asia and preach Jesus, baptize in the name of Jesus, and bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost! God is truly good (all the time).

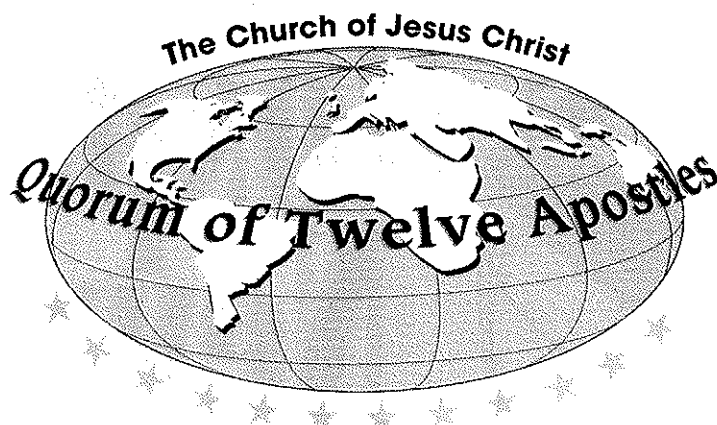
I was amazed when we were in these villages where it looked like time passed them by; and, yet, there we were preaching the Restored Gospel to Hindus. Tears began to well in their eyes, as they felt the Spirit of God build in them. We met a people with a dignity about them which cannot be explained. We met children with the love and hope of a future that includes the truth of the Gospel. What a blessing to know these children, half way around the world, have now been blessed into The Church of Jesus Christ! Our saints are quick to pray,

quick to sing, and quick to praise God. Before our first meeting everybody was silent. Then all at once, in unison, the guitar, bongos and tambourines started playing; the hands began to rise and clap; and the voices all began to sing to the Glory of God. It is a scene and a sound I have asked God to never let me forget. I knew we loved the saints in Nepal, but it wasn't until our second trip with Brother John DiBattista we realized how much we loved and missed them.

In seeing them arrive at our meeting, what a love filled our hearts for our people. Through uncertain times and trials of faith, the saints have stood faithful. Testimonies and declarations from our ministry were that they are ready to forward this Gospel, no matter what the cost. We were able to hug the children who are now our sons and our daughters. I listened to four songs one of our children wrote to the honor of God. Her name is Abigail. She is 13 years old, and God has given her a gift. It was a joy to embrace a congregation of our saints who have the same baptism of Christ we have. I am pleased and blessed to say we have a wonderful family of God in the land of Nepal!

Personally for me, I have had the privilege to travel with brothers whom I love and have grown to admire for

(Continued on Page 11)



## Vacancy in the Quorum of Apostles: Brother Russell Cadman Has Gone on to His Reward

Brother Russell Cadman passed away on September 11, 2004 having served the Lord in the Church of Jesus Christ since his baptism on May 5, 1946. Brother Russell had been afflicted for the past few years but



**Apostle Russell Cadman**

continued to diligently serve the Church as an Apostle until he only recently became incapacitated. Sister Ethel Cadman, his wife of 68 years, has been his close companion and support. He is also survived by his four daughters; Carolyn Gehly, Esther McCartney, Martha Gehly, and Ellen Larimer; 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He was the last surviving son of Apostle Alma Cadman having been preceded in passing by

his three brothers and five sisters.

Having made a living and retired from industry, he also loved the simple life of a farmer and maintained a healthy and prosperous lifestyle without becoming attached to the material things life offered him. It was gratifying to witness the love and devotion of the host of family, friends, and brothers and sisters of the Church who stood by him in farewell. Absorbing the diversity and the expressions of that assembly was a wonderful way to assimilate the great testament of his leadership. Those who knew him well will continue to keep that testament alive for years to come.

Brother Russell was ordained a Teacher in 1947, an Elder in 1948, an Evangelist in 1955, and an Apostle on April 29, 1956. He diligently sought to live by and to encourage others to live by the Word of God. His studies of the Bible and The Book of Mormon were lifelong and continuous. As a staunch advocate of the scriptures, he was very careful to avoid any expressions or opinions that might be perceived as conflicting even in the slightest way with those things that he learned from his studies. As adept as he was at quoting and preaching the Word of God, he was also devoted to making his life a quiet example for others to follow.

For over 48 years, Brother Russell has been an important factor in the understandings brought forth by the Quorum of Apostles. He respected and was respected by his

colleagues in that calling. While his presence and continuing contributions will be missed, there is no doubt that his input will continue to be a factor in the workings of the Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Note of Thanks

The family of Apostle Russell Cadman wishes to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continuous prayers during Brother Russell's illness and subsequent death. The phone calls and cards were appreciated. The love of the saints was manifested and felt during our difficult time.

## New Songs of Zion

### #115 There's a God in Israel (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:15)

There's a God in Israel,  
say have you heard,  
There's a God in Israel,  
oh spread the word;  
There's a healing stream there  
where the broken mend  
There's a jubilee morning  
where the dark nights end.

There's a beautiful city  
called Jerusalem,  
Where the builders are building  
her walls again;  
And the shimmer like silver,  
and they glisten like gold,  
When the morning light finds them,  
so the story is told.

There's a God in Israel,  
friend come with me,  
They say His arm is moving  
and I want to go see.  
There's a city rejoicing  
and they're singing I hear,  
There's a latter day gathering  
and I want to go there.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
August 30, 2004

## For Generations to Come

By Sister Carolynn (Gentile)  
O'Connor

Many years ago in 1927, Brother Antonio Gentile came to this land from Italy in search of a job. He worked for nine years, through the depression, in hopes of making enough money to bring his wife and two children to the United States. His story is similar to that of many of the immigrants that have come to this blessed land in search of a better life. What does make this story special is that while he was searching to improve his natural life, he was given the gift of salvation that changed the course of his life, his family's lives and the lives of many to come.

While looking for housing, he met a man named Biaggio Scarsella who had opened his home to boarders. Biaggio and the boarders would sit around, play cards and drink for hours every day after attempting to find work. One day Biaggio heard two men walking down the street singing hymns. The brothers invited Biaggio to come to The Church of Jesus Christ with them. Curious as to what would make these men seem so different, he went with them and was soon baptized.

Shortly after, he invited the boarders to join him and Brother Antonio also heeded the call and was baptized. His wife Sister Clara (Chiara) was not pleased with his decision, as they had been devout in another faith. She worked hard as a dance hall instructor and along with the money sent from Brother Antonio she had made enough money to bring her two children here in hopes of bringing Brother Antonio back to Italy. A few days after her arrival to the United States, she went to church with her husband. Sister Clara soon fell in love with the Church and was also baptized.

Although they had five children (three more after arriving in America), and 18 grandchildren much to their discouragement, only one son, Brother

Alex Gentile and his family, joined the Church. Brother Antonio passed away at the age of 67 from Parkinson's disease and Sister Clara passed away at the age of 91 in 1992.

After her death her daughter, Sister Maria Korotney, began attending church for the first time since childhood as a way to feel closer to her mother. She was soon baptized. She cared for and brought her young granddaughter, Chiara, every Sunday as well.

In August, 2004, Chiara Korotney asked for her baptism and was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Chiara, has seen many things in her young life including the Lord sparing the life of her father when he was found dead a few months ago (you may remember reading about this in a past *Gospel News*). Sister Chiara has felt God's protection all of her life and has come to know and love the Lord. She is young but filled with determination. Sister Chiara was baptized on August 29th by Brother Dino DiMelis and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile.

A few months later, another descendant of the Gentile family gave heed to the call of soul's salvation. Dena DiAlmonti, (daughter of Dewey Gentile) granddaughter to Brother Antonio and Sister Clara Gentile began coming to church in search of some peace in her life during a very troubling time. After a few weeks of attending, she testified that she felt a great love with the brothers and sisters and enjoyed hearing the words of our ministry from week to week. In November, Dena asked for her baptism and was baptized on November 28<sup>th</sup> by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Brother Duane Lovalvo. Over 15 other members of the Gentile family were there to witness the event.

And the blessings continued. Chiara's father, Ed Korotney, began coming to church after his experience with death. He attended regularly, read the Bible and Book of Mormon, and listened to the words of the ministry from week to week. On a very frigid day, December 26<sup>th</sup>, our deacons cut a hole in the thick ice covering the lake and Brother Ed was

lowered into the water. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Dino DiMelis and confirmed by Brother Duane Lovalvo. Brother Eddie has a great desire to serve the Lord. He knows that his life was spared for this greater purpose.

Surely Brother Antonio and Sister Clara must have been smiling down from heaven on those days. Although they did not get to see much of their family serve God while they were alive, their consistent love and teachings of the Church to their family were a foundation that has guided their families for future generations. Sister Chiara, Sister Dena and Brother Ed, all learned to seek the Lord in times of trouble and from that found the blessings offered through their service to the Lord.

The chain of events that lead to this generation of Gentiles joining the Church started with the actions of men unashamed to walk down the street singing praises to our Lord, and the willingness of Brother Antonio and then Sister Clara to open their hearts to the Gospel. God used them all to share the Gospel and He can use each of us this same way today. Maybe the invitation that we extend to a friend will also affect the membership and future growth of the Church *for generations to come*.

### Notice

The new Spanish Book of Mormon is now available for sale at the Print House. The cost is as follows plus shipping and handling:

Bonded Leather --	\$35.00
Hard Cover --	\$15.00
Soft Cover --	\$ 5.00

*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 order, contact the Print House.



## General Circle Business Meeting

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

The sisters of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle met in conference at the Greensburg chapel on October 9, 2004. As our President, Sister Karen Progar, welcomed the sisters she told us that she felt a great need to have a special time of prayer for the problems faced by our membership. Prayer would be included in our morning's agenda.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, our Vice President, chose scriptures from I Corinthians 10:1-4 and II Nephi 25:19-20 for our morning devotions. We enjoyed listening to hymns sung to us by Sister Diane Surdock and Sister Elaine Jordan.

The theme for our day was the sister's role in missionary work. Our key note speaker, Sister Elaine Jordan, told of how she and Brother Dwayne were called to missionary work. Under God's direction they moved their family to the Navajo reservation in Gallup, New Mexico. Although they experienced many difficulties the Lord helped them and they established loving relationships among the Navajo people.

Sister Marge D'Amico was called upon to offer the prayer for the needs of the sisters.

Project reports were given on the following topics: the By-Laws update, the Ladies' Circle website, the domestic and foreign cookbook, the International Development Committee, the Ladies' Circle logo, and the Fellowship Weekend held in June of 2004. Preparations are in progress for the 85<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Circle Anniversary celebration to be held in Detroit, Branch 2 on Saturday, April 30. Sister Karen encouraged us to plan to attend the anniversary celebration and to stay at the homes of the saints.

As our morning session came to a

close we learned that Sister Sylvia King was in much pain, but after the special prayer the pain subsided. We thank God for relieving our sister of her pain.

During the afternoon session the meeting focused on the items such as area and financial reports. The sisters were actively involved in studying the scriptures, prayer, supporting both their branches and missionary work, visiting the sick, fundraising, preparing and distributing layettes, meals on wheels, seminars, nurturing the young women, etc. Each sister's talents and gifts are needed as we go forward in our work for the Lord.

A new focus for the sisters is to learn how to sew Sacrament cloths for missionary work both for the domestic and foreign fields. Requests for Sacrament cloths for these purposes should be directed to our coordinator, Sister Tonia Monaghan.

We concluded our afternoon session with a lively panel discussion conducted by Sister Sally Curtin. We listened intently as our sisters shared their experiences in missionary work. Throughout the day the Lord guided us in conducting and planning our activities. We thank Him for His guidance. The closing prayer was offered by Sister Cindy Onorato. We ask for your prayers as we move forward in our efforts to serve the Lord.

## Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Business Meeting

*By Sister Pierina DiFalco*

On September 11, 2004 the Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle held a Business and Organization Meeting at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. After opening remarks by our President, Sister Marge D'Amico, we began the business portion of our meeting. All went smoothly and our officers were retained. We broke for a delicious lunch.

The Sterling Heights sisters pre-

sented a program on remembering the events of 9/11/01. They read scripture from The Book of Mormon stating that this is a land of promise, a choice land above all other lands. Sister Terri Everett, President of the Sterling Heights local had the sisters read a letter that she received via email concerning the events of September 11th. The following are thoughts expressed in the letter:

"I was there when the husband

(Continued on Page 10)

## Things you should know, from the Trustees

Brother Malcolm Paxton is our new Vehicle Coordinator. Please direct all vehicle questions to him and give him your cooperation.

### MUTUAL PROTECTION BUILDING FUND

Each Branch and Mission must contribute \$200.00 per year starting in 2005. In the past it was \$175.00. We are working to become self-insured and therefore we must build up the MPBF.

### How our deductible insurance works:

Deductible is now at \$5,000.00.

- Branch/Mission pays the first \$500.00.
- General Church pays the next \$4500.00.
- Over \$5000.00 is paid by the insurance company.

Any claim over \$500.00 should be sent to the General Church Trustee in your Region.

Any questions you have for the Trustees should be directed to Brother Richard Lawson:

Rlawson01@aol.com.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:4-6).*

In every saint's life, there is a minister or ministers who have a special place in one's heart. It could be because the minister showed love and compassion towards them during a difficult time. It could be that the minister gave good advice when it was needed most. Sometimes it is because one grew up for many years under the sound of a minister's voice and views them as a father. There is certainly nothing wrong with this, as we all develop special friendships and bonds with others in the Church. However, sometimes this affection can become dangerous if it becomes more important than Jesus Christ, His Church, or more important than our duty to love everyone around us as we would love ourselves.

Having grown up in The Church of Jesus Christ, there are certainly elders who I seek out for advice or for comfort and encouragement. There are elders who I see as my fathers, or as extremely special to me. But I have always considered Jesus my best friend and my greatest father. Unfortunately, I have seen others become so obsessed with a particular minister, that they could not function spiritually without constant direction from him. Sometimes people will reach a point where they really only enjoy hearing that particular minister preach or teach, and find all other ministers uninspired. They speak frequently about this particular minister and what he thinks or does. On more than one occasion, I have seen this kind of minister leave the Church, and the members who seemed to practically worship him leave the Church as well. This is when you know a person has gone from respecting a minister to obsessing over a minister. We should respect the entire ministry because in these last days, they have been given the Priesthood Authority from Jesus Christ. We should have this same level of respect for every Elder, Evangelist or Apostle, because Jesus Christ has called them to be shepherds over His flock. Of course there will be some who we have a special connection with. However, we should not allow ourselves to "obsess" over any minister. We should see the love of God in all of the ministry, all our brothers and sisters, and all the branches and missions. You never know; there might be another minister, or even brother or sister that you don't know very well, but if you did, you might develop a strong connection to them too!

Most importantly, we should develop that personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In the end, when we face Him the only thing that will matter is the state of our personal relationship with Him. We cannot say, "Brother so and so told me to do this or do that." We are responsible for our own actions. We should always seek counsel from the Lord whether we decide to seek counsel from an elder or not. The elders are here to help us. They can "plant," they can "water," but it is only God that can help change your situation. Only He can give the "increase." Apparently, the Corinthians did not understand this, and they aligned themselves with Apollos. Others aligned themselves with Paul. What they didn't realize was that Paul and Apollos were preaching the same Gospel. Paul and Apollos never asked the members to listen only to them or follow only them. I'm sure they used the words of Jesus when He said, "Follow Me." Paul said "follow me as I follow Christ." Jesus is our Great Shepherd. But when people are "carnal" minded, as stated in this scripture, they see things in a humanly way and not in a spiritual way. The intelligence of Paul or the great speaking abilities of Apollos were more enticing to them than the spirit and inspired Word of God portrayed through them.

Let's learn from the Corinthians and from Paul's admonition, and let's look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## The Gifts that God Gives

(Matthew 7:7-11)

Dear Friends,

At our New Year's Eve Watch Night Service, we were looking back over the year and the years before to think of all the hundreds and thousands of times and days when God answered our prayers. I was reminded of my piano prayer.

I was a single parent mom raising a five-year-old daughter by myself, far from my family. That meant that I was alone every night watching her and taking care of all the family needs. Television was so boring, I kept thinking that what I needed was something to pick me up spiritually. I started longing for a piano so that I could play it at night as my little girl fell asleep and as I needed to calm down and feel close to God.

The problem was that I did not have much money. My entire emergency fund was around \$400.00 and I knew it could be dangerous to spend that in case we needed it. I began to pray and talk to God about it. I told him I did not want to be without the money I had put away and I told him about my heart's desire to have a piano.

A few days later, my friend, Sister Cathy Gentile stopped by to visit me. We decided to go for a walk while we talked. I was surprised to notice that all up and down our neighborhood, people were throwing out all sorts of things from their homes. It was the week that the city workers picked up big objects for people and

took them to the city dump.

A few blocks from my house there was a big old upright piano perched on the end of the sidewalk. It was missing the entire front board and also the big paneling on the bottom. I decided to run up to the door and ask if they were throwing away the piano. On the way past, I touched the keys. It played all right and the ivory coverings were still in place.

The girl that opened the door was willing to put the boards back in place and let me have the piano for twenty-five dollars! My brother and a neighbor rolled it down the hill two blocks and Brother Alex helped scoot it up the porch, as the metal wheels had heated up and popped off. But I had a piano. I was so grateful how God answers prayers. It brought me many years of comfort as I was home alone with my daughter.

Finally the day came when I needed the room in my small apartment that the piano was taking up. The heavy old upright was a huge and heavy thing to move. I prayed and thanked God for it, and asked Him what I should do with it. I put an ad in our newspaper. It said, "Old upright piano. Free to a good home. Heavy. You move."

Two or three people called me. Most were worried about how to move it. But the man who called twice touched my heart. He said his minister and the minister's son would get a special lifting cart and come the next day. It felt right and I said, "Come over. We'll be home."

He was a poor man and a new believer in Christ. He told me that he was going to church and bringing their children but his wife did not really

believe God heard prayers or cared about us. He told me that they had been talking about how a piano would help their children and be so wonderful to have, but they did not have the money to buy one. He told his wife that he was going to pray and ask God for one. She laughed at the idea.

And then God heard his prayers. He saw my ad. His minister said he would help him and his prayers came true. We both cried over God's beautiful care and mercy as they wheeled the piano right out the door to

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

JESUS	THEM
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HEAVEN	FAITH
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## Youngstown, Ohio New Building Dedication

By Sister Sandra Cardillo

Greetings from the saints and friends of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. We are so happy and blessed to be in our new building. We have been busy hosting our Dedication Weekend. We would like to share with you a summary of those precious moments.

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, Brother Henry Cardillo welcomed all those attending the history portion of our celebration. He read a special delivery message from Brother Mitch Edwards and the saints from Southbend, Indiana. Brother Mitch praised the missionary efforts of our elders and because of their love and dedication to the Gospel, Brother Sam and Sister Eleanor Martin, along with their seven children, obeyed the call of the Lord.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Ken Murray. He thanked God for His divine grace that allowed us to do the impossible by erecting this building to His honor and glory. Though we are so undeserving, we are thankful. He prayed for a new beginning and that the Holy Spirit would fill our branch and teach us more of His ways.

The trustees were then given charge of the meeting. Chairperson of the trustees, Brother Mike Italiano, introduced the Board of Trustees and thanked them for their hard work and diligence during this six-year project. He then thanked everyone individually for their efforts, prayerfully, financially and physically. He told of the zeal and professional efforts of our general contractor, Ed Carrozzino.

After giving an overview of the branch family tree beginning in 1919 and how these families spread throughout the United States, the Youngstown Branch sang *We Have Come Into This House*. The congregation sang,

### *Precious Memories.*

Brother Phillip Damore from Phoenix, Arizona gave us a light-hearted rendition of the early days in the Youngstown Branch. Sister Cathy Genaro presented a history of our Ladies' Circle and all of the generous projects that they have supported, both at the Branch and General Circle levels. From a desire in 1920 to do missionary work by a young woman named Sadie Cadman, the organization blossoms today serving the Church's missionary endeavors throughout the world.

After reading the minutes of the first MBA meeting of April 19, 1946, Brother Henry introduced Brother Donald Pandone, who read a list of brothers and sisters, who have passed away during the transition from our previous to new church building. As we were to learn later, Sister Linda Italiano had a vision. As each name was spoken, their faces appeared on the wall by the rostrum. They were smiling and looking down on the congregation with a happy countenance.

It was noted that within one month from the first service in our new building, we have had two baptisms—Brother Frank and Sister Betty Toman. We praise God!

We very appropriately sang, *My Tribute (How Can I Say Thanks)*.

Our final speaker was trustee,

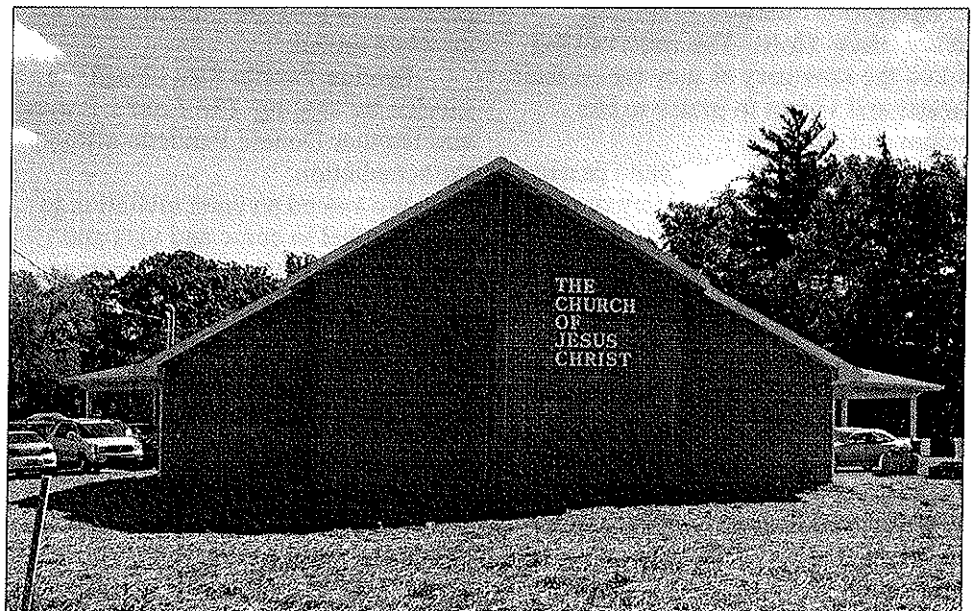
Sister Gina Rine, who spoke of the unselfish effort made by our members and friends to overcome what many saw as a financial impossibility to a reality. She closed with an experience that one of our sisters had after being troubled about the monetary need. God spoke to her spirit and said that it was not just up to her but that it was everyone's responsibility and that everyone was accountable.

We then adjourned for fellowship with refreshments and nostalgia of many heart-filled days gone by.

Sunday, October 3, 2004, the branch was buzzing with enthusiasm, love and souls eager to praise God for the favor He has shown to us by allowing this edifice to be raised for His honor and glory. Presiding Elder, Brother Henry Cardillo, stated that we as a branch are completely overwhelmed by the representation and attendance of so many of the saints. Our General Church President, Brother Dominic Thomas, sent his regrets for not being able to attend due to poor health, but he sent his prayers and best wishes for the day.

Brother Ron Genaro opened in prayer and was followed by what would be special dedicatory hymns performed by Brother Panfilo DeCenzo of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania,

(Continued on Page 8)



The new Youngstown, Ohio church building.

## Youngstown Dedication

Continued from Page 7

accompanied by Sister Nina DeCenzo on piano.

Apostle John Griffith followed the first selection, *Bless This House*, by expressing how impressed he was by the display of effort that was made here in this location. Brother John stated, "Make no mistake about it; you are the blessing in this house. It is not the bricks or the mortar, but your diligence and that in turn blesses others. He has blessed this house!"

Brother John then spoke from II Samuel, where Nathan speaks to King David, "Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more." We thank God that He has brought you to a place in your lives where He has planted you and you can enjoy the blessings of the Lord. This is not about building an edifice but about building the kingdom of God. That kingdom is established in your hearts and in your minds. And that kingdom continues to grow as we see more coming to Christ. It is not the building but the foundation that is important to God.

The Youngstown children then led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang, *Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain* and *This Little Light of Mine*. The congregation followed by singing, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. The spirit of God filled the sanctuary as they raised their hearts and voices in praise to His honor and glory.

Evangelist Tony Picciuto passionately delivered the dedicatory prayer. Brother Tony thanked God for His handiwork from the beginning of time and praised Him for the planets, moons and stars. "You saw that it was good and you created man. You have given us the skills to recognize your creation. You have blessed us even after the fall. Men who have loved you, wanted to praise you and they built tabernacles to praise you as they have here in this building. YOU created it and we give you praise and we say HOLY, HOLY, HOLY."

Brother Panfilo then sang, *Our*

*Church*, followed by Apostle Paul Palmieri who then spoke of the history of the Youngstown Branch. He reminisced about the elders that have passed on and their impact on the branch. It is fitting to name them: Brothers Tony Corrado, Ralph Berardino, Travis Perry, Dom Bucci, and Joe Genaro. Brother Paul told of how the moving of our late brother Phillip Malecho in 1920, started the Aliquippa Branch. He spoke of the love that his father had for the saints of Youngstown. He told of how we will be dedicating branches daily in the United States and throughout the world. We will be processing souls getting them ready for eternal life. That's what The Church of Jesus Christ is all about. He quoted from Isaiah 66:1, "Where is the house that ye build unto me?" This is His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. It is a beacon not only for this area, but also for the whole world. You project a Gospel that is rich and pure, not for the building only, but for their souls.

Dick Lawson followed and spoke of how the outside world will judge the Church by us and our actions. At this time, Brother Henry Cardillo requested that all of the elders on the rostrum rise and sing, *To the Work*.

Apostle Tom Liberto spoke of how God will bless us and that our work is just beginning. Brother Joe Ross was amazed by what a few people who love the Lord are able to do when united.

Brother Panfilo then closed the service by singing *The Lord's Prayer*, and Brother Donald Pandone offered the benediction.

We extend an open invitation to any who feel to come and visit and worship here with us in Youngstown.

## News from Herndon, VA

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" (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 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 clinging 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 Christ said, "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you . . . that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your 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 anymore. 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!

## Blessings at the Saline, MI Mission

*By Sister Valerie Dulisse*

On August 29, 2004 we gathered at the Saline Mission with saints from many areas of The Church of Jesus Christ to praise and glorify our Lord. This was to be a very special day, as we began our service by witnessing two baby blessings, which were performed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. The babies, Jonas Bodo and Christian Campitelle, are Brother Louis' great-nephews. There was such a spirit of joy among all of the brothers, sisters and visitors as we saw and heard the babies receiving a blessing from God, which will follow them throughout their lives.

Brother Peter Scolaro opened the meeting by sharing the scripture in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of John: "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me." Our brother stated that everything else that we do in life is subordinate to this. "Jesus used this parable of the Good Shepherd to portray that He will not leave us, and He has already proven that He would lay down His life for us." Brother Peter also shared the scripture of Jesus, surrounded by His apostles, accepting and blessing the little children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. "There is nothing like a little child who can trust. It doesn't matter," Brother Peter continued, "what goes on in the world, because Jesus doesn't change. He was there yesterday, is today, and will be tomorrow." Our brother spoke of Jesus' atonement as a well that never runs dry, except for the person who is unwilling to be as this little child. "We have the opportunity to be as this little child, putting ourselves into God's hands, to feel protected and completely at ease, in

spite of the circumstances of our lives that would seem to defy that feeling of peace. That is the Good Shepherd we have but we must give ourselves to Him. That is why it is so important that we give this gift to our children, this legacy of Jesus Christ."

Brother Sam DiFalco followed, reading the scripture in Moroni 8:10 which teaches us that we must repent and be baptized, and to be humble like our little children, in order to be saved with our little children. Brother Sam reminded us of the mansions of glory waiting for us if we perform good works in this life. He exhorted those who are not baptized to take that step. "If we put God first, all things will be added unto us!" Our brother shared his personal testimony of how the Lord was a shepherd to him when he lost his son, Matt. Brother Sam was brokenhearted and inconsolable; God spoke to Brother Sam, telling him to go and speak to Sister Rose. As Brother Sam asked her if she had something to tell him about Matt, the sister answered that Matt came to her the night before he died and said, "I am leaving, but I am going to a better place." Brother Sam and his family derived great comfort from these words, which were sent from the Good Shepherd.

A beautiful, spirit-filled season of testimony followed. Brother Louis Pietrangelo shared his experience, of how he was born and raised in the Church, but went into the world. Later, he found the Lord again while in the Air Force in the Marianna Islands when God saved his life during an explosion. A voice told him to stop running, just before an engine landed in front of him, which would have crushed him had he continued. The others in his compound thought that he had died in the explosion. He praised God for His goodness; Brother Louis' blessing as a child followed him into adulthood, even at a long distance from the Church. He urged us; "Listen to God's voice!"

After this spiritual feast, we enjoyed a natural feast prepared by the Saline sisters and brothers for all who were in attendance. We praise God, for our cups have truly overflowed this day!

## A Season of Blessings at Detroit, MI Branch #1 (Chesterfield)

The blessings have been plentiful this summer as we welcomed six brothers and sisters into the fold, each having their own special testimony of how the Lord converted their heart and drew them to the water's edge where they made their covenant with God. Praise God for His loving touch for He is the pathway to eternal life.

On September 21, 2003 both Branch #1, and Plumbrook Branch were blessed as five brothers were ordained into the offices of Teacher and Elder. The morning was bright and crisp, yet full of expectation of the "spirit filled" day ahead of us. We gathered early that day as we welcomed a group of brothers and sisters from many locations to take part in the blessings ahead. We were blessed to take part in two meetings that day.

The morning meeting was opened by Brother Dick Christman. Brother Dick spoke on putting your trust in God, "He is the master of my faith, the captain of my soul." He spoke from John 15:12-16, *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."* Brother Dick shared his experiences of life whereby the Lord has been his pilot, and encouraged us to continue to put our trust in God. Brothers David DeLuca and Bob Batson followed expressing the Lord's goodness.

After lunch we anxiously gathered awaiting to witness the beauty of God's callings. Brother Larry

Champine welcomed all those attending and shared the news of two souls rendering obedience to the Lord. Brother Bob and Sister Heather Moyer, of Aliquippa would be baptized the following Sunday. He beckoned us to rejoice in God's blessings, "The Apostle Paul was taught by the revelation of God that this was His gospel, and you have been taught that these things you believe in are by the revelation of the Lord. We preach no other gospel but that brought forth by Jesus Christ, and only by His goodness and power shall we receive salvation."

Brother Paul Whitton began by reminding us that we are of one spirit and one mind as members of The Church of Jesus Christ. He shared the experiences of Brother Mark Palmieri being called into the priesthood.

Brother Frank Natoli then shared with the congregation the calling of Brother Brad Everett, and Brother Ryan Lesperance into the office of Teacher, and Brother Tom Everett concluded by sharing with us the experiences of Brother Keith Lesperance and Brother Brett Gibson as they were called into the office of Elder.

Apostle Paul Palmieri explained the function of the priesthood, and the authority that would be given to our brothers to serve. "The office is to serve the people of God first, to be servants, to give everything up to help someone in need." He shared a personal experience of God's gift given to the priesthood, "This gift God has given men that they might bring someone into rest, and do the work that God has entrusted in them." He continued with the duties of a Teacher sharing that they are to be in harmony in all aspects of the Church, to watch over and strengthen it, and be peacemakers among the members. He inspired us to continue in our desire as the Lord will continue to bless our efforts.

We continued our meeting with the ordinations. Brother Mark's feet were washed by Brother Gary Coppa, and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Palmieri. Brother Keith's feet were washed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, and he was ordained by Brother Jerry Benyola. Brother

Brett's feet were washed by Bro. Don Ross, and he was ordained by Brother Louis Petrangelo. Brother Ryan's feet were washed by Brother Chris Scolaro, and he was ordained by Brother Malcom Paxon. Brother Brad's feet were washed by Brother Dick Christman, and he was ordained by Brother Mike LaSala.

The brothers expressed themselves and testified of their love of God, the Church, and its doctrine. They humbled themselves and shared their willingness to do God's work. As they grow in their responsibilities and assist with our needs we pray the Lord will bless them.

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## Our Women Today

Continued from Page 4

called his wife and said he won't be coming home, but it was alright, he was ready to go. Some of you spoke to me for the first time, and I heard



you. Some chose to ignore me to the very end. I was there in the elevators. I was there when the towers fell. It was signed, Love, God."

Then Jackie McFall, Sister Terri's daughter, played the violin as Sister Anita Znoy sang the introduction to the song *God Bless America*. The Sterling Heights sisters joined in to sing the verses. The entire congregation sang the song one more time. We sang with tears in our eyes and an ache in our hearts.

## The Lord Arose

Continued from Page 1

their dedication to do God's work. I have traveled halfway across the world to see how the glory of God works in the lives of men. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever!! I praise God for Yasu Christ Ko Mandali (The Church of Jesus Christ) and the power of Jesus to change lives—no matter what country you live in!

## A Familiar Story

The above is a familiar story. As I read the words of Brother Anthony Ricci, I was reminded of the many stories and experiences we have heard from our Italian brothers and sisters. How many of us can praise God for the gift of our Italian families finding The Church of Jesus Christ.

Over the earlier years of the Church many men, women and children came to America by ship searching for something better. There was a brother in my branch while I was growing up; his name was Brother Nazareth Ciarocchi. His testimony was that he came to America to find silver and gold, but he found the treasure of the Gospel, which far exceeded any wealth he could have anticipated finding.

Is it beyond the great arm of God to reach down to this impoverished country of Nepal and bring them such a treasure? I say it is not. There have

been too many experiences from the Italian brothers and sisters for me to believe any different.

Just as Brother Anthony went back to Asia, his birthplace, he found that in his heart he felt connected. After spending time with the saints and men and women of Nepal, he found that in his soul he felt connected. This can be the story for any of us. In our families we have customs and characteristics we take as second nature; however, when and if you get the opportunity to go to the country of your ancestors, you will find they are the same with those families. I did not understand this until I went to Italy and saw that the way the older brothers and sisters from my branch and my family acted was the same as the saints in Italy. As the family of God we will always find those similarities, regardless of nationality. When we meet those the Lord has chosen, we will find those familiarities.

There was a grand and incredible Italian movement in The Church of Jesus Christ many years ago. It is time to see that grand and incredible movement again. Please begin to pray fervently for the hand of God to move in the domestic and foreign missionary works. The IMOC encourages us to get involved. Imagine the joy when you meet the saints from your ancestral country and feel that familiar feeling as your heart and soul become connected. I am sure if you ask any brother or sister who has been on missionary work, they will tell you when they leave that country they leave part of their heart there. With that in mind, please think how much of the love of God is scattered around the world!

Sister Deanna Nuzzi

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

go to its new home. I was so thrilled.

Our God is so good. We serve a merciful and powerful God who loves to answer the needs and cries of his

children. He truly cares for us. He sees us when we are trying to do better, and He reaches down and helps us. Don't give up when you pray for the desires of your heart. Don't be ashamed to believe that God will help you find a way to fulfill those needs.

Jesus teaches us about God. He tells us in the Bible, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish will he give him a serpent? If ye then [humans], being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:7-11).

We serve a living, loving, powerful, caring God. He hears our prayers. He will help us.

With much care,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

David Israel and Dana Archer were united in holy matrimony on November 26, 2004.

Carlos Douglas Valentino Lytle and Tabitha Jo Ann Cothran were united in holy matrimony in Spartanburg, South Carolina on November 27, 2004.

Nestor Torres and Nichole C. Kovacic were united in holy matrimony in the Miami-Dade Florida Mission on October 16, 2004.

Dan Jason Farley and Kelly Ann Bowens were united in holy matrimony in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on August 7, 2004.

Brother Dan Yoder and Julie Kirschenphad were united in holy matrimony on November 5, 2004.

## Children Blessed

Sophia Michelle Lovalvo, daughter of Barry and Michelle Lovalvo, was blessed on November 28, 2004 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Cameron Xavier Hubbard, son of Tessa Hubbard was blessed on November 14, 2004 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch.

Adriana Jasmin Garcia, daughter of Brother Eduardo and Sister Megan Garcia, was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Jerrayille Owen Brown, son of Keyshia Brown was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Nicholas Paul Benyola, son of Paul E. and Dawn Benyola was blessed on December 12, 2004 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Carlene Shift was reinstated on November 28, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch by Brother Tom Curtin.

Sister Solanne (Anne) Rockoff was baptized on December 12, 2004 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mario Morales and confirmed by Brother Carl Huttenberger Jr.

### AddressChange

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Brother Panfilo Angelo DeCenzo was baptized on November 14, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Anthony Ricci and confirmed by Brother Patrick Monaghan.

Brother Michael Paul Brubaker was baptized on November 28, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Sister Patricia Jamison was reinstated on October, 24, 2004 in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Ordinations

Brother Kenneth Yanes was ordained a Teacher in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on November 28, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Crudup, and he was ordained by Brother Mario Morales.

Sister Roberta Hunt was ordained a Deaconess in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on November 28, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Angela Reyes and she was ordained by Brother Jim Crudup.

Brother Bob Cross was ordained a Deacon in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on September 26, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Alex Cherry and he was ordained by Brother Fred Olexa.

18, 2004. She is survived by two sons, Lirio and Patsy Fallavollitti and a daughter, Anita Noel; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### ELIZABETH (CICCATI) ARANYI

Sister Elizabeth (Ciccati) Aranyi of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on November 24, 2004. She is survived by her sons, Michael, Dennis, Jeff, David and James; brothers, Brother Lou, Sam, Dan and David Ciccati; sisters, Sister Mary Altomare, Sister Edith Genaro, Sister Irene Dulisse and Sister Marlene Ciccati and three grandchildren.

### JOHN W. "BUCKY" KENDALL

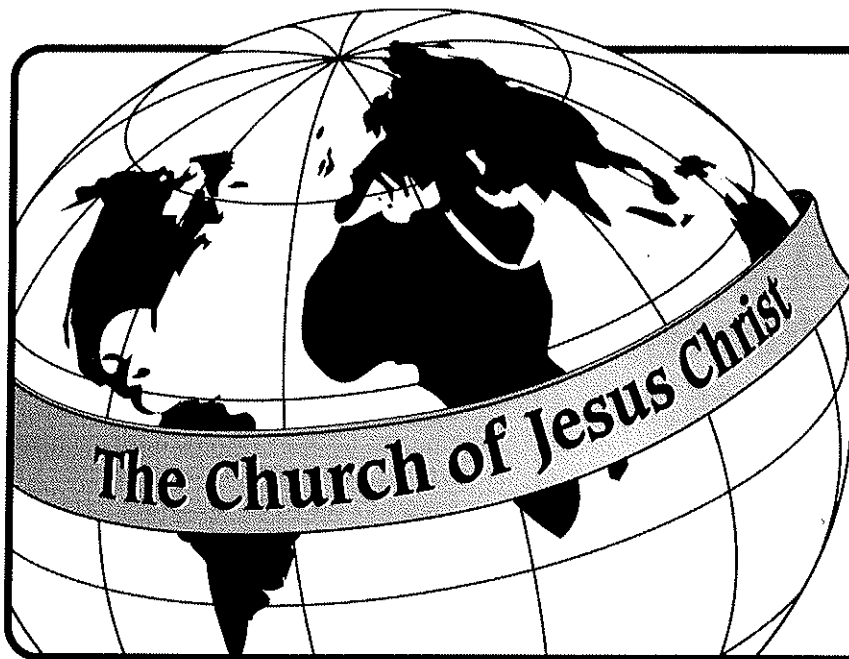
Brother John W. "Bucky" Kendall of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on October 20, 2004. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Norma Kendall; three sons and two daughters-in-law, John Jr. and Verna Kendall, Robert Kendall and George and Dana Kendall; eleven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Sister Gladys Stanish and Sister Juanita Stanko.

## OBITUARIES

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

### YOLANDA FALLAVOLLITTI

Sister Yolanda Fallavollitti of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on December



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

March, 2005

Volume 61, No. 3

## Blessings in Colombia

*By Evangelist Jim Sgro*

Evangelist Rich Scaglione, Brother Sal Conte (our translator), and Brother Jim Sgro had the wonderful opportunity to spend nine days with the Church in Bogotá, Colombia over the Thanksgiving holiday. As usual, we were met at the airport with warmth and the Spirit of God that attend the brothers and sisters in South America.

Because of the love of the saints, our accommodations are always in the home of Brother Felipe and Sister Marisol, and their hospitality during the week both in their home and in the homes of the many people we were able to visit is continually felt. Their efforts on our behalf cannot be spoken of enough. This home is not only home to the saints and missionaries who visit but the third floor of the building is the location of the Church. As you sit in the chapel, you can tell the love and care that has been put into the room.

Meetings were held on Sundays and on several evenings during the week, including lessons on scripture and a social on Friday evening. Although informal, almost in every home visited there was a meeting held, sometimes discussing the

Restored Gospel, preaching, anointing the sick, and asking God's blessings on the lives of the people met many times with tears of joy.

During our Wednesday evening service, Brother Rich was inspired to teach a lesson on being the light of Christ. As he darkened the room to explain what it is like to be without Christ, everyone felt the darkness, the loneliness. But when he turned the lights on, God's spirit was felt and it was uplifting to know that we don't serve God alone. Brother Rich also explained the need to be diligent in our service to keep the light on. As he said this, the lights literally flickered on and off giving us the example our light needs to shine all the time. Flickering just won't do.

On Friday, the Lord allowed me to leave the city of Bogotá and visit two other cities two hours away. In LaMesa, the Lord provided a visit to a preschool and the opportunity to speak to the teachers, have dinner with some friends, and at the end were invited back to spend some time and hold meetings, which Lord willing, we plan to do in the future. Traveling through the countryside reminds us of the glory of God and the ancient inhabitants of this land and how God has provided for the Gospel to return to the South American Continent after many years. As the Gospel

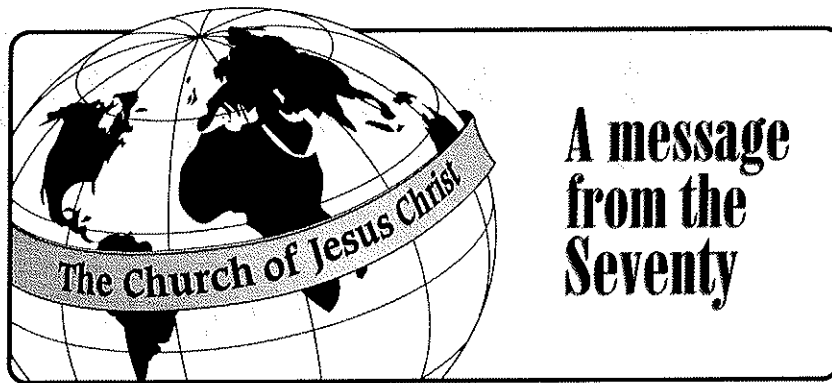
grows, the hand of the Lord can bring His word back to His people. Also, as we went through at least four military police checkpoints, we were reminded that the Gospel and the love of God are needed throughout the world.

Brother Sal's wife, Sister Rocio, and daughter joined us on Saturday, intending to spend some time with their families. Sister Rocio also had prepared some songs with the intent to put on a program for Christmas.

Of particular note during the last Sunday meeting, under inspiration the children were called up to the front. We spoke on the love they have for us and the attentiveness they display during services, listening to the words, singing the songs and enjoying the blessings of God with the adults. A special prayer was offered on their behalf and we felt the Lord enter the room. There was not a dry eye in the room, including the children.

In leaving to come home the next day, we sadly left our church family in Bogotá to return to our families in the United States, knowing without all of the support from our natural families we could not be about the Lord's work.

Please remember our brothers, sisters and friends in Colombia as they strive to hold onto the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while trying to expand the borders of The Church of Jesus Christ.



## Evangelist Ordination

By Sister Christine Maddox

The Quorum of 70 is one more man strong, as of Sunday, December 5, 2004. Brother Paul Pezzenti was ordained an Evangelist under the witness of numerous, brothers, sisters, friends, and family.

The meeting was held in Brother Paul's home branch, Cincinnati, Ohio. Brother Chris Gehly began the meeting by leading the congregation in some singing while Sisters Florence Pezzenti and Ruth Batson set the communion table. Presiding Elder of the Cincinnati Branch, Brother Chuck Maddox, welcomed everyone to the meeting and then turned the service over to Brother Russ Martorano. Brother Russ then introduced all of the visiting brothers who had joined him on the rostrum. The visitors included Brothers John DiBattista, Paul Palmieri, Fred Olexa, Phil Jackson, Vince Gibson, and Frank Giovannone. After Brother Fred Olexa opened the meeting in prayer, Brother Bob Batson sang *Speak My Lord* and set a beautiful tone for the meeting to follow.

Brother John opened the preaching portion of the service by reminding all of the brothers and sisters that the "worthy cause of the Church is in sharing the name of Jesus Christ and what He can do for you." He referred to Luke 10:1-9 and the calling of the original 70. Brother John compared this passage of scripture to Exodus 15 where there are 12 bodies of water and 70 date trees – a type and shadow of the 12 apostles and 70 evan-

gelists in our church today. Jesus called 70 evangelists to "go into the cities where the words of Christ had not been spoken yet," Brother John explained. He continued by stating that evangelists "go behind enemy lines" to bring the Gospel to individuals, relying upon the spirit of the Lord just as in the days of old.

In Biblical times, Jesus' followers preached repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. "We preach on the same things today as they did back then," Brother John pointed out. Likewise, Brother John stated that the Church today holds the same power as when Jesus walked the Earth – the power to cast out evil spirits and heal the sick. Brother John said that this power is manifested upon the mission fields "as a demonstration that He [Jesus Christ] is the living God."

Brother John then turned the meeting to a more personal note, addressing Brother Paul's ordination. "From the foundation of the world, God knew that Paul would be called to be an Evangelist. He was not called by man, but by the revelation of God."

Brother Isaac D. Smith followed Brother John's exhortation by singing a touching rendition of *Our Church*.

Brother Paul Palmieri followed the song by reflecting upon the times when Brother Paul Pezzenti was the lone minister in the Cincinnati Mission. Brother Palmieri explained how Brother Pezzenti "held on, keeping the faith that one day the mission would grow." Brother Palmieri compared the responsibility that comes with supporting a small mission or

branch to the great responsibility that follows any office in the Church.

"With greater responsibility comes blessings and miracles," he said. "Doing what the Lord wants us to do and making ourselves accessible to the searching is what doing the work of the Lord is all about," Brother Palmieri continued. "Each and every one of us has a responsibility to share Jesus Christ with the world. It doesn't stop with apostles or evangelists or ministers," encouraged Brother Palmieri.

After some congregational singing, Brother Pezzenti was encircled about by his fellow brothers. Brother Fred offered a prayer for God's spirit and guidance to come upon the brothers in the circle. Following his prayer, Brother Frank Giovannone washed Brother Pezzenti's feet and Brother Vince Gibson offered the ordination prayer.

## Evangelist Ordinations in Atlantic Coast

The saints from the various branches of the Atlantic Coast Region and visitors gathered together on two different Sundays at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch to witness the ordinations of our two brothers into the Quorum of Seventy.

On the morning of October 24, 2004 Brother Carl Huttenberger of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch, was ordained an Evangelist. His feet were washed by Evangelist Jim Crudup, and he was ordained by Evangelist Jim Huttenberger. There were several visions which confirmed the Lord's presence from the opening prayer until the end. While Brother Carl's feet were being washed, a sister saw his feet walking on clouds, representing him going out to the world to preach the Gospel. Visiting this day was Evangelist Jim Huttenberger and his wife Sister Lynette from Anaheim, California along with Brother Don Ross and his wife Sister Joyce from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Both brothers spoke beautifully about

the beauty of the Gospel and the need for our personal and collective revival, in order to prepare for the great future of the Church.

Brother Jim Sgro, of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch was ordained an Evangelist on December 19, 2004. Brother Jim's feet were washed by Evangelist Carl Huttenberger and he was ordained by Evangelist Joseph Perri. During the ordination a wonderful vision was given to Brother Carl as a confirmation. While Brother Jim was sitting on the rostrum he turned his head towards his father Brother Sam and whispered, "I wish Mom was here." (Sister Anne Sgro passed away in May 2004.) Prior to washing Brother Jim's feet Brother Carl saw a vision of Sister Anne looking through a window at the ordination. Then joining Sister Anne was Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr. (Brother Carl, Sr. passed away in November, 2003.) Both were smiling.

Evangelist Bob Nicklow, Jr. was visiting this day, and said the Lord revealed to him that Brother Carl would wash Brother Jim's feet. After his ordination Brother Jim addressed the congregation and spoke of a dream he had several weeks earlier confirming his calling. In the dream Brother Jim was coming into the Hopelawn Branch for his ordination. As he entered the building he noticed Brother Joe Bonaduce crying but he didn't know why. As he turned around Brother Jim saw Brother Augie D'Orazio in the building and he understood why Brother Joe was crying. Brother Augie was very instrumental in helping the young people of the Atlantic Coast Region prior to passing away.

Brother Jim spoke to Brother Augie telling him that today he was being ordained an Evangelist. Brother Augie looked at Brother Jim in the dream and with a sweet special voice said, "We Know." Brother Augie then gave brother Jim a holy kiss. Brother Jim also explained that he knew what Brother Augie meant when he said, "We Know." Brother Augie was referring to himself and Brother Rocco Ensana who were both Evangelists in the Church for many years.

Please remember both of our brothers in your prayers. Praise God as He continues to do His work amongst the saints of His Church.

## El Espíritu de la Navidad

*By Sister Erin Light*

In the rough buildings of the Mexicali and San Vicente Guerrero, Mexico Missions, one does discover the true giving spirit of Christmas. A child's eager eyes upon a gracious bag of presents, an elderly man's gratitude in a warm suit, a comforting ease knowing that a child will not walk another cold step without shoes on her feet; these are the visions at Christmastime.

Two caravans, packed tightly with cheery faces, personalized gifts, and bags of much-needed food and clothing made their way south to two missions. The loving people at these missions are deprived of any traditional Christmas dinners, much less an ornament to decorate their humble homes. The preparation of gifts, food, and hearts held no comparison to the warmth all were about to receive, and the blessings of God were truly outnumbering the smiles on over fifty families touched this past holiday season.

Anxiously, on December 4, 2004, a small group of brothers and sisters from the San Diego Branch sang their way through mountains and coastal drizzle to arrive at the humble mission of San Vicente Guerrero. As we arrived in cold, damp weather, the picturesque church property was indeed a stirring sight to behold. Many elderly sisters and young mothers were seated on endless folding chairs, framing a merry group of playful children. Sister Asunción and Sister Abigail, two sisters from the Tijuana Ladies' Circle, were cutting hair on a bench off to one side. The young people from Tijuana were enthusiastically organizing games and piñatas for the children of this mission. Follow-

ing a brief singing and testimony meeting, food and warm blankets were distributed to the families of the mission. These generous donations were made possible by the San Diego and Anaheim branches.

Built upon the dreams of Sister Taulina, a member baptized in Tijuana by Brother Eddie Perdue, the San Vicente Guerrero Mission is thriving and overflowing with young families, strong membership, and a desire to serve in the name of the Lord. Brother Stacey and Sister Carolyn Light, Brother Alfredo and Sister Azar Mora, Brother Sam Hemmings and I were received with countless hugs and kisses from the members.

We spent a beautiful Sunday morning in glorious fellowship. An organ and a guitar led the congregation in singing praises to the Lord. A spirit of peace filled the church building as we were reminded, by Brother Sam's opening words, to give all honor and glory to our Lord in the simply-stated phrase, "*Dios es bueno. Todo el tiempo...*" and All the time, God is good!" Even with the crash of a nearby tree that broke the close power lines, even with the sudden loss of chapel light, and even with the endless downpour of rain that poked through every crack in the building, nothing could dampen the blessings and enthusiasm of the saints that day.

The following weekend, members from Bell, Yucaipa, and San Diego gladly made their way back across the border to fellowship with the saints in Mexicali. Upon our arrival, we unloaded many pounds of food and assembled large amounts of rice, beans, meat, and other staple foods that were donated graciously from the Bell, Yucaipa, Anaheim and San Diego branches. After the children enjoyed two comical, candy-filled piñatas, Sister Laura Elzby, Sister Vanessa Tostado and I painted children's faces with Christmas images, such as Santa Claus hats and ornamented pine trees.

*Noche De Paz (Silent Night)* and *En La Viña Del Señor* were two

(Continued on Page 4)

## Atlantic Coast RMOC Information Request

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Atlantic Coast RMOC is gathering the names and contact information of brothers and sisters, family, friends, or other interested parties living within the New England area that we may invite to church or administer to as needed.

There are currently saints meeting at the branch in Brunswick, Maine. There is also a mission in Dedham, Massachusetts that meets monthly. Those members live in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. If you know of anyone living in these states, as well as Vermont, Connecticut, or bordering New York

State please provide us with their contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact Brother Joseph Perri at (856) 722 8958 or e-mail address [jiperri@comcast.net](mailto:jiperri@comcast.net) or Brother Tom Curtin at telephone number (207) 846-6596 or e-mail address [tcurtin@maine.rr.com](mailto:tcurtin@maine.rr.com) with your referring information.

Love in Christ,  
Evangelist Joseph Perri  
Atlantic Coast RMOC Chairman

### El Espíritu de la Navidad

Continued from Page 3

of the many rejoicing songs sung by the congregation gathered at the

mission. As nametags on personalized gifts were read aloud by Brother Bob Tucker, the membership clapped and cheered for each person coming forward to receive their present. No one was without a gift or food that day, and a heartfelt "Dios Lo Bendigo" ("God Bless You") was said to every family.

Both hands and souls filled to overflowing with gifts as the Spirit of God swept throughout the building. Sunday morning, the saints enjoyed a wonderful day of worship as Brother Arturo Tostado opened the service. After the meeting, friends and members dined together before we returned to our homes, taking to heart each others' company for the remainder of the Christmas Season. We certainly had experienced *El Espíritu de la Navidad*; the true Spirit of Christmas.



## The Spirit of the Lord in Cincinnati, Ohio

By Sister Christine Maddox

Speaking in the Spirit of the Lord is one of God's amazing gifts to His saints. Brothers and sisters in the Cincinnati Branch in Ohio were blessed to receive that gift on Sunday, January 30.

During the testimony portion of the service, Brother Peter Benyola confessed of the difficulties in living in Indianapolis as the sole family with "the pure and unadulterated gospel." He asked the brothers and sisters to pray for him that he might be able to not get discouraged when the people around him judge him for making Christ-like decisions with his life.

After Brother Peter's testimony, I stood up and related that earlier that week God had given me some scripture. As soon as Brother Peter

finished his testimony, I knew that the scripture was given to me so that I could relate it to Brother Peter. The words can be found in John 15:16-19, 27. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. [...] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

As I read the verses aloud to the congregation, I took a small pause after finishing verse 19. At this moment, Brother Peter leaped out of his seat with his hand raised in the air and he spoke in the Spirit of the Lord. Paraphrased, Brother Peter said, "Thus saith the Lord: Jesus Christ was sent into the world to preach the Gospel. The world rejected Him and sent Him back to the Father. But we

will commune with Him again. Thus saith the Lord."

Once again, the saints stand amazed at how quick God is to answer our questions and comfort our fears — literally, within moments, He is right there when we need Him.

## Sterling Heights, MI

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was overjoyed to have the baptisms of Tamie Tyra and Jerry Haley. On that bright and beautiful day that the Lord prepared for us, He did His marvelous works. There were smiles and tears of joy as both father and daughter were brought into the waters of regeneration. Although we were few in number, there was a strong spirit of the Lord in our presence. This day we all rejoiced in the blessings of God.

Below is a brief summary as to how Sister Tamie and Brother Jerry felt the hand of God move in their lives and show them the way and the light.

Sister Tamie—"On June 17, 2004

(Continued on Page 8)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Some people today who do not believe in God may ask, "Where is God?" The answer to that question should be, "Where is He not?"

*"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitteing and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me" (Psalm 139: 1-10).*

God is in far greater control of our lives than we think. He not only is our Creator, but is intimately involved in every action we take, every word we speak, and every thought we have. We can go to the ends of the earth, and get as far away from The Church of Jesus Christ as possible, and He will be there. Every move we make is observed by Him. He knows our "downsittings," or failures. He knows our "uprisings." He is behind us, recording our sins, or in grace blotting out the remembrance of them. He has foreknowledge of all our deeds and provides for all of our wants. We cannot outrace Him because He is always ahead of us, and we cannot turn back because He is behind us. God is magnificently present wherever we are.

You may be running from God today. Maybe it is embarrassment for sins you have committed, maybe it is fear of failing in His Church, maybe it is fear of losing the things of this world, or maybe it is fear of the unknown. You can run, but you can never hide. God surrounds you and I. He formed every bone, blood vessel, muscle and every cell in our body at the time we were conceived in our mother's womb. No doctor today can really explain how a human being is formed so perfectly in the womb. That is because His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. Our wisdom is foolishness to Him. You can't run from Him because He is inside of you.

*"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfected; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:14-16).*

Since God is everywhere, people can stop looking for Him. All they have to do is reach out. Whether you are baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ or not, you may feel distant from the Lord at this time. He does not feel distant from you. You may not fully believe in Him or His Church at this time, but that's okay. . . He believes in you, and if you are really searching, He will reveal Himself to you at the right time in your life. Our steps are ordered by Him. We could not even take our next breath without Him. He is God.

Who wouldn't want to believe in, and follow after a God like this? Is there anything in this world that you can lean on or rely on like Him? He is going to "lead us with His hand." He will "hold us with His right hand." Is there anywhere else you'd rather be? Is there anywhere else you would feel safer? He knows every secret about you and I, and if we just trust, love and serve Him the best we are able to, He will keep us forgiven and sanctified and lead us with His "very high hand" to the Promised Land.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## God Says Be Strong and Have Courage

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever watched someone you think is really great make decisions or lead people? Have you ever thought to yourself, "I could never be as strong, or smart, or fair, or wise as that person." Did you know that as you grow up, if you let God work with you, you will learn new ways to help God's people and someday some child will look at you and think they wished they could do what you do? They will wonder how you do it.

Way back in the earliest days of the Bible, God chose a man named Moses to talk to. Moses was the child of a Hebrew slave adopted by a Princess of Egypt. Moses was trained to be a leader by his adopted family. We imagine that he was taught all the highest knowledge of the day. He probably learned mathematics, history, how to lead people, and the ancient stories of the Egyptians. But his true people, the Hebrews, were hated and treated as slaves by the Egyptian rulers.

God's plan was to use Moses to lead the slaves to freedom. At first, Moses was afraid. He told God, "I talk slow, I am not eloquent [that means a person who finds it easy to talk well and powerfully in front of others]." See Exodus 4:10. God was angry at Moses. He told Moses that he made his tongue and to go, and God would be with his mouth and teach him what to say. But Moses was still afraid. He asked God to send someone else. God was mad at Moses'

answer but he agreed to have someone else do the speaking for him. He told Moses he would send his brother Aaron to help him because he could speak well. God told Moses, "I will tell you what to say, then you will tell Aaron and he will tell the people." God also gave Moses two amazing signs to convince people he had power. And that plan worked.

For forty years he led the Hebrew tribes across the desert until the complainers died off and the children grew up to be believers in the God of Israel. He led the people right up to the edge of the Promised Land. Many times the Lord descended in a cloud and spoke with Moses in the presence of the people. The people were also there when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with his face shining and holding the Ten Commandments written by God. Many times Moses convinced them to do well, and forget the bad ways they had learned in Egypt. You can imagine what a huge job this was and how exhausted Moses would be. He had been chosen to lead this huge group of hundreds of thousands of people across a dry and dusty desert into a new way of living and thinking. The years passed. Moses was nearing the time when he would die.

Who could replace Moses? Who could continue his great work? Who loved the Lord and would be a powerful and deeply spiritual leader for the people? God did not choose Moses' brother to lead, or even another relative. When it came to the end of Moses' life, God chose a new leader named Joshua. Joshua had been a soldier and fearless leader of God's people. He was not afraid to

stand up for God and tell everyone, "As for me and my house [family] we serve the one true God."

Can you imagine how difficult it would be to follow in the footsteps of Moses? In Deuteronomy 34:9 we see how God prepared Joshua. God had Moses lay hands on Joshua and pray for the gift of wisdom. How else could someone lead a huge nation and not get confused by people trying to get them to do what they wanted, instead of what God wanted? Can you think what it would be like to go to sleep at night knowing all about the problems of so many people and then to wake up and still think about how to do the right thing? Only God knows the true answers. Only God really knows a person's heart.

Joshua was willing to do God's will. He loved God so much. God spoke to him (see Joshua, Chapter 1). God told him, "Moses my servant is dead...take the people to the land that I

(Continued on Page 11)

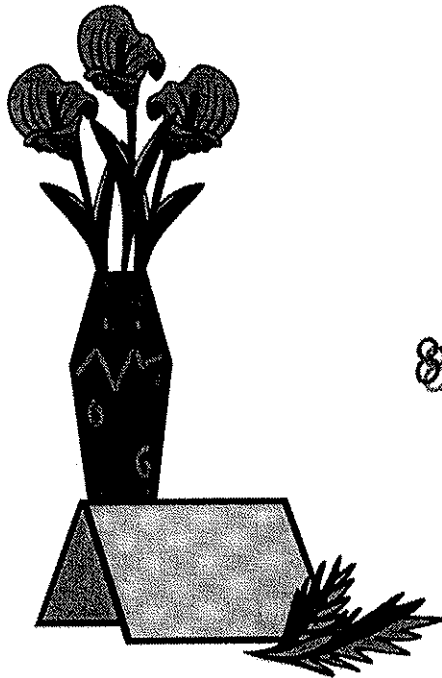
### WORD SEARCH

MOSES	FAITH	FOLLOW
LAID	GOD	MY
HANDS	SAID	LAWS
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JOSHUA	COURAGE	AND
FOR	BE	TRUST
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R	O	F	E	V	A	H	E	B
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Y	A	R	P	T	S	U	R	T



**Our Women Today**



## ***General Ladies' Uplift Circle***

*Join us for the*

**85th Anniversary Celebration**

***"Women of Works"***

**General Ladies' Uplift Circle  
85th Anniversary Celebration  
Detroit, Michigan Branch 2 – April 30, 2005**

Please plan on attending the special celebration of the 85th anniversary of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle on Saturday, April 30, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., held in Detroit, Michigan at Branch 2. This will be a day to remember our founding sisters and the efforts of all our sisters to serve the Lord and support the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We will share our testimonies on how the Ladies' Uplift Circle has influenced our lives and helped us with our spiritual development. So come prepared to praise the Lord. We know the Lord will be there and we would love for you to be there too!

Please plan on enjoying the warm hospitality of our sisters in Detroit. Accommodations are being headed by ***Sister Joann Cotellesse***. ***She can be reached either by phone, 734-287-2259, or e-mail address [sisjoannc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sisjoannc@sbcglobal.net).***

## Sterling Heights, MI

Continued from Page 4

after reading the Bible I began to panic. I felt my body become hot inside and cold chills covered my skin. I heard a voice from my right side say, 'Go see your brother.' Without a steady income, there was no way I could just 'go see my brother' so I prayed for help. Later that day my mother called and asked if I would like to travel to Michigan from Kentucky with her and dad (now Brother Jerry) to see my brother, Brother David Haley, and of course I said yes!

"The day before we left, Satan was working hard on me. I heard him asking me if I really thought the Lord was calling me or if I was hearing things. Why would the Lord call personally on a broken, unemployed, divorced, self-conscious person. Satan did the whole nine yards of name calling on me. I told my daughter that I was not going and I thank the Lord she called my mother who made it perfectly clear that she would pick me up the next morning and I should be packed and ready to go!

"When I got there, I spoke with Brother John Straccia about my need and desire to be completely right with the Lord by means of baptism by full immersion, to have all my sins washed away. That evening as I stood at the water's edge I knew that every wound would begin to heal, every sin would be no more, every tear cried in pain would hurt no more, every scar would be gone and every crooked path would no longer be there. I would have only straight and narrow paths ahead, and every walk I had to walk would never be walked alone. When I was lifted from the water I felt the sun on my face and I knew that June 30, 1965 I was born into this world to my parents by the Grace of God, and June 30, 2004 I was born through my parents into the Grace of God.

"Since my baptism the Lord has placed many people in my path to witness to and I have had many revelations and blessings. I have a strong desire to share with people my blessings and my story. I feel every day is the most wonderful day of my life.

Even when I stumble, I know the Lord is helping me not to fall."

Brother Jerry—"The first time I attended services at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Michigan, I felt as if I was with family, not just a good church family, a real from-the-heart family. During one service, I was pretty relaxed and comfortable. I looked up to the far wall of the church and saw arches with domed tops. Beneath these arches was a figure dressed in a flowing white tunic. I could not see his face but I could see his lips. He was telling me that he loved me. When I looked down at his arms, they were stretched out toward me with palms up as if to embrace me, calling for me to come. I felt the need to stand and testify or come forward.

"Shortly after my wife and I returned home to Paducah, Kentucky, I was riding my motorcycle when I hit a concrete curb. This caused the motorcycle to flip and skid down the road, taking me with it. As I hit the pavement, I drew myself into a ball. I knew I would be OK. I left that accident without injury and I know the Lord saved me from what could have been death.

"During the spring of 2004, we had a worship service at my daughter's house. Throughout the worship and singing I could feel the need to tell everyone there that I loved them. I mean, REALLY loved them all! I told them how much they meant to me. When I was finished, Brother John Straccia assured me there was more I had to say but maybe not just yet.

The first time I met Brother Lou Vitto, I found him very easy to talk to. I felt he could help me get to where I needed to be. When I would have doubts, his face would come to my mind leading me in the direction I needed to go. When I saw him in June in Michigan, I knew the time was right for me to be baptized. There were no words of doubt in my mind that I would normally hear. Brother Lou baptized me on June 30, 2004.

"Since that day, I find myself not getting angry with others, not feeling so discouraged; the Lord is helping me

put the habits and demons of my past in my past. Please pray for me as I grow in the Spirit of the Lord."

## A Miracle of Healing

By Sister Jan Humphrey

Several years ago, after being anointed a number of times by the Elders, as well as many prayers by the saints on my behalf, the Lord in all His goodness and mercy, healed me of a 25 year medical problem.

Recently, once again our awesome God showed mercy upon me by removing a mass from my body. Three separate diagnostic X-rays over a period of four months showed a mass. I requested to be anointed on more than one occasion and prayed fervently that the Lord might take this away.

I found that the more I searched the internet for information or asked physicians and friends for opinions on the direction I should go, the more confused and anxious I became. I discovered that the prospect of cancer propelled people who did not have Jesus in their lives to be fearful and suggested the more radical next step of removal rather than biopsy. After speaking with other sisters in the Church who had similar experiences, I was anointed one more time and was prayed for by the saints in Hollywood and Forest Hills (and perhaps others I am not aware of). I began to feel a peace and knowledge that God was in the matter and I had nothing to fear. With this renewed spirit I went for a stereo tactic needle biopsy. I was prepared physically, mentally and, most importantly, **spiritually**.

The surgeon looked through the special machine in order to mark the area and pronounced, "I can't find it." He called in two more people and they confirmed that they could not find it either. When the surgeon said again, "I can't find it — it's gone!", I immediately knew that after four months the Lord had taken it away. To be prudent, I had another diagnostic X-ray

and had a specialist in reading these X-rays review it and call me. She too exclaimed, "You have nothing to worry about...it's gone!" Praise God.

As it is written in the Jewish Passover prayers: "Thou art my God, and I will praise thee! I give thanks unto the Eternal God for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever." Amen.

## Quincey, Florida News

*By Sister La'Ronda Lee*

Rejoice! Rejoice! The Quincy Branch baptized two in the month of December. It was so heart-warming to see a son baptize his father. It was a glorious day to behold the eyes of Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Jr. baptizing his father, Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Sr. in the Chattahoochee River on December 19, 2004. Brother Alphonso, Sr. was confirmed in the gospel by Brother Horace Huggins. After his confirmation, Sister La'Ronda Lee heard the small calming voice of the Lord say, "I am pleased. I am pleased." Sister Anita Brown heard the voice of the Lord say that Brother Horace was to confirm Brother Hopkins, Sr. Brother Horace himself also felt the confirming spirit of the Lord.

We, the saints, praise God also for Brother Carlin Hester who was baptized by his father, Brother Charles Hester. Brother Carlin was confirmed in the gospel by Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Jr. on December 26, 2004.

The saints of God were ringing in the New Year with baptisms not by giving a resolution but boldly giving a commitment to serve God. In addition, the brothers of the priesthood pleaded with the saints about the importance of sacrament. The scripture was taken from I Corinthians 11:23. We want to be worthy of taking our sacrament. We should be sure of ourselves that we are in one accord with our God. Let us remember always to partake of the communion worthily.

Furthermore, the Quincy Branch

had several blessings from God during our worship service. This Sunday, Brother Lorenzo asked the elders to anoint him for his ailments. He said during his testimony that his ailments were too many to name and he wanted the elders to anoint him. Brother Alphonso stated that Brother Lorenzo is a strong warrior and does not complain. Elders Horace Huggins, Charles Hester and Alphonso Hopkins, Jr. united and Brother Alphonso was led by the spirit to anoint Brother Lorenzo. Afterward Brother Lorenzo reported that he had been having medical problems with his eyes. After the anointing, Brother Lorenzo stood and gave testimony that he felt an electrical shock go through his body while the elders were anointing him. He stated that his eyes felt better. While weeping in the spirit, he said that he was able to see clearer.

While Brother Lorenzo was getting anointed, Sister Linda Francis was praying. After the anointing she testified that she was not feeling well because of a headache but she felt the power of prayer from the priesthood in her seat. She felt a wave of pressure releasing from her body in a downward motion. Then she felt better. God healed her through the prayer. Praise God! Continuing in the spirit was Sister Gail Bridges-Bright; she also hesitated to get anointed for neck pains. She felt the power of prayer also while the priesthood was praying for Brother Lorenzo. Sister Gail felt an electrical current go through her body and her neck straightened. She even reported that her doctor evaluations were very much different from her previous doctor visits. God is good all the time!

Surprise! Surprise! Brother Frank and Sister Mary Rogolino visited the Quincy Branch on January 9, 2005. Brother Frank delivered a beautiful message taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi, chapter 32. Brother Frank explained the purpose of the Holy Ghost. He explained that the Holy Ghost is administered by those having authority. "The Holy Ghost comes upon a person through the laying on of hands by the priesthood. The Holy Ghost is the mind of the Father and the Son. The purpose of the Holy Ghost is to keep

us within the realms of God. The Holy Ghost leads, guides, protects and gives us the ability to make decisions. The closeness of God allows us to receive His gifts like dreams, visions and guidance. When we get out of line with God, we make ourselves vulnerable to the evils of the world. Be careful not to fall below the grace of God. If so, we must be sure to ask for forgiveness. God made us free agents to serve Him. A child of God learns many things in this world. We must remember that each of us was called by name and recognized the voice of the Lord. You actually answered in the kingdom of heaven and were blessed. Remember that time trains us to meet the troubles. So we should be men or woman enough to go through our trials. Satan makes us think that God has left us. That is not true. It's easier to take the shortcut but remember you don't want to face the repercussion. We must do the things necessary to receive the blessings of God. Remember, we must meet the conditions to receive the full blessings from God."

Last but not least, the Quincy Branch is so thankful for our visitors: Sharon Moye, Carlisha Baker and Rhonda Hopkins.

## Penn-Mid Atlantic Supports Our Troops

### God Bless America, The Land That I Love

Imagine being called to work for your country and being all alone without packages or letters from home. There are some men and women who do not hear their names at mail call and watch their buddies read letters from loved ones.

We were given twenty-two names of those fighting for our country for a special project. Through support from our branches, we will supply the troops with letters and packages until they come home.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Penn-Mid Atlantic

Continued from Page 9

Boxes consisting of toilet articles, snacks, flea collars, reading material including Church literature are mailed each six weeks to four service personnel. Members of the region have "adopted" a soldier and supply him/her with letters.

The coordination of the project has been a wonderful blessing. Receiving a response indicating their appreciation is a joy to our hearts.

If you have family members or friends serving, please send us their names and we will add them to our list. We continually pray for a safe return home and souls finding the Lord through our endeavors.

**God Bless America;  
My Home Sweet Home!**

Sister Denise Fleming  
Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch

## Pray to You

*Chandra Young*  
1/16/03

### VERSE ONE

Tears are falling  
My heart is calling Lord,  
I need you now  
Can't see the sunshine  
For the rain  
And now my days are  
Filled with clouds  
The ones who said  
They would be  
There for me  
Cannot be found  
And all that I can  
Think to do  
Is fall down  
To the ground and...

### CHORUS

Pray to you  
Pray for your grace and mercy  
Pray to you  
Pray for the strength

To get me through this day  
Pray that your love  
Will lead me all the way  
You're the only One I know  
So, Lord, I'll pray.

### VERSE TWO

Before I can even say, Amen  
I feel Your presence near  
And then I hear Your tender voice  
Fall softly on my ear  
You tell me "Child, be strong;  
Your troubles will not last always.  
The trials you are going through  
Are just a test of faith."

### BRIDGE

And then I remember  
All the times before  
When you came through  
And so, Lord, I'll lift  
My hands up to the sky  
And close my eyes  
So I can...

### CHORUS

Pray to you  
Pray for your grace and mercy  
Pray to you  
Pray for the strength  
To get me through this day  
Pray that your love  
Will lead me all the way  
You're the only One I know  
So, Lord, I'll pray.

(REPEAT BRIDGE AND CHORUS)

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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724-430-0153

Swanger, Lynn  
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The Plains, OH 45780  
740-707-8344

Tunno, Teri-Lyn  
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Monaca, PA 15061  
724-774-3933

## Notice

A World Missionary Songbook entitled *Saints Favorites and Selections from The Songs of Zion*, and five (5) CDs containing piano arrangements of the 100 songs in the songbook, have been compiled for use in the foreign mission fields, branches, missions, or for individuals that may have a need. The songbooks and CDs are available at the Print House for the cost of:

Songbook	\$ 5.00
Set of 5 CDs	\$20.00
12 songbooks at \$5.00 @	\$60.00
(1 set of CDs free)	

Also available is a CD of piano arrangements entitled *Beyond the Sunset, Songs of Peace and Comfort* by Sister Kathleen Perkins. This CD is especially helpful when no pianist or organist is available for a funeral service. The CD can be purchased from the Print House for \$12.00.

To order: Phone 734-429-5080, or e-mail [cofjeph@msn.com](mailto:cofjeph@msn.com).

The above prices do not include shipping and handling.

## New Songs of Zion

### #116 The New Jerusalem (Jeremiah 31:12, Hosea 2:18)

Hear the crying of the thousands,  
And then of ten thousands more,  
But the crying is for gladness  
And the teardrops are for joy;  
And they're running to that city  
Called the New Jerusalem,  
Where the gates swing wide and  
welcome

All the weary travelers in.

There's a dawning like no other,  
There's a brightness like the sun,  
There's a meadow filled with flowers  
Where the little children run;  
And where God has made a covenant  
So the animals lie down,  
And all eyes are filled with wonder  
At the scene upon the ground.

There's a full and watered garden,  
There's a free and flowing stream,  
And the beauty of the morning  
Is like a lingering dream;  
Where the Lord has washed the  
mountains

With the early morning dew,  
But it will not fade nor vanish  
For the prophecy is true.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
September 11, 2004

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

do give them. There shall not any man be able to stand before you [go against you] all of the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I shall be with you. I will not fail you, nor forsake [leave] you. Be strong. Have courage...Keep the laws of God and I will be with you." Joshua knew then that he could trust God to show him every day, over and over, which way to guide the people and what to do. He knew the answer was not to think he was so important, but to trust God and follow His laws.

This is our answer today for every big or scary problem that we must face. Trust God and follow His laws. When we find ourselves doing something wrong or thinking in a wrong way, we must stop, ask God to forgive us, maybe tell someone we are sorry, and then start over again. God will help us make the right decisions. God will go with us and show us the right thing to do. God will send us the right people to guide us and help us. He is our powerful creator. He can do anything.

So, I tell you my friends, read the Bible and remember that God's message to Joshua is the same message He sends to you, to me, to all who will serve Him. God said, "Be of good courage. Be not afraid. Follow my laws."

With care,  
Sister Jan

## OBITUARIES

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

### ROBERT LAUGHNER

Brother Robert Laughner of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on December 1, 2004.

### FLORINE DRUMMER

Sister Florine Drummer of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on January 19, 2005. She was preceded in death by a sister, Louise Miller and a brother, Terry Drummer. She is survived by her sister, Sister Emma Brown and her husband, Brother Willie Brown; brothers Foster and Eugene along with Eugene's wife, Jo Nancy; 5 children, Darrin, Laura Gardner, Tina, Lerena and Tiffany, and 14 grandchildren.

## Children Blessed

Conner Bicelis Griffith, son of Brother Bryan and Sister Heylen Griffith, was blessed in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on November 28, 2004.

Javaughn Dorian Matthews, Jr., son of Javaughn Matthews and Sister Jessica Bradwell was blessed on December 26, 2004 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother Scott Griffith and confirmed by Brother James Speck, Sr.

Sister Miriam Rios was baptized on January 9, 2005 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mario Morales and confirmed by Brother Rick Calabro.

Sister Emily Castor was baptized on January 16, 2005 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Phillip Jackson and confirmed by Brother Len Nardozzi.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Jesus Carlos Castillo was baptized on October 17, 2004 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Rick Calabro.

Sister Bernadina Castillo was baptized on October 17, 2004 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rick Calabro and confirmed by Brother Jim Calabro.

Sister Elizabeth DeFelice was baptized on October 26, 2004 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Don Ross and confirmed by Brother Joseph Ross.

Sister Janie Larson was baptized on January 2, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by

## Ordinations

Brother Louis Gallichio was ordained a Deacon in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on October 17, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Wilbur McNeil and he was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro.

Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr. from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch was ordained an Evangelist on October 24, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Crudup and he was ordained by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Brother Sam Risola, Sr. was ordained an Evangelist in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on November 21, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Miguel Bicelis and he was ordained by Brother Gene Perri.

Sister Alyssa Reyes was ordained a Deaconess in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on December 5, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Theresa Vadasz and she was ordained by Brother Tony Vadasz.

Brother Jim Sgro from the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch was ordained an Evangelist on December 19, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr. and he was ordained by Brother Joe Perri.

Brother Todd Schall was ordained a Deacon in Detroit, Michigan

Branch #1 on January 9, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Jeff Paxon and he was ordained by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Brother Karl Moelke was ordained a Deacon in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on January 9, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Joe DiBattista and he was ordained by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Brother Kevin Murphy was ordained a Teacher in the Tampa, Florida Mission on January 9, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Bryan Griffith and he was ordained by Brother James Speck, Sr.

Brother Dan Paravano was ordained a Teacher in the Tampa, Florida Mission on January 9, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Dan Paravano, Sr. and he was ordained by Brother Scott Griffith.

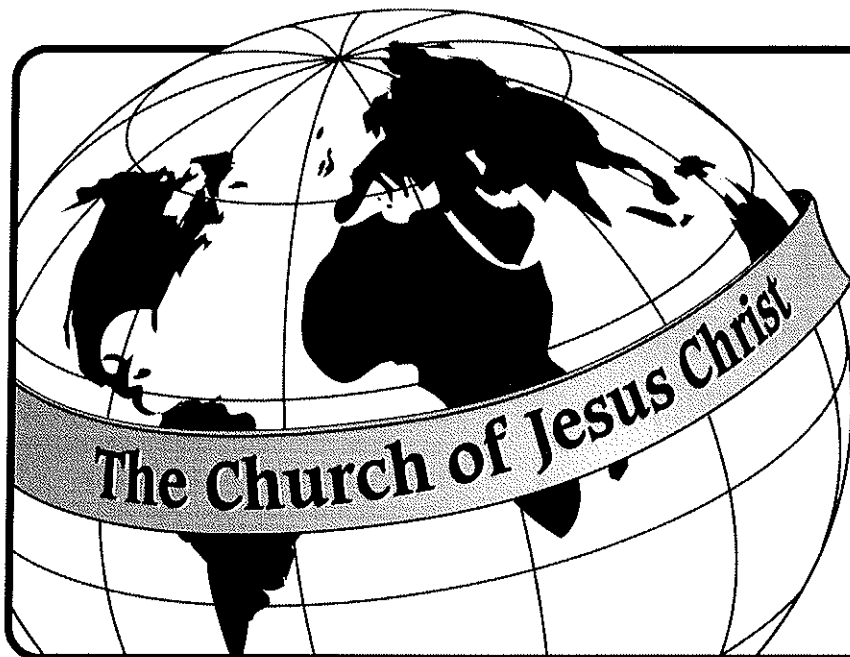
Brother Marty Gonzalez was ordained a Deacon in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on January 16, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Bobby Woods and he was ordained by Brother Sam Risola, Jr.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

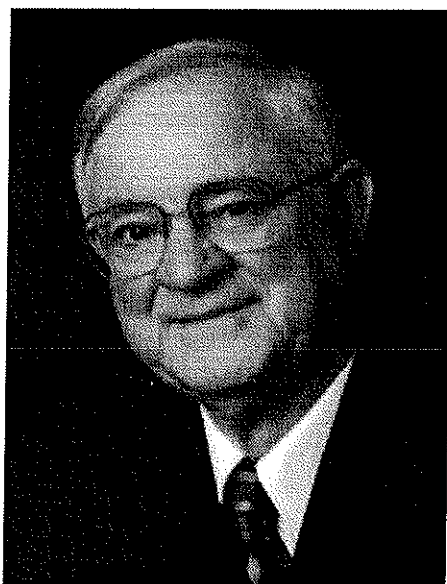
World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

April, 2005

Volume 61, No. 4

## Apostle Dominic Thomas, General Church President, Passes on to His Reward

Brother Dominic Thomas passed away on March 19, 2005 having served the Lord faithfully since his youth. He was born on September 11, 1924, baptized on



**Apostle Dominic R. Thomas**

February 28, 1943, ordained an Elder in 1950, an Evangelist in 1957, and an Apostle in 1964. His life had challenging beginnings as he lost his mother while still an infant. He was fortunate to be nurtured by family

and the Church and grew to become a well-rounded young man who never lost his love for and connections to those who had been instrumental in caring for him. After serving in the US Army during WWII, Brother Dominic returned home in 1946 and married Sister Dolores (Romano) Thomas who survives him along with their three children, Jared, Jeffrey, and Rebecca, and their nine grandchildren. Love and support for and by his family characterized Brother Dominic's personal life. Brother Dominic put substantial energy into personal relationships and reached out with compassion to those suffering loss or affliction.

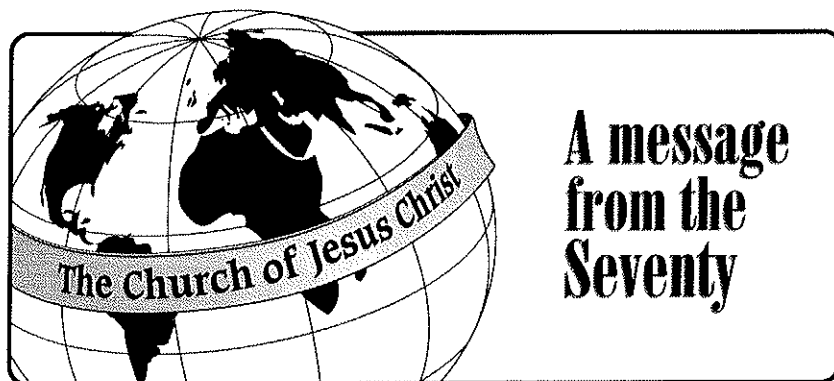
During his Army service, Brother Dominic began attending university and, after the service, continued a higher education culminating in 1952 with a Doctorate in Educational Administration. He filled significant positions from classroom-level through system-wide responsibilities in the Detroit (Michigan) Public School system during its finest years. The education, skills, and experience associated with his profession proved very valuable to the Church as Brother Dominic's humility and simple love for the saints enabled

him to be of great service throughout his life.

Brother Dominic served as part of the Great Lakes Region, Branch #2 Priesthood. He was always active in that role as he accepted additional Church assignments. Early in his ministry he was co-charged with the Muncey, Ontario, Canada Mission. He was also distinguished by his service in many other offices. The most notable of them are mentioned briefly here.

Brother Dominic was the President of the General Missionary Benevolent Association from 1948 until 1966. That period of the GMBA's history was remarkable as one of innovation and growth. An *Organizer's Guide* was introduced in 1951 which supported establishment of many new local MBA's, particularly including the spread to the West. In 1953, the concept of a Special Projects Fund was implemented and, to this day, continues to fund many "stretch" needs of the Church domestically and internationally, including items for the mission fields, and publications, including the *Book of Mormon* in various languages. In 1957, the GMBA initiated establishment of Area MBA's to stimulate regional activities and growth. In 1959, a very significant Special Project initiated funding and planning which eventually led to the

(Continued on Page 4)



## A Fruitful Trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela January 13-25, 2005

*By Brother Frank Palacios*

Brother Fred Olexa and Sister Charlotte Olexa, along with my wife, Sister Rose Palacios, and I began our trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela on January 13, 2005.

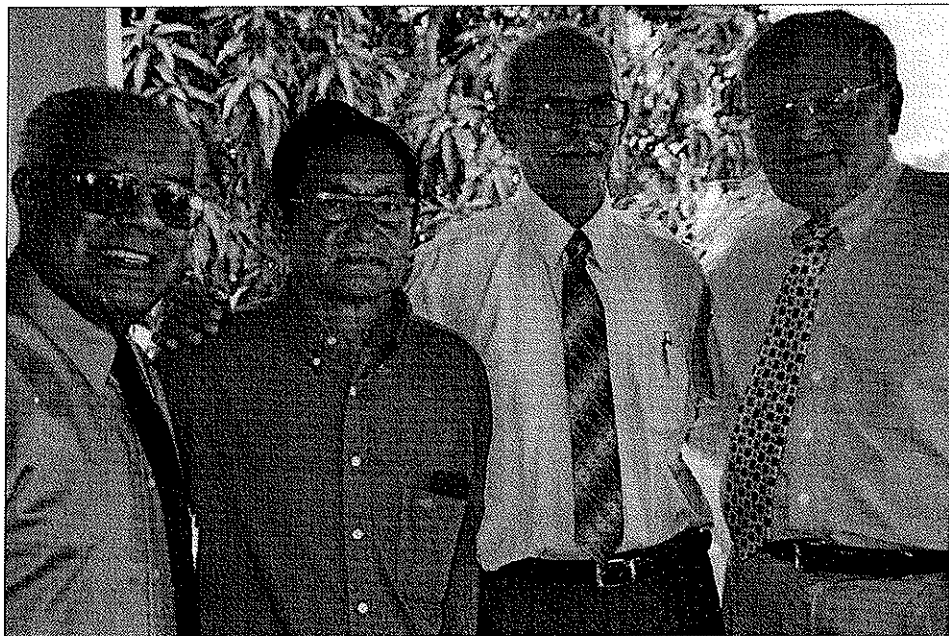
Two weeks prior to our trip, Sister Rose Palacios had a dream where she saw all of us on a plane and she saw a rainbow over the plane. Somehow she looked toward the back of the plane and saw another plane coming a distance away and there was a rainbow over that plane also. She then said to me, "That must be Brother Richard and Sister Annabelle Santilli's plane that is going to Dominica." The next morning, Sister Annabelle Santilli called my wife from Florida and told her that they would be going to Dominica soon. Thank God for His confirmation. When my wife told Sister Annabelle Santilli the dream, the Spirit spoke, "My sisters, rejoice that I have given you the privilege to go among my people."

We arrived safely in Venezuela and met Brother Raul Bicelis on Friday, January 14, 2005 at the Barcelona, Venezuela Airport. We then traveled 2 1/2 hours to their home in Valle Guanape. We all rejoiced to see everyone that was there to greet us. On Saturday, it was a time of rejoicing as the saints (and many visitors) gathered together with us. It brought to mind of when Alma and the four sons of Mosiah met after 14 years apart and then rejoiced that

they were still in the faith (Alma 17). Brother Fred Olexa and I took the opportunity and encouraged the saints of their responsibilities and duties as members. As Brother Fred Olexa spoke (and I translated), the Spirit spoke in Spanish, "It is truth! It is truth! saith the Lord. I have been with them and they will grow here in Valle Guanape."

At our Sunday meeting, we had 23 adults and 57 children (ages 5-19). The children are very attentive and they like to sit in the front and are like little birds waiting to be fed. Brother

Fred Olexa spoke on the love of God and of the naming of His Church. Our two new Elders, Brothers Raul Bicelis and Brother Esnel Calcureon, spoke well and followed with a beautiful spirit that was felt by all. For Elders ordained only eight months ago, these two brothers have matured very well with God's help. I was inspired to talk to the young men and women to serve the Lord in their youth because one day God can and will use them to preach to their own people here. To the young ladies, they can be used as Deaconesses and the young men can be used as Elders, Teachers and Deacons. The young people have choirs of their own age and they sang hymns for all of us which were beautiful. They are not ashamed to sing in front of the congregation. Even two of our sisters who do not speak too often because of their shyness sang a hymn, each with a wonderful spirit felt by every one. How God can change a person's life! That Sunday, three children were blessed. Many were anointed as they do not have money to go to the doctors. They truly believe in coming forward to be anointed, even the young ones bring their little brothers or sisters to be prayed on by the brothers. It was a beautiful scene. It was also a blessing for us to



Ministers: Frank Palacios, Esnel Calcureon, Raul Bicelis, and Fred Olexa

see our new Elders pass sacrament.

On Monday after school, some young people walked over to talk to us as Elders. They wanted to ask questions about The Church of Jesus Christ and about baptism. They asked very intelligent questions like a grown-up would ask. As Brother Fred Olexa responded to their questions, the Spirit spoke, "Teach them, saith the Lord, for one day they will be mine, saith the Lord." After the young people left, we brothers went to visit two couples who were not married but living as man and wife for approximately 30 years. We explained the Church's belief on marriage. Both couples accepted the belief of The Church of Jesus Christ. I had the honor to marry Yaharia Mendoza and Kenedy Quiaro and Brother Raul Bicelis married Oscar Castelanos and Carmen Antonia Lemus. This was Brother Raul Bicelis' first wedding. He said he felt humble in doing this. It was a day well spent. During the explanation of our belief on marriage in The Church of Jesus Christ, Oscar Castelanos told us that he "did not want to stand in the way of his wife's walk with Christ." Thus, Oscar Castelanos and Carmen Antonia Lemus were married according to the order and ceremony performed in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We met the next day for our fast and prayer service. With all our saints there, we read to them from Matthew 6:16-18 regarding fasting. Brother Fred Olexa and I told them of the importance of fasting and prayer and the results that can come by it. They will be doing this once a week and on the first Saturday of each month.

Later that day, two women walked a mile to have us anoint one of them. She had flu-like symptoms and a fever. She was expecting a baby so this was a concern for her. After she was anointed, Sister Rose Palacios went to hug her and the Spirit spoke, "If you trust me, I will heal you, saith the Lord." Before they left, she said she felt very well. We touched her forehead and it was cool and felt normal. Praise God for

His Word and the power He has given the Priesthood to anoint the afflicted.

On Wednesday, Sister Charlotte Olexa and Sister Rose Palacios held a Ladies' Circle meeting with our female members and women visitors. Sister Charlotte Olexa spoke and taught while Sister Rose Palacios translated for her during the meeting. They both encouraged the women to hold Ladies' Circle meetings once or twice a month. A very nice spirit prevailed as many questions were asked.

Brother Fred Olexa and Brother

Carmen Quiero began to cry very hard and said she felt the arms of Jesus wrap around her. She had been feeling very lonely and said she felt that the Lord had come to comfort her. Her spirit was lifted and renewed.

On Friday, the sisters had a get-together with 46 children who were able to come to visit. They passed out candy and little gifts to each of them. The children felt like it was Christmas morning. You could see the happiness on their faces.

Later that evening, we went to see Carmen Antonia Lemus who had



**Deaconesses: Alicia Bicelis, Catalina Quiero, Charlotte Olexa, and Rose Palacios**

Frank Palacios continued the instruction of our new Elders on the ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Raul Bicelis and Brother Esnel Calcureon remarked that it was a blessing to learn everything that they had to do as Elders. They did not want to do anything that was not done in The Church of Jesus Christ, so they were grateful. A feet washing service was held on Thursday and all felt a wonderful spirit. They will be having feet washing every three months. Brother Fred Olexa spoke to them of the importance of feet washing. As Sister Rose Palacios was washing Sister Carmen Quiero's feet, Sister

requested baptism. We explained to her and her husband the duties of a member and told her if the water of the river is high enough, we would baptize her on Saturday morning. After checking the river, the water was too low, so our resident Elders will baptize her at a later date.

During the week, our brothers visited many homes and prayed for many who were ill. No meetings were planned for our last Saturday there but many people came to visit us that day. Our sisters spoke to the women and our brothers spoke to the men, respectively. After everyone

(Continued on Page 11)



## Are You Concerned About Where You Will Spend Eternity?

By Evangelist Frank Giovannone

We invite you to come and worship with us and learn about the Gospel Restored upon the Earth—by an Angel that has flown, as stated in Revelation 14:6-7.

What about the state of the soul after death?

Paradise is a place of rest for the righteous (Luke 23:43 and Revelation 2:7).

**Where we go hereafter—depends on what we go after here.** Some of the beliefs and faith of The

Church of Jesus Christ are as follows:

### WE BELIEVE:

- In God, the Eternal Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost.
- In water baptism, by immersion, for the remission of sins (Matthew 3:13-16, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38-41).
- The reception of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:15-17, Acts 19:5-6).
- Anointing the sick for healing (James 5:14-15).
- Washing feet as Jesus did (John 13:4-15).
- We do not have a paid ministry. All our expenses, including missionary expenses, are paid for by free-will donations. **THE GOSPEL IS FREE** (Matthew 10:7-8, Acts 8:15-24).

- The Peaceful Reign upon the Earth. Zion will be established on Earth (Isaiah 1:1-4, Isaiah 11:1-2).
- All scripture will be fulfilled before the end will come (Matthew 5:18).
- The Lord's Church to be set up with ordained officers as instructed by Apostle Paul (Ephesians 4:10-17).
- In the teaching and doctrine of Christ and His Apostles (2 John 9, St. John 7:16-17, Acts 2:42, II Timothy 4:2-3, II Timothy 3:16-17).
- We believe all the Tribes of the House of Israel will be gathered in before the end will come.

AMERICA IS THE  
PROMISED LAND

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
Headquarters—6<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Sts.  
Monongahela, PA

## Apostle Dominic Thomas Passes on to His Final Reward

Continued from Page 1

construction of the General Church World Conference Center.

Brother Dominic was elected to be the First Counselor (in 1971) and the seventh President of The Church of Jesus Christ in 1974 – continuing in that office until his passing. His tenure saw successful progression of the institutions and traditions established under prior leadership and was marked by expanded internationalization of the Church which was only organized in North America, Nigeria, and Italy at the time. Less obvious to the general membership of the Church but equally important has been the continuous adaptation of administrative and financial systems to accommodate the Church's broader, more complex engagements.

When speaking of Church matters, Brother Dominic did not differentiate between natural and spiritual work; rather his reference point was a wonderful experience he had in 1983 wherein he became convicted with an unswerving passion to lead the Church in pursuit of "The Great Work of the

Lord" regardless of any setbacks or obstacles we encounter. World Missionary Conferences held in 1983 and in 1999 brought more membership of the Church into close contact with domestic, Native American, and foreign members and missionaries than ever before. The result has been a continuing trend of increasingly greater support and membership involvement in missionary work with missions in

*"It is not possible to adequately express the important role played by Brother Dominic in helping people . . . to find their respective places in life and in The Church of Jesus Christ."*

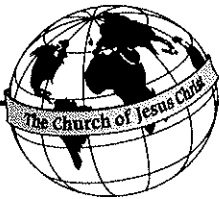
almost 30 nations today. Confronted with inadequacies in the management systems to support the Church's outreach, Brother Dominic chaired a Planning Task Force which led to the 1992 passage of the Church's present Finance and Management System including flexibility needed for continuing address of the Church's changing needs. During subsequent years, all of the Church's outstanding debt to third

parties was absorbed internally while many new branch and mission buildings have been built – financed by Branch, Region, and General Church savings programs without borrowing from outside the Church.

It is not possible to adequately express the important role played by Brother Dominic in helping people, both young and mature, to find their respective places in life and in The Church of Jesus Christ. Respecting the Church alone, if a survey was taken asking each member to list those who have had great influence upon their lives, Brother Dominic would be on the list of a great host of them. Whether dealing one-on-one, speaking to Conference, or addressing a large congregation, Brother Dominic was gifted with a combination of vocabulary, wisdom, and inspiration that resulted in wonderful conversations, messages, and sermons and made him unique in his life and in our memories. As he passes on, let us pray that the Lord will see fit to again bless the Church with the gifts that were embodied in our dear Brother Dominic Thomas.

(Additional biographical information may be found in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ: Volume 2*, p. 542 or [www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com).)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail — But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him" (Moroni 7:46-47).*

Recently, a sister who had left the Church for many years but was reinstated prior to her death was asked the question, "What is the most important thing you have learned about life in all the years that God has given you?" Her response was, "It has taken me a lifetime to understand, but I have finally learned that the only thing in life that really matters is LOVE. It is the only thing I will take with me when I face the Lord." Prior to her death, this sister called for many members of the Church who she thought she had offended by leaving the Church, and apologized to each and every one. When she had completed this process and was reinstated, she died...peacefully.

Sometimes as saints, we can get caught up in looking at each other critically, instead of looking up faithfully. At times, we can allow hurt and offense to fester within us for years, not realizing that we are jeopardizing our salvation if God should call us home. No unclean thing can enter the kingdom of Heaven. The bitter person will not be there. The person who holds a grudge against someone will not be there. The person who purposely ignores another, or gossips about them will not be there. The cold hearted will not be there. Only those who can meet this definition of charity will be there:

*"And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (Moroni 7:45).*

Breaking down this verse, we can apply each part to our lives, and check *"and see if there be any wicked way in me [us], and lead me [us] in the way everlasting"* (Psalm 139:24). By suffering long, this means patient endurance and steadfastness under provocation; forbearance under ill-will, with no thought of retaliation. Charity is kind and has a gracious disposition. Being kind means being a good listener, and interested in hearing and helping others, even when we are really not interested, or "can't be bothered." Charity does not envy. Envy is feelings of ill-will. Envy is hoping for the worse to happen to someone we are jealous of. Charity is not puffed up, or seeketh her own. This means love does not give you a constant feeling of wanting to out-do other people and secure their admiration. Charity does not make a person constantly sound their own praises ("I did this or I did that..."). Charity is not easily provoked. This means even when our integrity or character is attacked; we do not retaliate, but respond in love and humbleness. Charity does not give you evil thoughts, or cause you to keep track of the offenses committed against you. The saying "forgive and forget" needs to be real in our lives. Charity does not rejoice in iniquity, or take delight in that which is offensive to God. Laughing at a dirty joke is a simple example. There are many others. Beareth, believeth, hopeth and endureth all things means believing the best in each other unless convinced otherwise (not the other way around). Even in secular society, you are "innocent until proven guilty." It means hoping by having a positive outlook, not constantly being negative and suspicious about everything and everyone (even if you have had many disappointments in the past). Enduring all things is a military term that means to sustain the assaults of the enemy. We may fall when the enemy attacks, but praise God we can get right back up and continue pressing our way to that tree of life, just like our sister did.

Paul said that all things will pass away, but charity will endure FOREVER. Charity will never fail you and me. It is the greatest weapon we as saints have. Let's use it to its fullest, and I'm sure, we will overcome every obstacle, win every battle, and weather every storm that will come.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God Who Seeth in Secret

(Matthew Sixth Chapter)

Dear Boys and Girls,

As you get older you will notice many things about yourself that you do well and many things that others do better than you. You have a choice about how to feel. You can be happy they are doing so good and try to work hard to improve yourself, or you can be jealous hearted and secretly hate them. Which way do you think is the right way?

When Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, they began a family. They raised their sons, Cain and Abel, to love and be thankful to God. God taught them to show their thankfulness by saying prayers and giving an offering to be burned while they prayed. The older brother, Cain, liked to work outside and grew wonderful fruits and vegetables. The younger brother, Abel, was a shepherd, a man who worked well with animals and had beautiful flocks of sheep.

When it came time to pray, Abel brought the best and fattest sheep to offer up to God. Cain held back and only gave the second best of his crops. God saw and knew just as He does know us today. God was pleased with Abel and not with Cain. He told Cain. When Cain was faced with what he had done wrong, he attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him in a



jealous rage. God came to Cain and sent him away.

Today, we don't sacrifice animals and crops. Today we are taught to have thankful hearts and give part of our money back to the Lord. God sees what we do. He promises to reward us.

Many years ago I was a divorced, young mother raising a little girl by myself. I had a good job but not much extra money. I had to be very careful. I was worrying a lot about having money and one day I realized I hadn't given God any money for quite awhile. I felt ashamed of myself. I'd saved about a hundred dollars and was planning to buy new clothes for a special wedding that was coming up. But in my heart, it still felt wrong that I had not given any money to our church, our missionaries, or to any of God's work. I knew I was wrong, but I didn't want to face it.

I prayed for wisdom as to what to do. I prayed to be willing to do the right thing. Then I realized that as long as I was neat and clean, nobody really cared what I wore to the wedding. I quietly put the money in an envelope and gave it to the Church. It felt so right.

The next Wednesday I went to church for our evening meeting. As I was walking into the building, one of the older sisters called out to me, "Sister Jan, I have something for you. Come and see."

I walked over. She unzipped a clothing bag as she continued speaking, "I hope you won't be offended. It's brand new. After I bought this, I decided that I didn't want it. I thought of you. I even bought a new blouse to go with it for you."

It was gorgeous. The sales tags said \$150.00 – far more than I'd ever spent on one dress! I was thrilled. I was grateful. The skirt flowed when I walked. My friends told me how beautiful the suit looked with my hair.

God heard my fears. God knew what I had done in secret when I gave my hundred dollars to His work. God helped me do the right thing then He rewarded me openly. Later, I got to thinking, and wondering. Why would I hold back from God when He had given me everything that I had? He had protected me, given me all of my abilities to learn, to do work, to go to school, to try new hobbies, to have

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

MATTHEW	HAND
SIX	KNOW
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GIVE	HAND
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ALMS	GOD
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## Youth in Action

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The locations and dates for this year's GMBA Youth in Action tours have been finalized. Here is a quick summary:

### 1. Tse Bonito, NM (June 24-July 1)

This will be a busy tour as participants will be assisting with a Vacation Bible School in the evenings while performing traditional YIA activities during the days. Participants traveling to the Southwest for this tour will be able to continue on to GMBA Campout as soon as the tour concludes. Tour coordinator will be Brother Michael Watson.

### 2. Levittown, PA (July 23-31)

Levittown has recently divided into two branches. This tour will focus on the original location as part of the branch's effort to fill the building again. Tour coordinator will be Brother Jerry Valenti who will experience for the first time being part of the host branch for a YIA tour.

### 3. Spartanburg, SC (July 30 - August 7)

YIA will return to Spartanburg for the first time since 1997. Activities will involve neighborhood canvassing and other efforts at building up the branch. Tour coordinator will be Brother Josh Nicklow.

Young people (ages 15 and up) who are interested in participating in a Youth in Action tour need to complete a registration form and submit the \$30 registration fee. First-time applicants need to obtain a recommendation letter from a branch elder. Registration forms can be obtained from YIA

Secretary Brother David Lovalvo at [dlovalvo@aaahawk.com](mailto:dlovalvo@aaahawk.com). Questions on any of the tours can be addressed to either the tour coordinator or YIA Chairman Brother Jerry Valenti at [abacommish@aol.com](mailto:abacommish@aol.com).

If you know any young people who are not on this mailing list, please forward this notice to them. We want to make sure everyone is informed of the YIA plans so all have the option of participating and beginning to develop their missionary skills. Please continue to pray for the success of this program.

God bless you,  
Brother Jerry Valenti  
YIA Chairman

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The Church of Jesus Christ  
GMBA Campout 2005  
July 2-8  
Northern Arizona University (NAU)  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
[www.gmbacampout.org](http://www.gmbacampout.org)

## The Mountain of the Lord

The saints of the Southwest Area MBA are honored to host the 2005 GMBA Campout, and in what more appropriate place than the beautiful high country of Flagstaff, Arizona; amid the stately Ponderosa pines and Aspen, where mountain vistas abound and archeological remains of the ancient people are evident. We, who claim the Southwest as home, have fallen in love with the diverse beauty of God's creation and welcome you to share it with us along with the anticipated blessings of the week.



## Branch and Mission News

### News from Gastonia, North Carolina

*By Sister Virginia Molinatto*

The Gastonia Mission is now meeting every Sunday since the transfer of Brother Darrell and Sister Connie Rossi. Several other members have moved to the Gastonia area. Brother David and Sister Barbara Williams, along with their children, are now living in Salisbury, NC; Sister Christine Vinci and her husband and daughter are living in Charlotte; and Sister Karen Rodriguez has transferred from Freehold, NJ and is living in Winston Salem, NC taking care of an elderly aunt. We now are sixteen members strong and the Good Lord is blessing us with wonderful meetings.

We continue to be spread across the western part of North Carolina with travel time ranging from ten minutes to three and one-half hours. Sister Beverly Schuette is living in Blairsville, GA (southwest of Bryson City), but travels to Atlanta.

We are thankful to the Good Lord for all of His blessings.

### Evangelist Ordination

In 2 Peter 3:9 the word states, "The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Down through the ages of time the spirit of God has pierced the hearts of many men; that they would tell the news of salvation to the dying souls of men and women. And "they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thought that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to

quake and tremble."

This heart that has been pierced is the heart of an Evangelist. Ready to go for the Lord anytime, anywhere. Willing to leave home, family and the safety of the fold to tell others of the Good Shepherd. This heart burns with the desire to bring them in; to bring them in from the fields of sin.

This is the heart that God has given to Brother John Genaro and the day has come that he has been called to serve the Lord as an Evangelist. Many saints gathered to witness his ordination, along with many members of his extended family, employees and friends. What a wonderful opportunity to let others hear the message of salvation.

The meeting was opened by Brother Nephi Demercurio, who challenged all to "get out of the box and become what God wants you to become." Brother Paul Palmieri followed saying God receives us as we are and then molds and shapes us into something beautiful for His honor and glory. Brother Wayne Martorana followed quoting, "Be fixed in your purpose for Satan will try you, the weight of your calling he perfectly knows." He expressed his desire that Brother John would receive the spirit of the Apostle Paul and the blessing as the sons of Mosiah as he goes to the mission fields.

Brother John's feet were washed by Brother Paul Palmieri. At this time a vision was had showing fire coming down from Heaven and consuming his whole body. The ordination prayer was offered by Brother Phil Jackson. Brother Phil asked the Lord to clothe Brother John with the same garments as the Seventy for the harvest is great. "Give him the gift of prayer, power in prayer, power over evil, power to cast out demons, heal the sick and the power of Jesus Christ."

Within 24 hours of this prayer our brother along with four other brothers will be on their way to India.

"For their hearts were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thought that any soul should endure endless torment did

cause them to quake and tremble."

After a beautiful service of feasting at the spiritual table of the Lord, we congregated for a beautiful lunch provided by Brother John's branch. Can we count the many blessings of God? We were blessed with a beautiful day of honoring this holy calling for Brother John Genaro.

### Forest Hills, Florida

*By Sister Alicia Draskovich*

As the holiday season approaches, the saints and friends of the Forest Hills, FL Branch are being filled with blessings and thanksgiving as we witnessed ordinations, gifts, and blessings abound.

On Sunday, November 21, many gathered, including ministry from almost every region of the Church, to witness and share in the joy as Brother Sam Risola Jr. was ordained into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. Brother John Griffith explained that the Church was clearly set in order so the saints could experience a portion of the Kingdom of God on earth. Ephesians, Chapter 4 was referenced to show that in this order Evangelists had the responsibility of gathering. Brother John emphasized that as missionary work has increased dramatically in the past decade it is especially important to focus efforts on a local level. Brother Dennis Moraco stated that an Evangelist has a dual role: to take the Gospel to new fields and to perfect the saints by bringing a spirit of revival to branches and missions, thus reiterating the importance of local evangelizing.

Brother Dennis related, as a confirmation to Brother Sam's calling, that the Region Evangelists had been fasting and praying for brothers to be called. On a conference call, following a day of fast and prayer for this cause, Brother Sam's name was brought forth. Brother Ken Staley expressed to the brothers that as he was having dinner with Brother Sam a few weeks prior, he began to weep at the dinner table because the Lord spoke to his heart and he felt the Lord calling

Brother Sam.

There was a beautiful spirit during the ordination. As Brother Miguel Bicelis washed our brother's feet he prayed that Brother Sam would carry the spirit of restoration and that his priority would be the bringing forth of Zion. Brother Gene Perri, President of the Quorum of Seventy, ordained our brother. He prayed that Brother Sam's heart would be full of compassion for those lost in sin, that his tongue would be loosed, and he would be inspired to preach and touch the hearts of men.

We were blessed to hear from some of the visiting ministry following the ordination. Brother Nephi DeMercurio from the Great Lakes Region spoke to the congregation about the power of God being the essential theme of the Church. He related his testimony of his conversion and his missionary efforts in Africa to emphasize the importance of the power of God and how it works in our lives. He told the congregation that the power of God fell upon him when Brother Sam's name was brought forth at General Church Conference and caused him to make the trip to Florida to be a part of the ordination. Brother Nephi expounded on the theme with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of Ether, describing how the brother of Jared saw the finger of God and how God's power caused the stones to produce light. He explained that it is God's power that preserves America for His people. Although there is good and evil on this land, America is a very special place for those who serve the Lord. Brother Nephi concluded by saying that one can learn and try to understand the Gospel but to know it is true the element of God's power must fall upon you. This is the proof of the Gospel.

Brother Stacey Light, visiting from the Pacific Coast Region, followed. As he described the spirit of an Evangelist he referenced Alma and the four sons of Mosiah and their desire to go out from Zarahemla and preach to the Lamanites. Brother Stacey's wish was that Brother Sam would never cease to quake and tremble, as these five men did, at the

thought that even one soul would have to suffer in sin. He charged all saints to take on this same responsibility to those who do not know the Gospel. We should all have a smile on our face, a testimony on our lips, and joy in our hearts.

During the ordination two visions were given. Brother George Timms, sitting on the rostrum in front of Brother Sam and Brother Miguel, felt power come from the two brothers and pass through him. Then in front of him he saw moving water that was about five feet wide and six inches deep. The water was very pure and clear, and it was rounded and smooth at the edges. He saw small ripples that moved around the edge and out toward Sister Arleen Risola. The water wrapped around Sister Arleen and the vision ended. Brother George also felt that Brother Kevin Murphy had had a vision which was confirmed by Brother Kevin. As Brother Nephi was speaking about the Brother of Jared's faith to be able to see the finger of God, Brother Kevin saw the walls of the church begin to shimmer and the rostrum moved backward and stretched outward as if the whole room expanded two-fold.

We were again truly blessed the following Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> as many visitors returned staying in the area for the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting was dedicated to singing and testimony. Brother Chuck Kogler from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region opened the service speaking from Isaiah and discussed the privilege we are given to feast on the blessings of God. Several testimonies of thanksgiving were expressed. We felt a wonderful spirit and as we formed a circle to close in prayer, tongues were spoken with the interpretation following, *"Greater blessings will befall you, thus saith the Lord."*

On Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> our hearts overflowed as we met again with many returning and new visitors to witness the most precious ordinance of the Church, the blessing of a baby. Connor Bicelis Griffith, son of Brother Bryan and Sister Heylen Griffith was blessed by his grandfather, Brother John Griffith. Not a dry eye was left in

the congregation as Brother Bryan sang to his newborn son a song entitled *Miracle*.

Our first speaker Brother Miguel Bicelis introduced the spirit and theme of innocence. He asked the question, "How do we get back our innocence?" He explained that innocence is a gift and the only way to gain it is to seek Christ in our lives. Christ gives us the opportunity to once again become blameless. Brother Miguel referenced the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm to show that even David wanted God to search his heart to make sure he was blameless through His grace. Brother Miguel instructed us to continually ask ourselves if we are alive in Christ as all children are alive in Christ, and we must become as little children, according to the scriptures.

Brother Chuck Maddox from the Ohio-Midwest Region followed reiterating the need to seek Christ in our lives. As a parent would say to a child so God would say to us that there is nothing you could do that would make me stop loving you. Brother Chuck told the congregation about a man wondering the desert and thirsting for water. He came upon a dried up pump and a bottle of water. There was a note on the bottle that instructed the man to either drink the water he saw or pour it into the pump and have abundant water. The man had a decision to make: drink what he knew for sure was there or trust the instructions on the bottle. This is the decision we have to make as we search for Christ in our lives. As the man poured the water down the pump he began to pump the handle and after a few tries the water began to flow. When the man went to leave he filled up the bottle of water and added to the instructions, "P.S. It really works!" When we realize the truth we want to tell everyone, but Brother Chuck told us to tell those who are seeking to just ask God for the truth and wait for the answer. When you give it all to God he will return it back to you ten-fold.

Brother Ken Lombardo from the Atlantic Coast Region enthusiastically rose to his feet to follow Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

## Forest Hills, Florida

Continued from Page 9

Chuck because his message was given to him the night prior and summed it all up. He told the congregation that "it's simple" and the message is plain. He quoted 2 Nephi 31:10 "follow thou me" and emphasized that it is just that simple. The Lord delights in plainness and He will speak to you according to your understanding. Brother Ken told us of a conversation he had had with a five-year-old boy in Dominica. When he asked the little boy the name of the mountainous road he was on between the meeting place and the home of his hosts, the boy thought for a moment and very smartly replied that that way is called "UP" and that way is called "DOWN" (pointing in either direction up and down the mountain). It was then that it was planted in Brother Ken's heart that the Gospel is that simple.

Brother Scott Griffith reported to the congregation that he felt a repentant spirit in the building. Although no baptisms were requested at the time we know the Lord was working on the hearts of those present that have not yet made a covenant with Him. Our cups were truly overflowing as the meeting came to a close recalling the clear presence of the Lord being felt from meeting to meeting.

We are all too humbled to praise our God who makes himself known to us through His spirit and the many gifts He bestows. It was on the following Wednesday evening that a message was given to us yet again. As we were discussing Alma 37, Alma passes on the plates to his son Helaman, tongues were spoken with the interpretation following "*Generation after generation will this truth be revealed.*" Sister Vestalia Bicelis confirmed the message reporting that just prior her eyes fell upon Alma 37:14 which reads "*And now remember my son, that God has entrusted you with these things, which are sacred, which he has kept sacred, and also which he will keep and preserve for a wise purpose in him, that he may show forth his power*

*unto future generations.*"

We serve a powerful, living God whose desire it is to speak to the hearts of all men that they may one day all fall under the sound of this glorious Gospel. The saints of the Forest Hills Branch have been blessed by these messages and experiences. Our prayer is that all may feel blessed by this recounting of events.

## A New Year, A New Level of Dedication

By Sister Karen L. Progar

The Lord is always telling us something. Sometimes He tells us through dreams, sometimes He tells us through experiences and many times He tells us through the sermons He puts upon the hearts of our Elders. Those sermons have been the means by which the Lord has been speaking to the brothers, sisters and friends of the Aliquippa Branch. The very first sermon of the year dealt with the Lord's expectations of us.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri spoke to us regarding the Lord's advice to Peter in Luke Chapter Five. The Lord told Peter to go a little deeper, likening it to His expectation that we go a little deeper. He stated that the Lord provided the fish for Peter, so will He provide the bounty when we put forth the effort. He encouraged us to think about things we can do to improve our service, reminding us that God is waiting to bless us. He stressed that we must go out a little further, extending ourselves. Brother Paul Aaron affirmed that God will provide the increase of our efforts.

Brother Joe Ross followed Brother Paul stating that there is only one way to increase our righteousness and that is obedience to the commandments of God, while loving our brothers and sisters. When we love something, we prove it by our actions. He encouraged us to do a little more and our level of righteousness will increase in 2005.

As confirmation of the message,

Brother John D'Antonio related an experience he had when inquiring of the Lord what the message would be for the day. He was given to know that we must do a little better. Could the Lord be more specific?

The above message came to us in the first sermon of January. Since then, we have been shown that God is expecting His people to do better. At a recent fast and prayer meeting, the Lord truly blessed the attendance of the membership. Encouragement from the priesthood had no doubt improved the attendance, but God was the one who blessed the effort. The spirit of God entered the room with such power that all in attendance felt that spirit.

It is a blessing to know that God rewards even our smallest efforts. When we take on a job, we must do it with an achievable short term goal because a grand goal overwhelms us. I heard a saying recently, "By the yard it's hard, but by the inch it's a cinch." We should all try to improve our service in some small way each day. Send a card, make a call, say an additional prayer, read a portion of the scripture each day or put forth the effort to attend one more meeting than you think is feasible in your schedule and the long term goal will be within our reach.

## Liberty, Ohio

By Sister Barbara Nuzzi

It's Sunday and the Liberty Branch is filled with the saints, visitors and lots of excitement. God has blessed us by calling two of our sisters into the office of deaconess. Sister Karen Progar started our day by singing, *Make Me A Blessing*. We had opening prayer and then Brother Bob Batson sang, *In the Garden*.

Our opening speaker was Brother Phil Jackson and he spoke from Ephesians 5:22 and Malachi 3, comparing Christ to the Church as a groom to his bride and the glorious wedding day. He told us how the bride must prepare herself and give attention to the smallest detail that when her



groom looks on her he will be awed by her beauty. Likewise, the Church must be arrayed in pure beauty down to the smallest jot and tittle; ready for the moment we step before our groom. He charged us to prepare ourselves, for the wedding day is quickly approaching.

Brother Ron Genaro expounded on the deep and abiding love shared by a husband and wife, telling us that this deep and abiding love is nurtured by trust and faith in one another.

Brother Bob Batson wrapped up the sermon by saying Christ will be the perfect groom. His bride will not have to worry as to whether He will provide for her.

It was beautiful to hear about the everlasting love that Christ has for the Church and our hope was renewed to look forward to the unfolding of the latter day prophecies and promises.

Brother Wayne Martorana spoke of the duties and importance of the office of a deaconess. Then our presiding elder, Brother Ron Giovonnonne shared the experiences regarding the calling of our sisters. He then called the two sisters forward. As the sisters took their seats all of the deaconesses in attendance came forward and encircled our sisters and offered a prayer.

Sister Lisa Francione's feet were washed by Sister Lorie Prokup and the ordination prayer was offered by Brother Ralph Cartino.

Sister Susan Genaro's feet were washed by Sister Jean Genaro and the ordination prayer was offered by Brother John Genaro. The gift of tongues was given verifying these callings.

We had a beautiful day that ended (as it usually does) with a beautiful meal and even better fellowship. It is always such a blessing to be among such a great crowd of witnesses.

## Message from the Seventy

Continued from Page 3

had left, we were in the living room reminiscing of the week's activities

and what joy it was to be there with them. A dream was had and related where a man came through the gate in front of Brother Raul Bicelis' home. Brother Fred Olexa and I were sitting down and he came and told us that God was pleased with the teachings we had taught our brother Elders. We thank God for this experience.

One other evening, as we got together to go over what we had done through the week, I asked Brother Fred Olexa to anoint me because I was getting a bad spasm in my lungs. No sooner had he finished his prayer, the pain I had felt began to leave me. I thank God for His mercy towards me.

On Saturday night, I had a dream where the young people came to me and Brother Fred Olexa and said, "We now have this oil. What do we do with it?" What does this dream mean? It means that it is decision time for some of them now that they have the Gospel there.

On the last Sunday service, we had 85 people in attendance. After the sacrament table was set, Brother Raul Bicelis opened in prayer. I opened with Luke 15:11 regarding the prodigal son. I encouraged the young ones that at times we think we are doing right but it may not be God's way yet. If God is in the matter, all will turn out right. Our brothers continued on the same subject. Brother Fred Olexa told them that many times as members, we tend to go astray in different ways and have to always come back to the right way. All the brothers expressed themselves as to how they were before they met The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Raul Bicelis encouraged the mothers and fathers to keep bringing their children to church even after we return to the United States. The young ones sang hymns for us as we said our farewell. It was not easy to say goodbye but we know that one day we will be together again. As we were leaving, we passed the homes of our members and were saddened to be leaving them.

On the plane on Monday, as our plane was picking up speed to go on the runway, all of a sudden the pilot

put on the brakes and we all felt a jolt. To our left, another plane was approaching to land on our runway. We thank God for His protection.

As we arrived in Cleveland, my wife saw a double rainbow and told me to look. She took three pictures of it. The attendants then requested all electronics be put away and to be prepared to land. My wife looked out the window again and the rainbow was still there, but now she saw the shadow of our plane in the middle of the rainbow. It was a blessing because the Lord was reminding us that He protected us and brought us back safely as He had promised.

Later that night, Brother Fred Olexa called to say they had arrived safely in Pittsburgh. He told us that they had seen a double rainbow upon their landing, just as we did in Ohio. God is so good.

Thanks to all our brothers and sisters for your prayers during our trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela. We close by saying "**Mission Accomplished.**"

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

good health. I would not have had one good thing if God hadn't already given it to me first. It all really belongs to Him.

Jesus said in Matthew 6th Chapter, "When you do give alms [money] let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving shall be in secret, and God, which seeth in secret shall reward you openly."

Don't only give money, give of your time and your prayers. It works for me. I know it will for you. Pray and try. See what God will do back for you. Give your testimony to others.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Children Blessed

Devon Jay Lynn Montour-Hill, daughter of Devon Hill and Jamie Montour-Hill, was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Andre Albert Dasilva, son of Herve and Connie Dasilva was blessed on November 7, 2004 in the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch.

Mariela Sofia Ramos, daughter of Sister Cristy Reynolds Ramos and Tony Ramos was blessed on December 19, 2004 at the Simi Valley, California Branch.

Autumn Alizabeth Antone, daughter of Robert Antone and Dina Sickles was blessed on January 16, 2005 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch.

Calvin Michael Gibson, son of Brother Brett and Sister Julie Gibson was blessed on February 20, 2005 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Michael Piacentino of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, celebrated 70 years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Lena Pontillo of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, celebrated 70 years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Jason Thomas was baptized on July 13, 2004 in the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton and confirmed by Brother Jeff Giannetti.

Sister Alicia Lydia Lobzun was baptized on January 16, 2005 in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Donald Collison.

Sister Eleanor Pilato from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, was reinstated on October 17, 2004 by Brother Gary Coppa.

Brother Aaron Dix from the, Plumbrook Michigan Branch, was reinstated by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Sister Carol Baird was baptized on September 24, 2004 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Frank Giovannone and confirmed by Brother Richard Santilli.

Brother Ed Ainsworth from the Liberty, Ohio Branch, was reinstated on January 23, 2005.

Brother Kevin L. Burns was baptized on September 5, 2004 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Rose D. Andrews was baptized on November 21, 2004 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. She was baptized by Brother Chatman Young and confirmed by Brother Joel Calabrese.

Brother James E. Andrews, Sr. was baptized on November 2, 2004 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato and confirmed by Brother Lawrence King.

Brother John Bloom from the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, was reinstated on January 16, 2005.

## OBITUARIES

### TIMOTHY E. GIBSON, JR.

Brother Timothy E. Gibson, Jr. of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on February 18, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Betty Jean Giannetti Gibson; son, Brother Jason and his wife Sister Terri; and son Timothy; two brothers, Brother Jim and Brother Paul Gibson, as well as five grandchildren.

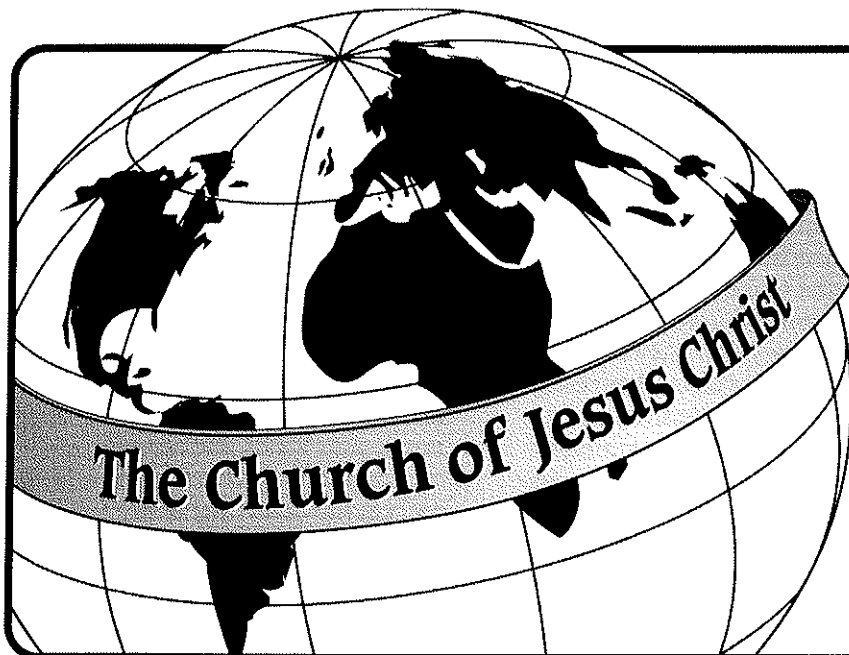
### Directory Update

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The Church of Jesus Christ  
Fredonia Branch  
P.O. Box 439  
Fredonia, PA 16124

Stroko, Tom and Peggy  
132 Cooper St.  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
724-438-1391

Watson, Larry and Vanessa  
P. O. Box 3236  
Gallup, NM 87305-3236



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

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Volume 61, No. 5

## Fifteen Year Search in Maracaibo, Venezuela

*By Brother Donald Ross*

Brothers Richard Christman, Miguel Bicelis, Paul A. Palmieri, Timothy Mott and Donald Ross had the privilege of visiting Maracaibo, Venezuela. Maracaibo is the second largest city in Venezuela with a population of approximately 1.5 million people. The purpose of the visit was to present The Church of Jesus Christ to Jose Chavez Hernandez, who is 26 years of age, his family and friends.

This opportunity presented itself when Jose Chavez Hernandez found The Church of Jesus Christ website in late November and early December 2004 and began to inquire about the Faith and Doctrine. He was formerly affiliated with other Restoration groups and other faiths but always felt there was more to the faith as originally established by Jesus Christ. He began his search when he was 11 years of age! He was persistent and diligent in his efforts to find the true way of salvation.

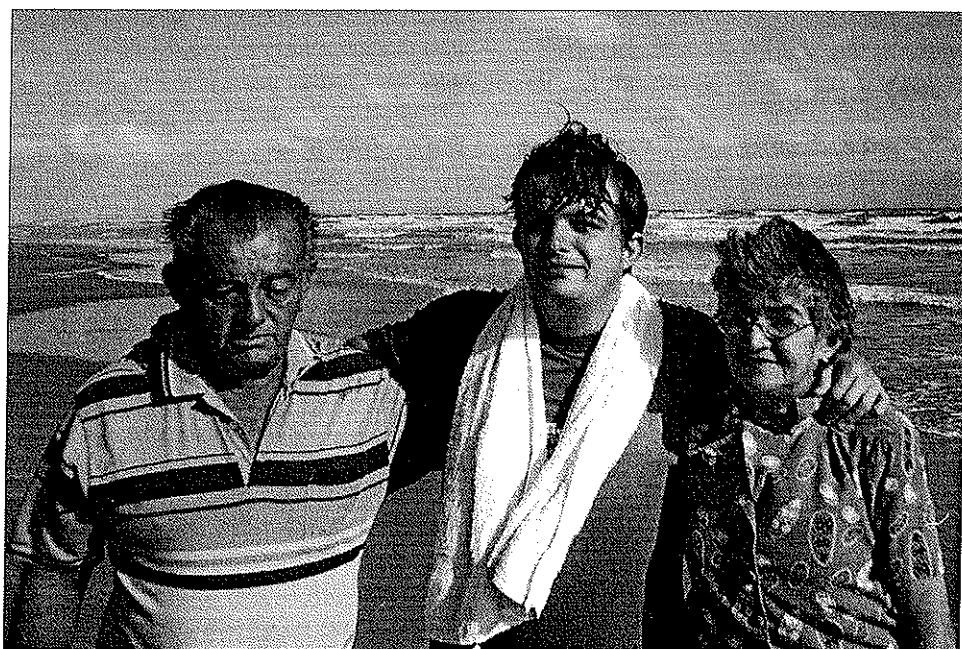
During the next several weeks, he corresponded by asking questions about the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. He also asked many other questions concern-

ing baptism, anointing, the Holy Spirit, the Restoration, Zion, communion, ordained offices within the Church and whether or not The Church of Jesus Christ was a separate and distinct organization and not affiliated with any other faith. All his questions were answered and he stated a number of times he wanted to be a

member and be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

We met with Jose Chavez Hernandez on Friday, January 28, 2005. With him was his brother. We greeted one another in the love of God, shared a long lunch together, discussing The Church of Jesus Christ. Jose Chavez Hernandez was firm in his conviction and stated once again during our conversation his desire was to be baptized and become a member

(Continued on Page 2)



Angel Hernandez, Jose Chavez Hernandez, Daysi Hernandez

## Our Trip To Guatemala

By Brother John Buffa

After talking to Evangelist Paul Ciotti, a door was opened for me to take a trip to Guatemala. During the weeks prior to our trip, many thoughts and prayers were going through my mind because of my desire to do God's will and to be used by Him. Working in the mission field in Italy, and loving the work and the people, I had the chance to see another location.

Early Wednesday morning, October 27, 2004, I departed from Metro Airport in Michigan and flew into Houston, Texas, where I met Brother Ciotti. We flew together into Guatemala City, having enjoyed a very good flight. As we were flying over the mountains and valleys into Guatemala, the song entitled, *The Valleys Are Green, Sir*, came to Brother Paul. My heart began to swell to know this was a part of the land we read and study about in the Book of Mormon, where the Nephites and Lamanites once walked.

Brother Luis Marroquin awaited us there. I had met him several times in the past at Church conferences and campouts and always saw him as being a very dedicated man. My thoughts were confirmed when viewing the work God had entrusted to him. Taken to his home, his family so graciously welcomed us.

The following day, Thursday, we went into town and Brother Luis showed us the coffee shop he owns. From there it was our desire to visit with the brothers and sisters in their homes. On Thursday evening, we had the pleasure of meeting with the saints at the church building. The love they have is beyond words as they welcomed us. As we began to sing, I closed my eyes. Although there were only about thirty people gathered together, it sounded as though the angels had come to join us. It was simply beautiful! We had a class that evening; the theme of the lesson being, "Behold the Glory of God." (This theme stayed with us all

week.) After our class we sang *My God Reigns* (in Spanish being *Reina Dios*). While singing this song under a very powerful spirit, Brother Ciotti spoke in the Gift of Tongues. The interpretation was given, "I will gather all my children before My throne to sing praises to me throughout eternity." Sister Marta Amirez had a vision. She saw the Lord sitting on the rostrum. After the meeting, we greeted one another and the love felt was beyond words. We could not wait until meeting again on Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning, we awoke with great anticipation of what the Lord had in store for His people. Sisters Terry Everett and Judy Salerno had arrived the day before and they too were looking forward to the blessings of God. At the church building, there was a season of singing. Brother Ciotti was our opening speaker. He had a scripture ready to read in the Book of Genesis, but the Lord had a different message for him to deliver. The message was found in the Book of Isaiah 52:7-12 which starts out, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Brother Paul continued, stating God saw we needed to be like Him, and the only way we could do this was for God to send His Son Jesus Christ, that through Him we would see the example.

The young people sang a few selections. Sister Marta had a vision in which she saw Jesus on His knees, praying prayers of praise. The heavens opened and God sent a dove that began to fly around the church. A sister stood up and related that while Brother Paul was speaking and Brother Luis was translating, she saw Jesus embracing them.

I then followed, continuing on the same scripture in Isaiah. I was overcome with the Spirit of God before I even began to speak. I then spoke about when we get to Heaven, not even a hair on our head would be changed, and we will be perfect.

When Christ ascended to heaven, He took with Him the scars that were placed there from Calvary. While I was speaking, a sister heard the Lord speak to her and He told her to turn to the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of III Nephi. When she opened her Book of Mormon, it fell open to III Nephi 11:14, "Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am God of Israel, and God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."

Sister Judy Salerno spoke in the Gift of Tongues and Sister Anna had the interpretation, "Praise Christ, Praise Christ, Praise Christ." Brother Alfred saw a train literally going up to heaven and he heard a voice, "Don't hold your testimonies of praise back, they are going up to heaven."

Sister Judy was anointed, as she was not feeling well. Sister Anna was praying that, while Sister Judy was being anointed, she would be healed, too. She felt warmth go from her head down through her body.

The meeting was brought to a close. We left with our cups filled to overflowing, for the goodness and mercies of God were overwhelming.

We look forward to returning to this part of the vineyard, where God's Spirit is truly prevalent among His people.

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## Maracaibo, Venezuela

Continued from Page 1

of The Church of Jesus Christ. The brothers agreed to his request for baptism and decided to make his 15 year search come to an end. It was agreed to baptize him the following day, Saturday.

After lunch, we visited Jose Chavez Hernandez's uncle, Vinicio Hernandez, who was very ill with cirrhosis of the liver. We were met by a beautiful family with a beautiful spirit. We met Magalia Hernandez, Vinicio Hernandez's wife, their daughter and granddaughter. It was

evident the illness was taking its toll on Vinicio Hernandez. He had requested to be anointed during one of the correspondence sessions. We were there to honor that request. Apostle Richard Christman anointed him and you could feel a beautiful spirit was in the home. Vinicio Hernandez and his family were very appreciative we visited them and honored their request.

That evening, we visited Jose Chavez Hernandez's parents in their home. Their names are Angel (father), Daysi (mother), and Angel (brother). We had a wonderful discussion. The brothers spoke of The Church of Jesus Christ, how we conduct meetings, our beliefs and that our sole purpose was to bring the message to them of the Restored Gospel. We also encouraged Jose Chavez Hernandez's brother Angel, who was being buffeted and having a very difficult time. His desire is to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. We also visited and spoke with Dulce, Jose Chavez Hernandez's girlfriend. She is a wonderful young woman. She also wants to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Jose Chavez Hernandez was baptized on Saturday, January 29, 2005. We journeyed by three taxis to the Caribbean Sea, a one hour drive. The entire Hernandez family attended the baptism. Jose Chavez Hernandez was baptized by Brother Don Ross. As he came up out of the water, he put his arms around me and simply said, "Ah!" He felt the burden of the past lifted and was now free from that past! On the way back to Maracaibo, I asked him, "Brother Jose, do you mind if I ask you a question?" He responded, "Fine." I asked him, "How do you feel?" He looked at me and said, "Free!" A simple, yet exciting one word response. He felt free!

As we rode back to Maracaibo, we were asked to anoint a family friend. We stopped to take care of this anointing. Their friend is suffering from cancer. What a blessing to be asked to pray for someone in need, whether natural or spiritual. What a blessing to anoint someone who is ill

in the name of the Lord and ask Him for His healing grace and mercy.

During our return to Maracaibo, Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez, was called back to work in Valera City. He is a television producer for a show for young people; the age group is 15-25. They wanted him to return to work on Sunday. Therefore, we met back at our hotel that afternoon, Saturday, and confirmed Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri laid hands on Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez and with the Priesthood Authority, bestowed the gift of the Holy Ghost upon him. We then had

He asked about the truth, beliefs and Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez was instructed to read Moroni 10:4 in the Book of Mormon, which states, "...I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if you ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." He states that as he prayed, asking God about The Church of Jesus Christ, he once again felt the Spirit of God. He went on to say that the third time he experienced the



**Left to right: Paul A. Palmieri, Don Ross, Richard Christman, Timothy Mott, Jose Chavez Hernandez, Daysi Hernandez, Miguel Bicelis, Angel Hernandez.**

communion. What a blessing was felt! What a beautiful spirit was shared!

Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez was asked by Brother Paul A. Palmieri whether he ever felt and experienced the Spirit of God. Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez answered, "Yes, three times!" The first time is when he asked God whether the Book of Mormon is true. He stated he felt the Spirit of God as he prayed and asked this question. The second time was during his correspondence with me.

Spirit of God was when the Priesthood laid hands on him and this gift was bestowed by Brother Palmieri.

We met at the home of Brother Jose Chavez Hernandez's parent's for the Sunday Service. It was opened by Evangelist Miguel Bicelis. He used the Scripture of the Good Shepherd, John 10:11-16. He was followed by Brothers Palmieri, Don Ross, Christman and Timothy Mott. Brother Timothy Mott was our

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## Note of Appreciation from the IMOC

To The Church of Jesus Christ  
Branch and Mission Sunday Schools

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

The International Missionary Operating Committee extends its sincere gratitude to the Sunday Schools of the branches and missions for their generosity and donation to the Quorum of Seventy Welfare and Relief Fund.

There are many needs in the missionary fields of The Church of Jesus Christ. The money will be used and distributed on a priority basis within the mission fields for welfare and relief purposes. The funds will be put to very good use in the mission fields.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless the Sunday Schools, the officers, and many supporters for their focus, goodness, and generosity for the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ,

Brother Paul Liberto  
IMOC Chairman

Brother Don Ross  
IMOC Secretary

### Maracaibo, Venezuela

Continued from Page 3

translator and was excellent serving in this capacity. He brought his guitar and taught a number of our hymns.

We experienced a wonderful spirit in our meeting. The entire Hernandez family had tears in their eyes. They all expressed themselves in testimony. They felt the effects and blessings of The Church of Jesus Christ. Vinicio Hernandez, who was anointed on Friday afternoon, was there and looked fine. The swelling in his stomach was gone and he looked

strong! He thanked God for answering the prayer of faith and anointing. We praise God for His mercy and answered prayer. Every attendee asked to be anointed. Angel Hernandez, the father, asked to be anointed to overcome a habit of tobacco dependency. His wife, Daysi, asked to be anointed for physical strength. We again anointed Vinicio Hernandez at his request. We anointed Magalia Hernandez who suffers from seizures and high blood pressure. We laid hands on Angel Hernandez (the son) for direction. At the conclusion of the meeting, Angel Hernandez (the father) stated, "You are always welcome in our home to visit and conduct meetings whenever you are in Maracaibo!" He has since asked for his baptism!

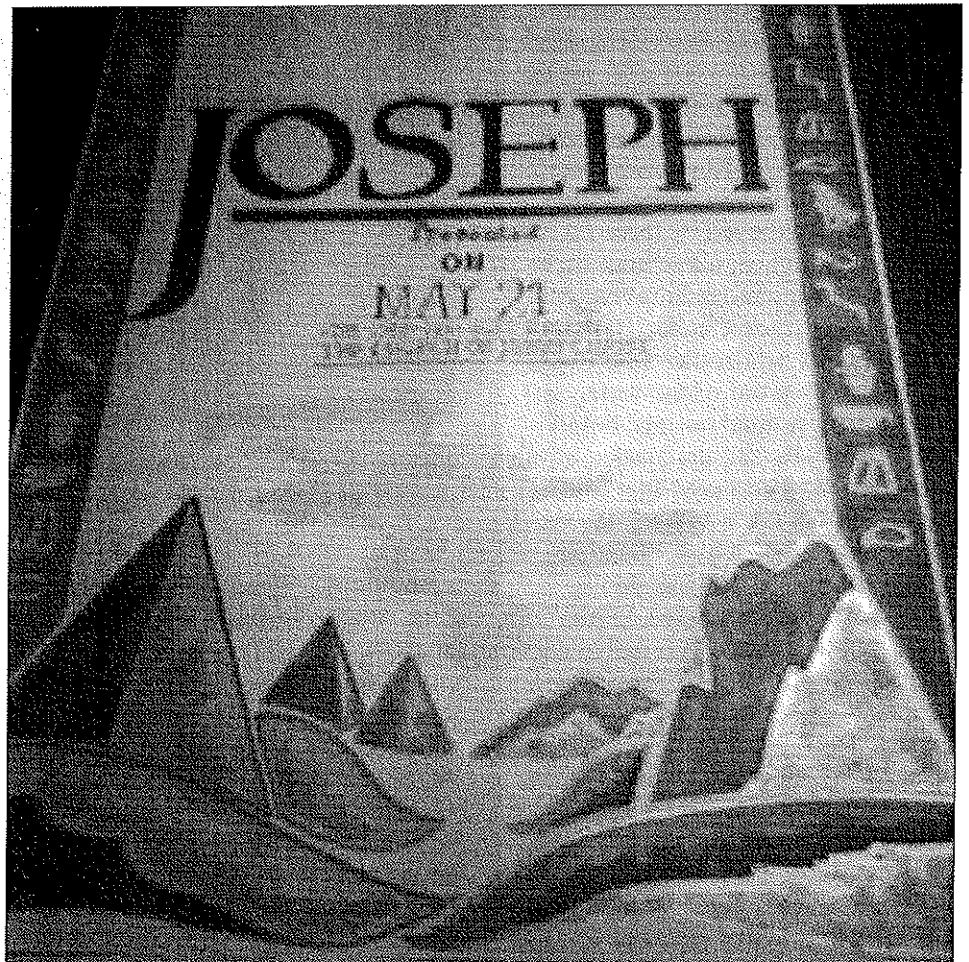
What a blessing was felt as he expressed himself and his invitation to us to return anytime to his home. Angel Hernandez (the son) asked me, "Brother Don, when are you coming

back?" I answered, "Soon." He said, "I want a specific date!" I answered that I could not give him a specific date but would return as soon as possible. I asked him why he wanted a specific date? He answered, "Because I want to be baptized and I want to be prepared!" He was encouraged to continue to pray to God for direction and ask God to prepare him for baptism. We shared a hand shake and an embrace in the love of God.

That evening we called Brother Raul Bicelis in Valle Guanape, Venezuela, one of our resident ministers. He sounded wonderful and excited that we were in another part of Venezuela, helping spread the Restored Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ. He stated he was praying for our spiritual success.

Our hope is to baptize those who asked for their baptism during our next

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Ohio-MidWest Region's Presentation for May, 2005 GMBA Conference.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Proverbs 31:10-12).*

This Mother's Day is a good time to reflect upon the beautiful qualities of our mothers and women of any age. Women have brought an element of tenderness, softness, peace and security into the world. Today in The Church of Jesus Christ, women comprise a majority of the members because oftentimes a woman's heart will be softened to serve the Lord before a man's will. Women have caused men to think with their heart and not their head. Since man's wisdom is foolishness to God, then it only stands to reason that His spirit, which prompts our heart and not our head, is far more important to spiritual success.

If you are a woman today, realize the significant role you play in God's plan. Too often women sit back in the Church thinking they should just be "silent," when in fact their God-given traits are necessary if the Church is to survive. The world calls it a "left-brain, right-brain" dynamic. Really, it is the way God created men and women who compliment each other, and result in a strong Church, a strong marriage, and a strong family unit. . . all of which are seriously lacking in the world today. It is time women of God are recognized and utilized for what they can offer. I heard it said numerous times from the pulpit that sisters have brought more people to the Lord than anyone else because of their tender testimonies and love they have shown to others.

*"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates" (Proverbs 31:30-31).*

If you are a woman today, realize that favor and beauty are requirements that our society has placed upon you. In the world today, it is critical to be "popular and beautiful." Women spend an enormous amount of time and money trying to improve themselves on the outside, when in fact a woman's greatest beauty lies on the inside. When you think of the love of your mother, you think of her inner qualities of tenderness, forgiveness, security in her arms, etc., not her outward appearance. This scripture tries to show that favor and beauty is vain, but women who truly will be praised by others are women who fear the Lord. Read the entire 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Proverbs and you will see the qualities that women exhibit have nothing to do with their looks or popularity, but have to do with their amazing ability to care for their family, and for others, in a way men could never do.

Jesus was born from a woman. Mary Magdalene washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and dried them with her hair. Esther saved many people because of humbleness in begging the King for mercy, Ruth humbly submitted to her mother-in-law in joining her people, and became the ancestor of Jesus, Abish kept confidentiality in her fathers dream, sparing his life, until the day the dream became a reality, and Priscilla was one of Paul's greatest helpers in his ministry. The list goes on and on. As a woman today, you have a chance to be used greatly by the Lord. It just requires using your God-given abilities and trying not to conform to a worldly image that society has imposed upon you. Men ought to value and praise women for the inner beauty and remarkable qualities they have. Men ought to love their wives as Jesus loved the Church, and gave His life for it. I believe that if we truly follow our God-given attributes as women and men, family unity would increase dramatically, children would grow up with respect and happiness, and peace would begin to spread throughout families, the Church and the world.

As a godly woman, lift up your head, and realize that *"many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all"* (Proverbs 31:29).

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## How to Resist the Devil

Dear Friends,

The Bible and Book of Mormon teach us that there is God and that there is an opposite power of good, the devil. Everything that is bad on this earth has been invented and encouraged by that old devil. He was once an angel named Lucifer who became jealous of God and tried to rebel and take over. He and the other bad angels were cast down to earth where they must stay until judgment day when they will be cast into outer darkness (II Peter 2:4). They are constantly trying to get people to hurt each other and do wrong things. They want to trick us so that we make mistakes, break God's laws, don't ask to be forgiven and become as miserable as they are.

They are evil but they also provide a way for us humans to learn and grow and to be tested. We are taught in the Bible, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," so we know that God has the power to help us fight the devil. But, how do we resist him?" you may ask. The directions of how to resist him and be safe are found in the Book of Mormon and the Bible.

First, we must take the name of Jesus upon ourselves and think of ourselves as servants and friends of the Lord. Then we admit when we do wrong and immediately ask God to forgive us. We repent and are baptized as adults. We ask God to take away our weak and sinful ways so we can do better. We ask everything in the name of Jesus. He can and will change us.



Let's say you have the bad habit of saying mean things about other people who make mistakes. Usually that means the person talking feels more important by putting others down. Yet, in the Bible, Jesus warns us to stop noticing the small things someone else does wrong, when there are many big things we do wrong. Jesus compares it to noticing the "speck in someone else's eye but ignoring the huge beam of wood in our own eyes" (Matthew 7:5).

Remember this the next time you start to criticize or make fun of someone else. By not letting yourself say that mean thing, you are resisting the devil. In fact, why not search your mind, say a quick prayer for a good idea and say one good thing about that person instead of something mean? Once you get in the habit of resisting the devil by not saying mean things, you will change.

Let's say you are shy or embarrassed about telling other people that you meet about Jesus and how He loves you. Maybe you are worried that they will make fun of you or not want to listen. Where do you think this fear comes from, from God, or from the devil? How do you get rid of this fear? You can fight the fear by remembering Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Let's say that you are filled with worry or fear about the future or what will possibly happen to you. That old devil wants you to be scared and unhappy. But God's people do not have to feel this way. Jesus told us not to worry about the evil things that might happen in the future. He says

"sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (or it's enough to worry about whatever is happening today, do not worry ahead). Resist the devil by saying a prayer, refusing to worry and telling Jesus your fears and heartaches and how you trust Him.

The most important way to resist the devil is by praying. Praying is talking to Jesus and asking God to hear you in the name of Jesus. The Bible tells us to confess our faults one to another. In that way we can know

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Ladies' Uplift Circle 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

By Sister Terri Bravo

**A Note to Our Readers:** This year the Ladies' Uplift Circle is celebrating its establishment 85 years ago in Monongahela, PA. In recognition of the very special year we would like to include articles in the *Gospel News* that will enlighten our minds on the purpose of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and the impact on the sisters and its contribution to the work of God in the latter days. Consider the original intentions of our charter members and you will recognize that they were truly inspired by God. The testimony of our founder and first General Circle President, Sister Sadie Cadman, is recorded in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ*. She writes, "I felt to rally my sisters in the Gospel to see if we could raise our lives to a higher standard in the Gospel of Christ: not for earthly gain but to raise our hearts and minds heavenward; to be as the Scripture reads in the second Chapter of Titus; to acquaint ourselves with the Scriptures; and to help the Church in promoting the Indian Mission work."

For 85 years the Ladies' Uplift Circle has been influencing the lives of females of all ages to grow spiritually and to use their God-given talents for the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. In January of 2005 a letter was sent to a cross section of our membership requesting they write a testimony on how the Ladies' Uplift Circle has affected their lives and helped them to spiritually grow. These testimonies will appear in the *Gospel News* throughout our 85<sup>th</sup> year.

The first responses are from our youngest members. I hope you will enjoy their youthful enthusiasm and encourage your young women to get on board and join the Ladies' Uplift Circle!

**Emily Eskut of the Georgia mission:** (Emily was our youngest volunteer teacher at the Fellowship weekend held in June 2004 in Tampa, Florida. She taught the youngest women and helped them prepare a puppet show on Noah's ark.)

"Hi! My name is Emily Eskut. When I went to the General Circle Fellowship Weekend in June 2004, I was truly blessed. I really wanted to go to my first Ladies' Circle gathering so my mom, Sister Donna Eskut, let me come along.

"In the few days I spent there, miracles happened. I got to see three young girls work together to make a fantastic performance, I met a lot of ladies I had never met before, and I got to see how God really worked with His people. On Thursday, the ladies from the Southeast Region practiced their program for our Friday night service. We had an acquaintance game where we got to ask questions of sisters that we didn't know. Many friends were made that day.

"On Friday, instead of going to a seminar, I led three young girls in a seminar of their own. They made puppets and practiced songs for a skit on Noah's ark that they would present for the evening meeting. We were constructing a boat, making puppets and learning songs. It was hard to get it all done. I prayed to God that we would be able to finish everything for the evening's meeting. In the hour we had left, we finished the boat, the puppets, and knew the songs! Without God helping us we would have never finished.

"I hope this testimony inspires young ladies like me to pray to God because anything is possible when you open your heart to God!"

**Sister Rachel Benyola of the New Brunswick, NJ Local Ladies' Uplift Circle wrote:** "Although I have only been a member of the Ladies' Circle for about six months it truly continues to make an impact on my life. Recently, I have taken the responsibility of organizing an Atlantic Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle Choir.

"When I first started to go to work it seemed challenging, but the more I prayed the better things went. Like

scripture tells us, 'Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good' (Alma 37:37). The sisters I asked for help gladly offered a hand with no questions asked. I asked the Lord to tell me what songs I should choose to praise His name and how to present them to the congregation.

"One Sunday night in our MBA meeting, as I flipped through a songbook the Lord blessed me with the ideas either through the inspiration of a sister or Him blessing my mind. I could envision how the sisters would sing the songs. I thank God for this experience and for blessing me in this job.

"As a Circle member, I grow closer to my sisters and especially to the Lord. I feel like I have grown more spiritually mature through my new responsibility and I experience more joy in knowing the efforts of the sisters to praise the Lord! I learn more each day and that the more you praise God the more He blesses you."

(Editor's note – As the testimonies are received they will be shared with the *Gospel News* readers. If you would like to participate in this endeavor, please feel free to submit your testimonies to your Area Circle Editor.)

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## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings in New Brunswick, NJ

We thank God for growth in 2004. We would like to share with you the blessings of God that we've experienced throughout the year.

It was heartbreaking to lose our dear Sister Carmela Biro in December of 2003, however, several months before her passing she made a phone call to Lou Gallichio whose family had been in the Church since the 1920s. She invited Lou to church. "We have not seen you for many years, since the 50's," exclaimed Sister Carmela. As a result of that phone call, Lou came the next Sunday and kept coming to the Wednesday night and Sunday services. He was baptized on September 21, 2003. Brother Lou has been a great asset to our branch. Last year our brother was ordained a deacon. Brother Dan Gallichio, Brother Lou's father, was the first ordained deacon of the Atlantic Coast Region. Like father like son!

Our youngest member is Brother James Sgro, Jr. who was baptized just before his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brother Jimmy, as we call him, was baptized by his father, Evangelist James Sgro, Sr. After baptizing his son, Brother James walked back into the water and retrieved a huge beautiful seashell that he had spotted beforehand when he was in the water. What a beautiful memento to have of that special day. Brother Jimmy is a sober and serious minded young man determined to serve God and we thank God for calling him in his youth.

The oldest person to be baptized in our branch is Sister Vera Abruzzi who is 83 years old and the sister-in-law of Sister Carmela Biro. She and her husband Nick had visited the Church quite often for over 70 years. He always told her "Wait for me." Sadly, Nick passed away on January 22, 2004 but for our Sister Vera the

angels rejoiced as she made her covenant with the Lord on August 22, 2004.

An experience that Sister Vera had which she explains she will never forget is as Brother James Sgro was showing her how to take his hand, she stated that she felt like she was holding on to the tip of a huge white wing. Also as she was coming from the water she had a vision. As she looked upon the banks, she saw a large mountain with many people upon it, and she was so overwhelmed with joy she wanted to cry as she felt the love emanating from them. What beautiful experiences the Lord provided for our sister.

Our latest additions to the branch are Brother Jesus and Sister Bernadina Bonilla who are Native American. Brother Jesus prefers to go by the name of Carlos since he does not feel worthy to use the name of his Savior. Brother Rick Calabro met Carlos at a Dunkin Donuts store and while conversing with him learned that he was a Mormon. While visiting one of our regional conferences, Carlos and Bernadina had the opportunity to meet three of our Apostles, Brother Tom Liberto, Brother Paul Benyola and Brother John Griffith. This is quite a rarity in the Mormon Church. Carlos explained that his hands and body would begin to shake when reading the Book of Mormon and it only started happening after visiting and attending The Church of Jesus Christ. He felt something different within our Church that he did not feel in the Mormon Church. He expressed to his wife his desire to be baptized and explained to her that he would love for her to be part of the Church too; however it was her decision, but no matter what, he was going to be baptized with or without her.

When the day of his baptism came, he was going to the waters alone; however before he left home his wife exclaimed she was going with him. Unbeknownst to him, at the water's edge she called for her baptism too. The night before she had an experience where she saw two angels in a dream, and they told her that this was her opportunity. Their four children have also been blessed

in the Church.

On a sad note, we lost our dear Sister Anne Sgro in 2004. She was a great support to the New Brunswick Branch as well as the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Her love for everyone was evident especially for the children. She will be greatly missed by all. Her husband, Brother Sam Sgro, broke his hip at last October's General Conference. It has been a difficult year but we see our brother making great progress and still singing the songs of redeeming love.

In retrospect, with blessings comes opposition, but God is still in control and still on His throne. Let's continue to grow in 2005.

### Ordinations at Sterling Heights, MI

On September 12, 2004 we had a wonderful day of blessings as Sister Joanne Chambers, Brother Michael Bashaw, Jr. and Brother Anthony Azzinaro answered the call to the office of Deaconess and Deacons, respectively.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Lou Vitto, welcomed everyone, stating that it was a wonderful opportunity for those visiting for the first time to experience The Church of Jesus Christ. "We are proud to have men and women like these members who are willing to take part in the great work of the Lord." Many songs of praise were joyfully sung. Sisters Rachael Straccia and Jill Chambers, who are Sister Joanne's niece and daughter, then sang, *He's More Wonderful*.

Brother Jeff Giannetti opened the morning service speaking from Matthew 8:5, stating we are the richest people on the face of the earth as children of the Kingdom, rich in blessings, power, spirit and in fullness of joy. "We are rich in Christ having inherited this glorious treasure." He informed the candidates that as they are ordained they are going a little bit lower, not higher. "You are servants. As servants of the King, you need to walk humbly. Be confident, but

humbly wear that badge. In II Corinthians 4<sup>th</sup> chapter, the Apostle Paul said: 'Having received this ministry and mercy, I will faint not.' My sister and my brothers don't want to sit back and relax today, they want to be children of the King in action."

Brother Keith Lesperance related that Brother Michael indicated in a young people's seminar in 1994 that his goal was to be a Deacon and an officer in the Church. "Jesus Christ is the greatest servant of all. He did many miracles because He wanted to serve the people."

Prior to the afternoon ordination service, a luncheon was enjoyed by all in attendance. Upon opening our service, Brother Gary Coppa reminded us that King Benjamin told us that if we are in the service of our fellowman we are in the service of our God. "We must all help and encourage these servants because no one takes an office by themselves."

Brother Tom Everett referenced Romans 16:1-2 and listed the ways in which a Deaconess works to support the Church and help the brothers and sisters. "Jesus became a servant and was obedient unto death on the cross. As fellow servants we need to be willing to lay down our lives for each other."

Brother Sam DiFalco spoke about the duties of a Deacon relating that he learned much as a young boy by accompanying his own father who was a Deacon. Watching him and other Deacons prepared Brother Sam for his own calling in the same office.

Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino sang one of the recently received Songs of Zion, *None Can Bring This Kingdom Down*.

Sister Joanne's feet were washed by Sister Shirley Vitto and she was ordained by Brother John Straccia. The gift of tongues was spoken during this ordinance. Brother Dominic DiBattista washed Brother Michael's feet and he was ordained by Brother Sam DiFalco. Brother Anthony's feet were washed by Brother Kevin Coppa and he was ordained by Brother Sam Cuomo.

Our sister and brothers expressed humble testimonies of the great honor

they feel to be called to serve our gracious Lord. They asked for our prayers that they might become what God sees their potential to be.

Apostle Peter Scolaro concluded our fellowship with the statement that he had been nourished spiritually today. He also said that we can stay young forever in the Church and feel stronger because these callings are an extension of us and the Lord wants our all and nothing less.

We sang, *It Is Well With My Soul* as our wonderful services came to a close. Surely, we are blessed above all on earth as inheritors of the truth, bought for us by the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Winter Fest Weekend

As a young boy I can remember many special memories from weekends spent at the Pinetop/Lakeside, Arizona Branch for their famous Apple Fest celebrations. I can recall the peeling, cooking, smashing, and baking of countless apples. I remember the auctioning of every kind of apple by-product one can possibly imagine. We had puppet shows, games, plenty of singing and powerful Sunday services. Perhaps the most prevailing memory is the apple butter and applesauce that my Dad ate for months afterward!

Due to poor apple harvests in recent years, the Pinetop/Lakeside Branch has not hosted an Apple Fest for many years; however, this year the brothers and sisters were determined to have one—even without all of the apples. Rather than the traditional Apple Fest Celebration, the Pinetop/Lakeside Branch decided to turn their annual Christmas Caroling event into a Winter Fest Weekend. They started the planning and publicizing months in advance to make the Southwest Region aware of the activity. They worked diligently during the weeks leading up to the event to prepare the food, games, crafts and auction items.

All the hard work came together

on December 18, 2004 when brothers and sisters from all over the Southwest Region gathered for the first ever Winter Fest. Sister Rachel Smith coordinated the event, and she recruited several helpers to take charge of the crafts, games and auction. Children of all ages braved the chilly mountain air and played Pin the Nose on the Snowman, raced in gunnysacks, participated in the beanbag toss, and competed in a ring toss game. Meanwhile, several stayed indoors to make snowmen and snowflakes at the arts and crafts tables. The Winter Fest Auction was held in the afternoon with Brother Anthony Dyer of Tucson as auctioneer. He sold an assortment of homemade products and baked goodies including Christmas Ornaments, bread and butter pickles, Sister Tish Palensar's famous peanut butter balls, a quilt and pillows made by the Sister Rachel Smith and her Sunday School class, and applesauce, of course. All proceeds went to support the Pinetop/Lakeside Branch.

As the evening approached, the young people prepared the food baskets that would be distributed that night during the annual Christmas Caroling activity on the White River Apache Indian Reservation. Many of the visitors that had come for the Winter Fest daytime activities stayed to participate in the Christmas Caroling. A motorcade of four or five vans traveled onto the Reservation to visit, sing and bring food baskets to past and present members and acquaintances of the Church. We went from sweating to freezing and back again as we scurried from our warm vans through the frigid night air and into the stove-warmed homes of our Apache brothers and sisters. It was all worth it to see their smiling faces, and to share a portion of the great love that God lavishly gave us when He entered our world as a man thousands of years ago.

The night would not have been complete had we not all gathered after the caroling at Brother Skip and Sister Cheryl Smith's home for homemade hot chocolate and cookies. The

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## Winter Fest Weekend

Continued from Page 9

Pinetop/Lakeside Branch members graciously provided all of the meals for the entire weekend, and hosted most of the guests in their homes. We thank God for their hospitality.

I'm grateful for the boyhood memories of Apple Fest Weekends, because it impressed on me the joy of being a follower of Christ. And now as a young man, I still feel that joy, and I've realized an even greater joy: sharing it with others.

## Six Nations Dedication

By Brother Jerry Benyola

The long-awaited weekend had arrived. After years of planning, fund-raising and construction, the dedication of the new Six Nations church building was upon us! A singspiration was held on the evening of September 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 with Brother Lou Vitto, Chairman of the Great Lakes RMOC, welcoming those who traveled for this special occasion. The evening focused on singing praises to the Lord as we prepared for the next day. The Don Singers (Brother Don Greens' family) sang several selections and Sister Linda Snake sang, *The Ending of the Sorrow*.

Brother Paul Palmieri, Apostle and First Counselor of the General Church encouraged everyone to get ready and be prepared to take the message to other people, because we're moving forward!

Brother Dan Parravano, building concept coordinator, thanked God for being able to start the race to help with the building project, prior to moving to the Chicago, Illinois area. He stated that we should put ourselves in the will of God, because things will be fulfilled according to His will. He also thanked God for those that were able to finish the race in completing the project.

During the meeting there were a few that requested to be anointed and the Lord's healing touch rested upon them. One sister expressed how she

felt God's touch, being able to breathe without the help of her oxygen tank after being anointed.

The following day, the Lord provided the most serene and perfect day, not a cloud in the sky. Brother Lou Vitto welcomed all that came including those that came representing the General Church: Apostle and President, Brother Dominic Thomas, Apostle and First Counselor Brother Paul Palmieri and Apostle Peter Scolaro. The General Church Trustees were present: Brothers David DiBattista, Joe Ross, Sam Risola, and Dick Lawson. The Canadian Board of Directors was represented by Brothers Charles Matthew and Fred Cuerrier. Great Lakes Region President Brother Tom Everett was present, as well as others from Michigan, New Jersey, Arizona, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo read an inspiring poem written by Sister Barbara Jacques entitled *Our Mission at Six Nations*. At the time she wrote this poem she was not yet baptized and has since passed on to her reward.

Brother Dominic Thomas opened the meeting by thanking God for sparing his life to this moment. He noted that he was privileged to be at the Ground Breaking Ceremony and now to be at the dedication was a tremendous experience. He quoted phrases from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, "He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul...though I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Brother Dominic continued, "This has made me appreciate life. For it will lead us to life eternal and when we get to heaven, it will be an eternal life of praising God forever. This is the place that the Lord has prepared for us. It is a place beyond description!" Brother Dominic stated that this was the first time he had seen the new building and as he walked around the grounds from the basement to the upstairs, he felt the presence of God.

He continued by thanking Sister Helen Garlow for the generous gift of donating the land in order to build this building. Brother Dominic said, "Being at this dedication and seeing the

Church growing and prospering is the responsibility of yours and mine and we stand before God in prayer to stay His hand to not destroy this world because of the wickedness that is upon it. We stand with the Native Americans upon this land of America, with our hearts and prayers before God to ask the world to repent of their wickedness and come unto God and serve Him. We have a proclamation to make to the world, that only through the atonement of Jesus Christ can mankind find salvation to their souls. The Church of Jesus Christ believes in the restoration of the twelve tribes of the House of Israel. We believe the Book of Mormon to be a record of one of the lost tribes of the House of Israel and as Jesus Christ states in St. John 10:16. The lamb of God would give his life for the whole world." Brother Dominic continued by saying, "I consider myself today, not the President of the Church, but a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Today at this dedication we added a jewel in the crown of the Church, a shining jewel of righteousness, goodness and glory that God's blessing would rest upon the people of the Six Nations Reserve."

Brother Alex Gentile, RMOC Vice Chairman, gave a brief history of the work regarding Six Nations Mission. He started by thanking the Great Lakes Region for raising almost \$250,000, not only for the Six Nations Mission but also for the Muncey Mission, mentioning the many that contributed in so many different ways.

He shared, that many years ago, a heavenly messenger brought Sister Jane Dolson to Six Nations from the Muncey reserve where she was a member. She had a strong desire to be a witness of the Gospel to her Uncle Hugh Beaver. She knew the trip was about 100 miles and she did not have transportation, so she started walking. It wasn't very long before a car pulled up and asked her where she was going. He told her he would take her there. Once they arrived at the home of her aunt and uncle, she got out of the car and turned around to say thank you but the man and the car disappeared! "...some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 3:2).



Brother Alex stated that this experience and the history of how the Church started at Six Nations is recorded in our Church history book.

The members and friends from the Six Nations Mission sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*, and Brother Tom Everett acknowledged those involved in the building project; from the builder, architect, different agencies on the reserve in the building process, various committees in the Church, and the membership itself. Since Gentiles can't own land on the reservation, he also thanked God for the land that Sister Helen Garlow donated for the purpose of building the new church. "Although there was a great deal of effort, teamwork and prayer that went into accomplishing this task, this was only one step of the project. Now is the time to go out and reach the people. Tell them what Jesus has done for them and that there is hope in this life!"

George Montour, a Six Nations district council representative, spoke on behalf of the Chief of the Reservation, Roberta Jamison. After listening to some of the previous speakers he didn't realize the connections he had with some of those that had been mentioned, since he has family connections with the Muncey Reserve. He stated on behalf of the Six Nations Council and Chief, that it was an honor to be present and wished the Church great success.

Dennis Thomas a native from Walpole Island sang *Near the Cross* in his native tongue, Ojibwe. Brother Lou Vitto recognized Brother Jerry Benyola, Project Manager, and Brothers Charlie Matthew and Fred Cuerrier for assisting with the building project. They were presented with plaques from the Great Lakes RMOC as a remembrance for their hard work.

Brother Jerry Benyola stated that it was a humbling experience to receive any form of recognition. "I couldn't have done it without your support. What a blessing it is for me to see the representation that is present from the Presidency, Apostles, Trustees, Evangelists, Elders and Members representing many different parts of the Church. For our labors, we only desire to hear from the Lord, 'Well

done my good and faithful servant.' "

The brothers and sisters from the Muncey Mission sang, *The Sea So Great Lord, My Boat So Small* and Brother John Straccia, Elder-in-charge of Six Nations followed. "My desire for coming to Six Nations, is to give the peace, joy, and understanding that the Lord can give: that Jesus Christ died for sins and He came to establish a personal contact with you... You have a glorious future. The world sees you as a forsaken people, but God is a God of covenants and the First Nation people know covenants and this people will rise up, by the power of God, to become a great nation. We came to bring you the everlasting covenant of Jesus Christ. Even though we are dedicating this building, the Lord wants to build a building within you and He wants you to dedicate your life to him."

Brother Paul Palmieri read from Jeremiah 16:15-17 and then offered the dedication prayer; that this building may be a place of refuge for those that seek out the Lord. While the prayer was being offered, Brother Gordon Hill saw angels as he bowed his head and asked the Lord to repeat this vision as a confirmation. The Lord did so to confirm it.

Brother Dick Lawson Chairman of General Church Trustees noted that now the real work begins after the dedication. "The building is not beautiful unless the people of God are here. We make promises that we don't keep, but God will always keep His promises. He will never forsake or leave us."

Brother Peter Scolaro followed by saying, "This building represents a gift of love to the members at Six Nations. Just as Abraham dedicated his life to the promise that God gave him, there is nothing else that we dedicate this building to, but to the promise of God. This building is a place to broadcast what the Lord has done for us that we would be an influence in the lives of people."

We pray that the Lord will repay everyone who donated and labored to see this building constructed. Please pray that the Lord touches the hearts of those on the Six Nations Reserve. May God bless each of you.

## Maracaibo, Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

trip. We hope to baptize many more souls in Maracaibo, Venezuela. We humbly ask for your support and prayers.

God truly blessed our trip. We felt His Spirit with us during our trip. He protected us from harm and danger. We met a wonderful family and people in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He provided wonderful taxi drivers who became friends and asked us to return as well. Everywhere we went, we felt His presence and goodness. We returned home safely and again thank God for His tender mercy, looking forward to our return and with God's help, soon!

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

how to pray for each other and how to pray for those faults to be taken away. If you are deeply discouraged, you need others to pray for you to get your hope back. When there is this loving praying going on together, there is great power. Jesus promised that "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

So, resist the devil by learning how to be a praying person who wears the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:12-18). Look for chances to pray with others at MBA, Sunday School, Ladies' Uplift Circle, Bible School and at home. You can also pray and ask God for a special brother or sister or friend to pray with you. Call someone who is sick and say a little prayer on the phone with them. Ask the Lord for guidance. Go to a quiet place in private. Get on your knees and tell Him your heart's hidden secrets. You will resist the devil. God will hear your prayers and help you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## New Songs of Zion

### #117 Maybe I'm A Dreamer

Genesis 37:19

Joseph was a dreamer  
so many years ago,  
All the dreams he dreamed they say  
perhaps we'll never know;  
But I see Joseph coming thru the fields  
and thru the streams,  
And running to that mountain home  
I've pictured in my dreams.

Maybe I'm a dreamer  
but could this be the day,  
Maybe I'm a dreamer,  
did I dream or someone say;  
That God has reached from heaven  
with a firm but gentle hand,  
To lead His little children to this dear  
and promised land.

Many say it's coming  
in a hundred years or so,  
Many say don't worry child  
you'll never get to go;  
But I see brilliant colors  
on the hills and on the flowers,  
And oh what joy unspeakable  
while dreaming many hours.

#### CHORUS

Ah, but maybe I'm a dreamer  
but I see mountain tops,  
Ah, maybe I'm a dreamer  
but the dreaming never stops;  
And maybe I'm a dreamer  
but the valleys looks so green,  
But only God can bring about  
the things that I have seen.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
September 26, 2004

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Note of Thanks

Sister Sally Hettler of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch would like to thank all the brothers and sisters throughout the Church for their prayers, phone calls, visits and the many beautiful cards that she received and continues to receive while she is recuperating from knee surgery. May God bless you all.

## Children Blessed

Eliana Marie Gross, daughter of Sister Carolyn and James Gross, was blessed on January 23, 2005 at the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Emma Elizabeth Buffa, daughter of Brother Daniel and Jennifer Buffa, was blessed on January 30, 2005 at the Redford, Michigan Branch.

Isabella Lissette Kerby, daughter of Brother Steve and Sister Lissette Kerby, was blessed on February 20, 2005 in the San Diego, California Branch.

Savannah Hope Schlift, daughter of Danielle Schlift was blessed on March 27, 2005 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

## OBITUARIES

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

### CONCETTA (CONNIE) AZZINARO CRAFT

Sister Concetta (Connie) Azzinaro Craft of the Lockport, New York Mission passed on to her reward on October 9, 2004. She is survived by her mother, Sister Mary Azzinaro, six brothers and one sister, aunts, uncles and many relatives.

### SARAH M. NEILL

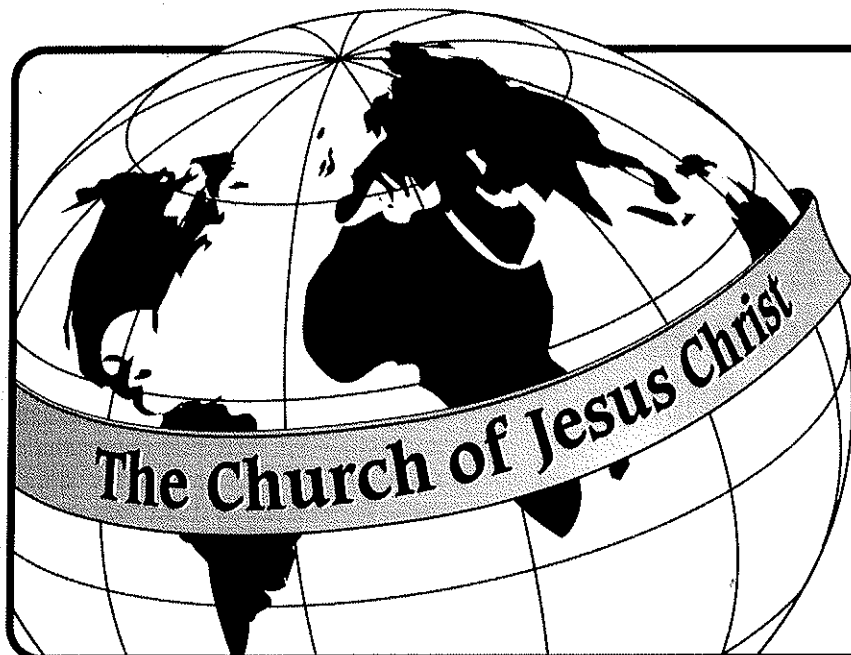
Sister Sarah M. Neill of the Mesa, Arizona Branch passed on to her reward on November 20, 2004. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Patricia and husband Apostle Richard Christman; four grandchildren, Sister Debra and husband Brother Richard Roach, Sister Cindy and husband Brother Tom Everett, Brother Joel and wife Sister Lauren Christman, Sister Melissa and husband Brother Miguel Bicelis; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

### ANN GALUCCI

Sister Ann Galucci of the Liberty, Ohio Branch, passed to her reward on March 13, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Bill Galucci. Sister Ann is survived by her children and several grandchildren.

### FRED MUSOLINO

Brother Fred Musolino of the Liberty, Ohio Branch passed to his reward on January 10, 2005. He was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by many family members.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

June, 2005

Volume 61, No. 6

*“Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord.”*

*By Evangelist Joel Gehly*

I have been humbled and overwhelmed many times by the great and marvelous works of the Lord. Most recently, as I was reflecting after a long day spent in the mission field in the country of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the spirit of the Lord overwhelmed me and I began to weep at the glorious things I had witnessed and participated in over the past few days. Let me try to give you a brief summary of what I had experienced.

When we met the very first evening with a group of men from the Congolese city of Lubumbashi, we immediately experienced the spirit of God coming upon us. During our fellowship and conversation, a vision was seen of a white dove flying above us. After a few glorious days of meetings, teaching the Restoration, and explaining The Church of Jesus Christ, we were directed to ordain Brother Cipeng A' Kapend as an elder. As I knelt in front of this humble servant of Jesus Christ, I was very blessed to wash his feet. During the feet washing, a vision was seen that Christ Himself was standing beside us during the prayer.

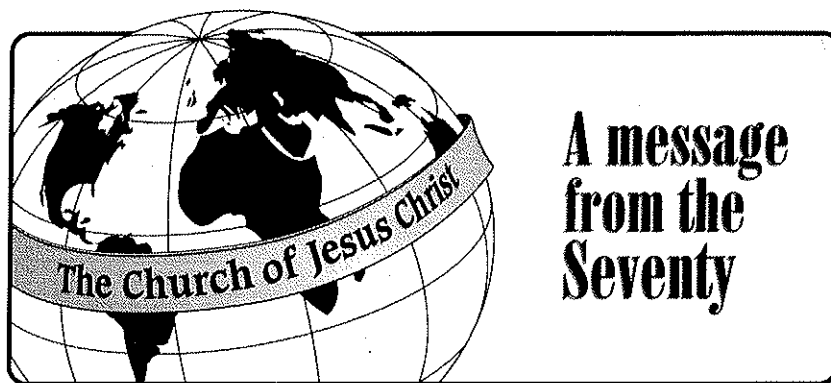
As our brother was being ordained by the ministry, another brother had a vision of angels surrounding the ministry. During the prayer, a vision of a beautiful bouquet of flowers and palm branches was seen over our brother's head. The word of the Lord was given for our brother to be strong and faithful. Oh how marvelous! How great are the works of the Lord!

The following day, we met in a very humble dwelling with over 80 people all anxious and willing to hear the truth of the Gospel. After our preaching, we blessed 30 children and anointed many. In the afternoon we met at the side of a small stream and there we proceeded to baptize 39 new brothers and sisters in this new country – this new work of the Lord. If that wasn't glorious enough, God demonstrated His power and faithfulness during the baptisms by answering our prayers and changing the weather. Let me explain. During most afternoons, the hot sunny days would typically cloud up and we would receive a rainstorm. This particular afternoon, around 3:00 p.m. as we started the baptisms, we could see a very black, lightning streaked

sky moving very quickly in our direction. The wind was blowing very strongly from the storm directly toward us. I commented to the ministry we should immediately start praying that the Lord would change the storm and allow us to finish the wonderful baptisms without any disturbance. We prayed and then continued to baptize. Within 15 – 20 minutes, I looked up and noticed that the wind had shifted. Instead of the storm blowing directly toward us, it now was being blown way off to the south. We were able to spend over two hours baptizing and confirming the new saints out in the open, without any disturbance from the storm. Oh how great and marvelous are all His works! Can you see why I was overwhelmed by the things we had witnessed? Can you feel a portion of the spirit we felt as we saw the Lord work here in this new African country? I sincerely hope you can.

The Congo is the newest African country to receive and accept The Church of Jesus Christ. As we departed, the Church was firmly established in three villages around the city of Lubumbashi. There are a total of 46 baptized members and we currently have Brother Cipeng as an Elder to minister to the saints in this area. We also ordained Teachers, Deacons, and

(Continued on Page 4)



## Trip to India

*By Brother John Straccia*

On the evening of November 1, 2004, five brothers in Christ, John Straccia, John Genaro, Harold Littlejohn, Clifton Wells and Leonard Nardozi, left the United States and went to India with a hope they would see God's power and blessings...and they weren't disappointed.

Of all the exciting things God does, there is no greater miracle than watching a soul come to Christ. Before leaving, we felt great excitement, knowing over 100 were ready to be baptized in India. While there, we witnessed 34 baptisms, most being done by the newest India Committee members, Brothers Wells and Nardozi. Another 100 in the Erode area were ready to be baptized, but because of flooding conditions, were done in December. Although disappointed at the time, we rejoice, knowing there are now 2500 members with others still awaiting baptism.

The focus of our trip was to visit as many locations as possible, especially new locations, and meet with independent ministers interested in the Restored Gospel. God has been bringing independent ministers to us with entire congregations. An example is Brother John Paul, who came to us in 2001 with about 60 members meeting in a mud and thatched roof building. Today he has over 200 members in two locations and has built a building (with his own funds) that is now too small for his congregation. On this trip, we ordained two new independent ministers with

congregations of approximately 150, most of whom are not baptized. We are still working with other independent ministers awaiting God's direction.

With the completion of the Book of Mormon translation, great excitement is building to read it in their own language. Proofreading is still necessary and our goal is to print it by mid-2005.

Over a year ago, we began the Missionary Training Program. With the distribution of guidelines for the program, great strides in its progress have been made. There are currently 60 trainees in the program throughout India. Our goal is to have 200 newly-trained missionaries within the year to help spread the Gospel.

We were witness to God's great power and blessings on this trip. While visiting a new village called Kalithapet, we prayed upon many present. One Hindu man with heart problems came forward as did a young baptized man for prayer. As hands were laid upon them, the Spirit of God was so powerful, they fell unconscious under its power for nearly a minute, similar to Alma's experience. This powerful manifestation of the Spirit continued in other locations throughout the trip. These village people have no television or Christian church in their village, so they could not have seen anything like this before.

At the village of Kaddapakkam, one woman was awakened every night by an evil spirit. As we laid hands upon her, she also fell under the power of God. We carried her to a chair and left her there for several minutes. Returning to her, we stood

before her, her eyes closed and body stiff, a voice came from her and said, "I will take you, your brothers and your sisters and all of you here." Immediately, we rebuked the evil spirit that spoke through her in the name of Jesus Christ and commanded it to leave her and the village. At that very moment, she took a deep breath and exhaled it. Her body began to relax and her eyes opened up. She came to, looking as if she was unaware of what just happened; however, we knew the evil spirit had left her. Praise God!

Later, in the same village, we learned there was an 18-year-old woman who had been possessed by an evil spirit and had not come out of her house for two years. Entering the house, one could feel an evil presence. When we got to her, she was sitting on the ground with her head bowed and eyes closed. We laid hands on her and commanded the evil spirit to leave her. When we did, we called her name and she lifted up her head and opened her eyes. The Spirit of God then told us there were idols in the house which needed to be removed. The mother also concluded this, and she came out of the house with idols and threw them away.

We asked the girl to say the name of Jesus repeatedly. As she did, more life came into her. We then told her to stand up in the name of Jesus and come out of the darkness and into the light. She stood up, and did not move towards the entrance, so others tried to force her. We declared to those present not to force her, but "let the Spirit of God bring her out." The girl spoke no English. Holding out our hand, we said to her, "In the name of Jesus, come out of the darkness and into the light." She then lightly held our hand and slowly followed us out of the house.

Once outside of the house, we laid hands on her again and commanded the evil spirit to leave her. As we did, her eyes opened up even more and a smile came to her face. She remained outside with us the entire time. The people were astonished and our Indian brothers and sisters declared this truly was a

miracle. Praise God! The village is now all astir over what had happened.

We went to another new village called Putthali. We are the first church to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. There were about 180 people attending, straddled on both sides of the dirt road, under the evening sky, lit only by one large light bulb hanging from a tree. We spoke to them about the blessings of the true God and what Jesus Christ did for them. When we got to the part where He was beaten and crucified for their sins, it got very quiet. The Spirit of God was present and they were listening intently.

At the close of the meeting, as people began moving around, a woman with a sick child of about eight years of age came forward to have her prayed upon. As we began to pray for the child, one hand on the child and one on the arm of the mother, the mother suddenly collapsed under the power of God. With that, most of the crowd gasped, noticing the woman had fallen. We completed the prayer on the sick child and then began to pray for the woman. After about a minute, the spirit directed us to tell the woman to stand up. Her eyes began to open and she arose. In her eyes, you could see she did not understand what had just happened. Her husband standing nearby then asked what happened to his wife. We told him not to worry, for the power of God came upon her and she and his daughter would be taken care of by God. A few days earlier this same man refused our people entrance to his house, now he was next in line to be prayed for.

As the woman arose and those present witnessed the power of God, over 100 people immediately came forward and pressed the brothers for prayer. We then understood what Jesus must have felt like after performing a miracle, having the crowd press him for more healings. We then prayed for over 100 people. Several days later, when asked what he thought of that day, Brother Muthu told us all those prayed upon were healed or are feeling better and wanted to know when we were

returning. Praise God for His power, that souls after hearing the Word of God, see the signs following.

In Erode, after interviewing two men, we wanted to know from God whether they should be ordained. After laying hands on them and praying, one of them had a vision and saw the hand of God giving him a Bible and the other saw a great white light. At the same time, Sister Merlin saw a vision of a white path with golden roses. Her interpretation was the way was clear for them to be ordained.

In Tadevalligudem, a woman who was paralyzed heard that the ministers from America were coming and wanted to be healed. Unable to come on her own, she was carried to the meeting place. As the brother laid

---

*"I give you my power and authority, therefore go throughout the land of India. For I set before you thousands of sheep. Gather them into my kingdom, for the time of the great harvest is coming soon."*

---

hands on her, he prayed, "Lord, who am I that I could heal this woman?" Suddenly, he felt the power of God go through him. When he finished praying, the woman began to scream, praising God and saying she was healed.

The evening before going to Aayalur, one of the brothers had a dream seeing a house, a crown and "GOD" in red letters. He then saw seven panels before him, each with writing and images on them. His interpretation was seven were going to take baptism. The next day, Brother James Raj came to the meeting with seven to be baptized. These were the ones in the dream.

In Ambattur last year, we prayed on Sister Mercy Stephan's brother named Meenachi Sundrum.

At that time, he was filled with cancer and the doctors could do nothing for him. His side was open and fluid was oozing from it. After praying upon him, the cancer was taken away and the family proclaimed a miracle. The people in Ambattur have witnessed this and their faith has increased. Coming to Ambattur this trip, the saints all the more wanted our prayers for the blessings of God.

On November 16, 2004, we held an ordination meeting at our hotel in Chennai. In attendance were most of the ordained from the area and those newly called by God to be ordained. We spoke to them about their calling and purpose in the ministry; *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for [which is] the work of the ministry, for the edifying [building up] of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:11-13).

At this meeting we ordained three Elders, seven Teachers, one Deacon and one Deaconess. While ordaining them, the word of the Lord came forth, *"I give you my power and authority, therefore go throughout the land of India. For I set before you thousands of sheep. Gather them into my kingdom, for the time of the great harvest is coming soon."* As Brother James Raj was being ordained, he felt fire on his head. As Brother M.O. Daniel was being ordained, he felt a continual pouring of oil upon him. While having his feet washed, Brother Marimuthu felt great humility and heard the Lord say, *"I will be with you."* Brother YGR Paul received the scripture in Psalms 133:1 that says, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

After fourteen days, the time came for us to leave. However, we assure you, we are all anxious to return and see what else the Lord has in store for India.

## Behold Great and Marvelous

Continued from Page 1

Deaconesses to help with this new work. If this had been the extent of the recent missionary trip to Africa we would have been blessed, content, and satisfied. However, God was not done with us yet.

Upon leaving the Congo, we traveled to Malawi before heading home. It has been two years since the truth of the Restored Gospel has been preached in the country of Malawi, and throughout that short time, God has taught us many lessons. 2 Nephi, chapter 26, verse 33; *"...and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile."* We have been constantly reminded there is a great work the Lord is performing in our day and time, and this great work of restoration is for all mankind.

Malawi has accepted and embraced the Gospel unlike any country we have yet seen. The saints here cannot stand still and within the short time they have been entrusted with the Gospel, they have spread the news of the truth throughout the length of the land. We now have missions from the far northern part, to the southern city of Blantyre. The gifts of God are frequent and it is not unusual to hear of visions, dreams, healings, and the power of God demonstrated in many different ways. Our first meeting was in the city of Lilongwe with a group of interested villagers under the shade of a large tree. An old woman hobbled into our group asking for prayer. She was very sick with visible ugly sores all over her body. We anointed her and she departed. (She didn't even stay to hear our feeble preaching.) Afterward, we heard the rest of the story. It turns out she left us after her anointing, and walked to the hospital. At the hospital the doctor looked her over and asked, "Why have you come here? You are perfectly well." The power of God had healed her. She walked back to our meeting place, but

we had departed. She kept searching and asking for those from the Church, until we returned to that city a few days later.

What will God do with that little old woman? What will God do with her testimony? Recent experience tells us that it will be used for His honor and glory and for the spreading of His kingdom throughout southern Africa. The true Gospel in Malawi is not, cannot, and will not, be kept within the country's borders and we are already seeing other neighboring countries that are hearing and seeing the demonstration of God's power and love. The lessons here for us? Teach the truth. Maintain the faith. Be available for God. Most of the time, we just need to show up. He does all the work.

What part does Malawi, the Congo, and southern Africa have in God's great purpose and plan of restoration? I really don't have any idea. BUT, I know God knows. He has it all worked out. "Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord!"

## New Songs of Zion

### #118 Joy Cometh in the Morning

**Psalm 30:5, "... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."**

Joy cometh in the morning  
When the night has passed away,  
Joy cometh like the dewdrops  
At the dawning of the day;  
And it cometh when the angels come  
To join our lowly band,  
And the sweetest music ever heard  
Will echo through the land,  
And the sweetest music ever heard  
Will echo through the land.

Joy cometh when the sound of  
Weeping's not heard anymore,  
Joy cometh when our spirits rise  
Like eagles when they soar;  
And it cometh when the sons of God

Go out to preach to men,  
And the scattered tribes dispersed  
so long  
At last are gathered in.  
And the scattered tribes dispersed  
so long  
At last are gathered in.

Joy cometh when all nature  
Rises up to join the song,  
Joy cometh when the children  
Leave their play to sing along;  
And it cometh when our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ appears,  
And the lovely singing fills the earth  
And lasts one thousand years.  
And the lovely singing fills the earth  
And lasts one thousand years.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
November 27, 2004

## #119 To Keep the Gospel Pure

We're waiting on the promises  
And standing on the principles,  
While seeing all the prophecies  
Unfolding at our door;

We're walking paths our fathers trod  
The many years they walked with God,  
While doing all we can today  
To keep the Gospel pure.

We're watching every day and hour  
While praying for God's grace and power,  
That with His help we will endure  
Knowing His word is sure;  
Believing that we will survive  
By keeping hope and joy alive,  
While doing all we can today  
To keep the Gospel pure.

We're dreaming of a better day  
When sin and sorrow flee away  
While knowing that our vision's sure  
And in God's care secure,  
Retaining our identity  
Until the day our land is free  
While doing all we can today  
To keep the Gospel pure.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
December 27, 2004



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Last month's editorial dealt with the value of a virtuous woman. It described the qualities that God has given to every woman that are so important to the Church, mankind, and the world. These qualities are not built into a man's character or personality. This month (being Father's Day), I wanted to show what different qualities have been given to men, and in particular husbands, that perfectly compliment a woman.

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband"* (Ephesians 5:25-32).

Man has been given the innate quality to lead, protect, defend, comfort and love his family, whether that be his wife and children, or if he is not married, his siblings and parents. A man of God is someone you can trust in; someone who you know is going to protect you from danger, and harm. In this sense, a man of God is far more concerned about protecting and caring for others, then he is for himself. When comparing Jesus to the Church, isn't it the same way? Jesus was far more concerned for the welfare of the Church than He was for Himself. He allowed himself to be crucified in order to save those who were entrusted to Him. In the same way, husbands or men will put themselves in harm's way before endangering those who are entrusted to him.

I remember when my first son was born. Never in my life have I ever had such a strong sense that I would literally throw myself in front of a speeding car if it meant protecting him from danger. After being married 12 years, I still go into a dark house at night to make sure it is safe before allowing my wife to enter. Some today may say this is male chauvinism. Others may admire this and call it chivalry. It is neither of these things. It is the natural way in which God has programmed all men. The scripture above speaks about men loving their wives as they love themselves. No one in their right mind has ever hated their own flesh. We try to eat healthy, clean ourselves, fix our hair, wear nice clothes, put on cologne, etc. The same level of attention to our own selves should be given to our wives. Not that we are concerned about how she looks, but that we care for her with the same attention that we give ourselves. We protect her the way we would protect ourselves, but even going one step further, that we would bear the brunt of any discomfort or pain if it meant preventing her or our family from experiencing it.

Most important, of course, is man's God-given right to be the spiritual head of the family. Men today must realize that this is not a position that allows them to abuse their wives or family. Any great leader leads in love and trust, not by coercion or abuse. Men of God are accountable for the spiritual well-being of their family. Men must use those God-given abilities to lead, protect, defend, comfort and love their families in a spiritual way. This means leading by setting a spiritual example of prayer, going to church, and obeying God's commandments at all times. It means protecting and defending his family from the attack of the enemy, in whatever form it may take. It means when your children get involved with the wrong crowd, the MAN is responsible to protect his children from them. It means in times of confusion, contention, illness and hurt, the MAN is responsible for bringing godly resolution to the problems, for comforting and for embracing his family in love. What woman wouldn't want to reverence a man like this? Reread last month's editorial about a woman's qualities of purity, tenderness and virtue and see how perfectly it compliments the qualities of a godly man. Let's follow the traits He has given us, and we'll experience God's greatest joy in all of our relationships!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## Gideon the Nephite Warrior

(Mosiah 19, 22, Alma 1:7-15)

Many times when I see some of the great servants of God in our Church today, I think of a fabulous servant of God in the Book of Mormon, named Gideon. Like our brothers who may have been soldiers in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, or Iraq, Gideon physically fought to protect his people.

As a young man he was a warrior and leader. He stood up to wicked King Noah and helped the new king by sneaking through a hidden gate in his city to free his people. As an old man he died fighting for God's truth.

Gideon was a Nephite whose family had left the other Nephites in Zarahemla. They went with King Zeniff to set up a kingdom back in the wild Lamanite land where their ancestors had first landed. The tricky King Laman there, told God's people, "Sure, you can settle here. I will force the other people living in this part of the country to leave so you can build your homes and cities." This evil King Laman pretended to be nice to Gideon's people because he had a secret plan to let them live in peace until they grew great crops, raised healthy sheep, built beautiful cities. Then he would attack them and after beating them in war, force them to give him the things that they were growing.

It happened that way. For twelve years Gideon's people, and their king, worked hard on the land. Then the Lamanites attacked them. King Zeniff

told them to call on God and he would help them win the battle. God's people fought back and won. Three thousand forty-three dead enemies had to be buried while two hundred seventy-nine of God's people died. After this, twenty-two years passed in peace. But then, King Zeniff grew old. He gave the kingdom to his weak and wicked son, Noah, to rule. Gideon was a soldier in King Noah's army.

King Noah was not a good leader. He broke all of God's laws. He had many wives; he planted grapes and started the people in making and drinking much wine. He also quit working and forced the people to give him one fifth of everything they grew for taxes. Then he spent that money on his wives, girlfriends, and evil priests. He got rid of all the true ministers of God and got new ones who also wanted to drink, lie around and sin. When the prophet Abinadi came to tell them to repent, King Noah and his evil priests murdered him by burning him with fire.

But one good man named Alma was among those priests of King Noah. When he heard the words of the prophet Abinadi, he begged King Noah to listen and not hurt him. But Noah was angry. He sent men to kill Alma. Alma hid and wrote down the words of Abinadi. Then he secretly went about telling others about the love and power of God. Over four hundred and fifty believed Alma. They wanted to serve God. They took their tents and families and left before the armies of King Noah could kill them. Gideon did not agree with the actions of wicked King Noah but he stayed in the land.

Meanwhile, the Lamanites started making sneak attacks against the

people as they farmed and worked. Gideon took warriors and fought back. The Lamanite armies were far bigger. There was a large battle and God helped them win. But they were not thankful. They bragged how wonderful they were, and left God out. The next time the Lamanites attacked, God let them do it on their own. They were not winners this time.

Now Gideon and his men were furious with lazy, evil King Noah. One day, not long after King Noah had murdered God's prophet, Gideon had had enough. (Mosiah 19) He drew his sword, and swore he would kill the evil King Noah. Noah fought back with him, and when he saw Gideon would beat him, he ran and got upon a high tower built to watch for approaching enemies. To his shock he saw huge

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### WORD SEARCH

GIDEON	AFRAID
WAS	OF
A	JUNGLE
GREAT	ENEMY
WARRIOR	TO
OF	EVIL
GOD	KING
NOT	NOAH

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

# We Want You!!!



Be sure to support these other events in the Southwest area before or after camp!

- ✓ Mesa VBS "In the Lord's Army" June 13-17
- ✓ Tse Benito VBS/YIA June 25-July 1
- ✓ Conference of America's (Weekend after Camp)
- ✓ San Carlos VBS "Construction Zone" July 25-29
- ✓ Fort Worth VBS (end of July)
- ✓ Southwest Area Campout September 2-5

We hope to see you there!



**Branch and  
Mission News**

## Southwest Region Conference

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST LOVE

*By Sister Rachel Smith*

Many blessings were handed down from heaven at our recent regional conference at the Mesa, Arizona Branch, March 11-12, 2005. We began Saturday morning by observing two of our most precious ordinances in the Church, Communion

and Feet Washing. The saints gathered in humbleness and unity as we shared the Lord's Supper. This allowed each of us to really reflect on the reason that we were there, the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. We were all able to become of a similar spirit and mindset.

We followed Communion with Feet Washing. On a personal note, as a newly-ordained Deaconess, this was the first time I was able to assist in Feet Washing. It was one of the most beautiful experiences to serve my fellow sisters in that capacity. The love that the saints of our Church have for one another is never more evident than during the most reverent time of Feet Washing. The prayers that were offered up unto the Lord at that time did not just reach the ceiling of the

church, but they reached the throne of God.

I can confidently say that the business portion of our conference that followed these beautiful ordinances was blessed of the Lord because of our likeness of heart and spirit of unity that we were already feeling.

The afternoon continued with more business that our brother Elders attended to and we also had our regional Ladies' Uplift Circle meeting. The Ladies' Circle meeting was filled with an outpouring of the spirit of God. The business was blessed and we felt the Lord guiding each of our decisions.

The business was followed up by a spiritual session on the topic, "Remember Your First Love." This

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## Southwest Region Conference

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theme was brought on by a wonderful experience received by a member of the Southwest Region. In the dream the member was asked to remember things such as when God called them to repentance; when they had love towards all in fellowship with hymns and joyful enthusiasm; and when God healed our bodies and broken hearts, when our hearts pounded to testify of His mercy – many things that bring our First Love to our remembrance. The message was that we will be blessed when we are united in love and single in purpose remembering all the times that the Lord has taken care of us.

After the experience was related, each local Circle took a portion of this experience and expanded upon it. Testimony after testimony told of experiences in which the Lord brought us to remembrance of our First Love. The experiences are too many to tell them all. However, one beautiful experience of when the Lord healed a broken heart was had by Sister Wendy Giannetti regarding her daughter, Sister Chelsea Giannetti.

When the Giannetti family first moved to Arizona, everyone in the family adjusted fairly easily, except for Chelsea. Sister Wendy prayed and prayed for her daughter. Chelsea told her parents that she was praying as well. However, one day, while Sister Wendy was asking the Lord what she should say to her daughter to make her feel better, the Lord spoke to Sister Wendy's heart and let her know that He wanted to help Chelsea, but she wouldn't let him. Sister Wendy then talked with Chelsea and told her what the Lord had said to her. Chelsea agreed that she had been praying for the Lord's help, while meanwhile, asking the Lord for her old life back. That summer, Chelsea attended GMBA Campout and opened her heart even more and accepted the Lord's calling and asked for her baptism. God is so good. When we allow Him to enter our hearts, what a wonderful change can be wrought.

Our evening meeting was led by the Area MBA. Brother Austin

Landrey, our Chaplain, spoke regarding #7 in the *Songs of Zion, Is It Nothing To You*. He asked us to search our hearts and ask ourselves if all that Christ has done for us is nothing to us. We need to make it something to us. We were also addressed by several of our brother Deacons. The speaking was followed by a season of testimony.

Our Sunday service was immediately blessed with a spirit of singing. The angels were joining in our hymns to the Lord. Brother Joe Ignani opened the service and asked us if we are "Spiritual Sleepwalkers." "Are we walking around seeming like we are awake, but in reality we are asleep to the doings of the Lord? We do not want to miss any of the miracles that the Lord is performing in our lives. We need to 'wake up' and remember our First Love."

The rest of our service was blessed with experiences of natural healings, of spiritual healings and of the mercies of the Lord. At the conclusion of our service, the saints joined in singing the *Awakening Chorus*. Words in our vocabulary cannot describe the beauty and majesty that accompanied our voices as we sang. It felt as if angels were not only joining us, but they were lifting our praises right to the throne of God.

Please continue to pray for us here in the Southwest Region that we might daily bring forth the Gospel to Joseph's children and that we might be a part in fulfilling the will of our Heavenly Father. May God bless and keep you all until we meet again.

## Great Lakes Region Conference

On October 24, 2004 the Great Lakes Region gathered at the Chippewa Valley High School, in Clinton Township, Michigan to hold their Region Conference. Included in the conference were the ordinations of two new Evangelists, Brother Frank Natoli and Brother Jeff Giannetti.

The Region choir was the prelude

to a spirit-filled meeting. After opening our meeting in prayer, Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. visiting from Arizona, shared a note of testimony as he prepared to sing a song. He testified that he had been unable to sing because of a nodule in his throat and that after being anointed at the Southwest Region Conference, his voice had improved. We were witness to this healing as he sang *Shall I Empty Handed Be*.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened our meeting. He shared many thoughts with us that day on the Spirit of God and how we should not take it's presence within us lightly. "It is our substance, and our hope. It is everything to us."

Brother Nephi spoke about our soul and the fact that God owns it as a reason we should serve him. He referred to the 48th Chapter of Alma. "When we leave this life our soul goes back to God. We belong to God and if we look at it, the life He gave us is so beautiful and so magnificent. When we become troubled or sick or have a near death experience, we then realize the beauty of life. We realize the beauty of what God gave us and we say not yet God, my work is not finished." Brother Nephi also spoke of hope. "The hope of the resurrected Christ is that one day when our work is finished that our souls will go back to Him who gave it." He told us to take good care of our soul so that when we return it to God, He will be pleased with the shape it is in.

Brother Nephi continued with 2nd Timothy 1:3 and read about the Apostle Paul, what a passionate man he was, and how he loved his disciples and brethren. He encouraged us to feel and show this same love for one another.

After Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sang a song, President Dominic Thomas spoke to us first thanking all of us for the prayers on behalf of him and his family over the past few years. Brother Dominic continued, "I know the work of the ministry and the work of the missionaries is the work of God. When Jesus sent the apostles out on their first missionary endeavor, he gave them the power to heal the sick

and cast out devils in His name. They went to prepare the way for Him when He would come to preach to those villages. He is with us even now. On the day of Pentecost He opened the windows of heaven and sent down power from above and they converted three thousand souls. We are an extension of that great Pentecost. We are part of His kingdom. I praise God today for the message this morning and for the privilege of the fellowship of the family of God."

Brother Lou Vitto asked us to prepare ourselves for the ordination and he shared a few thoughts with us. "Whether you are called to be an Apostle, Evangelist, Elder, Teacher, Deacon, or Deaconess, it is a gift of God that is placed upon us. Without God we can do nothing. As we look at our lives are we perfect? Absolutely not. Do we fall short sometimes? We do, but there is a song that is sung as we place ourselves completely in the hands of God, you and I, we are nothing but clay and He is the potter. Praise God! He didn't throw the clay away. He didn't set us aside. This is because of His love, His mercy, His kindness, His grace and His love towards each and every one of us."

After a few choral selections, the brothers prepared for the ordination. Brother Frank's feet were washed by Brother Wayne Martorana and Brother Jeff's feet were washed by Brother Russell Martorana, both visiting from the Ohio Region.

The Evangelists gathered around the two to be ordained and Apostle Peter Scolaro offered a prayer before two came forward to perform the ordination. Brother Frank was ordained by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, and Brother Jeff was ordained by Brother Mike LaSala.

Brother Russ Martorana shared with us a dream that he had months ago in April after hearing that Brother Jeff would be ordained. He dreamt that he was washing Brother Jeff's feet at the time of his ordination. Brother Russ was unsure how this would take place because at the time he lived in Ohio and Brother Jeff lived in Dallas. This dream also showed him that Brother Jeff would be

accepted by the Quorum of 70.

He also shared memories of Brother Frank Natoli, who is part of his natural family, and expressed a great amount of pleasure in being able to witness this day. In closing Brother Russ told us that he had read earlier in the week both of the scriptures that both Brother Nephi and Brother Dominic had spoken about that day and how this too was a confirmation of God's blessings with us.

Brother Frank Natoli humbly expressed himself. He shared that he deeply loved us all and he felt this in part because he tried to put the Lord first in his life. "I never thought that I would stand with this responsibility. We moved from Ohio to New York to Texas and then here to Michigan and have found the family of God to be overwhelming. Everywhere we moved as a family, although our natural family didn't live there, I found the saints of God to not only take their place but lift us up as well."

Brother Frank shared a dream that he had in 1993. In the dream he found himself at Branch #1 for an elders and teachers meeting. Brother Tony Lovalvo approached him and he looked very frail. Brother Tony said "Brother Frank I won't always be here and one day you will replace me." Brother Frank knew he was referring to his responsibility of an Evangelist. He did not share this dream with even his wife because he knew in God's own time that He would do the calling. Brother Frank concluded with, "My desire simply is to share the love of Christ with men and women."

Brother Jeff expressed that he and his family moved here at the end of June. He shared that he felt an immediate acceptance from the members of the Region.

Brother Jeff testified that in 1997, after a week of torment by the enemy of our soul, he prayed to the Lord to speak to him and the Lord gave him a dream. In the dream Brother Frank Natoli appeared to him with a clipboard. He said "Brother Jeff I need to take down some information about you because you are being recommended to the Quorum of 70." Brother Jeff knew in the dream that Brother Frank

was being recommended as well. Now seven years later when the brothers explained to him that Brother Frank was to be ordained that day as well, Brother Jeff immediately felt another confirmation of the calling. God knew that both families were to move to this Region and years earlier had given Brother Jeff this dream.

It was time to bring this beautiful day to a close and Brother Tom Everett, Region President, shared a few words with us before doing so. He reminded us that these ordinations are gifts to all of us in the Church and asked us to pray for the newly-ordained brothers.

## Spiritual Growth in Maine

*By Sister Cynthia Onorato*

Are there lost souls wandering around in the wilderness, stumbling in the darkness, trying to find the way? Yes, there are many trying to find the light of Jesus, searching for the day – the day when God shines upon them his loving rays – a ray of hope, a taste of His mercies, the touch of His love and the saints embrace, strengthening and feeding them with the rod of iron and the sweet fruit of salvation, by His grace. This is why Jesus came; to show all a better way, into the fold of His redeeming love by the great sacrifices He made!

The Maine saints spent a beautiful weekend, August 6-8, 2004 at a rustic camp nestled in the mountains of Maine. Our natural and spiritual senses beheld the beauty and serenity of God's gifts as we joined together in fellowship united by the common bond of God's Holy Spirit. Soothing sounds of loons serenading life filled the air Friday evening as we sat around a campfire testifying of the goodness of God. Saturday morning we arose not to the aroma of coffee on the fire, but our hearts and minds focused on uniting in fast and prayer which set the

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## Spiritual Growth in Maine

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course for the day. A special blessing was felt.

Brother Darryl Onorato, our camp director, asked us what activities we would like to do for the day. One said, "Let's exercise and take a walk with Jesus." Just being there, you couldn't help but feel close to God, witnessing the glory of His captivating creation. Saturday evening we went for a joy ride as we piled into the truck to look for moose. The rain began to fall, but it didn't dampen our spirits as we felt joy being together. Along with good spiritual food, satisfying meals were prepared by Sister Kathy Onorato, our chief cook.

On Sunday morning we gathered for our service singing, *He'll Take Care of Me*. Brothers Richard Onorato, Jr. and Darryl brought forth a message expounding upon Lehi's dream, grasping hold of the Rod of Iron, the word of God, and partaking of the sweet fruit of eternal life. Sister Elizabeth Corson's husband Joe's heart was touched as he expressed himself in testimony of his love for God and his desire to do God's will. Our hearts rejoiced, as we knew the Lord had shown him a better way – God's way!

The events of the following week that unfolded in Joe's life manifested to him of God's love and power. Joe was given many powerful experiences showing him that God was in control of his life and that He would take care of him. He had a dream that he was climbing to the top of a mountain. It was very difficult and he felt he could not go on. He saw two brothers and his grandfather, whom have passed on, in the dream. They were encouraging him to continue. When he began his journey again, he saw before him that the Lord had laid the steps out for him and showed him the way. When he got to the top of the mountain, it was so beautiful that no words could describe it. He was so enlightened and happy he made it to the top. The following week, Joe submitted unto God's love and requested baptism. His step-daughter, Kimberly Berticelli and

Nathan Greene followed him into the water of rejuvenation, promising to serve God with all their hearts. We praise God as we witnessed three souls found in Christ. Brother Richard, Jr. baptized them by the power and authority of God on August 15, 2004. Sister Marie Perrello saw a personage with Brother Richard as he was baptizing them. It was a rainy, gray day but as our converts were baptized, the sky opened up and the light of Christ shown through.

Upon returning to church for our service, Brother Richard, Sr. offered a word of prayer beckoning for Gods loving embrace as the Elders knelt in a circle around our new brothers and sister. Brother Joseph Fitch Corson was confirmed by Brother Richard, Sr. He prayed that Brother Joe's soul would be filled with the Holy Ghost being a light unto the world. Kimberly Anne Berticelli was confirmed by Brother Tom Curtin. He prayed that the Holy Ghost would descend upon her for perfection through Jesus. Nathan Greene was confirmed by Brother Darryl Onorato. He prayed that God would give him a heart of love, joy and bestow upon him the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Darryl addressed the congregation and proclaimed, "This is a day the Lord has called us to His service." Brother Richard, Sr. conveyed to us to be renewed in the Spirit of God. "This is just the beginning. There is a huge work and labor for the people of God." He continued speaking with the same message brought out the Sunday before at camp about Lehi's dream. He was not aware of the previous week's teachings. In 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi, chapter 8, Lehi had a night vision of a man appearing to him dressed in white and spake to him beckoning him to follow. They traveled in a dreary wasteland for many hours and Lehi prayed unto the Lord. He then beheld a tree whose fruit was desirable, most sweet and exceedingly white. He partook of the fruit with great joy holding onto the Rod of Iron. He wanted his family to come and partake of that fruit as well.

Today our new converts have partaken of that fruit. Brother Tom

Curtin spoke from Philippians 3:13. He stated, "Forget those things which are behind us and press forward to the high calling of Jesus. Grab hold of the Rod of Iron for the benefit of the saints and the glory of God."

Brother Richard, Jr. spoke of the great importance of upholding one another with the things of God. He felt the spirit of baptism upon Brother Joe the previous week at camp. He stated, "It is unto salvation to hold onto the Rod of Iron and to our promise to serve God." Allow God to work. It is amazing what He will do! We sang with much joy, *It Is the Start of a Brand New Day*.

Brother Joe testified of how God worked upon his heart and related his experiences. He started out not knowing which direction to go and was confused. He was a member of the Congregational Church for 40 years. He met The Church of Jesus Christ through his wife, Sister Elizabeth. He always felt a great spirit in the Church. He felt God was calling him at camp and while driving home from camp he saw a rainbow. He knew it was God smiling down at him and he had made the right decision.

Sister Kim expressed herself in testimony stating how God touched her heart when we had our branch dedication. She was cleaning out her closet and a hymn had fallen out of a book. The hymn was, *For Those Tears, I Died*. That same hymn was sung at our branch dedication. She felt God calling her at that time, but waited. She regretted that she didn't do anything about it. Her heart and soul rejoiced in thanksgiving that she obeyed that calling. Brother Nathan happily thanked God. He knew with his heart that when Joe was going to get baptized that it was his time to follow.

At the close of our beautiful meeting, the young came forward and a special prayer was offered to God for His arm of protection and guiding direction to be upon them as they go back to school.

Brother Darryl thanked God for opening up the windows of heaven and His storehouse of blessings. We were asked to remember our new brothers and sister in prayer. He said, "We are



one body and it is our duty to support and teach them." The Maine Branch thanks God for His spiritual growth and the great blessings of the Lord.

## Detroit, Michigan Branch 2

On October 22, 2004, the brothers and sisters, families and friends of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 gathered together in part to recognize all of the members who had served 50 years or more in The Church of Jesus Christ.

This list of distinguished role models included the late Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church, who had served 61 years; Sister Dolores Thomas, who has been baptized 61 years; Brother Reno and Sister Isabelle Bologna with 72 and 65 years respectively; Sister Rose Milantoni and Sister Eda DeMelis both with 63 years; Sister Jean Zaranko with 60 years; Brother Albert Andruccioli with 64 years; Sister Pearl Zinzi baptized 66 years ago, and Brother Alfonso Milantoni with 50 years of service. Sister Virginia Quattrociocchi was unable to be there but has also served 55 years in the Church.

They each came forward, were given a corsage or boutonniere, and then they shared the date of their baptism and who baptized and confirmed them. Just hearing the names of some of the brothers who participated brought back many memories. Some shared a few thoughts about what it is like to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ for so long. Each honoree was grateful for their calling and expressed the joys of serving God.

The congregation stood in recognition and sang *Sweeter As the Years Go By* with them. It was a pleasure to have Brother Albert with us who is a long-standing member of Branch #2 and is now residing far from us in Minnesota. Brother Reno and Sister Isabelle currently attend the Saline Mission but had been members of Branch #2 for most of their lives.

We enjoyed a lunch and cake as

we celebrated the anniversaries and the graduation of Sister Hope Bologna from college.

The blessings continued as we gathered back together for the blessed ordinance of Feet Washing. It was a day to remember.

The brothers and sisters honored are such great examples and have helped so many others present that day learn about and commit their lives to Christ. In total combined, they served 685 years in the Church. Their service shaped the branch that we are today and we were blessed to take a moment to recognize them.

## The Children's Corner

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armies of Lamanites quietly marching toward his city! Noah begged Gideon not to kill him and said, "Spare me and let all of our people rush and leave this city and run into the wilderness to get away from our enemies, the Lamanite armies!"

Gideon turned and helped organize the people to flee for safety! And it came to pass that the Lamanites did chase them and catch up with them and began to kill them. Scared King Noah ordered his soldiers to leave the women and children and run away. But some of the men refused to do so. They would rather stay and die with their families than run away. Those that were left behind with their families quit fighting. Their beautiful daughters went toward the Lamanite soldiers and begged them that they would not kill them. And it worked! The Lamanite soldiers were charmed with the beauty of their women. They spared their lives and took them back to their country.

They were now surrounded by guards and forced to give half of what they grew to the Lamanite king and armies each year. They also had to promise to give them King Noah if he came back. Gideon was with this group because we are told that he secretly sent men into the wilderness

to search for King Noah and those that were with him. Can you imagine finding people in the thick, wild, rocky, jungles of South America? There were no maps, good roads, airplanes or telephones — just wilderness. Days passed and Gideon's men found the men that King Noah had forced to go with him. They were coming back. These men were furious that they were made to leave their families. When they had tried to go back, King Noah and his bad priests tried to stop them. So these men had turned on King Noah and put him to death by fire. They wanted to also kill the evil priests but they ran away. How happy were these soldiers to learn that their families were still alive! They went back to find their families in a country surrounded by Lamanite guards.

King Noah's good son, Limhi, was picked as the next king. Gideon helped him by coming up with a plan for all of their people to sneak away and return to Zarahemla where their grandfathers had come from. Gideon told him that the guards on the backside of the city at night were drunk. He said, "Let us tell the people to gather their flocks and herds so that they can drive them into the wilderness by night. I will go and give the guards their wine. When they are drunk, we can go through the secret pass on the left side of the camp as they sleep." It worked! The people gathered all their precious things that they could carry as well, brought food and left in the night. After many days in the wilderness they arrived in the land of Zarahemla, and joined Mosiah's people and became his subjects.

When the armies of the Lamanites tried to follow them, after two days in the jungle they became lost and could not catch them. Gideon and the people of King Limhi were safe! Gideon the warrior, became a teacher in the Church and helped many people through his long lifetime. He never quit defending or fighting for the great things of God.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## OBITUARIES

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

### BOB COLLISON

Brother Bob Collison of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on January 30, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; sons, Dennis, Larry, Bradley, Mark and Jeff; daughters, Pam and Lori; brother, Don and sister, Ilene; along with 28 grandchildren.

### FRANK DiDONATO

Brother Frank DiDonato, of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch, passed on to his reward on January 26, 2005. He was preceded in death by his son, Larry. He is survived by his wife, Sister Rose DiDonato; three children, Michael, John and Diane; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### HELEN DiFALCO GIANFERMI

Sister Helen DiFalco Gianfermi, of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, passed on to her reward on March 4, 2005. She was preceded in death by her parents, Brother Antonio and Sister Raffaella DiFalco, and two brothers, Brother Tony and Ether

DiFalco. She is survived by her husband, Brother Frank Gianfermi; daughters, Sister Patricia Saragosa and Sister Priscilla McGregor; as well as her brothers, Rudy, Dominic, Pat, Brother Sam, and Brother Jim DiFalco; and sisters, Sister Connie Zaccagnini Leopoldo and Sister Lorraine Thomas.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Melissa F. Gombkoto was baptized on March 6, 2005 in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother William Colangelo and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Brother Joseph Fitch Corson was baptized on August 15, 2004 in the Maine Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Richard Onorato Sr.

Brother Nathan Greene was baptized on August 15, 2004 in the Maine Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Darryl Onorato.

Sister Kimberly Anne Berticelli was baptized on August 15, 2004 in the Maine Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. She was confirmed by Brother Thomas Curtin.

## Ordinations

Sister Rachel Smith Murphy was ordained a Deaconess in the Lakeside, Arizona Branch on December 5, 2004. Her feet were washed by Sister Cheryl Smith and she was ordained by Brother Harry "Skip" Smith.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio was ordained an Elder in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on April 10, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., and he was ordained by Brother Tony Calabrese.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I want to thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recent illness.

The Lord healed me of an infection that I had in my hip bone and allowed my surgery to go smoothly. I am progressing ahead of schedule and my pain level is so low, I am truly blessed! Surely by His stripes we are healed.

Your brother in Christ,  
Brother John Genaro

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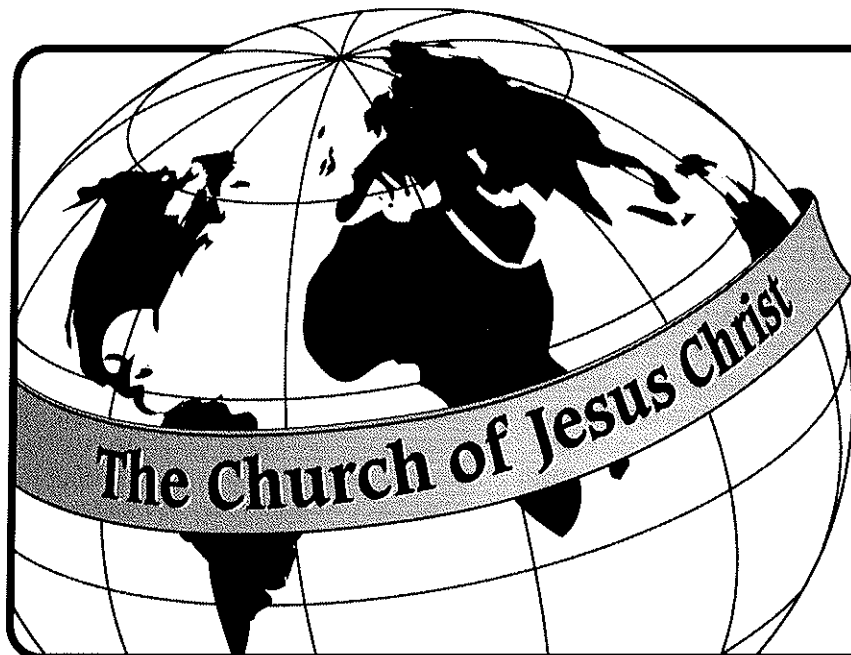
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 2005

Volume 61, No. 7

## May GMBA Conference

*By Sister Christine Maddox and Brother Jameson Staley*

Cleveland, Ohio now has special significance for many around the country beyond the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Indians. On the weekend of May 21, 2005, The Church of Jesus Christ held its annual GMBA May Conference in Cleveland. Hosted by the Ohio-Midwest Area, the conference drew brothers, sisters, and friends from across the country in the name of our Lord.

The Saturday morning meeting was kicked off by Brother Larry Champine, as he welcomed everyone by relating the account in Alma 53. Brother Larry told us of the people who had buried their weapons of war as a covenant with God to denounce sin and proclaim their righteousness. Their children, specifically 2000 young men, did not find themselves under the same covenant and decided to take up arms and fight for their liberty and freedom. Brother Larry quoted, *"And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity [...] Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God*

*and to walk uprightly before him"* (Alma 53:20-21).

Brother Larry exhorted the young people to take hold of the same commission as these 2000 young men. He reminded the young people of the need to be true to God and their commitment to Christ at all times. "As young people, we need to represent the Lord wherever we are. Make a decision now to have spiritual integrity [...] Be true to God and the Lord and the covenant we've made," he preached. Brother Larry then reminded the congregation that "the Holy Spirit doesn't attach itself to an age," but that "the Spirit of God attaches itself to the willingness of the heart."

The remainder of the Saturday morning meeting was dedicated to the business of the GMBA. Among other things, the location of the 2006 GMBA Campout was voted upon, and it was decided that the camp would be held at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina per recommendation of the Camp Procurement Committee. The announcement was also made that Brother John Griffith will serve as the new liaison between the GMBA and the General Church.

The Saturday afternoon meeting

was devoted mostly to a presentation by Brother Mario Zaccagnini and Brother Jerry Valenti about the Youth In Action program. This presentation included a slide show detailing the focus of the YIA as well as the benefits of participation in the program, followed by a video collage of photographs gathered through the years from YIA tours. Many of the young people present watched with smiling faces as they saw pictures of themselves from tours they had attended and remembered the blessings they received as well as the blessings they provided for a branch or mission.

As part of an effort to promote participation in this year's upcoming tours in Levittown, Spartanburg, and Tse Bonito, the presentation included the testimony of YIA "veterans" and others who received blessings as a result of a Youth In Action visit. Sister Deanna Nuzzi shared her experiences with the YIA, having been active in its missionary efforts since the program's early years. A written testimony of Sister Bethany Smith, who was unable to attend the conference, echoed the praises to God for the blessings received through the YIA. Brother Patrick Giannetti testified to the goodness of God in his life, especially in light of a recent automobile accident through which

(Continued on Page 2)

## May GMBA Conference

Continued from Page 1

God's power was shown by the preservation of Brother Patrick's life. He then shared the blessings he had experienced during Youth In Action tours in which he participated, including last year's extended tour in San Diego, California. Sister Carolyn Light added her testimony from the perspective of a parent of a Youth In Action participant and emphasized the changes it brought about in her daughter's walk with the Lord. Lastly, Brother John Buffa shared his thoughts on YIA from the perspective of a minister in a branch or mission hosting a YIA tour. He recounted the blessings of the 2004 YIA tour in his home mission of Redford, MI, which resulted in the bringing of souls closer to God. The congregation was blessed to reminisce upon past blessings of God through the Youth In Action, but they were even more excited about this summer's upcoming tours and the way that God will move His hand through these efforts.

The group gathered back together to enjoy the Saturday night service. The Midwest Region presented a program entitled "Joseph," which related the experiences of Joseph of Egypt to the latter-day gathering of the lost tribes of Israel, including the Seed of Joseph. The program's first half focused on the events in the life of Joseph of Egypt, while the second half revealed the ways in which this account represents types and shadows of God's promises for His chosen people in the future. This theme throughout the program was complemented by the choir's singing of several new *Songs of Zion*, whose themes coincide with the program's focus. The choir, accompanied by a full band of young people of the Midwest Region, sang selections that included *Maybe I'm a Dreamer*, *The New Jerusalem*, and *There's a God in Israel*. While the choir sang and Scripture was read, children from the Midwest Region depicted scenes of Joseph's life as well as future events promised to the Church and those with the heritage of the House

of Israel. The Saturday evening program was truly inspired and was a blessing and reminder of God's covenant with His chosen people. The program was filmed and is available to purchase on DVD for those who could not attend or those who would like to enjoy the program again.

The Sunday morning service began with the setting of the communion table. Brother John Griffith took charge of this portion of the service, asking Brothers Zac Jackson, Len Nardoizzi, Brandon Miller, Nephi DeMercurio, Jr., John Buffa, Paul Pezzenti, Mark Naro, and Joe Draskovich to pass the Lord's supper. While the communion service was taking place, the gifts of the Lord were made manifest among the congregation. Brother John spoke in the spirit of the Lord saying, "Thus saith the Lord: Behold I give you the blood of the Lamb that you might have atonement. Thus saith the Lord." Brother Mike Nuzzi testified that he saw the three Nephites kneeling with the ministers as they blessed the communion and then walking through the congregation touching various people on the shoulders.

Brother Jeff Giannetti felt inspired to open the preaching portion of the service. He labeled his message "Wiping Tears and Laying Stones." Brother Jeff began by referring to Joshua 4 and telling us that "we need to leave here fully assured that what we have is not a dream, but it is real – a promise – a promise that Israel will be restored. It is the word of God; therefore, it is a promise that we must accept and be ready to labor for." With this readiness to labor comes a commitment to action, which is where we must be ready to "wipe tears and lay stones." Brother Jeff related a dream that Brother Dominic Thomas had years ago in which he had seen a woman weeping inconsolably because of the great work for the Church that lay unfinished. Brother Jeff told us that we must be the ones to wipe the tears from her eyes. "Tears are wiped away when souls are saved. Are we wiping tears today?" he asked. Brother Jeff continued by explaining that we need

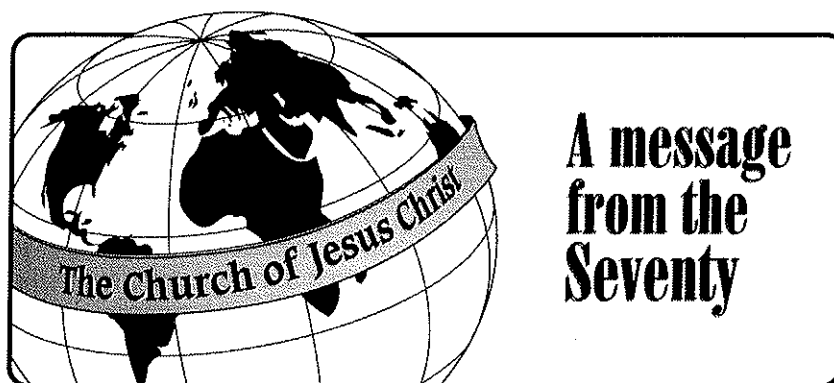
to also lay stones. We lay stones through our testimonies, prayers, spiritual gifts, and following the Lord's inspiration to reach out to others. He referred back to Joshua, stating that Joshua laid the stones so that the Lord could do great things. "We must lay stones for our children. We need to be spiritual stone masons leaving stones everywhere for all to see," he said. Brother Jeff encouraged all to go back to their branches and missions prepared to wipe away tears and lay stones. He explained, "We can accelerate Zion by converting souls. We convert souls by wiping tears and laying stones." Brother Jeff concluded with the question and answer, "Why should we set our sights high? Because we are The Church of Jesus Christ."

Brother Bob Buffington followed Brother Jeff by pointing out that God told Joshua to start today, and it can start today in our lives too. "I'd rather go with God in the dark, than walk without Him in the light," Brother Bob proclaimed.

An experience was then related that while Brother Jeff mentioned Brother Dominic's dream of the weeping woman, a vision was had in which the weeping woman was seen again. She was still weeping out of both of her eyes. By the end of Brother Jeff's sermon, the woman was weeping out of only one eye. She said, "Keep working. Keep working."

Brother John Straccia continued the service with Timothy 2:20. He said that the young people are filled with the same Holy Spirit as the older brothers and sisters, and we all must be prepared today. "We do not know when or where the next soul will come from," he said.

The meeting was closed with comments from the new Church president, Brother Paul Palmieri. He stated that "the Church is positioned today to do a marvelous work," and he believes that the goal is that the Church will fill the Earth and bring mankind back into the presence of the Lord. "It's not about what's been done; it's about what we're doing right now."



## Missionary Work – How Can I Help Financially?

*By The International Missionary Operating Committee*

We all agree that the commission of Jesus Christ to the Church today is to proclaim the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ "...to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." However, we do live in a physical world, and as such, we must face the reality that financially supporting the work of God in our various missionary fields is an integral part of the work.

The very best method of financially supporting the missionary work of the Church is to freely give to the General Church through your branches or missions. The General Church budget funds a vast majority of the missionary work as well as much of the humanitarian work around the world. Combined with the other wonderful Church auxiliaries (Ladies' Uplift Circle, GMBA, Sunday Schools), the General Church budget generates the finances that allow the Restored Gospel to be taken to every nation, kindred, tongue and people around the globe.

Those who financially support the General Church may also, at times, have additional discretionary funds that they would like to see go directly to the missionary work. For this the Church has established the Missionary Foundation Committee (MFC), a fantastic financial asset to the missionary work around the world. Private donations may be directed through the MFC at any time and go toward helping to further the cause of the missionary endeavors of the

Church. Initially, general donations are directed into a fund known as the general fund. The interest generated by this fund is applied directly to the missionary work every year. Private donations may also be directed towards a specific mission field. Each quarter these specific requests are passed directly on to the Church's mission field teams. God has certainly blessed this financial concept to the benefit of the missionary work we are involved with today and He will continue to do so into the future.

"...the General Church budget generates the finances that allow the Restored Gospel to be taken to every nation, kindred, tongue and people around the globe."

There are several reasons why it is not in the best interest of the Church for individuals to independently send money to people and mission fields where the Church is presently working or established.

The Church of Jesus Christ is deeply involved in the salvation of souls. We have a wonderful missionary program that is growing and expanding. The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ is touching the hearts and lives of people around the world like never before in the history of our Church. More and more individuals are becoming actively involved in the

missionary field teams and supporting the efforts in many diverse ways. Branch auxiliaries as well as individuals are encouraged to work directly with a mission field team to support a special project or the humanitarian effort needed by the mission team. There are great needs and great opportunities in all missionary endeavors of the Church. Please financially support Missionary Work through the General Church and the Missionary Foundation Committee and in doing so, you will also be involved in missionary work.

## New Songs of Zion

### #120 Run Children Run

Run children run, a table is preparing,  
Run children run, a wond'rous feast  
to share;  
The night was blind but morning sees  
more clearly  
The Lord Himself awaits your  
presence there.

Run children run, while angels' arms  
surround you,  
Run children run, your safety is  
assured,  
A cloud by day and fire by night  
around you,  
To take you to the breakfast of the  
Lord.

Run children run, a brighter day is  
calling;  
Run children run, a dawning so  
arrayed;  
With golden streams of heaven's  
beauty shining,  
And perfect joy the prophecies  
portrayed.

Run children run, no fire nor foe can  
hinder,  
Run children run, be quickly on your  
way;  
Leave all the tears and broken  
dreams behind you,  
A thousand years of joy begins today.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
January 31, 2005



## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings In Kinsman, OH

It was April 24, 2005. The weather forecast for Kinsman called for rain turning to 2-4 inches of snow. However, God's family from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio gathered together knowing there would be showers of blessings followed by plenty of "Sonshine." Apostle Philip Jackson welcomed everyone saying that they had come for the ordinations of Zachary Jackson, Brandon Miller, and Timothy Mott as elders, but that they were in for a bonus – two deacon ordinations. He went on to explain what had happened that week that led up to the elders meeting with Daniel McNamara and Tyler Jackson on Saturday evening and their accepting the calling of deacon.

We opened by singing *The New Jerusalem*. Brother Don Ross said "God bless all of you," in Spanish and English and offered a beautiful prayer. We then sang *Down At the Cross*. Brother Tony Ricci opened his sermon stating that he came prepared to preach, but the words offered in Brother Don's prayer changed his mind, "Lord, use each and every one of us today to be able to tell someone about The Church of Jesus Christ." He exhorted everyone to have their *own* testimony using Paul's words to the Corinthians, "Ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God...therefore glorify God." We all have the message that Christ arose from the dead and He is coming back. Brother Tony talked about Rufus, the son of Simon, the man that carried Christ's cross. Rufus probably asked his dad to tell him the story of Jesus, over and over again. Are you going to be *the one* in the crowd to do what God wants? Everyone has the opportunity to show the love of Christ. The good news never changes. The Lord is compelled to call His servants to a greater work.

After singing *Jesus Paid It All*,

Brother Bob Pizzaia spoke about Satan wanting to destroy our beautiful Church and that the Lord does not want negative and cowardly people. He is calling our young brothers to be workers, to study the scriptures, and to do the work of the Lord.

We then sang *The Church's Jubilee*. Evangelist Joel Gehly spoke on Alma 13:4, "They have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren." He told the three brothers what an *awesome privilege* that they were being called to be a favored instrument in the hands of God, to be preachers of His Gospel.

Brother Bob Batson spoke of an experience that Brother Tony Ricci had of being asked to anoint a woman in the middle of a store. We must always be ready to do the work of the Lord. The Apostle Paul told Timothy, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove; rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." When a coworker asks for prayer, be ready. When someone asks about your church, be ready.

After singing *There's a God in Israel*, the Kinsman choir sang *When I'm Humbled Down, Run, Children, Run*, and *In the Army of the True and Living God*. Then Apostle Philip Jackson addressed Brothers Tyler Jackson and Daniel McNamara telling them that whenever we do anything for the Lord, He blesses us. Just as when Simon carried Christ's cross, the Lord felt indebted to him. From that moment on, his life was changed. That is what the Lord feels every time someone is willing to carry His cross. He ended by quoting Timothy 3:13, "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Brother Daniel's feet were washed by Brother Mike Nuzzi. Brother Tyler's feet were washed by Apostle Philip Jackson. Evangelist Paul Ciotti offered the prayer to choose those that would ordain. Brother Daniel was

ordained a deacon by Brother Ron Genaro and Brother Tyler was ordained a deacon by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Apostle Paul Palmieri addressed the congregation about the ordination of an elder. He said that the priesthood was not something that was started in recent times but that the priesthood has been from the beginning of time. It was the vehicle that God designed to bring people back into the presence of God through baptism and the remission of sins. Thousands of years have gone by and that priesthood still exists through The Church of Jesus Christ. As Christ revealed himself to the disciples of old, he revealed himself to these brothers. Brother Paul asked the families to pray for our brothers that they would have the joy of bringing souls to Christ.

As the congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, the brothers prepared to have their feet washed. Brother Mike Nuzzi stood up and said, "As the brothers were taking their shoes off they were consumed by fire as the burning bush and I heard a voice say, 'Your feet are upon Holy Ground. Go out like the sons of thunder and work to bring forth my Zion.' " Brother Howard Jackson washed Brother Timothy's feet, Brother Alan Metzler washed Brother Zachary's feet, and Brother Ron Giovannone washed Brother Brandon's feet.

After the congregation sang, *Where He Leads Me*, Brother Timothy was ordained an elder by Apostle Philip Jackson, Brother Zachary was ordained an elder by Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri, and Brother Brandon was ordained an elder by Brother Bob Pizzaia. We then sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. The newly ordained brothers came forward and gave beautiful testimonies. As Brother Zachary was finishing, Brother Tony Ricci stood up in the spirit and said, "Go searching the mountains and the valleys. Go searching. Find Israel. Find Israel. Find Israel. Thus saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord." Then Brothers Tyler and Daniel gave their

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Many theologians today claim that The Church of Jesus Christ is an invisible influence composed of the honest in heart everywhere, who may or may not belong to a Bible believing church, but who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Savior. These are those who will enter the portals of heaven some day. This belief is certainly one that is easy to swallow, and upon hearing, sounds like a flawless doctrine. If you believe in Jesus, and are honest of heart, how could God turn you away from heaven? God is a God of love and would be incapable of turning away such a person. Right?

Unfortunately (or fortunately), this belief is not consistent when you read ALL of the Word of God, and not just a verse here or there to suit your needs. When you read ALL of the Word of God, you understand the purpose for Jesus establishing His Church in Jerusalem, and the purpose for Him creating ordinances that He wanted His followers to practice. Those who follow the beliefs of the theologians above are described in the scripture. They are the ones who may face the Lord some day bearing many miracles and good works, but the Lord will say to them, *"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"* (Matthew 7:23).

In Matthew 7:21, Jesus said that those that would enter in would be those who do the will of the Father. The will of the Father was repentance, baptism, and then adherence to the teachings and ordinances established in His Church, and finally endurance to the end (which is when we are saved...at the end). I'm sure believers everywhere can argue the interpretation of scripture for hours and for days and never reach an agreement. However, one must ask themselves the question, "What if there really is but one true Church of Jesus Christ? What if I must follow the ordinances and teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ in order to obey what God really wants from me?" I'm not sure about you, but I'd rather not take chances with my soul. If I understand something to be true regarding the teachings of Jesus, regardless of what other opinions are (opinions are as numerous as the sands of the sea), then I have to answer the Lord for my own actions.

Jesus called twelve Apostles (Matthew 10) and Seventy Evangelists (Luke 10). The Church added Elders (Acts 14:23), Teachers (Ephesians 4:11) and He bestowed upon the Church gifts and blessings (1 Corinthians 12)...nothing more, nothing less. Jesus taught us to be baptized as He was, with water and with the Holy Ghost (John 3:5). He taught us to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of His dying on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-24), He taught us to wash one another's feet (John 13:1-7), otherwise, we would have no part with Him. He taught those that were sick to call for the Elders of the Church to be anointed with oil (James 5:14), not just having anyone standing near you, put their hand on you and pray for you. There is substantial evidence through scripture that this Church of Jesus Christ would fall away because men would want to change the things Christ established (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1). This indeed happened and is the reason why there are so many churches today. Many non-believers criticize Christians for believing in one God, but serving Him through thousands of different churches and belief systems. We know the devil is the author of confusion, and truly he has confused the world. The scripture is also full of evidence that the Church would be restored again after 1260 years in the wilderness (Revelations 12). The Bible and Book of Mormon (stick of Judah and Joseph) came together to stamp out false doctrines (Ezekiel 37:16-20). There was a finite time for the Church to be removed, and today, that finite time has ended, praise God! The narrow path that leads to life eternal is found by a few, while the broad road leads to spiritual death. The few that have found The Church of Jesus Christ can rejoice today to be chosen as that peculiar people (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9), who are criticized, as followers of Jesus always were, but blessed abundantly by His favor. Don't give up that good fight of faith, and don't allow your zeal for God to be misguided by false teachings (Romans 10:2). Remember there is a right way and a wrong way to serve God. Choose the right way, and live life to the fullest!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Liberty for God's People

Dear friends,

When I ask the children at school to write a list of their goals in life, they almost always write "I want to be really rich." But the Book of Mormon and Bible teach us that there is something greater than being rich. It is having liberty, or freedom.

Think about it. If you have freedom, you can choose the way to live. In many countries of the world, bad kings, dictators, or generals are in power. If your family does not do exactly what the men in power want, they can be punished. Families that don't agree with the bad guys don't get good jobs, their children are kicked out of school, they lose their homes. Dads and moms can be put in jail and the children are left to live on the streets, begging strangers for food.

In the Bible, Hadassah was a beautiful and faithful young Jewish girl. Her parents were dead and so her Uncle Mordecai raised her as a daughter. The king of a great part of the world then was named Ahasuerus. He had a huge party for the people that helped him rule. They traveled for weeks to get there, and the party lasted one hundred and eighty days, or six months. He was busy impressing the others with his wealth and power. He commanded the Queen to come to one of his feasts so the other men could see her beauty. When she refused, his advisors told him to divorce the Queen or all the women around would stop obeying their husbands. He divorced



her and sent her away to live.

Now his men were hunting for the most beautiful, unmarried girls in the kingdom to be his new queen. People ruling other countries sent their daughters, wanting to get influence with the King. Many girls were brought to the palace hoping to be chosen Queen, or to be picked as one of the other unofficial wives. Hadassah was also selected by the men hunting for a queen and was taken away from her Uncle Mordecai to the palace.

Her name was changed to Esther. For one year they trained each girl in the ways of the palace. God gave Esther favor with the man in charge of the wives to be. He gave her the best place in the house of the women and seven servant girls.

After the year of training, the King met each girl. She stayed with him for one night then went to live with all the other women in the Second House of Women. She only had one chance to get the King's attention. But God had sent Esther for a reason. The King was very pleased with her and chose her for his official wife. But you can imagine what it was like to have all the other unpicked women jealously hate you. You can imagine what it was like to be surrounded by critical people hoping to catch you doing something wrong. Esther had no personal freedom.

She was not even allowed to go outside even to speak one-to-one with her Uncle Mordecai, who was a man. And since her uncle warned her not to tell anyone that she was Jewish, that means she had to practice her religion, praying all alone. Everyday he walked in front of the House of

Women wanting to know what was happening to her. She could look out her window each day and see her Uncle Mordecai. That must have cheered her.

One day Mordecai heard two men making plans to murder the King. He sent a message to Queen Esther and she had it investigated. The police found out it was true and captured the murderers. Esther made sure her uncle's good deed was written down in the history, or Chronicles book. Later Mordecai was rewarded by the King for saving him.

But Mordecai had a powerful enemy. A man named Haman worked as an advisor for the King. Every day when Haman passed through the gates

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

KING	JEWISH
AHASUERUS	PEOPLE
HADASSAH	FROM
BECAME	EVIL
HIS	MAN
QUEEN	HAMAN
ESTHER	MADE
RISK	PLAN
GAVE	SURE
UP	TO
HER	KILL
FREEDOM	US
TO	ALL
SAVE	

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



## Spiritual Roots

By Sister Jan Cornell, Editor  
Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Ladies' Circle

The Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered for a fellowship weekend on March 18-20, 2005 at the Embassy Suites in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. The theme of the weekend, "Roots," was given to Sister Tonia Monaghan, coordinator, through fasting and prayer. Sister Marian Yoder acted as co-chair and it can truly be said she performed her duties with joy as many sisters, young people and friends from the area and visitors from the Atlantic Coast joined together for a spiritual time of fellowship and praise.

The devotions for the weekend were prepared by the Herndon, Virginia Circle and emphasized our pledge and promise to do the work of the Lord. Our business meeting was conducted by Area President, Jacqui King. The work of the area sisters includes the donating of Wal-Mart gift cards to an area women's shelter, the preparing of portable sacrament sets, a circle visitation program, the supporting of Bible Schools at San Carlos and Muncey, the Iraq Soldier Project and the annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon. It was noted that our Area newsletter has been printed for the last four years. It is hoped that the distribution of the newsletter will generate interest in both the local and area circles. As our business meeting closed we decided that our next circle visitation will be to the Roscoe circle.

In the afternoon Sister Becky Tarbuk conducted the seminar, "Roots." Sister Lisa Gray led a special class for our young women. We learned the new *Songs of Zion* and enjoyed craft classes. Our evening activity, planned by Sister Becky Hemmings, was fun and informative.

On Sunday morning, our services

were conducted by Brothers Lawrence King, Dan Buffington, and Jim Speck. The brothers spoke of the circle work and gave examples of the women of the Bible who worked for the Lord. A beautiful poem entitled, "A Mother's Prayer" was read.

We thank God for what the circle means to each of us and the privilege to work for Jesus Christ and His Church. We invite all sisters and friends to join us in this noble work.

## Three KFC's in Anaheim

By Sister Lynette Huttenberger

On Wednesday, April 6, 2005, the Anaheim Ladies' Circle lesson was taught by three of our youngest members. They wrote "KFC" on the board and stated, "We Are Kids for Christ."

Several weeks ago, I was looking for sisters to teach our monthly Ladies' Circle lesson. Somewhat jokingly, I asked Amanda Moore (10 years old) if she would like to teach Ladies' Circle. Her eyes widened and said, "I'll get back to you." As I was sitting in my pew that Sunday morning, Amanda approached me and whispered in my ear, "We'll teach in April." Within 10 or 15 minutes she had recruited Vanessa Palacios (12 years old) and her sister Monica (11 years old) to teach the Ladies' Circle lesson in April. I was speechless.

The night of April 6, the meeting came to order with the usual announcements and then the girls began their lesson. They came prepared with markers and laminated Bible verses. They quizzed us on John 3:16, the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. With each correct answer, we were awarded a sticker or a bookmark. They asked the sisters what their favorite Bible or Book of Mormon scriptures were. Again, with each response, we were rewarded with a sticker or a bookmark. Amanda, Vanessa and Monica sang us the new *Song of Zion*, *There's a God in*

*Israel*. The girls opened up the remainder of the meeting for testimony. The word of the month was "grave," and each sister had to find a scripture containing the word. As each sister recited her verse, Vanessa listed all the scripture references on the white board. We liked that so much we decided that every meeting we'll have one of the girls list all the scriptural references on the white board. This will be a new way for us to include the young girls in every Ladies' Circle meeting.

In closing, the girls requested that all of the sisters sing *Jesus My Wonderful Friend*. As we were singing, the girls began to write messages on the board expressing how they felt about having taught the class. Amanda wrote, "God has given me courage." Vanessa wrote, "God has helped me." Monica wrote, "helping in everything I do." These young girls were so thankful to God that He had given them the courage to speak in front of the sisters.

As we formed a circle to close in prayer, I asked if anyone felt to pray. Amanda spoke up immediately, "I do." We were so amazed at the desire these young girls have. We were so blessed and proud of what we had witnessed. We praise God that the future Anaheim Ladies' Circle is in good hands. As I was leaving church, I noticed on the board that the girls have signed up to teach again in September. My cup runneth over....

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

DiBattista, John and Caryl  
20 Red Tail Drive  
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047  
847-847-7160

Jasmine, Everett and Josephine  
5775 Fernly Dr. #144  
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Panfile, Elizabeth  
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## Blessings in Kinsman, OH

Continued from Page 4

testimonies.

After singing, *Wave the Flags of Zion*, Brother Gary Martin closed in prayer. It was a beautiful day spent in God's presence. We truly felt the "Sonshine." We ask that you keep our newly ordained brothers in your prayers. We praise God for all the wonderful blessings that have come to the Kinsman Branch!

## Ordination in Miami, FL

The Miami, Florida Mission met on March 27, 2005 with an added expectation of God's blessings. Not only was it Easter Sunday, but many visitors were present to celebrate the ordination of Brother Justin Severson into the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Presiding Elder, Brother George Kovacic, welcomed everyone and read from Hebrews 5, "And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God." He then read from the Minister's Manual regarding the calling into the ministry, its purpose and the authority it carries.

Several sisters then sang, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother Miguel Bicelis began the

preaching service thankful to celebrate Christ's resurrection and His victory over death. The Church is called after His name, The Church of Jesus Christ. We need to follow and observe all things that Christ did. Brother Miguel related how he met Brother Justin on the Homestead Air Force Base while attending a class together. They developed a friendship and by the end of the semester they were discussing the scriptures. Brother Justin began to desire more. Brother Miguel testified that since his baptism, Brother Justin has portrayed a sincerity and soberness borne of his good parental upbringing and his conviction to follow Christ. Brother Miguel urged the membership to pray for our brother and the entire ministry that they may continue to labor in the Lord's Church.

Apostle John Griffith spoke on Brother Justin coming from good stock; humble, with an even nature and temperament. God calls and uses us to accomplish His will. God gave His only begotten Son that whoso would believe on Him would not perish. Believe in Jesus Christ, believe in His resurrection, and believe in Eternal Life. It is about people serving people, about building that Kingdom here on earth. Brother John referred to Acts 26, how Paul was called of God, separated from his people, and drawn into His service. Brother Justin was now going to be set apart by the washing of feet that he too would do the Lord's service.

Brother Kevin Jasmin felt the Lord's spirit come over him and he washed our brother's feet. Brother Joe Catone then ordained Brother Justin as the ministry encircled them. A wonderful spirit was evident as our new minister greeted his fellow laborers.

After the ordination, Brother Frank Rogolino said that the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ rests upon our brother today. When the Holy Spirit is working through us, we can do great things.

Brother Dennis Moraco noted the significance of this ordination being on Easter, because it is through Jesus Christ that we are here. We do not have a paid ministry, afflictions do not know time, but the rewards of service

are great: the blessing of children, joining a couple in Holy matrimony, the joy of taking a soul into the waters of baptism. We can truly sing *He Lives*.

The Word of the Lord was uttered, "Thus saith the Lord, On this day the final work of my Son shall begin and that men shall know that He is Lord."

Brother John Catone admonished us to pray for Israel that they might be saved. How shall they hear without a preacher? How beautiful are the feet of him that preaches the Gospel of Peace, the truth will be established.

Brother Bryan Griffith stated that many were witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. Christ came, showed himself among the Apostles and taught them. Now Brother Justin is a witness of Jesus Christ's resurrection.

Evangelist Eugene Perri quoted from memory Psalm 1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night...and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. He also spoke on the "Be Attitudes," that as long as we have a vision we will be nurtured to do God's work. He reminded us to always remember that the Church is built upon the love of Jesus Christ.

Finally, Brother Justin shared his thoughts on this day of his ordination. He wrestled with this calling for a long time and felt he couldn't accept it. This morning he read 1 Peter 4:11, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever."

He thanked God for the many blessings that he had received in his life. He said that we all have been freely given to, this day he would like to give back of that which was given to him. He related a dream that he had regarding his ordination. He saw the ordination taking place, the brothers around him in a circle, and he felt the presence of someone ordaining him. After, he asked a sister who the person was that had ordained him, and



Elder Justin Severson and wife, Tina

the sister said, "If you only knew." Brother Justin concluded that he looks forward with anticipation to labor and minister to anyone, as God loves all His creation.

As a witness to God's power, a sister was anointed that faced heart bypass surgery in the near future. After the anointing, she went to the doctor who said the blockage had been removed, and they just did an angioplasty instead. Thank God for the goodness of His love.

After sacrament and closing prayer, the Miami Mission hosted an Easter luncheon for all in attendance. As a special treat, everyone had the opportunity to sing happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday to Sister Pauline Ritz. God truly blessed the Miami Mission and the Church this Easter day.

## Celebration in the Air

By Sister Isolina Carlini

On July 31, 1955, at Belle Isle Beach in Detroit, Michigan, five young women surrendered their lives to the Lord and were baptized by the late Apostle Nick Pietrangelo. Brother Nick took each of the young women into the waters of regeneration in the following succession: Sisters Connie DiFalco (Zaccagnini-Leopoldo), Rosalie Pietrangelo (Campitelle), Rosalie LaSala (DiPronio), Rose Pontillo (Benyola) and Grace Santarcangelo (Lovalvo).

There is a celebration in the air this year in that all five women will have marked 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 31, 2005. Although the sisters live in different cities, even states, they all remain close at heart. Their commitment to the Lord was rooted and grounded as a group and as individuals. May God continue to bless these special sisters as they continue to set the standard for us all.

*"...they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another"* (Mosiah 18:21).

## First Love

By Sister Gelsa Zinzi

March 13, 2005 was a day filled with blessings for the members and visitors attending Detroit, Michigan Branch 2. It started with Sunday School when our Brother Jim Lambert, Jr. posed the question, "I know that God loves me because \_\_\_\_?" Many of the brothers and sisters filled in the blank with their personal testimony of how they know God loves them. The spirit of our Lord filled the room and carried on into our regular service.

We knew that this day would be special as Brother Rodney Dyer was to be reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ, we just didn't know how special. It became apparent though when Brother Dominic Thomas came into the church building. Brother Dominic's health was deteriorating but it was his desire to be at church for Brother Rodney. The brothers and sisters were so moved as he made his way to the rostrum. The love we felt for Brother Dominic and the love he felt for us was so strong it was tangible. As had become customary, Brother Dominic asked to be anointed and the priesthood together with the members united in prayer for him.

Many visitors were in attendance that day including Apostle Peter Scolaro and Sister Marilyn Scolaro, Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista, Brother Ken and Brother Jameson Staley, and Brother Rodney's daughters, along with their husbands and children.

Brother Peter opened the service advising us that we can easily be disconnected from God as the children of Israel did in the wilderness. God gave them manna from heaven and still they were not satisfied. He quoted Mathew 4:4, "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." He emphasized to us that we should believe in *every* word. He spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Philippians, where Paul says to be careful for nothing, but let your requests be known to the Lord and after that don't worry about them. Brother Peter continued speaking about how when Paul and Silas were

in prison they sang praises to the Lord and did not worry or lament about their well-being. Jesus said in John, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger...For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me."

Brother John DiBattista followed and said he had recently been reading the Bible in Italian and the verse that he was able to memorize was the same verse in Matthew, "Man shall not live by bread alone..." He brought forth examples from the Book of Mormon of how the sons of Mosiah were filled with the word of God and therefore able to do His work. He also shared that the brother of Jared would not have been able to see the finger of God unless he was filled with the word of God. He related several experiences he had while doing missionary work in Italy and how the Lord was with him there.

Brother Rodney was asked to come forward to be reinstated. Brother Duane Lovalvo then offered prayer with the ministry before reinstating Brother Rodney. Brother Ken Staley under the power of the Lord reinstated Brother Rodney.

Brother Rodney was asked to testify and he related that while he was meditating this morning he thought of his parents, Brother Robert and Sister Esther Dyer, and how happy they would be today. The song *First Love*, that his mother wrote came very strongly to him. He relayed the experience of how he was in North Carolina when she received the music to that song and later the words. He asked all of his family to join him in singing a very moving rendition of *First Love*.

Brother Rodney expressed concern for his family who were not in the Church and especially his grandchildren who had not been blessed in the Church. Two of his grandchildren were brought forward to be blessed. Brother Alex Gentile blessed his grandson, Brandon Daniel Meirinho-Dyer, and Brother John DiBattista blessed his granddaughter, Aspyn Sky Krizanovic.

After communion was passed,

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## First Love

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Brother Dominic Thomas was very weak and he needed to leave. As he walked down the aisle with the assistance of two brothers, he would pause every now and then to shake someone's hand and say God bless you. This writer cannot express to you the outpouring of love that was felt for him at that time. We were filled with sorrow for the pain that our brother was suffering but mostly for ourselves because it was as if we knew it would be the last time we saw him. Truly that day we felt *Perfect Love, God's Perfect Love*.

## Blessings in Levittown

By Brother Mike Fraschilla

*Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?*

2004 was a year filled with ups and downs for the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was exciting as our new Sunday School program gained momentum under the guidance of Sister Chasity Bright, whose marriage to Brother Jared Bright took place in 2004, as the children in the branch have their knowledge of the Bible and Book of Mormon grow weekly. The branch also had its share of sorrows as it saw two of its eldest members, Brother Frank Cervone and Sister Fay Valenti, pass away.

The pinnacle of the year was seen on July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>, respectively. On July 25<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure of watching five souls become cleansed and dedicate their lives to Christ. The day started as calm as the water in the lake they were to be baptized in. Each of the five who gave their souls that day had felt the calling and came with nothing to deter them. The youngest two, Brother Michael Perri and Sister Lauren Wolff had

their calling at the GMBA Campout the prior week. Many of us have experienced the excitement of a campout and being with our friends, and know the powerful feeling of being called while there. These two cousins waited until they came back to their home branch where their grandfather, Brother Joseph Perri, baptized them. Brother Michael was confirmed by Brother David Catalano, and Sister Lauren was confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola.

Sister Lydia Micale, an associate of Brother Paul Benyola and wife of Brother Tony Micale, made her decision in her car after work after hearing another person's blessing. Sister Lydia had been coming to church with Brother Tony for some time, and just knew. Her stepfather, Max Haufe, who had come a few times with Sister Lydia, had finally felt at peace at the church and requested his baptism as well. Sister Lydia and Brother Max were both baptized by Brother Joseph Benyola. Sister Lydia was confirmed by Brother Jim Sgro and Brother Max was confirmed by Brother Sam Sgro. Brother Timothy Cervone has been coming to church since he was a child, a person who was born and raised in the Church, but never felt like it was his time. Brother Timothy had lost his father, Brother Frank Cervone, only a few months before. Brother Timothy was on a trip the week before his baptism, and after struggling for years, finally felt his calling. Brother Timothy was baptized by Brother Joseph Benyola and then confirmed by Brother Jim Calabro.

Then, less than one month later on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we returned to the lake to see another give her soul and life to Christ. After coming to the Church through a friend and seeing the love and hearing the experiences of other members in the Church, Sister Dorothy Klund felt her calling to eternal salvation. Sister Dorothy was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola. There is nothing more blessed than watching one, let alone six people, dedicate their lives to Christ. 2004 was a blessed year for our branch, with all the ups and downs that we felt. We

thank God for being able to participate and watch these blessings.

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God."*

## Atlanta, Georgia Branch Celebrates Anniversary

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

Brothers and sisters form the Atlanta, Georgia Branch met together on June 5, 2005 to celebrate 30 years of service to the Lord as a Mission, then a Branch.

We had two visitors in our midst today, Sister Goldie Jones from California and our "mystery guest," Brother Jason Monaghan from Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Brother Mark Kovacic had been telling the congregation that he had a surprise visitor that would be here for our 30th Anniversary celebration and it turned out to be Brother Jason.

Brother Jason opened the meeting by telling us a short story about a little boy that loved the game of baseball. The moral of this little tale is, "It is all in how you look at the situation." He then went on to read from II Chronicles, Chapter 20 and expounded upon asking God for help. Brother Jason exhorted us to ask God for help, but we don't need to tell him what we need Him to do. He already knows what needs to be done. Remember, just as Jahaziel told Jehoshaphat, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by the reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's." We may not have a great multitude to contend with but we all have trials from time to time that we must deal with. When we do ask for God's help, we can be assured that He will help us, but in His own way.

After communion was served, Brother Mark gave the group a short quiz concerning the things that have happened during the past 30 years. Questions pertained to baptisms, blessings, transfers in and out, and



milestones to celebrate such as births, graduations, and marriages. In thirty years, a lot has transpired and the majority of us were not in Atlanta for most of that time so this quiz was a tricky undertaking.

Upon finishing and discussing the quiz, the meeting was opened for testimony, and what a joy to hear things that went on in the early mission. Micah Kunkel, just having graduated from high school, asked for prayer for the Lord to direct his life. Anyone knowing Micah, knows that his greatest desire is to play baseball and when the request for prayer was made known, Micah's mother, Sister Teresa, silently prayed that someone knowing Micah would do the praying. As it turned out, it was Brother Jason that prayed for Micah, and it was brought back to Sister Teresa's mind that Brother Jason spoke about baseball in the very beginning of today's service. He was the right one to do the praying.

After the service closed, we all enjoyed ourselves looking at the picture display prepared for us by Sister Kathy Slay and the videotape prepared by Brother Sam Kunkel of the early days in Atlanta. Sister Kathy and Brother Sam are the only two original members of the Atlanta Mission still to attend here. Others are located throughout the vineyard and still others have gone on to their rewards.

We had an opportunity to see and hear how our Branch has grown and how it has been blessed over the years even as we continue to be blessed today.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

he expected all the other people to bow and treat him like he was really wonderful. Mordecai refused to be impressed. This enraged Haman so much that he began to search out ways to kill Mordecai. When he found out that Mordecai was Jewish, he decided to kill everyone who was Jewish. Haman tricked the king into believing all Jews were against them and they should be destroyed. He got

the king to sign a law setting up a date when a huge war against the Jews would occur and all Jews throughout his part of the world would be attacked and destroyed. Then he told his men to build a place to hang men. He told his family and friends he planned to hang Mordecai from it.

Queen Esther hadn't heard about the terrible trick of Haman. She looked out her window and saw her Uncle Mordecai dressed in sackcloth and ashes. She sent her servant out to see what was wrong and Mordecai told her of Haman's evil deed. Her uncle gave her a copy of the new law and told her that she should go in unto the king to ask him to save the Jewish people from this terrible destruction.

She replied that it was against the law for her to go into the king's inner chamber unless she was invited or she could be put to death. Her uncle replied that someone would save the Jews if she didn't, and maybe this was the reason that God had picked her to be the Queen.

Esther told him, "Ask all the Jews to fast and pray for three days. I and my servants also will not eat or drink for three days while we pray to God. Then I will go in unto the king, which is against the law. If I die, I die."

It was done. After three days, Esther dressed in her most beautiful clothes and went in unto the King's inner courtyard. She knelt before him. He lifted his scepter, giving her permission to speak and live. She invited him to a special dinner and asked him to bring the evil Haman. He said, "Yes."

That night he couldn't sleep. He had someone read to him from the book of history. When he realized Mordecai had saved his life in the past, he woke up determined to do something good for him. The king told Haman to put his fancy official clothes on Mordecai, put him on a white donkey and walk him through the city saying, "This man has pleased the king! This is how the King rewards those who please him."

Can you imagine Haman's rage? Imagine how he hated honoring his enemy. But God often turns bad to

good for His people. The next day, Haman's family warned him that things were looking bad. But he went to the dinner anyway.

When the curious king asked Esther what she wanted, he said he would give her anything up to one half of his kingdom. But she told him that she wished for him to return the next night and then she would tell him. And she did. She told her husband that all she was asking for was her life and the life of all the Jewish people! Haman was in shock. He never realized that his hateful plan involved the king's wife.

Haman's evil plan was turned against him. The King had him hanged instead of good Mordecai. Then he sent out a second law stating that no one should harm any of the Jews throughout his vast kingdom. He also gave the Jews permission to fight back if they were attacked. The King promoted Mordecai to be his new advisor and then Esther was able to see her beloved uncle again. The girl who gave up her freedom, the girl who fasted and prayed, saved a nation.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Carol Baird and Brother Frank Giovannone of the Liberty, Ohio Branch were united in holy matrimony on April 23, 2005.

## Children Blessed

Alexandria Juliana Benyola, daughter of Rick and Lavonne Benyola, was blessed on April 17, 2005 in the Yucaipa, California Branch.

Ashley Alanis, daughter of Fernando Alanis and Carolina Torres, was blessed on April 10, 2005 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Alaia Gianna Boston, daughter of Renee and David Boston was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Michelle Marie Relac was baptized on May 1, 2005 in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Patrick Monaghan and confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti.

Sister Mechelle Gene Looney was baptized on May 1, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Patrick Monaghan and confirmed by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother George Smith was baptized on May 1, 2005 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Crudup and was confirmed by Brother Joe Perri.

Sister Sarah Shawkey was baptized on May 8, 2005 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Alvin Gehly and confirmed by Brother Arthur Gehly.

Sister Aida Gonzalez was baptized on April 3, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Bryan Griffith and confirmed by Brother Scott Griffith.

Sister Edwina "Winnie" Lenz was baptized on January 30, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Sam Risola, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Gene Perri.

Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Sr. was baptized in the Quincy, Florida Branch on December 19, 2004. He was baptized by Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Horace Huggins.

Brother Carlin Hester was baptized in the Quincy, Florida Branch on December 26, 2004. He was baptized by Brother Charles Hester and confirmed by Brother Alphonso Hopkins, Jr.

## Ordinations

Sister Sherry Curtin was ordained a Deaconess in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch on March 27, 2005. Her feet were washed by Sister Michelle Davella-Burns and she was ordained by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Brother Steve Curtin was ordained a Teacher in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch on March 27, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Tom Goode, and he was ordained by Brother David Catalano.

April 29, 2005. He is survived by his parents, Brother Dennis and Sister Rita Gehly; sister, Carri Cisson and her husband, Kirt; niece, Hailey Cisson; grandparents, Brother Paul and Sister Carolyn Gehly and Grace Ducca; great-grandmother, Sister Ethel Cadman, and many uncles, aunts and cousins.

### FAY VALENTI

Sister Fay Valenti, of Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward on August 3, 2004. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Gerald Valenti. She is survived by her son, Brother Jerry Valenti; daughter, Sister Tammy Valenti; sister, Angela DelQuaglio, and three granddaughters.

### ADAM COPPA

Brother Adam Coppa of the Harrison, Michigan Mission passed on to his reward on August 31, 2004. He was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Tina Callis. He is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Coppa; son, Brother Mike Coppa; and daughters, Rozanna Mack and Diane Brandt.

## OBITUARIES

### MARGARET (PEGGY) BENYOLA

Sister Margaret (Peggy) Benyola passed on to her reward on Sunday, April 3, 2005. Sister Peggy was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her four daughters and two sons, namely; Sister Nancy DiFede, Sister Marie Cihomsky, Sister Joan Rogolino, Ginny Ugi, Brother Rocco Benyola and Brother David Benyola, along with 17 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

### ANTHONY PAUL GEHLY

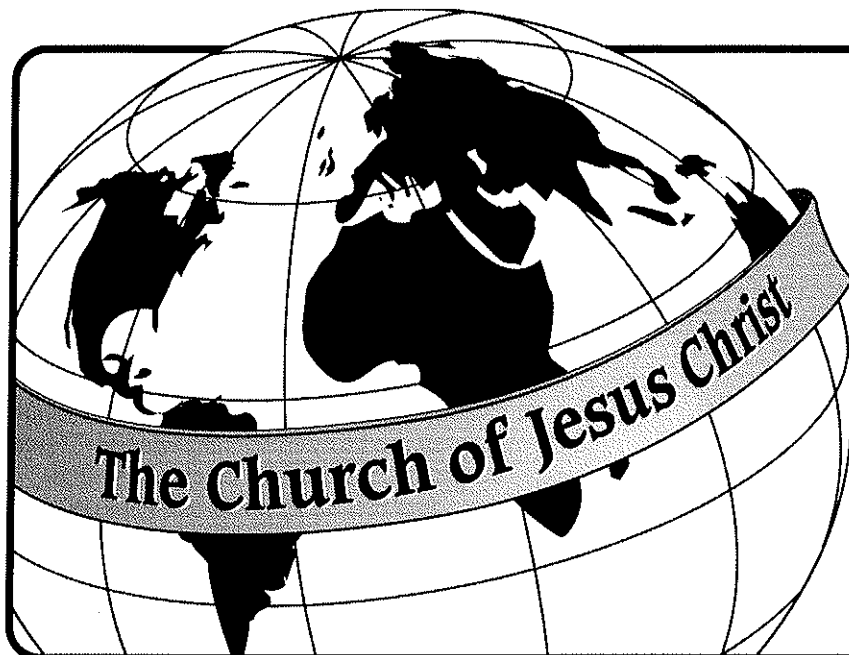
Anthony Paul Gehly who attended the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

August, 2005

Volume 61, No. 8

## Who Is Israel's Intercessor?

By Apostle Phil Jackson

As Moses stood on the shore of the Jordan River with the children of Israel, about to cross over into the promised land, Moses began to rehearse to them about their unrighteousness over the years and the different things they had done that had displeased God.

*"Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the Lord thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the Lord"* (Deuteronomy 9:7).

Moses talked to them about their disobedience in Horeb.

*"When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water: And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the Lord spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the*

*assembly. And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. And the Lord said unto me, Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them they have made them a molten image"* (Deuteronomy 9:9-12).

Then Moses let them know that God wanted to destroy them.

*"Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they"* (Deuteronomy 9:14).

But Moses reasoned with the Lord and convinced Him not to destroy them but to have compassion and mercy towards them. Moses was faced with a great temptation: the opportunity to father a great nation. But Moses did not think of himself; he was concerned for his people.

*"And I fell down before the Lord, as at the first, forty days and*

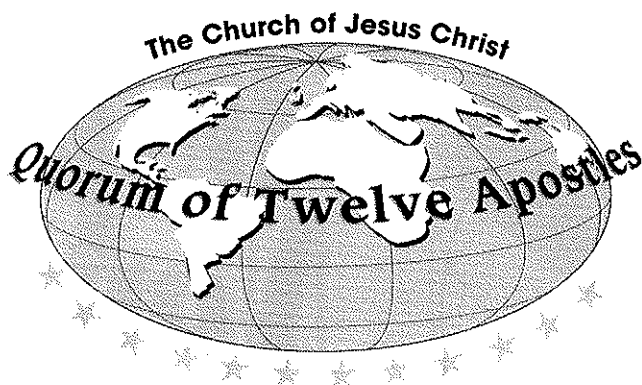
*forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger"* (Deuteronomy 9:18).

Moses then reminded them of how they rebelled against the commandment of the Lord when He told them to go up and possess the land. They did not believe nor did they hearken to God's voice. Moses further reminded them how he had interceded on their behalf.

*"Thus I fell down before the Lord forty days and forty nights as I fell down at the first; because the Lord had said he would destroy you. I prayed therefore unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand"* (Deuteronomy 9:25-26).

Can you imagine? Moses had fasted three different times for forty days and forty nights for the children of Israel. That's 120 days of fasting. It surely should give you a different perspective on Moses. It is no wonder that the Bible says of Moses, *"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon*

(Continued on Page 3)



## The Church of Jesus Christ/Church Kingdom

*By Apostle John Griffith*

The Church of Jesus Christ is that spiritual kingdom created and established by Christ Himself as referred in Ephesians Chapter 4. It is designed to exemplify the Spirit of Christ and His teachings, leading and encouraging as many who will accept the call to salvation. The Church carries the dignity given that very will of God here on earth. Its ordained officers as prescribed are chosen and called of God to perform varied responsibilities to better serve the inhabitants (brothers and sisters) of His kingdom. Two very important callings are discussed below.

### THE ORDAINED DEACON AND DEACONESS

To suggest that the role of Deacon or Deaconess is a minor calling is incorrect. Both are considered important callings to the working of the Church. The terms "Deacon" and "Deaconess" are somewhat synonymous in their scriptural usage and application. Both reference a "servant," ordained officers used in the early Church and identified in early Church history. Some restoration groups do not recognize the use of a Deaconess as they feel the term is not documented in the New Testament Scriptures. Although the term "Deacon" is more frequently found in scriptures, the role of Deaconess was established and although not mentioned much, one can easily recognize the roles are some-

what the same, with the Deaconess rendering care for the women of His Kingdom. Paul's description of Phoebe as a worker of the Church in Cenchrea (Romans 16:1) is most commonly referenced to a Deaconess. Referencing the Greek translation of "Deaconess" offers a Deacon's or servant's role; thus the application of the Deacon's role and personal characteristics apply to that of a Deaconess as well.

One can find it amazing how early history supports and sometimes clarifies our understanding of early church operation. Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia in the year of 112 AD, wrote a letter to the emperor Trajan of Rome, indicating that in his investigation of Christians he had tortured two Christian maidens who were called "Deaconesses." The office of Deaconess, particularly in the early Church history, continued through the twelfth century. As is the case today, Deaconesses were called to serve women in situations where it could have been improper for men to do so. From early times to today, The Church of Jesus Christ recognizes the Deaconess' role to prepare the Sacrament table, assist in the ordinance of feet washing, instruct women in regard to baptism, care for the sick or shut-ins, and assist as needed in the working of the Church. Very little is left to question concerning the acceptance of the Deacon's office equally applying to the office of Deaconess.

In Acts 6:1-6, we are informed of the Church in Jerusalem experiencing growing pains. Thus, men were called to serve and assist the Apostles in their responsibilities. These individuals chosen for this area of responsibility were to possess the very highest moral and spiritual credentials. They are described "of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Two of the original Deacons, Stephen and Phillip, serve as role models for the spiritual ministry of Deacon's today.

"Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these first be proved then let them serve as Deacons being found blameless" (1 Timothy 3:8-10). Continuing, verses 11 and 12 point out specific qualifications including exemplary home life, proven leadership, and flawless character. It is imperative to know that a Deacon's role is more spiritual as it is natural.

The works of Stephen and Phillip prove the spiritual leadership roles of their ordained office, "full of faith and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8). Stephen was so inspired that it is stated, "they were not able to resist the wisdom and Spirit by which he spoke" (Acts 6:10). Stephen glorified God even in his death (Acts 7:59-60). The Deacon, Phillip, who eventually became an Evangelist, *was* also used in that office and "preached the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:9-13).

Jesus Christ identified the true heroes in His kingdom as those who assumed the role of "servant." Paul wrote that the reward for faithfulness in the office of Deacon is that they "obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13).

It is believed as is stated in scripture that the Royal Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ is called of God and ordained with authority, having the "keys of the Kingdom." It

is stated scripturally that what is sealed by them on earth is sealed in Heaven. As the Church has recognized and utilizes the ordained offices of Deacon and Deaconess, so should we respect these two offices as we believe God being faithful to His Kingdom calls these servants to work for Him. Thus, Deacons and Deaconesses are spiritual leaders to the people, an example of faithfulness, showing consistency in service to the fold of Christ. We depend upon their steadfastness to the Word of God.

God bless all who are called to labor and are "servants" for His Kingdom, the Church and its founder, Jesus Christ.

## Notice from the Apostles

To: Gospel News Readers

We have been planning to have an Administrative Assistant working at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA for the past three years. Plans are to complete the secretarial room by June 30, 2005 and we should fill the position by early August.

If you are interested and would like to see the job description for the position, please contact me at the address indicated below. As a reminder, the position will be at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA.

God Bless You,

Paul Palmieri  
319 Pine Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

## Who Is Israel's Intercessor?

Continued from Page 1

*the face of the earth"* (Numbers 12:3).

Moses was committed to seeing that Israel received her inheritance from God. It was not a passing thought but a commitment he lived every day. It was Moses' place to remind God of His covenant to his people, the House of Israel.

**What about today? Who is reminding God of His covenant to the House of Israel?**

There is a parallel in the story of the rainbow in the Book of Genesis as follows:

*"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth"* (Genesis 9:13-16).

When we see a rainbow we say it's God's covenant with man that He would never again destroy the earth with water. But that is not what the scripture teaches us. It says that God set the bow in the cloud that *He* may remember His covenant with man. Is God's memory going bad? Why does He need to remind Himself? Because, many times when He sees the greatness of the sin upon the earth, He is stopped by the reminder of His covenant to mankind.

*For thy maker, thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel—the God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but*

*with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this, the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my people be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee"* (III Nephi 22:5-10).

Today, as in Moses' day, God needs to be reminded of His covenant with the House of Israel. We, The Church of Jesus Christ, must be the intercessor as Moses was in his day. We need to fast and pray to God that His eyes will search out His covenant people throughout the world and raise them up from the dust in which they have fallen.

*"And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, and also to the Gentiles who have care for the house of Israel, that realize and know from whence their blessings come. For I know that such will sorrow for the calamity of the house of Israel; yea, they will sorrow for the destruction of this people; they will sorrow that this people had not repented that they might have been clasped in the arms of Jesus"* (Mormon 5:10-1).

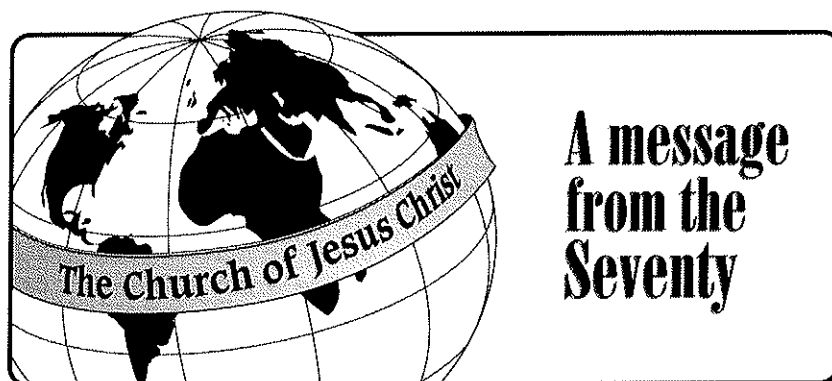
How committed are we to the gathering of the House of Israel?

*"And also the Lord will remember the prayers of the righteous, which have been put up unto him for them"* (Mormon 5:21).

Our prayers have power. Our prayers contain life. Our prayers can move the hand of God. Our prayers can cause nations to rise and nations to fall.

*"And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there*

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## Venezuela

*By Brother Don Ross*

What a wonderful and blessed trip to Maracaibo and Valera City during the latter part of May 2005. Although we met adversity during the initial flight—storms, airport closing and low fuel—we were able with the help of the Lord to land safely, make our connecting flights and continue our journey to Venezuela.

On the trip were Brothers Phil Jackson, Daniel Mora and myself. We enjoyed the blessings and Spirit of the Lord. Angel Chavez Hernandez and Vinicio Hernandez met us at the Maracaibo Airport. Their smiles were welcome and let us know they were anxiously awaiting our arrival and fellowship.

We visited with Vinicio Hernandez and his wife, Magalia, during Friday afternoon. He is suffering from a severe kidney ailment. They are the uncle and aunt of Brother Jose del Carmen Chavez Hernandez. We were asked to visit and anoint him for his affliction. He was anointed by Apostle Phil Jackson.

The opportunity presented itself to share with them The Church of Jesus Christ. They enjoyed the testimonies, the concern and love expressed by our brothers and the copies of the May 2005 issue of *The Gospel News* which featured our initial visit of January 2005 to their home and their city. We were really made welcome in their home. They are a loving and very humble family.

Before we departed their home, we had prayer. It was offered by

Brother Daniel Mora in their native language, Spanish. It was a beautiful and powerful prayer. The Spirit of the Lord was very prevalent and Magalia Hernandez was overcome, very affected, so much so that she had to lean against the bedroom furniture to gain her composure and strength. She simply smiled and hugged all of us upon leaving their home.

The balance of the day was devoted to speaking with Angel Chavez Hernandez, the natural brother of our Brother Jose del Carmen Chavez Hernandez. In January, he expressed his desire to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ but wanted to “be prepared.” He was asked whether he still felt the desire to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. His answer was, “Yes.”

Angel Chavez Hernandez was baptized the next day, Saturday, May 28, 2005. He was baptized by Brother Daniel Mora and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ with the bestowing of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Brother Don Ross confirmed him a member into the Restored Gospel. There were tears of joy, exchanges of the holy kiss and sharing of the Spirit of God.

A testimony service was held when we assembled in the home of the parents, Angel and Daysi Hernandez, father and mother respectively, after the confirmation of Brother Angel Chavez Hernandez.

Daysi Hernandez stated in her testimony that since her son, Brother Jose Hernandez was teaching her the Restored Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ, she felt different! When she made this statement, Brother Ross was made to feel through the prompt-

ing of the Spirit of God, that Brother Jose Hernandez should be ordained a Teacher. This feeling and prompting were shared with Apostle Jackson. He said this statement made by Daysi Hernandez about her son’s teaching, as she testified, made him feel the same and Brother Jose Hernandez should be ordained a Teacher. We conferred with Brother Daniel Mora and he was in agreement, so it was agreed to move forward with the ordination, being in harmony and enjoying the spirit of unity in the calling of our brother and fellow worker. This was shared with Brother Jose Hernandez. He agreed to accept the office of Teacher.

Apostle Jackson counseled Brother Jose Hernandez on the duties and responsibilities of a Teacher. He emphasized the importance of the office, the calling and role of a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Jackson stressed the need to teach others of the Restored Gospel, teaching the Faith and Doctrine and Scriptures to members and those interested in becoming members and being a humble peacemaker for the cause of Jesus Christ. He instructed Brother Jose Hernandez to diligently study the Scriptures, both Bible and Book of Mormon, and with the Lord’s help he will be used to teach others of the way, the truth and the life found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our Sunday Service was opened by Apostle Jackson. For his text, he used the following: Matthew 16:13-19, when the Lord asked His disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” The answer, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 20:19-31), that emphasized, “But these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name,” and (3 Nephi 11:14-17), when the people exclaimed, “Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him.” The theme was to “Ask God. Is it true? Say like Thomas, I want to see, reveal yourself to me.” Brother

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory. And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth. And now, behold, I, Nephi say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh" (1 Nephi 24-27).*

This prophecy of Nephi lays the foundation for the near future of The Church of Jesus Christ. It is a belief that has separated us from every other Christian church, and even every other Restoration group. The time will SPEEDILY come that those who are righteous will be led up as calves of the stall. Led up to where? "Up" can only mean one thing, and that is a mountain. Of course, Nephi was referring to a spiritual mountain that will be established upon the face of the earth where all can see the glory of God. Many other scriptures bear out that this mountain will be established upon the land of America, which will be referred to as Zion. This scripture says that the Lord will gather His children from the four quarters of the earth, and he NUMBERETH His sheep. Isn't it amazing that God has already selected His people, and they are numbered! They reside throughout the world at the moment, but the time will come when they will be brought to Zion via the "highway of holiness" (Isaiah 35:8-10). This is NOT a spiritual metaphor. They will actually gather together here upon the Promised Land when Zion is established. Our missionaries are currently being called upon to SPEEDILY go throughout the world and respond to inquiries about the Church in numerous countries. I've heard many missionaries say that the people in the countries they have gone to, hauntingly resemble the seed of Joseph, or Native Americans upon this land. One of the new *Songs of Zion* says, "I am your brother, lost so long ago, there's no need to bow down nor sorrow to show. This day had been promised our father before, I've found you my brother, don't cry anymore." The seed of Joseph will "find" his brothers, or the other lost tribes of Israel, and they will embrace one another upon the land of Promise, or Zion. They truly are blood brothers. God will fulfill His promise to Abraham regarding his seed, and how God would remember His promise to gather them together in the last days. No longer will they be a poverty stricken, obscure people, but they will become the wealthiest people in the world when Zion is established—spiritual wealth, that is. Those of us who are Gentiles, and believe, are already adopted in to this blessed family, and converted Gentiles will join with them in one of the greatest kingdom's the world has ever seen, Zion! Then out of Zion will go forth the law and the Word of God, and missionaries will bring this message of Jesus and His Restored Gospel throughout the world. Many people will flow into Zion.

The prophecy above also says that Satan cannot be loosed for many years. So not only will we live in a righteous kingdom, but the battlefield in our mind that exists as a result of Satan's whispering lies, will not exist either. Imagine not being tempted or influenced by the devil! Nephi also reminds us that this is NOT Heaven, but this will occur in the FLESH. He needed to say this because this condition sounds a lot like Heaven. But it is Heaven on Earth!

If you haven't made a commitment to serve God yet, remember that Isaiah says that this kingdom of Zion will be born in a day. It is just a breath away. We are at the borderline, and consider where you will be when we all cross over. If you haven't made a commitment to serve God, maybe today is the day of your salvation. Tomorrow is not promised, and may be too late. Serve God now and be numbered among God's people when this great day comes.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## The One True God

Dear Boys and Girls,

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

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

This means that there IS only one God. We don't believe in lucky numbers, crystals, ougie boards, horoscopes, psychics or fortune tellers. God is a jealous God. We belong to Him. He does NOT want us to pay any attention to any power other than His power. Those powers belong to Satan and we are NOT supposed to play around with them at all. Otherwise we give Satan a way into our lives to scare and confuse us. And we



all know that Satan has no love for mankind. He wants us all to feel as miserable and far away from God as he does.

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

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

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

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

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

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

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

MARK  
TWELVE  
LOVE  
GOD  
LORD  
GOD  
ALL  
YOUR

SOUL  
MIND  
STRENGTH  
LOVE  
NEIGHBOR  
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S	E	V	L	E	W	T	G	D



## Mesa, Arizona Ladies' Circle Afternoon Tea

*By Sister Marie Cihomsky  
Vice President, Mesa Ladies' Circle*

The Mesa, Arizona Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted a Tea on Saturday afternoon, May 14, 2005. An invitation was extended to all of the women and young girls of the Mesa Branch to join the Circle sisters in an afternoon of fellowship.

A flurry of activity began in anticipation of the event. Invitations were sent, beautiful floral centerpieces

and decorations were made. The sisters searched their cupboards and brought out their best china teapots and cups in preparation for the special day. Finally, a variety of tea sandwiches, and other delicacies were made.

When the guests arrived, they found that the all-purpose-room of the Mesa Branch had been transformed into a lovely Tea Room. An array of finger foods, including yummy desserts was set out on several buffet tables. The dining tables were elegantly set, each with beautiful china teapots and cups and a different color centerpiece. To complete the table settings, each of the guests were asked to bring their own favorite teacup.

Our Circle President, Sister Wendy Giannetti, welcomed all of our guests. Our most senior Ladies' Circle member, Sister Grace Landrey,

offered the opening prayer. Sister Grace is the daughter of Sister Sadie Cadman, who founded the Ladies' Uplift Circle many years ago. Following the prayer, Sister Wendy related some interesting information about the history and customs surrounding the institution of the Tea Party or "High Tea." She also read a beautiful poem that highlighted the true purpose of gathering together in friendship and love while sharing a cup of tea.

We had a nice group of about thirty-five in attendance, and the afternoon was spent in enjoying the delicious food and fellowship with one another. In a Grand Finale, the Mesa Circle sisters performed a rousing rendition of "I'm a Little Teapot." As we parted, Sister Wendy invited all of those present to join the Mesa Ladies' Uplift Circle in our regular Tuesday evening meetings.



## Branch and Mission News

### Mesa, Arizona Branch Dedication

May 29-30, 2004

Over 300 brothers, sisters and friends filled the new Mesa Branch throughout our dedication weekend and surely all went home with our cups filled to overflowing with the Spirit of the Lord. Apostles, Evangelists, Elders and members from around the nation turned up for this long-awaited occasion. The weekend began with the baptism of our new Brother Rayford Cunningham (the week prior in our first meeting in the new building he requested baptism) and concluded with the conversion of Brother Bob Tucker from Bell, California.

On Saturday, the building was open for all to view with pictures displayed all over the building and slide presentations running in various rooms depicting the early Church in Phoenix

until present. The members of the Mesa Branch gave presentations throughout the day on the history of the Church in Phoenix from its beginning through the new building construction to date. We heard testimonies from our pioneer brothers and sisters such as Brother Dan and Sister Delores Picciuto, Brother Phil and Sister Ann Damore, on how they came to the valley by God's direction telling of various experiences. Thanks were given to the many who provided financial and labor support, as our dream would not have been fulfilled without them. The evening spiritual meeting was blessed with the words of Apostle Thomas Liberto. It was also a time for praising God with musical selections. The Mesa Choir provided a few songs they had prepared for this occasion. After the service many who attended enjoyed a time of refreshments and fellowship anticipating the dedication on the morrow.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., opened the Sunday service by welcoming all in attendance. He especially welcomed the nine members of the Quorum of Apostles thanking them for their support on this

wonderful occasion. He read a card from the Apostles congratulating the Mesa Branch, which contained a message that inspired all. He also related an experience during the early restoration church of when the saints were dedicating the Kirtland Temple and singing *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning*. As they sang, the neighbors thought they saw the church building ablaze and sent for the fire department confirming that God's spirit was upon the early saints. He spoke of the sanctification of the temple in Solomon's day and how the Lord filled it with a cloud of glory and that it was his prayer this morning that the Lord would fill our new building with that same glory.

The Mesa Choir, directed by Sister Amy Cook, sang a few selections: *I'm Standing on the Solid Rock* and *Our Church*, in which the congregation joined in on the last verse. Apostle Joseph Calabrese then gave the dedicatory prayer filled with the power of God, pleading that the Lord would accept this new building to His service and that this would only be

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## Mesa, AZ Branch Dedication

Continued from Page 7

the beginning, that the surrounding community would see the Church as a light energized with the fire of His spirit. A beautiful spirit then filled the room.

Apostle Paul Palmieri then opened with Chronicles where it says, that the people offered willingly because of their perfect hearts, and felt that the Mesa saints have given out of their perfect willingness of heart. He continued with I Kings, chapter 8: Solomon's dedication where he asks the Lord if it is possible for Him to come and dwell on the earth. Brother Paul explained that the Lord condescends to dwell not only in our church buildings, but within our hearts as well. He spoke how the Lord values our places of worship and ourselves promising that He will bless us if we pray and keep our hearts willing and perfect. The Lord values us and wants us to come to Him. If we stray, He wants us to come back. Brother Paul spoke on the name of our Church and said that we must act like God's Church and live up to the name. We must share the name and message with others. Just as we've built the building with a pure heart, we must continue serving Him with a pure heart.

Brother Paul related an experience where the Lord said He attends all our church meetings. He exhorted us to be worthy of the Lord's attendance. We must be righteous and share Jesus Christ with others inasmuch that another building will have to be built. Brother Paul finished speaking with a dream he had recently. He dreamt that soon the Lord will move His hand in a mighty way, and we must be ready for the Gospel to go forward. We must continue to work for the Lord giving Him everything we have.

The Tse Bonito Branch sang, *I Will Glorify*, and *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*. A beautiful spirit filled the voices of the saints. Brother David Jordan then presented Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. with a Bible, Book of Mormon, and Concordance from the Tse Bonito Branch to be used for

the rostrum with beautiful verses inscribed within. Sister Vanessa Watson presented Sister Cindy Hood with a beautiful tablemat on behalf of the deaconesses. The Tse Bonito Branch then sang, *How Great Thou Art*, in the Navajo language that resulted in a beautiful spirit felt by all.

Apostle Peter Scolaro addressed the congregation about the rededication of the soul that one feels as a result of the building's dedication. He continued with the scripture where the Lord said that the Seed of Joseph would assist the Gentiles and the House of Israel in building Zion. He urged the Mesa saints to continue on, that we must believe with the faith of children that God can accomplish anything from completing a building project to making our way to Zion. Brother Peter related the story of how the Jaredites forgot to pray for four years, but the Lord forgave them. It's tempting to say, "the building's done, the pressure is off," but the pressure isn't off. There's always a pressure to go forward. The branch can be like the Jaredites' vessel when they recognized pressure to go across the sea, and the Lord will be the light just like He lighted the Jaredites' journey. Brother Peter urged the saints not to stop "building" the branch, pressing forward, shining the light, until we hear the words "well done."

Sister Bennie Jones then related a vision. While the Tse Bonito Choir was singing, she saw a huge ball of fire coming from the throne of God. The ball came down and went forth throughout the congregation and she saw angels all around and Christ standing in the center of the rostrum. Praise God! Brother Ron Brutz, Southwest Region President, followed speaking about the family of God and how we must be committed to one another, praying for one another's needs. He said how we must be "seekers and senders." We are seekers because we seek to be like God. We must be "senders" going out sharing the Lord with others. He thanked all who came to the region in support of the dedication. Apostle Paul Palmieri asked the congregation to stand in recognition to the Mesa

Branch and its leadership.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. concluded with a few words of testimony thanking the Lord for his role models in the Church. He thanked the branch for all of their dedication and support and most importantly love. He formally thanked the ministry of the Mesa Branch for their support and unity in spirit. He emphasized that our branch is on a journey and that we will go forth into the community with the same energy with which we built the building. Just before closing, Brother Bob Tucker asked for his baptism. What an appropriate ending to a spirit-filled weekend. Evangelist Wally Cihomsky sang a beautiful closing song, *On the Wings of a Dove*.

Apostle Joseph Lovalvo made a few closing remarks stating that the foundation of the Church must be love; then the Lord will bless our efforts in the community. He said we must fulfill the great commission of the Church and that love will bring people in, and that the fruits of the spirit in our midst will be proven by our love. He then offered closing prayer.

All in attendance felt the blessings of God as we brought this weekend to a close. We praise and thank God for our new home and collectively our prayer continues that many will come to The Church of Jesus Christ within the Mesa community to hear and experience the Restored Gospel.

## Mesa, Arizona

By Brother Jim Alessio

The Mesa Arizona Branch was privileged to host the IMOC meeting on Saturday, February 26.

Several brothers stayed over for our service on Sunday, which was well attended by many brothers, sisters, and visitors. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri introduced our service and noted in his opening remarks that it was 22 years ago on this day that he was baptized. He used the 5th chapter of the gospel of St. Mark for his text, which deals with the miraculous draught of fishes. He mentioned how Christ entered the

boat of Peter and sat down and taught the people. Brother Paul noted that when Christ sat down he was "set for life." He knew where he was headed. Brother Paul said that when he was baptized, he was set for life and never looked back. He asked if we are set for life; do we know where we are going?

When Christ finished speaking to the multitude, he told Peter to launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a draught. Peter answered that they had toiled all night long and had caught nothing, but "nevertheless, at thy word, I will let down the net" and as a result they caught so many fish that their nets broke.

Brother Paul admonished us to launch out and do more to help the rest of the world. There are many nations looking for us. He noted that when he was baptized 22 years ago, we were only in five countries and today that number has increased five fold and we are in 25 nations.

Brother Paul testified how God has blessed his family and healed them of many afflictions. He urged us to keep the faith and pass it on. Touch someones life. Be like the sons of Mosiah, who could not bear to see one soul perish. Brother Paul closed by relating a vision or dream he had where Christ appeared to him and asked "What do you think of My Church?" Our brother then posed the same question to us.

We sang *Speak My Lord* after which Brother Phil Jackson spoke. He commented on the beautiful building we have and urged us to get behind the efforts to support the changes that will be made to the auditorium. Our brother asked if we desire to hear the voice of God when He speaks. We desire to hear God's voice but we desire to hear it in a certain way or else we ask, "Is it really the voice of God?" He cares about all aspects of our life and He wants to talk to us, but we need to be in tune with Him.

Brother Gene Perri followed and spoke of being born of goodly parents who taught him to always be ready in his service to the Lord. He told how his father was a man of prayer and we should always begin and end our day

with prayer and be ready to be used of the Lord. God can use us in many ways. Brother Gene related several ways in which the Lord used him. On one occasion he was able to bring peace into a troubled family. On another occasion, our brother was able to save the life of a child by giving him CPR. Brother Gene related how his supervisor at work persecuted him. One day when our brother came into work, one of his fellow employees excitedly told him that his boss was converted. No doubt our brother's example had an influence on him and from that moment on, they were the best of friends. It was pointed out how Ammon and the sons of Mosiah suffered all manner of persecution in their missionary endeavors and we too must be prepared to suffer persecution while in the service of the Lord.

Brother Gene closed his message by relating that his brother, Brother Joe Perri, had just returned from a missionary trip to the country of Malawi in Africa and they baptized 100 converts there.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio began his discourse by stating that there is no end to the virtues of God. One day he felt alone dealing with the problems and burdens of his life and he prayed to God asking Him, "Why are you Silent?" The Lord allowed him to understand what He wanted of our brother; "I want you to love Me and look to Me more, I want you to do something for Me." God doesn't look at us when we are in sin or neglect or fail Him. Our brother asked, "Do we look at God for what He truly is to us? Why do we doubt when we have such a cloud of witnesses?"

Brother Paul Palmieri was our closing speaker and he began by telling us that God has challenged the Church. "He is looking for us to move the Gospel even greater and faster than ever before. We must step out more boldly and let people know who we are and what we stand for and what we think is going to happen according to the word of God.

"God always speaks to us but sometimes we do not hear. He wants us to launch out a little further, do a little bit more. He is waiting for us to

get in line. We have been called not only for the salvation of our soul, but to bring the Gospel to people everywhere. We have been active in foreign fields and it is now time to launch out in this land. We stand for the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

We were thankful for all the events of this weekend and look forward to implementing the proposals our brothers presented.

## Called to a Greater Service

*By Sister Karen L. Progar*

The Spirit of God enters the building sometimes even before we do. On Sunday, June 5, 2005, it seemed the Spirit was the first to arrive in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania building. Today was to be dedicated to acknowledging the office of the Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ and show the membership's support for Brother Paul Palmieri who became the President of the Church with the passing of our beloved Brother Dominic Thomas.

While we know that our brother is honorable in all things, we feel privileged to worship with him because of the level of service he exemplifies to us. A number of years ago, Brother Dominic Thomas shared with us an experience he had regarding the great work of the Lord and our need to advance the work in whatever way the Lord inspires us to do so. Brother Paul Palmieri now assumes the responsibility of continuing the mission of encouraging the Church's membership to do its part in that great work.

We were fortunate to have a large number of visitors in attendance for this special meeting since our Brother Apostles had met earlier in the weekend at the World Conference Center in Greensburg. The entire Presidency was in attendance; namely, First Counselor, Brother Thomas Liberto and Second Counselor, Brother Peter Scolaro. In addition, one of the Church's newest Apostles, Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

## Called to a Greater Service

Continued from Page 9

Paul Liberto joined us for the day. As Brother John D'Antonio, Aliquippa's Presiding Elder, welcomed everyone, he stated that he felt we should consider this day a day to honor the Presidency of the Church as a whole.

We were blessed to hear from all of our visiting brothers, with Brother Peter Scolaro taking the lead. The sermon was one that allowed each of us to examine our own service and decide what our responsibility in the Church is. Brother Peter spoke of the Lord's plan to bless all kindreds of the earth. He stated that we have the ability to choose righteousness and bind Satan which will allow the kingdom of God to grow just as the Lord tells us in Matthew chapter 13 and throughout all the Gospels. Using wonderful examples in the scriptures, Brother Peter encouraged us to be like Nephi who unwearingly declared the Word.

We were asked, "Whose mind is on your mind?" Brother Paul Liberto reminded us that we are God's children and that we need to allow the mind of Christ to guide us. Of ourselves, we could never be good enough and that there is no higher calling than being a child of God. He left us with the question, "Who are you today?"

The congregation enthusiastically sang *Something Beautiful*, and Brother Tom Liberto discussed what had brought him to this point and what he was doing for the Lord. He said that we must know that nothing we did was done on our own. All we are able to do, we do with God's help. He emphasized that we make it through this life because we know who holds our hand and that as it states in the 41<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Isaiah, God will hold our hand "...with the right hand of righteousness."

Brother Ken Staley, visiting from LaGrange, Kentucky, reiterated the questions asked by our brothers throughout the service. Brother Ken encouraged us to open our minds to the mysteries of God and concluded with his own question. "What are you going to do to be of service?"

To conclude, we were again

reminded that we came to show our support of the brothers holding the responsibilities of the Presidency and were rhetorically asked how we could do this. We were told that if we are obedient to the commandments of God we will not fail because God will not fail or forsake us.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri arose to state that he felt God moving today and advised those considering beginning a journey with Christ that none of us is qualified, but we must all be willing.

Brother Paul Palmieri was afforded the opportunity to express himself. He humbly shared the journey he has had with the Lord Jesus Christ and the blessings he has enjoyed in his life, which has brought him to this point. He thanked the membership for its support and encouraged us all to continue to remember the work of the Church in this time.

After such an enjoyable season of hearing the word of the Lord and feeling His presence, we had the wonderful experience of spending a time in fellowship. The Aliquippa Branch provided a delightful luncheon and it seemed that no one really wanted to see this time together draw to a close.

## Who Is Israel's Intercessor?

Continued from Page 3

*were voices, and thundering, and lightnings, and an earthquake"* (Revelation 8:4-5).

Oh God our Father, have mercy on Israel. Look throughout the ends of the earth and see each one of Jacob's children. Lift them up from their fallen state. Lift them out of their poverty and blindness. Clothe them Lord in your righteousness. And hasten the day that each one of them would come to your knowledge, the knowledge of Jesus Christ their redeemer. Bless us as a Church to be quick to lift our voices unto you in their behalf that we would see the fulfillment of your promise, the gathering of the House of Israel. We pray through Christ our redeemer. Amen.

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

Jackson told the attendees, "If you are sincere, God will answer you about The Church of Jesus Christ."

Brother Mora followed and speaking in their native language, Spanish, spoke of the simplicity and blessings of The Church of Jesus Christ. He encouraged the attendees to, "Ask God, and He will answer you. He will reveal Himself and the truth of His Gospel, The Church of Jesus Christ."

Brother Ross asked all to listen to the words that were spoken during the service. He stressed the need to ask God whether the things that were said are true and God will answer their prayers. He will reveal the Restored Gospel and prepare their hearts and minds for His Kingdom.

The ordination of Brother Jose del Carmen Chavez Hernandez followed the speaking of our brothers. An explanation of how ordinations are done in The Church of Jesus Christ was given to the attendees.

Apostle Jackson offered prayer that God would bless the ordination. Brother Jose del Carmen Chavez Hernandez's feet were washed by Brother Ross. He was ordained by Brother Mora. It was a blessing to be there and witness the ordination of our brother into the office of a Teacher. Brother Jackson stated that during the ordination, he felt like the three of us were helping build the Kingdom of God and were laying stones on the foundation of the Kingdom of God! What an honor! What a privilege!

We departed from the Hernandez home, now in Valera City, Venezuela for Maracaibo. The drive is about four hours and we enjoyed the Spirit of God in the van and in the company of one another.

Our journey home was a safe one. We thank God for His goodness, mercy, protection and rich blessings. Please remember our brothers, sisters and friends in Venezuela. They need our prayers. They need our support. May God bless each and every missionary effort of The Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless each and every one of you.



## Note of Thanks

To the Priesthood, Brothers, Sisters,  
Friends, Branches and Missions of The  
Church of Jesus Christ:

Words cannot express our  
gratitude for all you've done. The  
generosity you showed our family with  
cards, phone calls, donations and  
flowers was deeply appreciated. Most  
importantly all your prayers gave us  
the strength we needed to get through  
such a difficult time. Thank you and  
God bless all of you.

The Olexa Family

## New Songs of Zion

### #121 The Journey Was Easy

*(Psalm 139:1-6 Thou knowest my  
downsitting and mine uprising...)*

With all of my failures, with all of my  
fears,  
With all of my downsittings and so  
many tears;  
My Father in heaven looks down from  
above,  
With eyes full of mercy and arms full  
of love.

His hand takes my small one and leads  
me along,  
With many a sighting and many a  
song;  
He says, "there's a country, a far  
better land,  
I'll lead and I'll carry, just hold to my  
hand."

Thru mountains and valleys, thru  
darkness and light,  
He never lets go of my small hand at  
night;  
As morning grows closer He smiles at  
my tears,  
Says, "Child, I've walked with you for  
so many years."

We talk as we hurry, the country  
grows near,

And oh, what rejoicing and singing I  
hear;  
A band full of angels, a land full of  
love,  
The journey was easy, God led from  
above.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
February 2, 2005

### #122 In The Army of the True and Living God

Stand tall, it's a mighty name to bear,  
Stand free, Jesus bought you liberty;  
Stand proud, there is no dishonor here,  
In the army of the true and living God,  
In the army of the true and living God.

Soldiers all, here's the armor you must  
wear.

Brave and strong, here's the cross that  
you must bear;  
Marching on, with the sword and with  
the rod,  
In the army of the true and living God,  
In the army of the true and living God.

There's a fight, and we know it must  
be won.  
There's a place that's assigned to  
every one;  
Take your place, for we cannot know  
defeat,  
In the army of the true and living God,  
In the army of the true and living God.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
February 9, 2005

### #123 Can These Bones Live?

*(Ezekiel 37:1-14)*

Can these bones live?  
Thou knowest Lord.  
Can flesh and sinew be restored?  
Can Israel fall and rise again?  
Thou knowest how,  
Thou knowest when.

Oh son of man, can these bones live?  
Thou knowest Lord, all breath you give.

Say to the winds, come now and blow,  
The breath of life to these below.

Can Israel find their long way home?  
Thou knowest Lord what lands they  
roam.

Write "Come on home" on all the trees,  
And send it on the morning breeze.

Can thou breathe life in all the slain,  
And all the Gentiles that remain?  
Can there be peace after the war?  
Thou knowest Lord, all this and more.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
March 8, 2005

### #124 I Am Your Brother

*(Genesis 45:4, "I am JOSEPH  
your brother...")*

I am your brother,  
The years have been long,  
Where dim grew the vision  
And dim grew the song.  
But out of the darkness  
And bursting with light,  
I'm seeing my brothers,  
Don't cry it's all right.  
I'm seeing my brothers,  
Don't cry it's all right.

I am your brother, lost so long ago,  
There's no need to bow down  
Nor sorrow to show.  
This day had been promised  
Our fathers before,  
I've found you my brothers,  
Don't cry anymore.  
I've found you my brothers,  
Don't cry anymore.

I am your brother,  
So come gather 'round,  
Where corn grows the tallest  
And honey is found.  
Where storms never linger  
And dreams never die,  
And I am your brother,  
Come brothers, don't cry.  
And I am your brother,  
Come brothers, don't cry.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
March 14, 2005

## Children Blessed

Allison Claire Komjathy, daughter of Brother Tom and Sister Kim Komjathy, was blessed on May 29, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Jacob Thomas Calabro, son of Brother Gary and Sister Maureen Calabro, was blessed on March 27, 2005 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

Shay Justin Smith, son of Brother Micah and Sister Larisa Smith, was blessed on June 12, 2005 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Wyatt Cadman Landrey, son of Brother Austin and Sister Nicole Landrey was blessed on April 24, 2005 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

## Ordinations

Brother Osbaldo Reyes was ordained a Teacher in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on March 27, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Timothy Mott, and he was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro.

Brother Dan Bowens was ordained a Deacon in the Lorain, Ohio Branch on May 8, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Troy Tate and he was ordained by Brother Mark Naro.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Jordan Giannetti and Sister Heidi Landrey of the Mesa, Arizona Branch were united in holy matrimony on January 8, 2005.

Brother Cameron Staley and Sister Jennifer Lovalvo of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2, were united in holy matrimony on May 6, 2005.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Alfred Luna was reinstated on June 12, 2005 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Sister Regina Picciuto was reinstated on April 24, 2005 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Brother Rayford Cunningham, was baptized in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

## OBITUARIES

### PHILOMENA GIOVANNA MCKINNON (NEE CUOMO)

Sister Philomena Giovanna McKinnon (Nee Cuomo) of the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch passed on to her reward on February 28, 2005. She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Brother Salvatore (Sam) and Sister Maria Cuomo; her sister, Sister Rosie Arena; and her son-in-law, Rick Solari. She is survived by her husband, Roderick MacKinnon; sisters, Sister Mary Coppa, Sister Olanda Peltier, Argie White and Sister Martha Zaccagnini; her brothers, Brother Sam Cuomo, and Sylvester Cuomo; sons Glen, Gerald, Roderick, and Danny MacKinnon; daughters, Bonnie MacKinnon, Carole Huter, Priscilla Solari, and Leslie Mulcahey, and their families.

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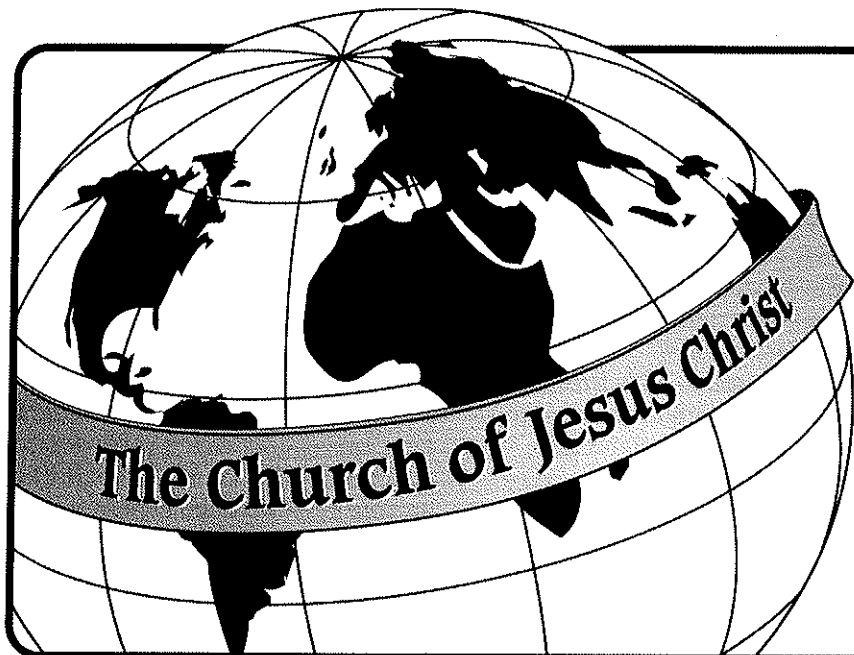
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 2005

Volume 61, No. 9

## Baptisms, Ordinations in Dominica

*By Evangelist Jerry Valenti*

Four separate visits to Dominica occurred during the first half of 2005. The travelers (some going more than once) were Evangelists Jerry Valenti, Carl Huttenberger, Richard Santilli, and Jim Link; Brothers Tom Curtin, Ken Lombardo and David Catalano; and Sisters Pat Valenti, Lydia Link, Stefanie Suska and Annabelle Santilli. In addition to general progress in establishing the Church in Dominica, we were blessed with two baptisms, two ordinations and a dream pointing us to a location for the church building.

### Our New Members

On February 20, 2005, we were pleased to welcome Brother Mathius Valmond and his wife, Sister Francillia as new members of The Church of Jesus Christ as they were baptized by Brothers Huttenberger and Curtin, respectively. Brother Santilli was also in attendance that day and participated in the confirmations.

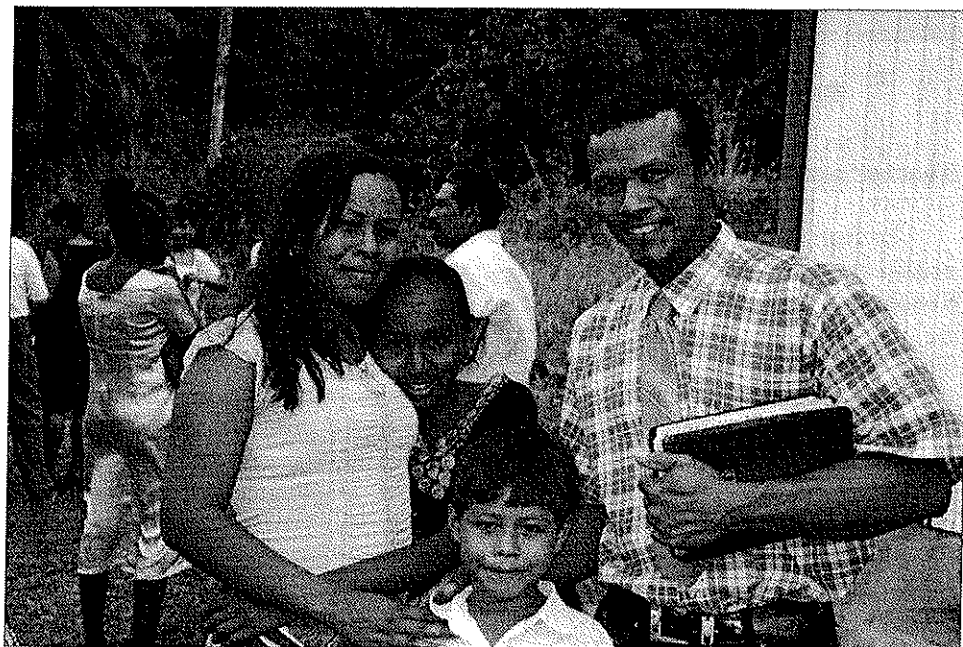
Brother Mathius, a former assistant pastor of another church in Dominica, was converted by reading the Book of Mormon. An avid reader and very spiritual young man, Brother Mathius has quickly become

knowledgeable about the restoration and the beliefs of the Church. In his former church, he publicly declared his belief in the Book of Mormon and has already introduced the Restored Gospel to several people. Although he was convinced of the truth of the Gospel last year, he prayerfully waited for God's direction before joining the Church. He eventually had

a dream in which he saw himself going to bathe in the river, leaving behind an old pair of shoes; and when he emerged from the water, he was presented with a new pair of shoes that fit perfectly. Shortly after this dream, he asked for his baptism.

Sister Francillia is the devoted wife of Brother Mathius and the young mother of their six-year-old son Mario. She has a bubbly personality and is instantly likeable. She has agreed to

(Continued on Page 2)



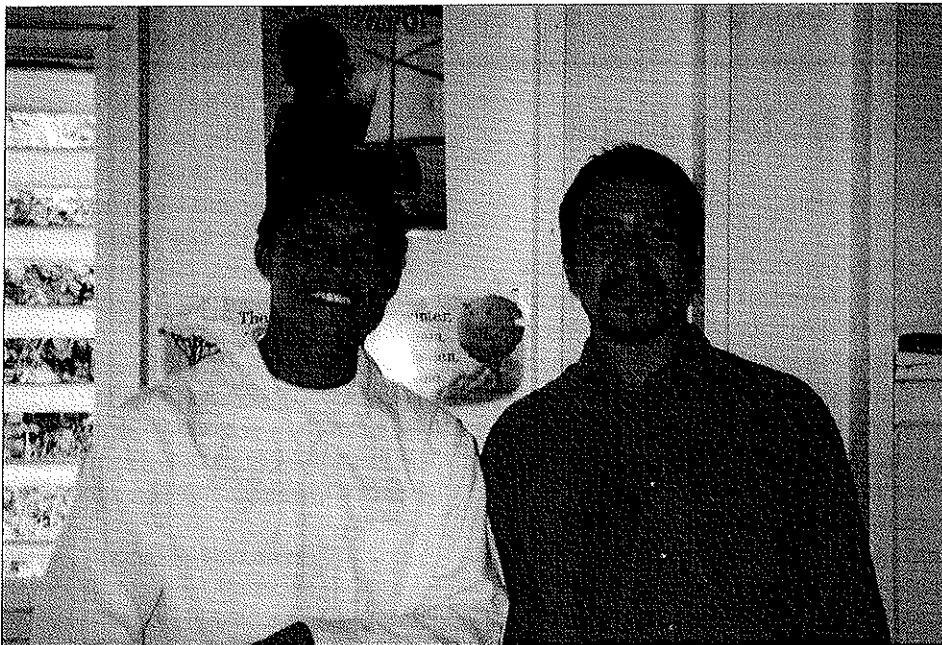
**Brother Mathius and Sister Francillia Valmond and Children**

## Baptisms in Dominica

Continued from Page 1

serve as the treasurer for the new mission.

There are a few others who are on the verge of baptism but are still holding out as of June, 2005. This includes young people such as Kirk Edwards and Athinia Warrington as well as our car rental agent, Valda James, who has been touched by the Spirit on multiple occasions. We continue to pray that they and others will make their commitment before long.



**Brother Mathius Valmond and Brother Raphael Auguiste**

### Teacher and Deacon Ordained

In April, we felt directed to ordain Brother Mathius Valmond as a Teacher and Brother Terry Auguiste as a Deacon. This gives us two Teachers, one Deacon and one Deaconess in Dominica.

We visited Brother Mathius on a Wednesday afternoon and asked him about being ordained a Teacher. He agreed immediately and told us he had a dream that same morning which had prepared him for this to occur. In his dream, he was going to work to do a job for the Carib Chief. He was going to use an old razor to do the job

but was given a new razor and told he was to use this new razor instead of the old one. We could see the dream was showing him he had a work to do for the Carib people and it would be done through his new church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

When we spoke with Brother Terry about being ordained a Deacon, he had many questions about the responsibilities of that position. As we responded to his questions, it was clear he already is doing many of the things a Deacon would do. He said he would be willing to carry out these responsibilities even without being a

Deacon. However, we told him that several Brothers who have visited Dominica stated when they returned they felt he was called to be a Deacon. Finally, he agreed to be ordained and has taken his responsibilities seriously.

The ordinations were performed during a special evening meeting on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Several family members of the two brothers were in attendance. Brother Raphael Auguiste (a Teacher) washed Brother Valmond's feet and Brother Jerry washed Brother Terry's feet, and the brothers were ordained by Brothers Valenti and Lombardo, respectively.

### Site for Church Building

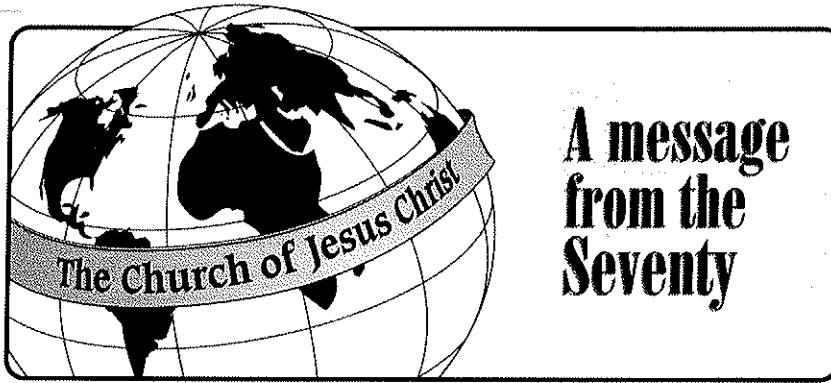
For the past 18 months, we have been diligently praying that God would provide a permanent church building for the Dominica congregation. We have considered several different sites but none seemed quite right. In January, 2005 we became aware of a new opportunity as a former store was being offered for sale in St Cyr, an area right near the center of the Carib Territory. Because of concerns about the quality of construction of the building, we did not pursue it but rather kept the entire matter in prayer.

In April, we held a fasting and prayer meeting with the members and all poured out their hearts to God regarding this question. The prayer meeting lasted about two hours. When the prayers were concluded, we began to discuss the relative merits of the remaining sites available. All preferred the St Cyr site because of its central location, but the quality of the building was still a concern. At this point, Sister Helena related a dream she had recently in which she was with some of the other Church members, coming from a Church meeting, and they were congregating on the road right near the St Cyr location.

With this apparent direction being given, we all went into the Church bus and drove over to St Cyr to examine the inside of the building. Brother Raphael said the outer walls looked sturdy enough and we could see him starting to envision which inner walls would need to be knocked down and how the inside could be arranged into a church building. The roof will need to be replaced but that will then allow the walls to be built up so the resulting room will have a higher ceiling. The bottom line: It is usable! By the time we departed from the site, all were in agreement this is the place to pursue for our church building in Dominica.

As of June, we are still facing many obstacles in actually obtaining the building for the Church but we continue to trust in God that He will provide what is needed.

(Continued on Page 4)



## Trip to Jamaica, Spreading the Gospel

*Brother Chester Nolfi*

In March of 2005, in an effort to spread news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I was privileged to make a trip to Jamaica. This was an outcome of a call received approximately a year ago from a telemarketer. As she wanted to promote her company's product, I told her I would be happy to listen to her if she would listen to what I wanted to say regarding Jesus Christ. She agreed, and I presented information to her regarding The Church of Jesus Christ. She was quite receptive and desired to keep in contact for further discussion. I sent a Book of Mormon and some Church literature to her and continued to keep in contact.

As discussion continued, I received a call from her mother requesting that I come to Jamaica and tell her family of the Gospel. After much prayer and a desire to spread news of Christ, I agreed to arrange a trip. My daughter and her husband, Lisa and Scott Mooney, traveled with me and financed the trip.

After arriving in Jamaica, we met twice with the family. They were very receptive, as were many with whom we came in contact from the hotel staff. As many as would listen heard my message of Christ and Him crucified. Additional New Testaments and Books of Mormon were given to those who desired to



**Brother Chester Nolfi and a man from the hotel staff.**

continue their quest for information.

I thank God for this opportunity to plant the seed of the Gospel, and pray for continued interest among those in Jamaica along with all humankind.

## A Teenage Missionary in Columbia

*By Sister Juliette Smith*

Ever since I was a little girl, I had a desire to do missionary work in a foreign country. Perhaps this was because my great-grandfather, Brother Joe Calabrese, made many trips to India. This past May, I finally had the opportunity. I went for ten days to our Mission in Bogota, Colombia in South America with my grandparents, Brother Richard and Sister Lucetta Scaglione and Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. The experience was in many ways what I expected; yet, many things were quite different.

The Church people in Colombia were so welcoming. Our Church is so loving and inviting, but Colombia



**Brother Chester Nolfi and the Bernard Family**

(Continued on Page 4)

## Baptisms in Dominica Continued from Page 2



Brother Tom Curtin baptizing Sister Francillia.

### Other Experiences

In February, 2005, Patsy Thomas, a friend of the Church who has visited a few times, had an experience while she was working in her garden. For no apparent reason, as she was working, she suddenly experienced a feeling of great joy. When she looked around, she saw Brothers Carl Huttenberger and Tom Curtin approaching. Although she is still active in her own church, Patsy continues to introduce us to people who she feels are in need spiritually. In 2003, she introduced us to two men who were eventually baptized and are part of our congregation today. In June, 2005, she introduced us to another man who we are beginning to become acquainted with. We look forward to the time when Patsy herself will be ready to come over to our Church. She says she "hasn't ruled it out."

In April, 2005, Brother Mathius informed us that he would be going for a blood test during the week to try to determine the cause of a condition he was suffering that caused his lip to be swollen every morning when he woke up. He was anointed for the affliction and the condition disappeared immedi-

ately – his lip was not swollen the next morning nor has it been since.

Also in April, 2005, little Jerry Auguiste (age 18 months) was miraculously spared from death after being run over by a 15-passenger van. He suffered a serious head injury (a large flap of skin was ripped away from his skull and a hole in his skull exposed part of his brain) but after surgery to stitch up the wound, he quickly healed up and has amazed the doctors with how quickly he has returned to normal.

We praise God for the progress of the Church during the first half of 2005 and look forward to continued blessings for the remainder of the year.

### Teenage Missionary

Continued from Page 3

was a perfect example of the true love of our Church. The saints were so thankful to have us there.

The danger in the country was minimal, and I felt perfectly safe as we walked and drove through the streets of Bogota. The city is beautiful with

mountains surrounding the perimeter.

We held meetings on each of the Sundays and on Wednesday evening. We also had a pizza social and fellowship meeting. The visiting Elders incorporated the Book of Mormon as much as possible and tried to convey to the people that they are descendants of Joseph and that the Book of Mormon is the record of their ancestors. Several of our new Spanish Books of Mormon were distributed.

The meeting attendance was satisfactory, and those who attended including the young ones seemed very keen to learn more. Our newly-ordained teacher, Brother Carlos Madera, was especially anxious to read and learn more. He showed such a love for us and also for God's word.

Giving my testimony with a translator, Brother Salvatore Conte, was a unique experience. The language barrier was difficult to overcome even though I speak a little Spanish. The attention of the audience is undivided when testimonies are given.

We visited in the homes of some of the brothers and sisters, as well as those who are not yet members.

The Mission in Bogota is growing, and hopefully I can be a part of its progress in years to come. Lord willing, I plan to go next year and stay for at least a month with our host family. All in all, my first missionary trip was one I'll never forget; and I thank God each day for giving me the privilege to work for him.

*I am not interested  
in the past.  
I am interested  
in the future,  
For that is where I  
expect to  
Spend the rest of  
my life.*



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Church today is constantly focusing on moving the hand of God for various reasons. These reasons include healing us of our afflictions, coming to our rescue in times of trouble and conflict, helping us make the right decisions in life and granting us the desires of our hearts. The Church as a body is also praying to move the hand of God so that the Church can be lifted up in power and righteousness, so that the Church can be pure and spotless, so that many nations will come and be converted, so that the Church will begin to move into the Peaceful Reign where Israel will be gathered, Satan will be bound, and Jesus will be in our midst.

*"Cry unto him when ye are in your fields, yea, over all your flocks. Cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening. Yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies. Yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields that ye may prosper in them. Cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all; ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness. Yea and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those around you" (Alma 34:20-27).*

Amulek is instructing us in this scripture to not only pray, but to "cry" unto the Lord. This is different than prayer. Crying implies an intensity and passion behind our prayers. Crying implies begging God for help with all the sincerity we can muster. How many things would we like to be delivered from in our lives! How many habits would we like to be broken! How many problems would we like to be solved! When it touches your heart deep down inside, you can truly "cry" to the Lord for His help. This is what will begin to move the hand of God. Crying does not mean screaming your prayer loudly, or buckets of tears. Crying means the most humble and sincere attitude you can have, telling God you are completely helpless without Him. He wants us to cry to Him because in doing so, we expose our hearts to Him. This is what causes God to hear and answer us.

Amulek gives us one more ingredient to this formula of moving God's hand: *"And now behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance, if ye have, to those who stand in need - I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is in vain, and availath you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith" (Alma 34:28).*

My opinion is that today, many prayers are not answered because of this last piece of instruction. Do you cry out to the Lord with such intensity and honesty, and then nothing happens? This shakes not only your faith, but those around you who witness God not answering. Is God not listening? Does He care? Some say that maybe God is answering by not answering. I don't believe that. We can only answer for ourselves, but have we made time to visit the sick and afflicted? Have we given of our substance to help those who were in need? Have we turned away those who were needy? The needy and sick are not just within the Church, but all people! Have we made time to help others? If we can honestly say that we have not, and that we have spent our spare time satisfying our own flesh instead of selflessly helping others, then unfortunately, we can cry all we want, but God will not answer. This sounds like quite a bold statement, but this is exactly what Amulek is saying. In other parts of scripture, it states that faith and hope will not produce anything unless we have charity.

The good news is that if we have not been charitable, there's no better time to start then right now. If we can show God that we are willing to make time to help others, *then* we can go to Him and cry for our own needs, and guess what? He will answer quickly and perfectly! This is how we can move the hand of God. The formula is simple. God is able to help us do it. But we must make the first step.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## There Is a Season for All Things

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you or someone you loved ever had your heart break over a terrible problem that you were unable to change? Have you felt so scared that you were numb and could barely think? Did you ever wonder, "God, why is this happening to me? What did I do wrong? Take this away from me. This cannot be!" And then you began to suffer because the problem did not go away?

What should you do when this happens to you or someone you love? What should you say to someone who is going through a big, scary problem? What can you say to someone who is afraid, and angry or worried?

The Bible tells us that there will be hard times in our lives and in the lives of everyone that we love. For one example, every one of us is going to live on this earth a certain number of years. Then our bodies will die and our spirits pass on to God. This breaks our hearts when someone we love is no longer walking the earth. We miss them and it feels like our heart breaks.

The Bible tells us what to do. It tells us to take our heartache to God. Go somewhere quiet where no one will bother you. Get on your knees if you can. Start telling the Lord about the problem. Explain to Him what is going on. He knows about the problem, but He wants us to talk to Him. Ask for help and what to do in the name of Jesus. Cry unto him. Ask him to help you learn how to bear the problem.



Tell him how scared you are and beg Him to help you overcome the terrible feelings. Do this over and over.

Then hold still and listen to what God tells you. There will usually be a little, still voice that gives you an idea or thought about your situation. In the book of Romans, in chapter 11, the Apostle Paul teaches us that when we have the Spirit of God, we will help each other. Paul tells us to rejoice in hope, to be patient in tribulation (when things go wrong) and to continue instant in prayer (verse 14).

When we are trying to help someone else we are taught to love and care for them no matter who they are and not to think that we are better than someone else. And "be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another."

Do not be in shock when things that are bad come upon you. We are human and the Lord teaches us in Ecclesiastics, Chapter 3, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to gather up what you 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..."

Otherwise, during our lives, we will go through all the cares of life. It is a lot easier if someone you can trust is by your side when it is a time of bad things happening to you. You may be in so much shock that you barely know what to do. But someone who loves God can be with you and help you. They may not be able to solve your problem or take it away.

But, just by not running away, they can help you. They can touch your hand and tell you they are praying for you. They can just sit and be with you. Paul tells us in Romans, Chapter 11, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice. Weep with them that weep." That is how we help each other bear the problems that do not immediately go away. We pray and we share each others' pains and troubles.

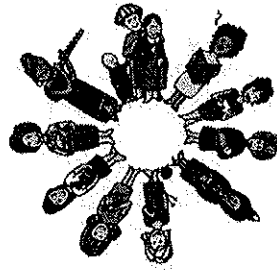
We are promised by God that "the prayers of a righteous man [or person] availeth much [helps much]." God hears the prayers that we offer for others. Jesus knows our every heartache. He understands and cares. When we sit by the side of someone who is suffering, when we tell them that we care, when we pray for them instead of being afraid and running away, then we are learning the hard

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

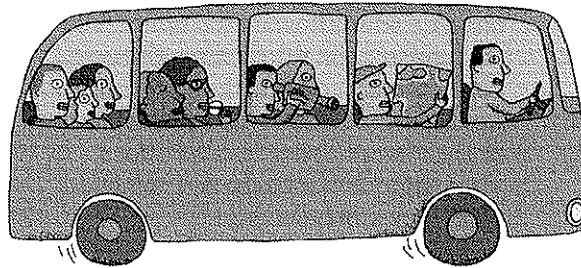
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## General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fund Raiser

Get on board, brothers and sisters!



Help raise funds for a bus for the mission in Colombia!

**On Saturday, October 9, 2005 during the General Church and Ladies' Uplift Circle Conferences, a fund-raising luncheon will be served at the Greensburg Chapel.**

**Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Price: \$10.00**

**Take some time to fellowship with the brothers and sisters of  
The Church of Jesus Christ.**

**RSVP: Notify your Area Ladies' Uplift Circle secretary of your desire  
to come and dine.**



## Ordinations in Mesa, AZ

September 12, 2004 was a glorious day for the Mesa, Arizona Branch. Two brothers were being ordained: Brother Austin Landrey into the office of an Elder and Brother Steven Cihomsky into the office of a Teacher. Brother Ron Brutz, the Southwest Region President, opened our service in prayer.

Apostle Richard Christman opened the meeting on Samuel. Hannah had asked the Lord if He would give her a man-child and in turn she would give him unto the Lord all the days of his life. So shall our young men dedicate their lives to the Lord.

The hymn, *My Heavenly Father Is Watching Over You*, was sung by Brother Barry Mazzeo.

The duties of a teacher were addressed by Brother Emmett Hood who referenced Ephesians 4th Chapter. "There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism...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."

Brother Emmett then read the duties of a teacher, closing with Psalms 62:7, "In God is my salvation and my Glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God," exhorting Brother Steve to go to God for strength.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr., Presiding Elder, stated he has watched our two brothers grow spiritually, loving the Lord and God's people. He addressed their callings stating that much fasting and prayer and seeking God's revelation by the ministry went into the decision. The duties of a minister were read. Brother Pete spoke about King Benjamin addressing the saints to "put 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."

Brother Austin is called to lead, to submit, minister and serve, filled with love for all people.

Brother Jordan Giannetti, Sister Heidi Landrey and Brother Art Landrey, Jr. sang *The Old Rugged Cross*.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese resided over the ordinations. Brother Steven's feet were washed by Brother John Cihomsky, and he was ordained by Evangelist Walter Cihomsky. Brother Austin's feet were washed by Brother Herb Hemmings, and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith. What a blessing was felt when the brothers in the ministry and the families embraced our two brothers. The hymns *Ye Who Are Called to Labor* and *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place* were sung by the many that came to witness this blessed day!

Brother Steven Cihomsky expressed himself by reading 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13<sup>th</sup> chapter regarding charity.

Brother Austin Landrey related an experience that happened at our recent Southwest Area Campout. "I was in the men's seminar at camp and it just so happened that most of the brothers were in the ministry. The camp theme being 'Stir up the Gift of God Within Thee' stirred up Brother Joe Ignani to address mainly responsibilities of a minister. When the seminar was over I felt a very heavy burden wondering if I would be able to fulfill my responsibility. It was then that while greeting one another at the conclusion of the meeting I came to Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. and he discerned my feelings and asked how I was feeling since we had such a heavy and sobering discussion. Not stating anything but continuing to look at him, he stated that the Lord would never leave me alone. All at once Brother Joseph Giannetti spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was "Thus saith the Lord, Fear not for I will bear you up in my arms!" Praise God that He will never leave us alone!

## What's Our Responsibility?

By Sister Karen Progar

We are all called to serve. It was therefore appropriate that the meeting in the Aliquippa Branch on Sunday, June 12, 2005 began with the singing of *In the Service of the King*. Today the branch membership and numerous visitors were gathered to see two of the branch's brothers enter into the office of Teacher.

Brother Mark Naro, visiting from Lorain, Ohio opened the meeting using Galatians 6:9-10 as his scripture, reminding us not to be weary of well doing. He encouraged the brothers and all of us to keep in contact with the other members of the branch and reminded us of the importance of diligence and the necessity of recognizing our own insufficiencies. He concluded by referring to Moroni's advice to live peaceably with all men, stating that this is the key trait of a respected Teacher.

Brother Carl Frammolino of the Butler Mission, followed saying that the Teachers are the unsung heroes of the Church, dealing with many issues and doing so with love and kindness.

Brother Richard Lowther of Vanderbilt confirmed the message by stating that the Lord had put the scripture in Galatians upon his heart this morning. He stated that the branch priesthood prays regarding callings into ordained offices; however, the Lord himself confirms the calling with dreams and experiences. He concluded by saying there's a work for each of us to do to bring the Gospel to the people of the world.

Prior to the ordinations, Brother John D'Antonio, Presiding Elder, concurred that there is a work for all of us to do and stated that this is because there is a need. The need in the community is introduction to the Gospel. The need in the branch is the perfecting of the saints.

Brother Pete Oestreicher's feet were washed by Brother Lou Ross and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Palmieri. Brother Brandon Hunt's

feet were washed by Brother Sela Palmieri and he was ordained by Brother James Gibson.

After the ordinations, communion was served and the new Teachers expressed themselves. Following the meeting, we all enjoyed a luncheon and one another's company.

## Quincy, Florida News

By Sister La'Ronda Lee

Oh! The saints of God gathered at the Quincy Branch for the MBA. Saints from all parts of Florida gathered in Quincy. Many were amazed at the new branch which was recently remodeled by the use of the talents of the brothers and sisters of the branch. Nothing was contracted out. God blessed the members of the Quincy Branch to restore the building after a flood. Once the saints were over the amazement of the building many gathered inside for the blessings of God.

Saturday's gathering was centered on the organization of the Quincy Branch MBA. Members of the branch voted Brother Marcus Thomas as president and Brother Carlin Hester as vice president. Many were elated to see and hear of offices of MBA being accepted with such enthusiasm and motivation to work for the Lord. Sister Angela Wright, Sister Cheryl Hester, and Sister Tina Francis sang beautifully *He Touched Me*. Their voices were lifted in spirit throughout the building.

The elders of the Church reflected upon Brother Cleveland Baldwin and Sister Margaret Baldwin. In their honor the saints of Quincy sang one of Brother Cleveland's favorites, *In the Shade Under the Dogwood Tree*. This brought about a warm feeling and memories to the Quincy Branch. The brothers reminded us to be careful not to leave the fold, but feast on the word of God.

The young people of the branch said their pledge to Christ which was authored by one of our Sunday school teachers, Sister Consuella Hopkins. She confirmed that the main purpose of this pledge is to ensure that this

generation of children understand for themselves that there is no other name under the heavens which man can be saved except through the name of Jesus Christ. The Pledge or what we think of as "The Promise to Oneself" came about with much prayer and concern for our youth. Growing up in the Church with many young people in our branch, it saddens my heart when I see how so many walked away from the Gospel early in adolescence. By the time we were young adults and finding our places in the world, so many young people chose to search without Jesus Christ and left the Church.

When I see these dear friends now, it is obvious to see with spiritual eyes how with all the education, family and even money, they are miserable. This love for young people started a petition to our Savior Jesus Christ as to what was missing. We all grew up with Sunday school, activities and fellowshiped together. We prayed and laughed together. We went through ups and downs early in life and Jesus saw us all through. But something pulled at my heart; what happened? With the responsibility of teaching our youth and my own children, I wanted to know how to help change this cycle throughout the entire Church.

According to the message that the Lord has been bringing forth through the ministry, this is the dispensation in time like none other to live for Jesus Christ. No more playing church. The front lines are pleading for more soldiers fixed in their purpose. So, how do we teach the children to be soldiers? How do we teach them to fight a good fight from now to eternity? The Holy Spirit led me to know that it must start with a sincere and personal relationship with Him early in life. They need to know that the Lord Jesus Christ with this Gospel is the only way. There is no other option. It is no secret that the evil one paints a pretty yet distorted picture that looks enticing and has enticed our young adults for years. By getting them to truly know Jesus Christ for themselves will help them to see past the trickery and know that nothing in this world is worth having if Jesus is not the Head. Not only because Dad, Mom or our

Elders say so, however, but because they have grown to know Jesus Christ for themselves. So prayerfully, this pledge is a step towards that personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Sunday school teachers at the Quincy Branch are teaching the children the meaning of the words outlined in the pledge and through scripture that it is their responsibility to take the Gospel with them every day of their lives. I pray this promise is something even the saints will reaffirm in their hearts and teach to all the precious loved ones in their lives.

### I PROMISE

I pledge to uphold the standard that Jesus Christ has set for me.  
I will do my all to get to know Jesus Christ for myself.  
I will respect myself and remember to keep a sober mind.  
I will honor my mother and my father.  
I will be obedient.  
I will be honest in all my doings.  
I will be a good example for my peers.  
I will make Jesus, my Church, my parents and myself proud.

I promise to give my all and uphold the words above that I pledge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

On March 6, the brothers opened Sunday school with I Nephi 7. This same scripture was confirmed on March 13<sup>th</sup> by Brother Charles Hester who was not in our previous service. In essence, though afflictions of life we are still highly favored of God. The scripture reminded us that we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us. We must use our tools given to us by the Father. If we use our tools, the enemy has no power to defeat us. We must rid ourselves of evil doings, so that we may enjoy the Gospel the way it was intended for us. May God continue to bless you all is our prayer.

## New Songs of Zion

### #125 The National Wonder

(Isaiah 66:7,8)

A kingdom is born and they call it the national wonder.  
A rumor is spreading and suddenly filling the earth;  
A scene so unreal and a most unbelievable story,  
"The baby in waiting was walking and running at birth."  
"The baby in waiting was walking and running at birth."  
  
It's a very good day and we'll say it's a very fine morning.  
It was a long time coming but this baby was worth waiting for;  
God opened the windows and He answered the knock at the door,  
And the little child waiting ran in and is waiting no more.  
And the little child waiting ran in and is waiting no more.

It's a baby, a kingdom, a nation and the story goes on,  
It was running and growing the same day this wonder was born,  
God opened the heavens and His glory has taken us in,  
And we'll sing many times of this national wonder again.  
And we'll sing many times of this national wonder again.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
March 29, 2005

### #126 Freedom's Song

(Isaiah 65:22)

We've sung about the cloudy skies and of the stormy seas,  
We've sung about our mountain home and of the morning breeze;  
We've waited at the borderline for some say far too long,  
But praise the Lord we've come this far,  
We're singing freedom's song.  
But praise the Lord we've come this far,  
We're singing freedom's song.

We've watched the springtimes come and go and counted up the years,  
We've seen our loved ones pass away,  
We've sung thru many tears;  
But never once and not a day our hope grew dim nor died,  
For freedom's just a breath away,  
We'll sing it far and wide.  
For freedom's just a breath away,  
We'll sing it far and wide.

We're singing freedom's song today,  
Let all the land rejoice,  
The set and favored time has come,  
We've heard our Father's voice;  
He said that men shall long enjoy their labor and be free,  
So raise your voice and sing along this freedom's song with me.  
So raise your voice and sing along this freedom's song with me.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
May 3, 2005

## Life Without God, I Can't Imagine...

By Sister Cynthia Marie Onorato  
July, 2005

God is life, without Him, there would be none  
He created the stars above, the earth beneath...  
The air we breathe, the raindrops and dew  
The honeysuckle so fragrant  
This only names a few...  
The greatest of His creation would be me and you  
Created by His own image, gifted with a heart, a mind, a soul,  
A little lower than the angels, I've been told...  
Given choices to make on our own...  
Choices of belief or disbelief,  
To follow our creator in respectful humility or to be alone...  
Alone in darkness with nowhere to go  
Hardening our heart, blinding our eyes,  
rebuking Gods' love,  
Leading to death, going nowhere at all...  
It seems the choice would be easy to see,

The path our Saviour laid out for you, for me  
He prepared the way by His victory on the cross  
He paid the price for salvations high cost  
Just follow His direction and you will see, a road map to eternity  
It starts by opening up the door of your heart,  
Your eyes unto the light, your mind obeying His gentle call,  
Looking to Jesus, submissive and meek  
Taking one step at a time with God's hand in thine, till Glory doth shine...  
There awaits life,  
Everlasting life, not in the fleshly state we once were,  
But in the spirit of Gods' Holy Love  
*Life without God? I can't imagine...*

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalm 8:3-5).

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## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you throughout the Church for the phone calls, cards, and especially the prayers on my behalf. Praise God that He has been with me. As my cancer is diagnosed as incurable, please continue to remember me in prayer. God Bless all of you.

Sister Genevieve Ausilio.  
Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

lessons of life. We are learning that even if we can't take away someone's pain or trouble, we can be there for them as they suffer. We can comfort them with our love and care as well. Be brave, ask the Lord to help you help others. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our heavenly father loves us and cares for us.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Gloria Keenan was reinstated on February 13, 2005 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Sister Mary Boyland was baptized in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ralph Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Sister Lori Burkell was baptized on March 27, 2005 in the Redford, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Tullio LaCivita.

Sister Vickie Butler was baptized on March 27, 2005 in the Redford, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa, and confirmed by Brother Tullio LaCivita.

Sister Tammy Lynn Karsin was baptized on May 22, 2005 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Dan Buffington.

Brother Lucas Martorana was baptized on June 12, 2005 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Wayne Martorana and confirmed by Brother Russ Martorana.

Sister Marsha Ann Williams was baptized on July 10, 2005 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ken Murray and confirmed by Brother Richard Santilli.

Brother Tony Salerno was reinstated on July 10, 2005 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

Brother Joshua Barouch was baptized on July 24, 2005 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Nick Barouch and confirmed by Brother Jerry Valenti.

Brother Roger Surena was baptized on July 24, 2005 in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Murray and confirmed by Brother Ronald Genaro.

## Ordinations

Brother Nicholas Barouch was ordained an Elder in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch on April 24, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Jerry Valenti, and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Benyola.

Brother John Bordeaux was ordained a Teacher in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on July 24, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Art Gehly, Jr. and he was ordained by Brother Art Gehly, Sr.

Brother Clarence (Chip) Smith, Jr. was ordained a Teacher in the Herndon, Virginia Branch on July 24, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother George Seighman and he was ordained by Brother Lawrence King.

## Children Blessed

Steven Jamal, Steven Malik and Nandi Tugman, children of Steve and Benita Tugman were blessed on March 27, 2005 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Antonio Roman Palmieri, son of Brother Mark and Sister Rilla Palmieri, was blessed on March 27, 2005 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch.

Tyler Rick Taddio, son of Rick and Cindy Taddio was blessed on December 5, 2004 in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Relly Bec Jacobs Laur, son of Nick Laur and Ashley Jacobs was blessed on July 24, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

\* **WEDDINGS** \*

Sister Brenda Humphreys and Vincent Palamara were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on June 18, 2005.

**OBITUARIES**

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

CARMELLA PETERKIN

Sister Carmella Peterkin of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission passed on to her reward on February 5, 2005. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by five daughters, eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

ROY JOSEPH DePERNO

Brother Roy Joseph DePerno of the Inner City, Michigan Branch, passed on to his reward on March 5, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Jean DePerno; his sons, Frank, Rock, Gary, and Mitch DePerno; a sister and six grandchildren.

ANTIONETTE "LENA" PONTILLO

Sister Antionette "Lena" Pontillo, of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed on to her reward on June 7, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Jack Pontillo; parents, Brother Vitto and Sister Olive Ausilio; sister, Sister Frances Capone; and brother, Brother David Ausilio. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Sharon Pontillo; sons, Daniel and Brian; brother, John and his wife, Sister Genevieve Ausilio; sister, Sister Almerinda and her husband, Joe Kaczmarek; brother, Daniel and his wife, Wanda; brother, Brother Anthony Ausilio; sister, Sister Olivia and her husband, Brother Dan Parravano; three grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

GRACE BRUTZ

Sister Grace Brutz of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to her reward on January 8, 2005. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her children; Sister Diane Surdock, Brother Ronald Brutz, and James Brutz; twelve grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

JEANETTE VELARDI

Sister Jeanette Velardi of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to her reward on August 29, 2004. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her two daughters, Adeline Ciccatti and Darlene Farwell, as well as six grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

DENNIS RICCI

Brother Dennis Ricci of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on June 18, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Thu; daughter, Sister Suzan Kattan and her husband Jeff; three sons, Brother Anthony Ricci and wife Sister Joyce, Dennis Ricci and wife, Linda and Brother Matthew Ricci.

MAGRAGRET P. (PEGI) SCUOTTO

Sister Margaret P. (Pegi) Scuotto of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on May 23, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Brother Albert, one son, four daughters, two granddaughters, a brother and a sister.

OLGA KURIA LOPAZANSKI

Olga Kuria Lopazanski passed on to her reward on October 6, 2004. She is survived by one son, Gregory; two grandsons; a sister, Sister Rosalia Crowe of Hopelawn, New Jersey, and many nieces and nephews.

DOROTHY ONDRASIK

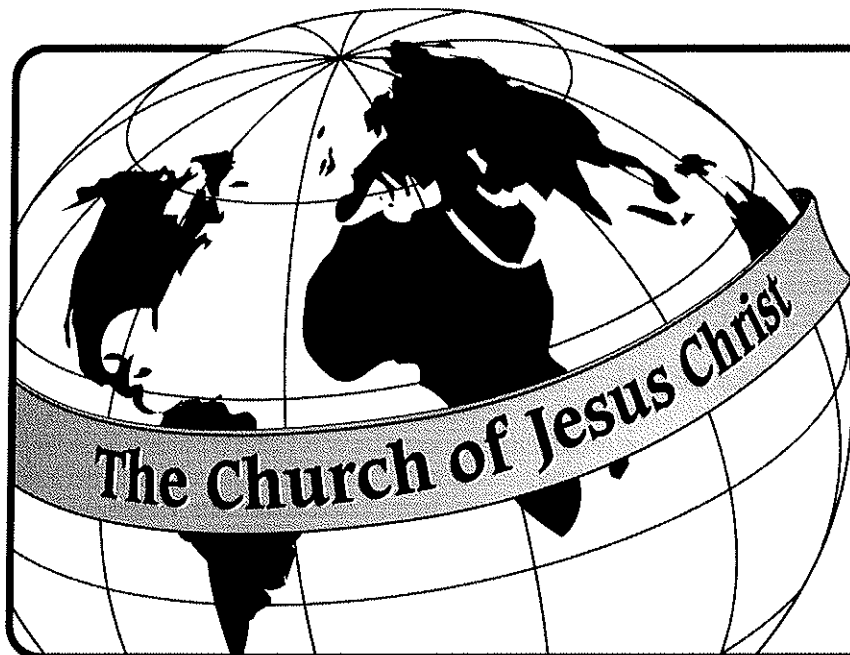
Sister Dorothy Ondrasik of the San Carlos, Arizona Mission passed on to her reward on April 24, 2005. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Helen May, and son, Martin Onrasik. She is survived by son, David Ondrasik and daughter, Sister Judith Steding, along with seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

October, 2005

Volume 61, No. 10

## Trusting in God

*By Apostle Paul Palmieri*

We define trust as our firm belief or confidence in the reliability of our faith. It is the confidence we have in God that what He promises He will do. That total confidence in God can be termed, Our Trust in God.

Many today place their trust in tangible entities such as governments, financial institutions, schools and individuals. To trust in the above is important when balanced with priorities. Even our currency in the United States uses the term, "In God We Trust." There is, however, a greater resource in whom we can place our trust; that is, in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we are being challenged by the world and especially by the opposition to our souls, to place our trust in what we can accomplish — not what God can do but what we can do.

Above everything in life, trusting in God for our spiritual and natural needs gives us the hope and joy of living. If we lose this, we have lost it all. We trust Him for our salvation; we trust Him for the hope we have in eternal life with Christ. God gave His Son that we would be able to once again be in His presence.

Jesus came to redeem us to Himself, without any stipulation except as stated in the Book of Mormon: "...for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in...the Holy One of Israel" (II Nephi 30:2).

I am reminded of a project in which we participated to save stamps to redeem them for a van to give to one of our missionaries on an American Indian Reservation. We trusted the company to redeem the stamps. The company went out of business, and fortunately another company took over the project or we would have lost the redemption value. What a contrast with the promise of God; no one can take away our redemption. Whom should we trust? God gave His most valued possession, Jesus Christ, that we would be redeemed. The only requirement to make it effective is for us to do His will. He made the promise thousands of years ago. Thousands trusted Him and He kept His promise. He is worthy to be trusted.

God could have invalidated His promise because of mankind's disobedience, but He kept His promise. Trust God and His promises; they are sure and true. Consider some of His wonderful promises that we have believed and trusted:

- destroy the earth again with water.
- He promised Abraham that he would have a great family, even though he was old and had no children.
- He promised the children of Israel that He would deliver them out of Egypt, and their bondage. The promise may have been a long-time coming, but God was faithful.
- He promised them a promised land. And even when they disappointed Him, God was faithful to His word.
- He promised His people on the land of America that He was going to come into the world as He promised thousands of years ago. Some people were willing to kill their brothers over the belief that Christ was going to come into the world. Christ spoke to reassure Nephi and said, "tomorrow I will be born." God was and is faithful.

God works today as in the past. God wants us to place our trust in Him and in His Holy Word. He promised that the Gospel would be restored and it was. Some will differ but that does not change God's promise. God promised that the Tribe of Joseph and the entire House of Israel would be restored. Is anything impossible with God? Has His word ever failed? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, that is why we trust Him. He

- He promised He would never

(Continued on Page 9)

# The Way of Salvation

## FAITH

We learn from the Scripture, Hebrews, 11th chapter, that they who come to the Lord must believe that "He is," and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. The Apostle further states that without faith it is impossible to please God. Paul's definition of faith applies both to those who have not yielded to Christ and also to those who have. He says, "It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Persons whose hearts are open sufficiently to hear the word of the Lord will receive a heavenly substance, hope will spring up within them and they are filled with desire to proceed further. They now believe that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and are willing to learn of Him. This is the kind of faith that possessed the three thousand persons who were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, when the Apostle Peter, by the inspiration of God, preached the first Gospel sermon. Faith that Jesus Christ was the Redeemer of mankind was planted within their hearts. Although it was a heavenly substance and brought to them a hope of better things that this world can give, they still felt unworthy of the Redeemer's approval, and they cried out to the Apostles, "What shall we do?"

"Faith, the evidence of things not seen." From the foregoing we must conclude that faith comes by hearing the Gospel declared and that repentance is produced by faith, and the necessity of being buried with Christ in baptism follows. The evidence of things not seen begins now to be experienced. Christ within us enables us to testify that we know our Redeemer lives. We have an evidence that when we approach God in humble prayer He hears us; being a new-born creature, we experience hundreds of things which our natural senses were dead to previously. Richest of all is the evidence we have of our future, providing we are

faithful to the Lord, that when we pass from time and timely things, we have a building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. These evidences come only through possessing the faith of Jesus Christ.

## REPENTENCE

Of all the changing or reforming persons may undergo, whether by schooling or self-cultivation, it could only be compared as a thing of naught to that change that takes place through the spirit of repentance. When those persons ask what they must do, the first word that fell from the Apostle's lips was repent. Repentance may be termed a Godly sorrow. It is as though God is telling us He is not pleased with our present condition. Therefore, we seek to be set free, that we may experience His smile and approbation.

## BAPTISM

The Apostle Peter did not end his answer to the people by only telling them to repent but included the doctrine of baptism for the remission of sins, telling them by so doing they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Until this is accomplished we cannot experience that divine liberation from past sin. Neither can we know the reality of a second birth as the Saviour told Nicodemus. This same Apostle tells us in his epistle that baptism is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.

### Faith:

Romans 10:14-17  
John 9:35-38  
James 2:19 to conclusion

### Repentance:

Acts 3:19;  
Acts 8:22  
Luke 22:61-62

### Baptism:

Mark 16:16  
Romans 6:3-6  
Acts 10:47-48

## RECEPTION OF THE PROMISE

Dear Reader:

Has it ever occurred to you that God has always moved in ways least expected by mankind? Isaiah, 55th chapter, 9th verse, says, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways and thoughts higher than ours." This fact should cause mortal beings to realize their inferiority when measured by the unbounded wisdom of our God. And still more, it should cause us to give heed to His divine ways and means which He has established in His Son, Christ Jesus, for our salvation, bearing in mind that the Son came not to do His own will but the will of His Father who sent Him (St. John, 6th chapter, 38th verse). Hence we find in different ages of the world a few have understood in a large measure the ways of God, because they adhered to His will or His ways, and forsook their own.

Notice the Prophet Daniel for instance; he submitted himself to the ways of his God, consequently he was able to read the handwriting on the wall, foretell the rise and fall of nations, and ultimately shows that the Kingdom of Christ shall overcome the kingdoms of this world, which kingdom shall be given to the saints of the Most High (Daniel, 7th chapter, 27th verse).

Take Isaiah for another who walked in the ways of his Lord to such an extent that his vision could penetrate the veil and record an account of the many wonderful events that were literally fulfilled in the birth and life of the despised Nazerene. Could any man who may have lived in the days of the Saviour have written a more graphical account of His life than Isaiah did, who lived centuries before the babe was born? It was simply because the prophet was walking in the ways of his God.

Let the reader notice the second chapter of Nahum and see the wonderful things that have been brought forward in our day by men of inventive minds. Notice the chariots with their torches jostling one against another and running like the light-

ning. Can anyone doubt but what he saw our day and time of locomotives and railway system, automobiles and the electric cars with flaming headlights? He says that the gates of the rivers shall be opened. Just notice the locking system of our streams, and the large steel bridges that swing open that ships might pass by. Surely this man had forsaken his own ways and sought the path of his God whose wisdom knew no bounds.

We might refer the reader to many more events just as important as the ones already referred to but the fact that the life and mission of our Saviour was the greatest event spoken of by the prophets. We wish to draw the attention of the reader to the ways of Christ—in part—while He was on earth, and also of His disciples who carried out His instructions.

Second Peter, chapter 1, verse 21, informs us that prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Hence, we find this to be the secret of the whole matter. The gift of the Holy Ghost is promised unto all those who will repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Acts, 2nd chapter, 39th verse, "For the promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

First chapter of First Peter, 23rd verse, informs us that the word of God abideth forever. Isaiah, 55th chapter, 11th verse, tells us that "His word shall not return unto Him void." Matthew, 28th chapter, 18th verse, "Jesus declares that all power is given Him both in heaven and earth," and instructing His disciples relative as to their mission to the nations in verses 19 and 20, He says, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Now, as the reader no doubt believes that Jesus was the Son of God, and the scriptures to be the word of God, it is only fair that we should give heed to His—the Master's—instructions relative to us attaining an inheritance in His eternal Kingdom

and not put our trust in man, "whose breath is only in his nostrils" (Isaiah, 2nd chapter, 22nd verse).

In the 14th chapter of St. John, Christ tells those who love Him and keep His commandments that He would pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth and so forth.

In the 16th chapter of St. John, He speaks of this same Comforter that is to come, and of the spirit of truth, which was to lead and guide them into all truth and show them things to come. In St. Luke, 24th chapter, 49th verse, the Saviour refers again to this Comforter and tells His disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until they be endowed with power from on high. Numerous writers of the New Testament, as well as the Old, refer the reader to this same promise. This promise of the Holy Ghost was poured out on the Day of Pentecost in cloven tongues of fire, and the disciples spake in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And the multitude was amazed because they heard Galileans speaking the wonderful works of God in the tongue in which they were born. The many different nationalities represented in the multitude heard these things in their own language, (Acts, 2nd chapter). Most readers are willing to admit this wonderful pentecostal event, but want to maintain that it was only to establish the church in that day, and that there would be no succession of these events among the children of men, but as we have already drawn your attention to the words of the Apostle Peter in this same chapter, "For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The reader will notice that there is no limitation to these promises as far as time is concerned. According to the Scripture these blessings followed those whom obeyed the commands of the Saviour. The ways of God is life, while the end of the ways that seem right unto man is death. The mission of our Lord was to establish an order by which man might have eternal life.

By obedience to His ways, repentance and baptism, we are promised the gift of the Holy Ghost. We find many instances in Holy Writ, that when the penitent obeyed the Gospel that the disciples laid their hands on them, praying the Father that the promise might be bestowed upon them, "Baptizing them with fire and the Holy Ghost," (Matthew, 3rd chapter, 11th verse). "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire," surely if we are believing men and women in the word of God, we will be willing to abide by His word rather than the words of men who seem to be learned, yet who are in conflict with the Word of God. Second Timothy, chapter 3, shows that there are men that will be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. So, reader, let's leave the Word of God decide as to how we are to receive the promise. Notice Acts, 8th chapter, 14th and 17th verses inclusive. Peter and John, two close associates of the Saviour, laying their hands on those baptized by Philip and they received the Holy Ghost. Could anything be plainer? See Acts, 19th chapter, from the first to the sixth verses, inclusive, "When Paul laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied," confirming the words of Christ in Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "they shall speak with new tongues." We find recorded many accounts of blessings being bestowed upon mankind by the imposition of the hands of men who had previously repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins. St. Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." James, 5th chapter, 14th verse, "Is any sick among you let him call for the Elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:" 15th verse, "And

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## American Indian Moses

By Evangelist Mark Kovacic

In August, 1975, Evangelist Timothy Dom Bucci wrote a brief article in the *Gospel News* introducing the Church to his book, *American Indian Moses*. Unfortunately, after only a few hundred copies were sold, the book went out of print; unfortunate for the Church and unfortunate for Native Americans.

Brother Bucci regularly preached about the great promises in God's plan for the native peoples of the Americas and the divine origin of the Book of Mormon, which he referred to as *Translated Ancient American Writings*. He often traveled from Youngstown, Ohio to Anadarko, Oklahoma for the annual American Indian Exposition (a type of camp-out), where he distributed flyers, sat and talked with Native Americans and even addressed them on their PA system.

In the book Brother Bucci covers God's selection of Abraham, Isaac and

Jacob and then the House of Israel. He recounts the three colonies of people God brought from Israel to ancient America and then their history and dealings (good and bad) with God and culminates with the appearance of Jesus Christ in ancient America and his teachings. Finally, Brother Bucci concisely expresses the hopes and aspirations The Church of Jesus Christ and the House of Israel, particularly Native Americans and the coming of the Choice Seer.

Now the good news! A new updated version of *American Indian Moses* is available to all the saints, but more importantly, to Native Americans. In Brother Bucci's own words, he explains this importance:

"A few years back there was a bumper sticker that read, 'Discover America, Read the Book of Mormon.' To me there should be two bumper stickers: first, 'Discover **Ancient** America, Read the Book of Mormon,' and the second, 'Discover America's **Future**, Read the Book of Mormon.' You see, if the legends and archeologi-

cal finds are correct in showing that there was a migration of Israelites to America in ancient times, then the Book of Mormon, which we have accepted by faith, is the record of those immigrants, and the word of God! And if the Book of Mormon is true, as we believe it to be, then not only is its history true, but its prophecies are true. And all people, Native Americans and Gentile Americans, must heed those prophecies, today!"

Brother Bucci did not intend the book to be one that would be added to a member's library, but instead, to be distributed to Native Americans throughout the Americas to bring them to a knowledge of God's ancient covenants with Israel, that the Book of Mormon is their record, the great things in store for them today, and the Seer that will be chosen of God.

If you would like to order a copy of the book for yourself and maybe one or more to give out to Native Americans, write, call or e-mail Brother George Frentzos at 720 Hazel Place, Terrytown, LA 70056, or 504-392-8668, or [AmericanIndianMoses@juno.com](mailto:AmericanIndianMoses@juno.com).



## 2004-2005 Graduation Banquet

The Mesa, Arizona MBA sponsored a recognition dinner for students of our area who graduated from High School and College the past two years. Those honored were: Dan Arcuri, A.J. Dyer, Heidi, Jordan and Patrick Giannetti, Katherine Melnikov, Jodi Mountain, Bethany Smith, Luke Smith, Rachel Smith, and Michael Watson. Brother Steve Cihomsky was the Master of Ceremony for the evening's festivities. We enjoyed a catered dinner and then Jon and Ben Scolaro entertained us with some audience participation games. Jon had the graduates fill out a questionnaire and

then the audience played "Who Am I," trying to identify the graduate by the answers they gave on the questionnaire. We then played "Name That Tune." Ben played the first three notes of a hymn on the piano and we tried to identify the hymn. Prizes were given out to the winners of each game.

Brother Steven Cihomsky introduced Brother Tony Picciuto, our guest speaker. Brother Tony began his presentation by asking, "What is graduation time?" He proceeded to expand on that question by stating that it is a time of joy and celebration; a time of joy and thankfulness to God, parents, relatives and teachers that helped each graduate achieve their goal. It is a time of reflection of values and all contributing factors that made this night possible. It is a time of evaluation. Will I use my ability and skills developed on God's good earth? It is a platform and means of planning future goals.

Brother Tony further cited the

parable about the talents, buried or multiplied and to what end. He pointed out that as a young person, you are a child of God. Each of us is made in His image and therefore it is important that we reflect the image of God in our behavior, character, personality, beliefs, attitudes in the workplace, marriage, recreation, church, etc. This independence or interdependence will reflect our attitude. Therefore we must be insightful regarding our abilities and skills as they relate to our social and genetic heredity. Solomon teaches us, "to everything there is a season: a time to be born, learn, love..." It is now time to ask not what God can do for me with my talents, but what can I do for God and His creation and kingdom. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth..." Remember, youth will not always be yours. This exercise we call life is

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*(Editor's Note: This beautiful editorial was written by Brother Don Ross a few years ago.)*

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

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ has the authority, power and commission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world. No nation, no people, no language will be overlooked. All shall hear the message and divine commandments of Jesus Christ. Every nation, people and tongue will be given an opportunity to hear the true and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is our mission. It is our commission.

Every nation, kindred, tongue and people will be taught to observe all things that He commanded His disciples. His message was not only to His remaining disciples, it is for us as well. We have to possess the zeal, enthusiasm, and spiritual drive to preach and teach all nations. It will take the strength and power of God to make this commandment a reality. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot do it with our strength. We can only do this with the strength and power of Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## How to Have an Amazing Life

Dear Friends,

Do you know that a good detective could watch you for a few hours or days and be able to tell all about you? By observing where you go, what you watch on television, what sites you look at on the internet, and how you talk when you think no one important is around, he would know who you are in your secret moments.

Since the beginning of time, there have been those people who know God and seek God. There are also those people who do not. There are even those who make up a religion so they can be the boss and have power over others.

There are millions of people in this world who live in ignorance and spiritual poverty. These people do not know the joy we feel when we do something wrong and then beg God for forgiveness. We admit we are wrong, and ask for guidance to start over fresh. They don't know what a thrill it is when God uses you to do something greater than you could do by yourself!

These people don't realize that there is a God who cares for them. When they feel lost or have a huge problem, they don't know to get on their knees and pray in their hearts to the one true God for wisdom. No one taught them how to cry unto the Lord then listen for that quiet little voice that comforts them and tells them what to do. They drink alcohol, or gamble or do things to keep them from thinking about their problems. But there is another way.



We know the way to talk and pray to God, the Creator. We know how to ask for help in the name of Jesus because He is the one who walked the earth and taught us. We know how to admit our mistakes, ask God in the name of Jesus to remove our bad habits, and start over.

The Bible and the Book of Mormon are guidebooks for living a good, loving and interesting life. When we serve God, we love others without fear. We share each other's burdens and joys. We become part of the family of God and widen our lives. When we don't know what to do the Bible tells us in Psalms 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel [follows the advice] of the ungodly..." That guides us to ask advice from only good people who do not lie, steal, cheat or try to control others for power or gain.

The scriptures teach us that there is only one God, one creator. We are the children of God. We do not believe in or play with witchcraft, spells, fortune tellers, palm readers, tarot cards, Ouija boards or other magical types of tricks. You cannot trust the power that makes those things. That power comes from our enemy, tricky Satan.

Sometimes it looks like those things magically work, but the power behind them, Satan, has one goal. His goal is to trick you, pull you away from God's love and power and enslave you to serve him and eventually be lost.

Remember when you are all alone that God and Jesus, His Son, are there too. When you don't know what to do, ask a trusted brother or sister in The Church of Jesus Christ to pray with you. Watch yourself. Watch

what you read, what you find on television and the internet, and what you say. Our God wants to show His power through you. You have to be clean and also listening for Him to use you.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, God uses our Elders to say healing prayers of power. He reveals Himself in dreams and visions to many. He lets a brother or sister know when there is a problem they can help someone with. He smooths our paths at work and school when we pray. He helps us grow.

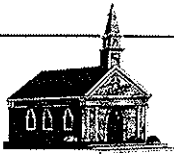
God has the power to help you and teach you. You can have an amazing, adventuresome, interesting life if you let yourself be used by God. You can trust our God. He is amazing, creative and protective. God blesses

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### WORD SEARCH

YOU	LOVE
WALK	WANTS
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IN	PROTECT
THE	US
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UNGODLY	US
OUR	AMAZING
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## Branch and Mission News

### Vacation Bible School at Six Nations

*By Brother Richard Lobzun*

Vacation Bible School was held at the mission at Six Nations in Canada on August 4-7, 2005. With 12 teachers, cooks, drivers, and helpers, and 35 to 40 children each day over the four day period, results were very successful.

The subject of the program was "The Kingdom of the Son," with an African theme. The children were separated into three age groups. They were asked to select an animal to represent each group. They chose an eagle, an elephant, and a turtle. A wonderful skit was performed, teaching love, forgiveness, tolerance, and good decision making. Crafts, Bible and Book of Mormon studies, and new songs were enjoyed by all. The children felt a special spirit in the singing. A teaching circle was held with the teenagers, where they shared experiences, trials, and ambitions with one another.

A picnic was held at the Earl Haig

Fun Park on Saturday, August 6, with 91 children and adults in attendance.

We would like to thank all who assisted with this special event. We look forward to working with you next year.

### "Into the Fire, but not Consumed"

Sunday, March 6th, began with an air of anticipation and festivity at Detroit, Branch #1. Another name was to be written in the Lamb's Book of Life—that of our new sister Delyia Roach. In lieu of preparing for our normal Sunday School classes, our deacons were busy cutting through the twelve inches of ice that had accumulated on our pond during a long winter. Brother Brett Gibson took our new sister into the waters of regeneration, and we returned to the warmth of our building to enjoy a small breakfast and a time of fellowship in the Lord.

Shortly thereafter we began our morning service with hymns of praise that were seasoned by the Lord's Spirit. Brother Jeff Giannetti opened the meeting with remarks about the beautiful ordinance that we had just witnessed. With many visitors in attendance, he explained that our sister

had tasted the goodness of God, and as a result, she desired all of His blessings. He referred to Psalms 34:8, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him," and invited others to follow our sister's example.

Our brother next spoke about what the future holds for those who serve the Lord. He acknowledged that our personal trials do not end on the day of our baptism, but rather continue throughout our lives. The Lord Himself addresses this issue in Matthew 5:45, "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Our Brother Jeff encouraged us, however, that the Lord will accompany us in our trials, and that although we may find ourselves in the fire, we shall not be consumed. He mentioned a scriptural example in which the saints of God experienced a literal fulfillment of this promise. In Daniel 3:26, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego survived the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar in a great demonstration of the Lord's power. Our brother cautioned, however, that not all trials end with a physical deliverance. He gave as examples the death of Abinadi as described in Mosiah 18:20, and, more significantly, the death on the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Brother Jeff was quick to point out that in both cases, natural loss served great spiritual purposes.

Brother Anthony J. Scolaro, visiting from the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, briefly followed by encouraging us to remain firmly planted upon the rock of Jesus Christ. He emphasized the role that preparation plays in insuring that the fire never consumes us.

During our testimony service that followed the preaching, Brother Rudy Zaccagnini expressed a desire to be reinstated in the Church. The joy with which we began the day had suddenly doubled! In due course, Brother Peter Scolaro administered the gift of the Holy Ghost to our sister, and Brother Jerry Benyola reinstated our brother. As we closed our service in prayer, one nicely summarized our satisfaction: "Lord, our cups are full."



Vacation Bible School in Six Nations

## Blessings in Liberty, Ohio

*"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For the promise is unto you, and to your children...** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:38).*

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Liberty Ohio Branch joyfully gathered at the water's edge for the baptism of Lucas Martorana. With his family all around, and many visiting brothers and sisters he was baptized by his father, Brother Wayne Martorana.

As we gathered back at the building, Brother Phil Jackson opened our meeting by reading Malachi 4:1-6 where it speaks of the great and dreadful day of the Lord that is coming. It tells of destruction but quickly gives a promise to the righteous that they shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall, and that God will send another Elijah. He then told us how God had revealed to him that the priesthood of Elijah (his life) is a type and shadow of the restoration. There was a famine for three and a half years and the apostasy was time, times and times and a half. When Elijah went to the widow woman it was likened to the Gospel going to the Gentiles. In the sixth verse it tells how this second Elijah would change the hearts of the fathers and the children. Today Lucas has chosen to change his life and begin to serve God and if he is faithful he will inherit a heavenly reward.

But there is more to serving God—What about God's plan? God wants Israel to be gathered. Yes, these latter day events will bring hard times for us, but as God has done in the past He will provide for His own **again**. Brother Phil challenged us with these questions, "Do you care about God's work? Do you want to see the records that He has promised to us?" God needs workers committed to His work. No one is too young or too old. Read the word, fast and pray, and

question the Lord. Ask Him for the knowledge of the things to come. Let us run to meet the latter day events. Lastly, he warned, "Put aside everything that will stand between us and the work of God."

Brother James Moore, Lucas' grandfather, followed saying, "Praise God today Lucas has a new beginning in his life and life in the Church is exciting." Look and see the prophecies unfold. Brothers and sisters do you want to ride the high tide? (*The Songs of Zion*, #127) He then told us how Elijah stood before the prophets of Baal and the great power of heaven came down and today we will have this great power of heaven come again. And we will declare to all around that there is a God in Israel and He shall deliver His own. He is a God of power and we will work toward the day when the scales shall fall from the eyes of the Seed of Joseph, and we shall build the New Jerusalem. We were then challenged again, "Can you feel your heart swell? Can you feel that first love? If not, get it back! Know that these things shall come to pass, Joseph shall come with tears of joy, and the power of heaven will come down and rest upon this church, The Church of Jesus Christ!"

Then Brother Jim told of the conversion of his family. When Brother James Moore, Sr., and Sister Eva were baptized God rooted them with experiences. One night they both saw Jesus Christ and another night the angel Moroni came to them. Their testimonies still live though they are gone now. Lucas is the fifth generation to be baptized in the Moore family.

We were then pleasantly surprised by Lucas' friend, Coren, who honored Lucas by singing #58, *My Place*.

Brother John Genaro then asked us again, "Who wants to ride the high tide? Do you want to be the head and not the tail?" He reminded us that when we arrived at the lake it was raining, and when Brother Wayne took him into the water the "son" broke through. "Today Lucas has joined the army of the true and living God! He was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and will now receive the Holy

Ghost through the name of Jesus Christ. He then read the scripture where Jesus promised he would not leave us comfortless. This Comforter is our guide to all truth and will show us things to come.

Brother Frank Giovannone offered a prayer inviting the spirit and power of God to be with the ministry. The bestowal of the Holy Ghost was pronounced on him by his other grandfather, Brother Russ Martorana. During his prayer the Word of the Lord was given saying, "My son, go in peace, the same blessing I placed on your great-grandfather many years ago I give to you, Thus saith the Lord."

Our new brother then testified how a few weeks earlier he was at college finishing his testing and was almost involved in a chemistry experiment that exploded next to where he was walking. Immediately God revealed to him that He just saved his life! The pieces of shattered brick flew right where his head should have been if God had not delayed his path for a few seconds. The reality of this event overwhelmed him and as happens so many times when God is working with you, the next few sermons he heard seemed to be directed right at him. Within a short time he happily declared to the congregation that he wanted the blessings of God in his life and he requested baptism. He told of an experience he had as a young boy—while at GMBA Campout he saw the face of Jesus Christ and heard him say, "I will be with you always."

*"O, all ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children who can understand my words,...I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For, behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it" (Mosiah 2:40-41).*

## Blessings in Ohio

Brothers and sisters our branch is being blessed. In troubling times in the world we are finding a refuge. We first experienced the wonderful miracle of Brother John Genaro's wonderful healing. A few months later Lucas Martorana asked for his baptism. Several weeks ago Brother Tony Salerno was reinstated. After 30+ years our brother stood up and said he needed to come back. He exclaimed how God has always been with him and taken care of him through all of his life. He then boldly and very enthusiastically cried out for reinstatement.

Before the brothers reinstated Brother Tony, one of the ministers told of a dream that he had about eight months prior to this day. He stated that in the dream Brother Tony asked to be reinstated and in this dream the brother passed communion to him. He told us that after he had this dream every time we would have communion and the brothers would pass Brother Tony by, his heart would break. He told Brother Tony about this dream and Brother Tony told him it was not time yet. I grew up in the same branch as Brother Tony and my entire 35 years of life he has not been dutiful, however, he has always attended and consistently has shown the love of God. But as one brother said in his testimony about Brother Tony, there is something missing if you do not make yourself right with God.

Praise God he has that forgiveness and mercy that no matter how far we stray or how stubborn we might be there He is with His arms ALWAYS open.

## Notice

The Print House has a new E-mail address:

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## Publication Notice

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## New Songs of Zion

### #127 Come on Over

(Isaiah 51:14-16)

Come on over, mothers, bring your babies,  
Come on over fathers, swim the sea;  
Never fear the cold and raging waters,  
There's a harbor safe that waits for thee.

Come on over, children, ride the high tide,  
Come on over, nations, come and see;  
Christ is sitting high on His mountain,  
Watching over all so tenderly.

Come on over, brothers, climb the mountain,  
Come on over, sisters, cross the sea;  
There's no wall so high God can't deliver,  
There's no pit so deep he cannot free.

Come on over, weary wand'ring soldiers,  
There's no war nor weapons here to find;  
Lay your weary heads down on the mountain,  
Leave the blackened hills and plains behind.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
May 19, 2005

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## Trusting in God

Continued from Page 1

promised us that a peaceful condition will exist on the earth while men and women are living in the flesh. What a wonderful hope the saints of God possess, that a peaceful condition will exist again on the earth as it was in the Garden of Eden.

Today God has commissioned The Church of Jesus Christ to bring the Gospel to all people, in all parts of

(Continued on Page 10)

## Trusting in God

Continued from Page 9

the world. To accomplish this, we must trust in God that He will fulfill all that He has spoken. We must trust in God for everything we need. We need to depend more on Him and less on our own ability.

Trusting in God extends beyond the spiritual needs we have as individuals and the work of the Church. It embraces every aspect of our lives: our families, our homes, our jobs, and our associations. It needs to be taken into consideration when we take a job, when we take a transfer in the Church and in our jobs, when marrying a mate, when buying a house, and when giving to the Church, etc. This is what God wants from each of us; to place our trust in Him completely for everything!

God never forgets anything, "except our sins." We can trust Him for that. Trust God to solve your needs, spiritually and temporally, and He will never fail you. At the end of your life, He will be faithful and bring you into His glorious kingdom. Only trust Him!!

## The Way of Salvation

Continued from Page 3

the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

Second Timothy, 1st chapter, 6th verse, "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." See Matthew, 19th chapter, 13th and 15th verses, inclusive, where the Saviour laid His hands on little children. We find in Acts, 6th chapter, 6th verse, that the seven deacons were set aside by the Apostles laying their hands on them. Acts, 9th chapter, 17th and 18th verses, Saul—who was later called Paul—received his sight and the Holy Ghost under the hands of Ananias, the Lord's servant. We find also when we examine the Word of God that the laying on of hands is no new ordinance, but it seems to have been the plan of God in ancient times. Notice Genesis, 48th

chapter, Jacob laying his hands on the heads of Joseph's two sons and confers blessings on them which the world seems to have very little understanding of. I might ask the reader where is Ephraim and his multitude of nations? The Holy Ghost is to lead and guide us into all truth and show us things to come. Notice Deuteronomy, 34th chapter, 9th verse, "And Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him. And the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses." We find also that those who were called of God to officiate in the priestly order under the law that they even laid their hands on the heads of animals that were to be offered as sacrifices. For references Numbers, 8th chapter and 12th verse, Leviticus, 16th chapter and 21st verse, Exodus, 29th chapter and 10th verse. Many more references to Scripture could be made on this subject of laying on of hands but I believe that I have quoted sufficient. The Scripture says that God changes not, but is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And the Saviour warned us that false teachers and false prophets would arise. Paul is very emphatic in his words in Romans, 3rd chapter, 3rd and 4th verses, "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true but every man a liar." This is pretty severe language for those who persist that baptism by immersion is not essential, and that the laying on of hands by the servants of God for the Gifts of the Holy Ghost is not necessary, and that the signs spoken of in the 16th chapter of St. Mark are not for us. It behooves us to accept the Word of God, and not be among those who will "wrest the scriptures to their own destructions" (2nd Peter, 3rd chapter, 16th verse). The Scripture seems to abound with evidence that the blessings necessary for the soul of mankind—wisdom, knowledge, peace and brotherly love—have been transmitted to mankind by the servants of God laying their hands upon their heads—Christ, Himself, setting the example. May we seek after these blessings in

the way God has planned, by faith, repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, and not be like Simon the sorcerer, who, when he saw that through laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands he may receive the Holy Ghost." But Peter soon gave him to understand that his money would perish with him, and that he would not have neither part nor lot in this matter, for his heart was not right in the sight of God (Acts, 8th chapter).

Proverbs, 14th chapter, 12th verse, says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The Church of Jesus Christ is endeavoring to walk in the ways of God, and our prayer is that these few lines along with the Spirit of our Master may enlighten the souls of those who are seeking the truth as it is in Jesus Christ.

Yours respectively,

W. H. Cadman, Charles Ashton,  
Committee

*(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of the pamphlet, The Way of Salvation, published by The Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.)*

## Graduation Banquet

Continued from Page 4

loving, learning, living and finally legacy. May it not be said of the children of the saints, as George Bernard Shaw said, "It is too bad that youth is wasted on the young."

Brother Tony continued, "This night is a time of celebration, reflection and evaluation. Be insightful as you have foresight, be constantly studious, be diligent, prayerful, obedient to God's will, honoring mother and father, develop coping skills, accept responsibility and accountability. Enjoy life with God's blessings and consult the



Lord in all your doings.”

“Finally,” our brother said, “express always your gratefulness to Him and be prepared for the great graduation day that awaits all the faithful. Remember, without Him you can do nothing.”

Brother Steven closed, exhorting the graduates to touch lives both naturally and spiritually and embrace life.

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

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

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

Trips are being planned and scheduled to visit the Philippines, Venezuela, Italy, Dominica, Ecuador, India and elsewhere. Requests for The Church of Jesus Christ are coming in from many nations. Letters are being received from around the world about The Church of Jesus Christ. People are hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is represented by the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

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

sincere desire to be used by Him and for Him.

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

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

those that seek Him and follow His ways. He makes them greater than they are. He cares for you. Why not let Him help you be everything special that you can be?

With love,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Alyse Danielle Prokup and Joseph Paul Consiglio II of the Liberty, Ohio Branch were united in holy matrimony on July 23, 2005.

Brother Ryan Keith Lesperance and Sister Gina Danielle Bertolo were united in holy matrimony in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on June 17, 2005.

## Children Blessed

Aaron Christopher Scolaro, son of Brother Chris and Sister Alissa Scolaro, was blessed on June 12, 2005 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Isai Ezequiel Rojo Mora, son of Juan Rojo and Celia Mora was blessed on July 3, 2005 in the San Diego, California Branch.

Erica Marie Morris was blessed on June 5, 2005, in the Mid-Georgia Mission by Brother Art Campbell.

Michael Charles Morris was blessed on June 5, 2005, in the Mid-Georgia Mission by Brother Art Campbell.

## Ordinations

Brother Fred Julius Maoga was ordained a Deacon in the South Bend, Indiana Branch. His feet were washed by Brother John DiBattista, and he was ordained by Brother Mitchell Edwards.

Brother Mike Balilo was ordained a Deacon in the San Diego, California Branch. He was ordained by Apostle Tom M. Liberto.

Brother Daniel Hemmings was ordained a Deacon in the San Diego, California Branch.

Brother Ray Aaron was ordained a Deacon in the San Diego, California Branch.

Brother David Anderson was ordained a Deacon on September 19, 2004. His feet were washed by Brother George Benyola, Jr. and he was ordained by Brother Jim Speck.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Virginia Conti of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on April 10, 2005.

Sister Mary Campitelle of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on June 5, 2005.

Sister Rose Benyola of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on July 31, 2005.

Sister Rosalie Campitelle of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on July 31, 2005.

Sister Rosalie DiPronio of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on July 31, 2005.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Todd Martin was baptized on July 24, 2005 in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Gary Martin and confirmed by Brother Alvin Gehly.

Sister Mary Gayden was baptized on June 26, 2005 in the South Bend, Indiana Branch.

Brother Joe Willie Jennings was baptized on August 14, 2005 in the South Bend, Indiana Branch.

Brother Savador Murillo was baptized on August 14, 2005 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Crudup and confirmed by Brother Mario Morales.

Brother Peter Molinatto was baptized on August 14, 2005 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ralph Cartino, Sr., and confirmed by Brother John Genaro.

Sister Earleen Donna Hunt was baptized on August 4, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother John Mark D'Antonio and confirmed by Brother James Gibson.

Sister Jessica Marie Bloom was baptized on August 4, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Apostle Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Anthony Ross.

Brother Marcus James Natoli was baptized on July 17, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Frank Natoli and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Sister Megan Lynn DiBattista was baptized on July 17, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

Sister Amanda Maria Zaccagnini was baptized on July 17, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Sam DiFalco and confirmed by Brother Keith Lesperance.

Sister Donna Verstrate was baptized on July 17, 2005 in the Yucaipa, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Ken Jones and confirmed by Brother Stacey Light.

Brother Sean O'Sullivan was baptized on July 17, 2005 in the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Ken Surdock and confirmed by Brother Lou Ciccatti.

Brother Jordon Gonzalez was baptized on May 1, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Sam Risola Jr. and confirmed by Apostle John Griffith.

her reward on July 4, 2005. She was preceded in death by her parents, Brother Philip and Sister Anna Nicholson Dreer, and her sister, Edna Kampert. She is survived by her husband, Guy; four daughters, Becky Collins, Phyllis Tingler, Sister Sharon VanKanagan, and Sandy Allen and their families; and a sister, Sister Anna Jackson.

### SHIRLEY EUTSEY

Sister Shirley Eutsey of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on April 18, 2005. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is survived by her husband, Brother Milford, Sr.; two sons, Brother Milford, Jr. and his wife Sister Hope, and Brother Dewayne and his wife Sister Coleena; two grandsons, Brother Milford III and Brother Keith; and two great-grandchildren.

### MEL PETRIE

Brother Mel Petrie passed on to his reward on Sunday, May 22, 2005. Brother Mel was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife Katherine, two daughters and grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

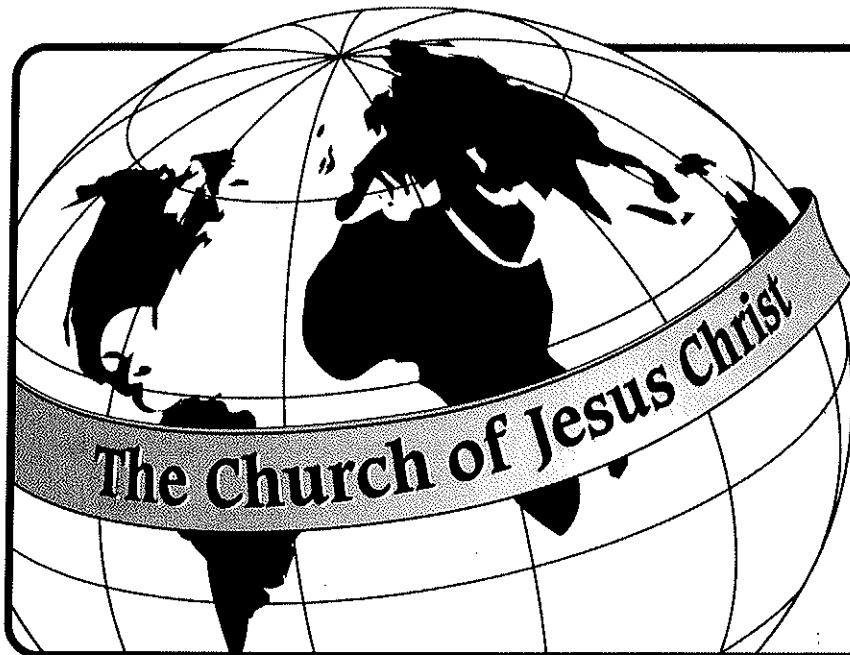
## OBITUARIES

### EMMET VASCO HOOD

Emmet Vasco Hood passed on to his reward on August 10, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Ella Mae; six brothers and four sisters; four children, including Brother Emmet Hood of the Mesa, Arizona Branch; thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

### JOYCE JACKSON

Sister Joyce Jackson of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch passed on to



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

November, 2005

Volume 61, No. 11

## Are You Ready for Zion?

### CHANGE REQUIRED

#### Introduction

The Church of Jesus Christ maintains a unique doctrinal belief that has captured our hearts and minds ever since the truth and authority was restored to the earth again in 1829. The insight and knowledge of God's plan for His creation in the very last dispensation of time was brought to the light of human awareness through the restoration of the Gospel. The scripture makes the claim, "*Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven*" (Psalm 85:11). We believe this has certainly occurred, and will continue to occur. There will be great events on the horizon for God's creation, especially for His church and His ancient covenant people. Refer to Faith & Doctrine article #23; "We believe in the fulfillment and the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as the Peaceful Reign, which shall precede the Millennium; or the Thousand Years with Christ."

This ultimate kingdom of God is often referred to as the Peaceful Reign, or Zion. As a church and as individual believers; we have often

discussed the scriptures that give us hope and encouragement concerning this period of time, this righteous condition, this glorious fulfillment of God's plan for mankind. We love to quote scriptures and speak about the peace, the righteousness, the natural conditions of the earth, etc. For example; "*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,...*" (Isaiah 11:6). We love to hear about the gathering of Israel, "*...The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north,...*" (Jeremiah 16:15). We love to talk about the new city and what life will hold for all that are part of this great kingdom, "*...that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem*" (3 Nephi 21:33).

However there are also aspects to this subject that we rarely ever hear discussed, and I'm not so sure we ever really consider. This is the basis and intent of this series of articles for the *Gospel News*, entitled "Are You Ready For Zion?" Let me begin by asking a few questions. Do you really want Zion to happen in your lifetime? Are you ready for Zion to come now? Do you understand what the change to a Zion-type condition will mean?

#### *Change is Necessary*

We have a hymn in the *Saints Hymnal*, #487, which speaks of the future time of Zion:

Oh Zion, when I think on thee,  
I long for pinions like the dove,  
And mourn to think that I should be,  
So distant from the land I love.

A captive exile, far from home,  
For Zion's sacred walls I sigh  
With ransomed kindred there to come,  
And see Messiah eye to eye.

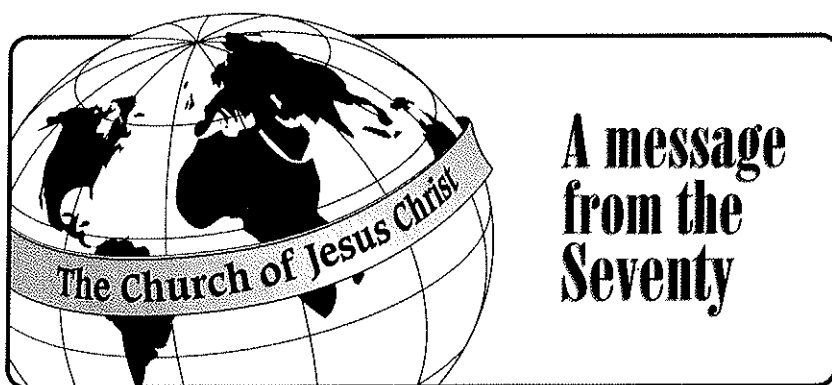
While here I walk on hostile ground,  
The few that I can call my friends  
And like myself in fetters bound,  
And weariness our steps attends.

But yet we hope to see the day,  
When Zion's children shall return;  
When all our grief's shall flee away,  
And we no more again shall mourn.

The thoughts that such a day will come,  
Makes e'en the exile's portion sweet;  
Though now we wander far from home,  
In Zion soon we all shall meet."

Do you, as the poet, truly long for a better day to come: a day of peace, a day of joy and gladness, a day of rejoicing? Do you feel like an exile in a foreign land, hoping against hope, to

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## Thank You! From the IMOC Officers

*"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth" (2 Thessalonians 1:3).*

We feel that at times we have failed in a very important duty. We thank and praise God for all of you who have the burden of the souls of men and women on your heart. However, we are often remiss in giving you thanks directly. On behalf of all the brothers and sisters who labor diligently in the mission fields here and abroad, THANK YOU. On behalf of all the new mission fields and all the new brothers and sisters you have in Christ, THANK YOU.

Each of you who contribute to the Church with your financial donations are helping the growth of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Each of you who spend countless hours on your knees in prayer for the missionary work of the Church are helping to move the Kingdom of God forward. Each of you who call or send a card to the spouses and families of the missionaries who are out in the field are the support and backbone of the Church. Each of you who are on a committee of the Church, help in an auxiliary, and fill your offices in your branch are strengthening the cause of Jesus Christ. Each of you who contribute in untold ways to bring a new soul to Jesus Christ are an important key to the great commission of Jesus Christ. For all of you, THANK YOU.

So many times out in the mission

field, we see and reap the direct blessings and benefit from your faith and your great charity. Without you, God's plan and purpose would be infinitely more difficult. Without your funds, travel would be very limited. Without your prayers, missionary efforts would be much more difficult and dangerous. Without your love, new mission fields would not blossom and develop as we currently experience.

*"For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things" (Romans 15:26-27).*

Unfortunately, sometimes we need to be reminded of the truly important things in our life. God has very strong and sometimes distressing ways to bring our attention from the routine and trivial items that tend to clog our life, to the important, meaningful abundant life He has given all who have accepted His love and grace. Very recently we have been reminded again. Hurricane Katrina has been a natural catastrophe to parts of our country, unlike anything seen in our lifetime. However, if we are honest, this is just the latest in a large list of natural and man-made situations that should give us all pause and reflection. As members of the Kingdom of God upon this earth, we are

reminded again life here is but a vapor and we all must do all that we can to bring God's great Kingdom to its full potential. Thank you for all you have already done. Please continue to do more. Let us all work harder, donate more, fast and pray more often, and completely dedicate our lives to what is important – serving Jesus Christ with all our heart, mind and soul.

*"But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Joshua 22:5).*

God is moving and working today with people around the world in an urgency we as The Church of Jesus Christ have never before seen since the early restoration. Nations, kindred, tongues, and people are seeking the truth. They are witnessing and experiencing the evil of the world, as well as the wrath of God upon evil. Many are ready to accept the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ; countries like Rwanda, Congo, Indonesia, Ecuador, Tibet, Zambia, Romania, Sikkim, Bolivia, China, Indian reservations in Canada and the USA. They all need more effort, more love, a greater response. Let us all do more. It is important – life and death important.

*"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:14-18).*

Thank you. Thank you for your faith and your works. Thank you for all the lives you have touched.

## Rwanda Trip

By Brother Chatman Young

My dear brothers and sisters, I would like to take a brief moment to introduce you to nine individuals whose names may be unfamiliar to you. They are as follows: Alexandre Rudatsikira, Jean Pierre Habimana, Patrick Rusine, Rhoda N. Rudatsikira, Judith Kampogo, Clementine Mukakimenyi, David Nelson Rudatsikira, Thaciana Mukarwego, and Blandine Uwitije.

These names are the names of our new brothers and sisters from Kigali, Rwanda, Africa. I know you will welcome them to the fold, just as Brothers Joel Gehly, Lyle Criscuolo and I have welcomed them.

Upon our arrival in Rwanda this August, we committed ourselves to putting God first in all things and to depend on Him for all things. Every morning we prepared our day with prayer, petitioning God to go before us to open doors for us. Each evening, we would reflect on the goodness of God and for all of the things He had blessed us with during the day, prior to closing out our day in prayer. I recall one evening as Brother Joel and I were in a reflective mode, the Spirit of God overcame us, and we began to weep with joy.

There is a saying in Rwanda that "a man cries on the inside," but

fore we left Rwanda, the people witnessed the three of us weeping openly for joy and the blessings which were being bestowed upon us. God is so good to us and we can never thank Him enough or begin to repay Him for His goodness towards us, for His goodness is good forever!

Before the above-mentioned individuals became our brothers and sisters, we had a meeting in the home of Alexandre Rudatsikira and his wife Rhoda. We opened the meeting with prayer, asking God for His guidance. During our meeting, Brother Joel announced this was not to be a preaching meeting, but a meeting of teaching and exchange of expressions, inviting everyone to ask questions or just to speak their minds. The first question

asked was concerning baptism, inasmuch as this young lady (Blandine) had already been baptized (in another organization). "Why is it necessary that I be baptized again?" Brother Joel pointed out that in Acts 19:2-6, Paul asked the question at Ephesus:

*"Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And said they unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said unto him, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus, When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*

This message from God's Word seemed to fully satisfy her question. As the meeting went on and the teaching continued, we felt the spirit of calmness and love flowing throughout the room.

Thaciana explained she would not be able to come with us to be baptized because of scheduling problems, but she did have a great desire to be baptized. We told her we would be willing to make a special trip for her to be baptized when her schedule would allow and they were all amazed we would care enough to travel such a far distance to baptize just one of them. I believe this declaration touched the hearts of all of them. I explained how Christ talked about leaving the fold to seek out the one sheep that was lost, and what more would He do for His children. As it turned out, Sister Thaciana was able to join us as a group, as we made a change in date for the baptism when all could make it. God's just kept on blessing us.

We concluded our meeting in prayer telling them Brother Joel and I had made arrangements to visit the sick in the local hospital the morning of the baptisms. We would meet

them at our hotel at noon, wherein we would hire a minibus to take us to the baptismal site. Upon arriving at the park, we viewed a beautiful lake where I had the privilege of baptizing three of the saints, followed by Brother Lyle who baptized three, and finally, Brother Joel who also baptized three of them. I believe the nine of them were blessed, but as for the three of us, I believe we are still counting our blessings just to have taken a small part in the movement of God's hand toward these saints.

Just as Brothers Joel and Lyle did, I found our brothers and sisters of the city of Kigali to be a very humble and loving people. To reiterate what has been stated already, "The work in Rwanda is not of man, but truly is the work of God."

In spite of the loss of many family members throughout Rwanda during the genocide of 1994, the people of Rwanda have found it in their hearts to forgive the deeds of the past and look forward towards a loving Savior, Jesus Christ. I am reminded of the scripture which says, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* I believe that the people of Rwanda are being blessed, and I also believe it is not coincidental that The Church of Jesus Christ has been established in Rwanda. I foresee the Church exploding in that land, as the people there continue to express their love and concern towards one another. God has blessed me in a mighty way to have allowed me to meet some of the people in Rwanda who showed me so much kindness, and have shared their love and hospitality towards the three of us.

Now that we have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with some of the people of Rwanda, I know a flame of acceptance, understanding, and love of the truth of the Gospel is now burning in the hearts of those who have heard it thus far. The names of the saints whom I men-

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## A Lamp in Peru

*By Apostle Richard Christman*

On our most recent trip to Peru we had a gratifying opportunity to observe a real life demonstration of the word of God. It is written in the scripture "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet...*" (Psalms 119:105). This no doubt denotes that it enabled the writer to see where he was placing his feet, what direction to travel, and also the destination of that journey. I am sure all of us have had this experience of the word of God providing us with direction, knowledge and enlightenment. It should be the basis of our actions, our values, our hopes and our expectations. We have several ways to be exposed to the word of God. The most convenient and widespread source is the written word in the scripture. We have been most blessed in having this source in two books with the expectation and promise of more to come.

We can also hear the word of God preached from the Bible and the Book of Mormon or taught by someone using these two lamps that give the same single light. It is God's will that His children should have His words recorded and published. It is also God's will that His children hear His word preached and taught. It is the responsibility of the priesthood of the Church to preach the word, provide access to the word, and to see it is taught and explained to the reader or hearer.

The Church has always striven to provide the means of obtaining the word of God. The Bible is available in many languages and we are working diligently to translate the Book of Mormon as well. We are currently providing curriculum and teaching helps for those desiring to teach the young, beginning at an early age. The one area of providing the word of God, which is vital and a challenge regarding the written word, is the teaching of reading to those who cannot read. We have not had the staff or resources to date to teach reading in various languages. I feel we are

rapidly acquiring young people, in particular, who are not only conversant in one or more languages, but have the ability and desire to teach reading in a particular or even a number of languages. This is a major challenge and we have not been able to fully address it. God expects His workers to do all they can to provide for the spreading and understanding of His word. When we are limited for whatever reason and fall short of the goal, He can and does intervene to fill the gap and get His work accomplished, if there is a sincere desire and effort on the part of His children.

We know many of God's servants have worked diligently to record His word, sometimes on metal plates, parchment, papyrus and finally on paper, film, tape and CDs. All of these have required varying degrees of effort and hardship. Some faced persecution, danger and even death. God has used extraordinary measures to provide His word; therefore, it follows He wants it to be read and comprehended.

One of our sisters in Peru could not read. She was married, became a mother and later a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. She wanted to be able to read the word of God and began to examine the scripture and attempted to read the Bible and Book of Mormon. She did not have access to a school teacher or any formal method of instruction, but she had a desire that surely touched the heart of God. She wanted to read His word. This sister began to seek the ability to recognize and comprehend the word of God and God was extremely pleased with this effort. He intervened and assisted her in this good desire and His word was a lamp to her. She did not have a Phillip available to her like the Ethiopian eunuch, who was trying to understand the scripture he was reading. God worked directly with this humble sister and we were so glad to see and hear her participate in the discussion of God's word in the Sunday school and scripture study held while at the mission. She had no money, no available transportation, no

## Sardinia, Italy

*By Evangelist Alex Gentile*

As I looked forward to my trip to Sardinia I did so with mixed emotions. Our dear Sister Imacollata, a pillar of the Church, was in the hospital and not doing well and I did not know how God would work with us; the Church in Italy has many needs. Much prayer was my daily duty and not without opposition as I felt the Lord had something good in store for us. I was also somewhat concerned that a part of our group was not going until after we returned from Italy. Again, I did not know the plan God had in store for us.

We all arrived safely from different parts of the country: California, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, and New Jersey. We had a good sampling of brothers and sisters.

On Thursday night I fell asleep about 1:30 a.m. and at 4:00 a.m. I was awakened by a nudge on my shoulder and a voice spoke to me and said, "Pray for Brother Nino [Romano]." I started to pray. I prayed in Italian and then English and then again in Italian and then English. I did not know what to pray for. I fell back to sleep. Again at 5:00 a.m. I was awakened by a nudge on my shoulder and a voice spoke to me and said, "I want you to tell Brother Nino the story of the prophet Jonah and how when I had a work for him to do and he didn't do it, he displeased me. You know what happened to him. Tell Brother Nino that I have a work for him to do and I want him to do it now." (Brother Nino had been putting off getting his life in order so the Lord could use him in His service.) "Tell him now is the time."

As I was having this experience I saw brothers and sisters standing in a line to my right, all dressed in white. In the center I was congratulating Brother Nino for his calling as an Elder in the Church. I looked to my left and saw six Elders of the Church standing in a line all dressed in white. I saw Brothers Rosario, John DiBattista, John Buffa, Joseph Lovalvo, Paul Liberto

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### PROUD OF THE PAST, COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE

At our recent General Church Conference, this was the theme: "Proud of the past, committed to the future." The Church of Jesus Christ is at a crossroads in time. The Church was restored, and for 175 years has been experiencing the blessings of God, and many thousands of people have had their lives changed by hearing the truth of the Gospel. We have seen great miracles, healings, gifts of the spirit, demons cast out, and have felt the LOVE of the saints, in what many call a "family-atmosphere" Church. Because the Church has remained relatively small, there is a family feeling of knowing everyone. This family is like any other family — sometimes we disagree, but in the end, we are family and will defend and love one another to the end. This is such a powerful draw for people outside of the Church who never had a family, or never experienced the love of another human being. This is why the Church has been especially successful among the poor, and among those who have lost hope. Unfortunately, among everyone else, the Church has not made many inroads to converting people. This is because of their reliance on the natural things of life, they see no need to rely on a heavenly being. And so, the greatest growth in the domestic Church is our children and grandchildren — our natural families. The blessings of God continue, but there is a strong feeling of wanting to see much more, and reaching many more people.

Now for the "crossroad." There are two major things that seem to be happening worldwide. One is that the Church is being asked by people in numerous other countries to come and bring the Gospel to them. In the last 20 years or so, we have gone from having the Church in just a handful of countries to every continent on the earth. As the Book of Mormon predicted, in the last days the Church would be small, and the congregations few in number, but would be spread throughout the world. At this last conference, we heard experiences to take the Gospel to Israel, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Bolivia, just to name a few countries.

The second major thing that seems to be happening is a constant chipping away at the economic wealth and security of the powerful countries of the world. There is even an increase in natural disasters: hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and fires. As this continues, more and more people who once relied on their wealth to sustain them, will begin to look for a higher being to help them. As people are "brought to their knees," the Church will begin to be strengthened, and have more influence. We will begin to see the greater things of God manifest. But at the same time, the Church MUST rise to a new level of righteousness. We MUST be acceptable in God's eyes to do His work. *"He says they have to be gold, into the furnace they go. He says they have to be pure, to do His work here below."* We will be pruned and refined in order to be used to accomplish this great work. The Bible says that judgment will begin in the house of the Lord. God will judge us first, before He judges the world.

And He WILL judge the world. The Book of Mormon says that the wicked will be destroyed, and the righteous will be spared, and God's kingdom will be established. This new era of time is on the verge of beginning. That is why we are at that crossroad, and we are COMMITTED TO THIS FUTURE that is quite different than the past, during which we enjoyed the blessings of God in our "family environment." As we begin to think more "globally," and think more seriously about being builders of Zion, we must prepare ourselves to sacrifice much more for the great work of the Lord. Paraphrasing the Word of the Lord that came forth at this Conference, the time has come not to think about what the Lord can do for us, but what we can do for the Lord. And you know, He will repay a thousand fold.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

## God Never Changes

Dear Boys and Girls,

People change their minds all the time. One day a friend may become angry with you and stop showing you love and care. Another day, they may want you back. People can be unpredictable. But God is not! God promises us, "I am the same yesterday, today and forever."

He has gentle but firm rules on how to live happily. When we follow them, instead of our own will, then we are loved and safe and happy with one another. When we do God's will instead of our own, we forgive each other and take care of each other. There is so much power in our God of love.

In the early days of the Bible, one good man, Abraham, found God and served Him faithfully. Abraham talked with God. Angels walked with Abraham. When his enemies attacked his tribe of people, God gave them great power to fight back and save others.

God gave Abraham two sons and one promise. He promised Abraham that his children's children (called descendants) would become a huge group of people. God said they would number more than the sands of the sea, and more than the stars of the sky. He promised that He would preserve them and that a Great Deliverer (Jesus), would come forth from them. (Jesus was from Abraham's son, Judah; he was a Jew.) All the great nations that persecuted these descendants vanished into history. Their enemies, the



Hittites, Philistines, and Egyptian Pharaohs are all vanished. But, God's people live on!

God kept His promise by working with Abraham's son, Isaac. Isaac had two sons and God favored the youngest one, Jacob. Jacob, also called Israel, became the father of twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. Even after hundreds of years passed and then thousands, God's promises went with these children of Abraham.

One of the promises that interests us in The Church of Jesus Christ is found in Genesis 49, verses 22-26. Jacob was a powerful man of God like his grandfather, Abraham. As he lay dying, he called his sons and children unto him so he could pray and ask God's special blessings upon them. This was not just a blessing for that day, but was a blessing for centuries to come.

Jacob put his hand on Joseph's sons and prophesied that the children of Ephraim would become a multitude of nations (Genesis 49:19). And then he explained where these nations of Joseph would go. He said, "Joseph is a fruitful bough [a branch of a tree, like Joseph is a branch off of his father, and off of the tree trunk of his grandfather, Abraham], even a fruitful branch by a well [God's love, like water will help them grow strong] whose branches go over the wall [over the ocean because in the old days, people saw the ocean as a wall]. The archers have sorely grieved him and shot at him and hated him [these are the Native American tribes who have been terribly persecuted since Colum-

bus brought white Europeans to take their land], but his bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands are made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob [God will protect and preserve the Native Americans; and He has]."

And now we see this prophecy come true as the Native American people grow in strength. And we also know that the Choice Seer will be coming soon to truly bring the Native Americans and us to a pure way of serving God.

God has kept His promises made so many thousands of years ago. Amazing times are upon us. And you and I are part of them. Our job is to praise God and to love and serve Him with all of our hearts. He loves you. He has a plan for you. Do not fear. He will never change. He is the God of the universe. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

GENESIS	BOUGH
FORTY	WHOSE
NINE	BRANCHES
JOSEPH	GO
IS	OVER
A	THE
FRUITFUL	WALL

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



## Sisters Celebrate the Ladies' Uplift Circle 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

On Saturday, April 30, 2005 the General Ladies' Uplift Circle held their business meeting in Detroit, Michigan at Branch 2. This was a day to recollect how our founding sisters, led by Sister Sadie Cadman, established the Ladies' Uplift Circle eighty-five years ago in Monongahela, PA. The inspired theme for the weekend was "Women of Works." Sister Karen Progar, our President, opened the meeting by rehearsing an experience given to Brother John Griffith. His experience is as follows:

"As Liaison Apostle to the General Ladies' Circle, I inquired of the Lord as to what I would say to them if called to do so. A heavenly voice spoke to my mind with these words: "Tell them they are builders." Not quite understanding the meaning

of what I was given, I again questioned the Lord as to its meaning. My mind was flooded with words of inspiration. I wrote them as follows:

Tell them they are builders:

They build lives of children to a spiritual awareness.

They build families to unity of love and trust.

They build confidence in their spouse to do the work of the Lord.

They build future generations through an example.

They assist in the building of a Kingdom not of this world."

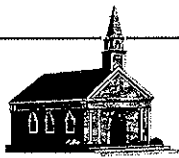
Sister Karen encouraged us to be workers for the Church. Our Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, followed with a fitting scripture of the New Testament woman of works, Dorcas (Tabitha) found in Acts 9:36-42. While business was conducted it was a special time to remember the purpose and meaning of the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Throughout the course of the day we heard readings of the history of the Circle. Sister Marty Jumper read memories of Sister Sadie as told by her daughter, Sister Sarah Vancik. A group of sisters who knew Sister Sadie came forward and sang the hymn, *O Paradise*.

The sisters of the areas that were represented participated in the meeting by presenting hymns or testimonies of

praise to our dear Lord. The sisters of the Great Lakes Area were in charge of the program. We enjoyed a day of fellowship and inspiration. There were so many touches that made this day an event that we can add to our precious memories of our involvement in the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The sisters of the Great Lakes Area welcomed us into their hearts and their homes. We are so very thankful for their outpouring of love.

In closing, it is fitting to quote Sister Sadie's testimony on the forming of the circle as written in the first edition of the history book of The Church of Jesus Christ. She writes, "I felt to rally my sisters in the Gospel to see if we could raise our lives to a higher standard in the Gospel of Christ: not for earthly gain but to raise our hearts and minds heavenward; to be as the Scripture reads in the second Chapter of Titus; to acquaint ourselves with the Scriptures: and to help the Church in promoting the Indian Mission work." Our founding sisters would be pleased to see that the Circle continues to support the Native American work and that support now extends to the spreading of the Gospel to foreign lands. With refreshed spirits we will strive to be "builders of a Kingdom but not of this world." We ask for your prayers and support in this great endeavor.



### Branch and Mission News

## Ordinations in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

*By Sister Betty Ann Manes*

The Branch of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania enjoyed a wonderful spirit-filled day on Sunday, August 21, 2005, which was dedicated to the ordinations of Brothers Panfilo DiCenzo and Jeffrey Kattan into the office of Teacher.

We were honored to have many

visiting brothers, sisters and friends, including our Church President, Paul Palmieri.

The day began with opening prayer by Brother Joseph Ross of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Our first speaker was Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri who used the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke for his text. He spoke about the importance of being "set for life." We were reminded of the different backgrounds of Brother Panfilo and Brother Jeff, but that today they are on equal ground.

Brother Tony Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio followed with the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of John, Verses 14 and 16, where Jesus asks Peter twice: "Lovest thou me, more than these? Feed my

lambs," then, "feed my sheep." He exhorted our brothers to do the same.

Brother Jason Monaghan of Greensburg, Pennsylvania formerly from McKees Rocks, was inspired to follow regarding the example of Lazarus, taken from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. He stated how the Lord will change our lives when we come to Him. He also touched on the example of Mary and Martha, emphasizing "how blessed we are when we sit with Jesus. We are in a heavenly place." He invited all of us to feast at the table of the Lord.

Following Brother Jason, Brother John Mark D'Antonio of Aliquippa

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## Ordinations in McKees Rocks

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shared a verse of scripture which states "How He must increase and I must decrease." We were told to "reach down deep and ask the Lord to help us decrease, so He might increase and allow ourselves to be set for life."

Brother Patrick Monaghan sang, *Take Your Candle, Go Light Your World*. The brothers then prepared to have their feet washed: Brother Jeff's by Brother Albert Giannetti and Brother Panfilo's by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr., our Presiding Elder, asked Brother Tom D'Orazio to read and educate us on the duties of a Teacher. He began by stating, "a good teacher is like a precious jewel. The office of a Teacher comes from the word of God and the church that Christ Himself set up." He read two scriptures which verified that fact located in 1 Corinthians 3, and Moroni 3. The duties were read from the Minister's Manual. Brother Tom elaborated that a teacher should be the liaison between the congregation and the ministry. His spiritual role is immense.

Through personal experience, Brother Tom was led by God to the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mosiah from which he quoted verses 14 and 15:

"And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry or naked neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin...."

"But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another and to serve one another."

Brother Tom emphasized the importance of this office administratively, as well as spiritually. He exhorted our new teachers not to allow our membership to go spiritually hungry, without the whole armor of God. "Teach them to love one another, that you will love them, and show them love, that you will serve them and teach them to serve one another."

Brother Paul then shared several experiences, which confirmed the true callings of our brothers. We thank God for His answer to our prayers.

As the ministry gathered around our two brothers, Brother Carl Frammolino offered a prayer before the ordinations. Brother Paul Palmieri ordained Brother Panfilo and Brother Anthony Ricci ordained Brother Jeff.

We must continue to petition God to strengthen and encourage our two brothers and their families.

## Are You Ready for Zion?

Continued from Page 1

see the day when Zion's children will return? Hoping to someday see the physical city, its sacred walls, the beautiful streets – New Jerusalem? Or, are we just comfortable here, satisfied with our culture and our life? I fervently hope and pray that we all can sing this hymn and know that it is truly our hope and desire to be living soon in Zion.

For the purposes of these articles, I will define Zion as a completely righteous land, culture, and people for the Kingdom of God upon the earth. It is also assumed as understood from scripture, that Zion will primarily be located in the lands of North, Central, and South America. It must be obvious to all that the current lands, culture, and people of the American hemispheres are not yet in the Zion condition. Far from it. Let us look at a few of the most basic changes that must occur for all of us to meet in Zion.

### *All Things Common vs. Wealth Distinction*

*"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon"* (Matthew 6:24).

*"They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ;..."* (2 Nephi 28:14).

Our land has been blessed and set

apart by God. This fact is scriptural and very obvious to anyone who has ever traveled outside the borders of this land. However, it is also a land that has become overrun with evil in many, many ways. The words of Nephi quoted above ring true today. Nephi also prophesied that in the days we are living, the land *"...will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations"* (2 Nephi 27:1). Our nation is wealthy and powerful. We gather; we save; we accumulate; we are wealthy. We put our faith in gold, money, 401k plans, Medicare, social security, retirement plans, etc. Houses are large and expensive; cars are new and replaced frequently; clothes are the latest trends and fashions. Examples of the excesses of America can go on and on.

In Zion, all of the "stuff" and the "security" we rely on today will be changed. Someday, all of our so-called wealth and security will be gone. In Zion it will all be changed. No more stock market, 401k plan, or medical insurance plans. It will all be replaced with something better, something heavenly inspired. Are you able and ready to give up the "important stuff" we rely on today, and step out with the plan God has for us in Zion? Are you ready for this change?

Now please don't misunderstand my words. I am not advocating we immediately give up all monetary wealth and financial security today and all go live together in a cave somewhere. I simply want you to realize and understand that the "normal" way of life we are so accustomed to will not be the same in Zion. In Zion, our wealth, our medical plans, our retirement plans, etc. are going to change to the FIJC plan (Faith in Jesus Christ). Here are just a couple of the many descriptions of what God has planned for those who dwell in Zion:

*"And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat;..."* (Isaiah 65:21-22).

*"And thus they labored, with all diligence, according to the commandments of the Lord of the vineyard, even*

*until the bad had been cast out of the vineyard, and the Lord had preserved unto himself that the trees had become again the natural fruit; and they became like unto one body; and the fruits were equal;...*" (Jacob 5:74).

### **Peace vs. Evil**

*"And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy land, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers; Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee, and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priest-crafts, and whoredoms, shall be done away"* (3 Nephi 21:16-19).

Let us not be deceived or foolish to think that Zion can be accomplished without evil being cut off and destroyed from off the land. Jesus Christ spoke the words written in 3 Nephi 21. Destruction of evil will happen in the land of America before Zion can be fully established. Destruction of evil will never be accomplished by the efforts of man. Elimination of evil can only be accomplished by God. We have an example of the same situation happening on the land of America at the time of the crucifixion of Christ. Destruction of all evil at that time, was accomplished by God (read 3 Nephi, chapters 8-10), and then was followed by a time of peace and love in America for approximately 200 years. Destruction of evil, as recorded throughout the scripture, is never easy or pretty. It will be harsh and difficult to witness. Scripture indicates that there may be war, there may be natural weather calamities, and there may be physical changes in our land and cities that we have never before imagined. Through it all, the saints of God are to remain faithful and confident in God. God will be faithful to help and preserve His people.

*"Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must*

*come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire"* (1Nephi 22:17).

During this time of destruction of evil, many throughout the land and perhaps some of God's people will be forced to endure changes we have never imagined. We may even become discouraged. The scripture indicates that this time will be very difficult for all.

*"But, behold, Zion hath said: The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me – but he will show that he hath not"* (1Nephi 21:14).

*"Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field..."* (Micah 4:10).

But oh what peace and joy will come once the destruction of evil is accomplished by God.

*"But be ye glad and rejoice for ever 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 no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not fulfilled his days;..."* (Isaiah 65:18-20).

### **Summary**

It may be extremely difficult to fully understand or fathom the tremendous changes necessary for Zion to begin and develop. Dietrick Bonhoffer in his wonderful book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, said, "faith leads to obedience and obedience leads to faith." Maybe our best action to understand the changes which will lead to Zion is to have faith in the scriptures and our beliefs as a church. As we learn and have faith in Zion, we must also be obedient to the wonderful commandments of God.

*"And it came to pass that the servants did go and labor with their mights; and the Lord of the vineyard*

*labored also with them; and they did obey the commandments of the Lord of the vineyard in all things"* (Jacob 5:72).

Then, as the people of God, the more we become obedient to the commandments of the Lord, our faith in God and His plans for Zion and His Kingdom on earth will grow. Faith turns into knowledge as the works of the Lord are further revealed and truths of our land of Zion will grow.

I sometimes wonder, did the saints of God in America at the time of Christ's ministry on earth, fully understand the impact of the prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite and others? I propose to you that they were aware and had faith in these prophecies, and they anticipated their fulfillment. However, the scriptures indicate to me that these wonderful saints did not fully comprehend the magnitude and life altering impact of change that would happen for their Zion to occur. Was change necessary for the saints of God at that time to experience a condition of Zion? Certainly it was. We can all read of the beautiful Zion that they enjoyed in America after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His appearance in America.

Now in this next comment I realize I must speculate. I suggest to you that if any of the saints who lived through the destruction of evil that occurred in America at that time (34AD) had been asked, "Was it worth having faith in Zion? Was it worth living through the changes of the terrible destruction experience? Was it worth the obedience in the commandments of the Lord? Was all that change worth the opportunity to live in Zion and experience Jesus Christ firsthand?", I believe the answers of all would have been, "Yes, yes, yes!"

Let us all strive for greater faith and obedience to the commandments of God. Let us have faith in our beliefs as a church that they are based upon the Word of God. Let us sing that hymn with belief, "Though now we wander far from home, In Zion soon we all shall meet."

Next article: **"Are You Ready For Zion – How To Prepare"**

## Rwanda Trip

Continued from Page 3

tioned have begun to share this Gospel with their families, their friends, and their neighbors, and when we left Rwanda, there were others who expressed a desire to be baptized and numbered among the saints.

The three of us, Brothers Joel, Lyle, and I, realized the worst part of our trip to Rwanda was leaving our brothers, sisters and friends, but we rest easy in the fact we brought them home with us in our hearts. Please keep our nine brothers and sisters in your prayers, and as the work continues to grow there, have a prayer in your hearts like that of Jabez, when he called upon the God of Israel, saying, *"Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested"* (I Corinthians 4:10).

We are taught by God's Word as Jesus said, *"Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"* (Matthew 7:7). We asked God for brothers and sisters in the country of Rwanda, and He delivered unto us brothers and sisters; we sought and found there were people there seeking a church that had the truth of the Gospel, and God allowed us to find one another. We knocked on the door to the country of Rwanda, and it is now an open door for The Church of Jesus Christ to walk through.

Our God is a wonderful God; a God who is true to His Word in every respect. Together we must ask God to heal the wounded hearts of Rwanda and heal their land.

## A Lamp in Peru

Continued from Page 4

school nor teacher, but God provided His spirit as He promised. The Holy Ghost leads us, guides us, and shows us things to come. For this sister it

included giving her the ability to read line upon line, precept upon precept. We take this ability for granted in our society, but many would like to have this skill and have no means to obtain it. God wants all mankind to know His love for His creation. He wants all to know the great plan of salvation made possible by His Son, Jesus Christ. He has provided His word and will make every effort to have it read, heard and taught. He has brought us into this plan by means of The Church of Jesus Christ. This is His means, His method of providing His word in such a way that it is a lamp not only to our feet, but to all those we come in contact with. We can preach, teach, testify and provide the word of God, but we also are obligated to help those in need of it to rightly divide the word of truth through the instruction of His spirit. We have begun this great work of restoring mankind to the presence of God by spreading His word in many countries. We ordain ministers, teachers and provide other helps, but we have to examine our other helps. Are we providing the basic reading skills? God did so for our Peruvian sister, but he brought you and me into His work to do this for Him along with all of the other responsibilities we have to mankind. How can they understand if they cannot read? We, as preachers or teachers, are unable to be with them in their daily life, but the written word can, with our assistance in comprehending it. I look forward to the day when we can send out people trained and skilled in teaching reading for the primary purpose of providing the understanding of the word of God, as well as the many other advantages it would provide in their natural and spiritual life. To be sure, professionally trained educators are ideal and we are blessed with many, but we must also recognize that caring individuals are an option and can be successful with the proper guidelines, curriculum and directions. We have the means, we have the responsibility; do we have the desire? I think we do, as we have exhibited this in many ways in our mission work. Perhaps we have some individuals who could help someone else to learn to read. We have Vacation

Bible School conducted by caring volunteers, why not a Vacation Reading School? If reading is fundamental, which I think we all agree it is, let us provide the skill to those who need it to help them obtain salvation and provide a well-lit path to walk with God through His Son. Jesus answered his parents "wist ye not that I be about my Father's business?" It is part of God's business to impart His word to all mankind. Are we about our father's business in this respect? Have we neglected this task? To be sure God can do this alone, but we are called to His work and He gave us this ability and skill. It is not too hard or too much for us.

Brother W. H. Cadman was not trained as a printer nor did he have office skills training, but he saw the need for putting forth the Gospel by the printed word. He purchased a small hand operated printer's press with no automatic functions and he produced church literature expounding the word of God in his basement. What he did have was the desire, God's blessing and the willingness to go to work after he came home from work and print what he could to help men and women understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He included this with his other tasks of President of The Church of Jesus Christ, Gospel News Editor, Presiding Elder, missionary, father, husband and provider. Where there is a will there is a way, particularly if it is in God's will. He will make the way.

This lamp, which was lit in Peru by one sister's desire to read and know the will of God, will be lit throughout the world. Christ said no man lights a candle and puts it under a bushel. We all have handy bushels that could conveniently hide our lamps: lack of motivation, lack of perceived training, lack of experience, lack of imagination and commitment. Where would we be today if all the young people who diligently pursued their piano lessons some years ago would have given up or neglected to cultivate that gift or talent within them? It is basic to our service; we are handicapped without it. Music is fundamental in our service to God and reading God's



word is fundamental. Reading God's word is life-giving in the spiritual sense. We all can help. Thank God communities and governments have recognized the value of teaching reading, but some poor souls have not been able to avail themselves of this fundamental skill. What can you do to help? Remember, God's word is a lamp unto your feet. Use that lamp to direct your life with prayer and openness to God's spirit.

## Sardinia, Italy

Continued from Page 4

and Brother Nino.

The next day I shared my experiences with Brothers Rosario Scravaglieri (President of the Church in Italy), John DiBattista, and John Buffa. They felt I should be the one to approach Brother Nino to ask if he was ready to take up the "Great Work of the Lord." I told him my experiences. He started to cry and said he was ready to do the Lord's work.

When we told the brothers and sisters that Brother Nino was to be ordained an Elder, they all started to cry and say, "Now we have a pastor and can have the Lord's Supper every week."

On Friday evening we had feet washing and all the brothers and sisters wanted to participate. While sitting at feet washing a voice spoke to me and said, "Sister Marisa should be called as a Deaconess." As I looked over to her, she was watching the other Deaconesses conduct feet washing. There was a glow all about her. I later told Brother Rosario my experience and he said he had the same feeling. We talked to our two Brother Johns and all agreed. Later that night when Brother John DiBattista approached Sister Marisa Romano. She was overwhelmed and said she would pray about it. The next day she confirmed that she would accept the Lord's calling into the office of Deaconess.

The same day we prayed for Sister Marisa's daughter Stefania. She felt the calling of the Lord to be baptized but was fearful. The next

morning, Saturday, we baptized her in the Mediterranean Sea and in the afternoon we ordained Brother Nino an Elder and Sister Marisa a Deaconess, a blessed day.

Now I understood the Lord's plan that sent Brother Paul Pezzenti, his wife Sister Karen, Brother Russ Martorana and his wife Sister Lena to Sardinia a week later. They spent their time training Brother Nino as an Elder, Sister Marisa as a Deaconess and Sister Stefania as a new member. Amazing how the Lord works.

Please pray that the work will continue to grow in Italy.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Mahl, Joyce  
3416 5th Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA

Torres, Nestor and Nicole  
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Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-674-1540

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
to all our readers.

## Note of Thanks

To the Priesthood and Brothers and Sisters of all the Branches and Missions,

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your visits, cards, prayers and words of encouragement that you have given me and my family during Brother Bob Venuto's long illness. He is now at rest and peace with our Lord.

God bless you all.  
Sister Judy Venuto and Family

\* \* \* \* \*

I want to thank all my brothers and sisters for your beautiful cards, your phone calls and especially your prayers. It was a great comfort and brought a joy and uplift to my heart. I am feeling much better and confident that through God's grace this too will pass. We serve an awesome God and all we need to do is ask. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Love in Christ,  
Sister Betty Catalano

\* \* \* \* \*

Brother Wilbert McNeil of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch would like to express his gratitude to the brothers and sisters for their prayers, calls, cards and visits during his hospital stay and rehabilitation. It was an uplift and blessing to him. Please continue to remember him in prayer.

\* \* \* \* \*

The family of Sister Carmela Peterkin would like to express their thanks and appreciation to all for your prayers, support and expressions of love during her illness and passing.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Nick Laur and Ashley Jacobs were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on September 3, 2005.

Brother Jason Thomas and Sister Sarah Champine were united in holy matrimony at the Inner City, Detroit, Michigan Branch on June 24th, 2005.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Jenny Ross was baptized on August 21, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich and confirmed by Brother Ken Staley.

Brother Thomas Botwright IV was baptized on August 22, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Sister Jennifer Catalano of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch was baptized on July 5, 2005 in Flagstaff Arizona, GMBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother David Catalano and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Sister Charity Lombardo of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch was baptized on July 5, 2005 in Flagstaff Arizona, GMBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother David Catalano.

Sister Janice (Frammolino) Crump was baptized on August 28, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Carl Frammolino and confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

Sister Tammy Karsin was baptized on May 22, 2005 in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Dan Buffington.

Brother Thomas Richard Hunt was baptized on September 11, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother John Mark D'Antonio and confirmed by Brother Jim Gibson.

vania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Anthony Ricci and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Brother Jeffrey Kattan was ordained a Teacher on August 21, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Albert Giannetti and he was ordained by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother David Anderson was ordained a Deacon in the Leesburg, Florida Mission. His feet were washed by Brother George Benyola, Jr. and he was ordained by Brother James G. Speck.

## Ordinations

Sister Heylen Griffith was ordained a Deaconess on September 11, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Helen Catone and she was ordained by Brother Miguel Bicelis.

Sister Mandy Griffith was ordained a Deaconess on September 11, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Cathy Genaro and she was ordained by Brother Ron Genaro.

Brother Jason Genaro was ordained a Deacon on September 11, 2005 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Marty Gonzalez and he was ordained by Brother John Griffith.

Broter Panfilo DiCenzo was ordained a Teacher on August 21, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsyl-

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

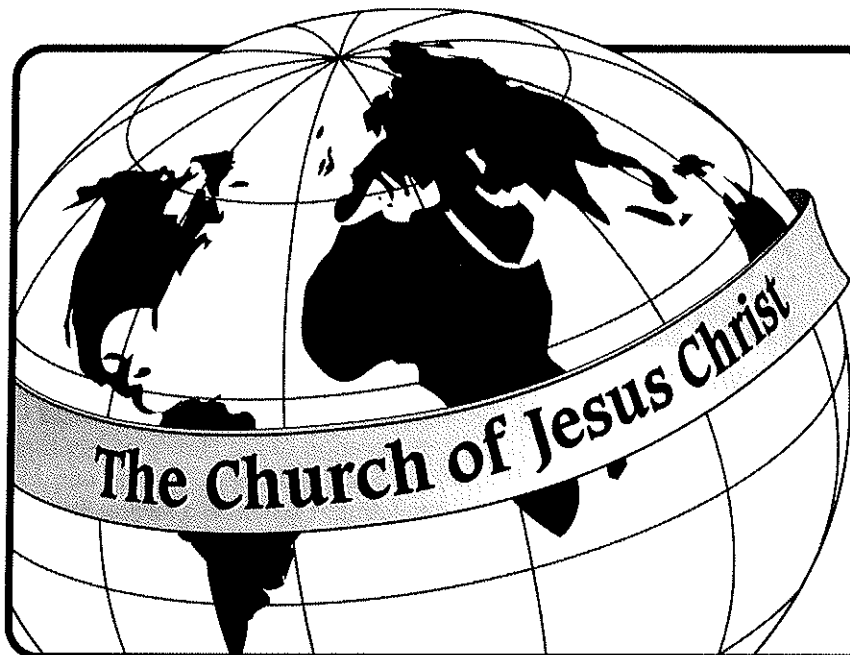
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## OBITUARIES

### JAN VanBUUREN

Brother Jan VanBuuren, of the Tucson, Arizona Mission passed on to his reward on September 3, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sonya; a brother, Hank; step-daughter, Monique Giel; step-grandsons, Mark and Tom Meijer; sister-in-law, Trudy; and niece Natale.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

December, 2005

Volume 61, No. 12

## Are You Ready for Zion?

### HOW TO PREPARE (PART II)

#### Introduction

In the last *Gospel News*, I began a series of articles, which I hope will bring thought and awareness to the people of God on the subject of Zion. I have defined Zion as a completely righteous land, culture, and people for the Kingdom of God upon the earth. This condition we believe will occur in the very near future in the land of the Americas, and selective places around the world. Zion will be established while men and women are still in the flesh, still mortal beings. I will continue this topic with a discussion of preparation.

#### Change – Destruction of Evil

*“And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth”* (Isaiah 2:17–19, Underline by the author).

*“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel”* (Joel 3:16, Underline by the author).

Native American Prophecy (Excerpts from a talk at the 1986 Continental Indigenous Council, Fairbanks, Alaska By Lee Brown, Cherokee)

“...The elders advised us that, as things speed up, you yourself should slow down. The faster things go, the slower you go. Because there’s going to come a time when the earth is going to be shaken a third time. The Great Spirit has shaken the earth two times: the First and Second World Wars, to remind us that we are a human family, to remind us that we should have greeted each other as brothers and sisters. We had a chance after each shaking to come together in a circle that would have brought peace on earth, but we missed that. Tonight they were talking on the news about the sign for the third shaking of the Earth. They said they’re going to build what the elders called the

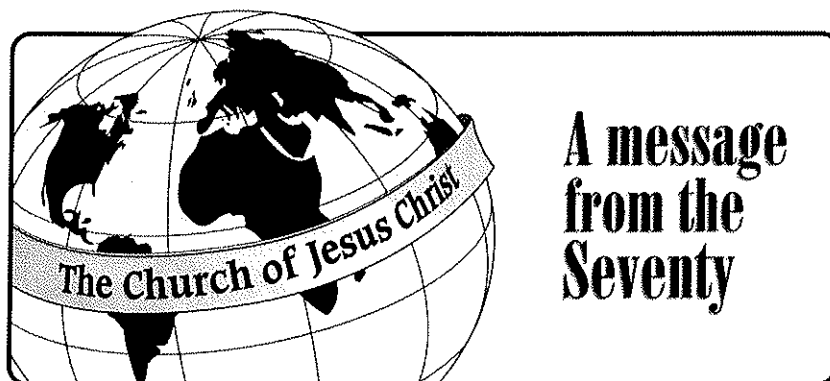
house in the sky. In the 1950’s they talked about this: they will build a house and throw it in the sky. When you see people living in the sky on a permanent basis, you will know the Great Spirit is about to grab the earth, this time not with one hand, but with both hands. When this house is in the sky, the Great Spirit is going to shake the Earth a third time...” (Underline by the author).

All of the above quotes reinforce my belief that because of evil and iniquity on the promised lands of America, there will be a terrible time of great shaking – meaning a destruction of evil from God’s promised land. As the native prophecies and The Book of Mormon clearly indicate, we (the Gentiles) were given our chance and we have squandered our opportunity to live in peace, harmony, and righteousness.

#### Promise to Protect His People

*“For the time soon cometh that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their*

(Continued on Page 4)



## Blessings in Nepal

*By Brother Anthony Ricci*

On Wednesday this August 31st, Brother George Kovacic and I started the three-day journey to the land of Nepal. We left with the anticipation of the great power and blessings God had in store for us. JAIMASHI (Praise Jesus Christ)!! God never fails!

Our first full day started with 25 of us, happily crowded into a 10-passenger van, beginning a two-hour trip from our meeting place in Kathmandu, through crowds of Hindus celebrating a festival and many military check points, to Sundari Jal (the Beautiful Waters). From the wonderful sound of the rushing water over the rapids to the picturesque clearing, 10 souls rendered obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The way back, even though soaked from the river, was filled with songs, laughter, and a wonderful spirit. We arrived at our meeting place, a mere five hours later, to a group of 80 people hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The group included 20-30 children from two to 16 years of age. What a wonderful future for the Church in Nepal!

The day consisted of the confirmations of our new brothers and sisters, sharing in the fellowship of communion, and the preaching of the Word of God. What an honor and a privilege to witness the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Not even in this far away land can the power of Jesus Christ be denied. I stand amazed we can hear the name of Jesus Christ being praised in the

Nepalese language. We listened to our people sing the songs of salvation and to the many wonderful testimonies of how Jesus found them!! How truly great is the God of Israel and The Church of Jesus Christ; and this was just the first day!!

Over the next few days we held many meetings and had the opportunity to present this Gospel to many people. On one such occasion, we met a young man who was struggling over the truth of the Book of Mormon. When speaking to him, we could sense he had a desire to know the truth. With great liberty, we simply asked him, "If we show you in the scriptures, will you believe?" He said, if shown, he would believe. After presenting the scriptures to him and being convinced by the Spirit of

God, he said he believed and asked for his baptism and promised to go to his village and to tell his parents. His name is Tika Lakndri. Please remember him in your prayers.

One evening, we had a wonderful discussion with the Elders on the Book of Mormon and spoke about the promises of God to Abraham and the restoration of the House of Israel and the Seed of Joseph. During our meeting, I felt such a strong Spirit of God that the Spirit of Revelation was present. Talking to Brother George after the meeting, he confirmed what I was feeling. This was also confirmed the next day by Brother Madan (our head Elder in Kathmandu) who related a dream he had the prior night. In the dream, he saw Brother Anthony Ricci preaching on The Book of Mormon to the people in Nepal and they began to weep, and he heard a voice telling him to "listen, what was being said was true." Even in the land of Nepal, the truth of The Book of Mormon stands as a beacon!

At our last meeting in Nepal, we felt the wonderful calling of God to ordain three Deaconesses, two Deacons, and one Elder. When interviewing these candidates, we felt the wonderful spirit of confirmation. Sister Hannah—64 years old—told us



Some of the children of Nepal.

she wants to work for Jesus until her dying days. Sister Meera told us she "wants to glorify Jesus; so, if by taking this office it glorifies Jesus, then she would take it." One of our new Deacons, Brother Abiud, is 15 years old. What wonderful seriousness and sense of responsibility he feels in this office. Brother Nanda Lal, is our new Elder. What a powerful spirit we felt when asking him whether he was willing to take this office. Brother Bal and Sister Tara, our other Deacon and Deaconess, respectively, are husband and wife and are willing to work to help grow this Gospel.

After many prayers for the sick and the demonstration of God's power in answering our prayers, and many tears, it was time to say goodbye to our family in Nepal. Brother George and I have great love and respect for them. We see how much love they have for this Church. Though they lack the basic human comforts and face much persecution as members of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nepal, they prevail. Their faith and belief in the Risen Saviour is unshakable.

I give honor and glory to my God and my Saviour Jesus Christ that we have been given the privilege to know and work with the saints of Nepal. Jaimashi!

## Peru Trip

"GOD GIVETH THE INCREASE"

*By Apostle Richard Christman*

On our recent trip to Peru, my wife and I met Brother Daniel Mora from Detroit at the Miami airport to continue our trip together. We were pleasantly surprised to find he was with Brothers Mike LaSala and Duane Lovalvo and their wives, who were on their way to Venezuela to be with the Church members there. Both planes departed shortly before the airport was closed because of Hurricane Katrina. God provided a safe departure despite the strong wind gusts and heavy rain.

As we left, I thought about the first trips we made to Venezuela to introduce the Gospel. Brothers Fred Olexa, Joe Catone, Sr. and his family and later Brother Tom Liberto and our wives all journeyed there. We had begun to plant and Brothers Mike and Duane were continuing to plant and water following Brothers Don Ross and Frank Palacios and others who had continued to help support this work. All of those involved in this work planted and watered, but we must never forget God gives the increase. We must continue to work the vineyard until God provides workers in their own country, such as Brothers Raul and Esnel in Venezuela. It was gratifying to hear six people had decided to give their lives to Christ. God decides who and when He will draw souls unto His Son. Our responsibility is to continue planting and watering. The Venezuela committee has been very diligent in this endeavor.

There was a similar experience in Peru as we met in Lima and received word a new sister, whom we had anointed for cancer about a year ago, had asked for her baptism. Her testimony is God had healed her and she too wanted to serve Him by accepting Jesus Christ. Brothers Miguel Bicelis, Mora and Paul A. Palmieri helped plant and water the seed in Lima.

In Arequipa, there was the same request of two young women, 15 years old and 17 years of age. Brother Mora took them into the clear mountain water to bury their former life and to bring them up as new creatures in Christ. It was a beautiful day and a blessed occasion to witness. These young women made a decision to walk with their Lord and Saviour throughout the rest of their lives. The mothers of these young ladies had encouraged them to attend church and take part in Sunday School and the activities designed to instruct and encourage them.

We all want our children to become involved in church activities and make their walk with Christ central to their lives. To desire this is not enough. It is necessary to constantly

bring our children to Sunday School, MBA and church. In our contemporary world there are many competing activities and interests for our children's time. Many are worthwhile and help develop young people, but they can crowd out the most important development of all and that is their spiritual development. This parental responsibility should be the highest priority. It will help our children make the appropriate choices as they begin their teen years and have many choices to make about friends and activities, some of which have much peer pressure attached and are not always in their best interest.

Throughout the world, the Church is concerned with the spiritual development of the young people, so we must invest time and energy to this task. It is very easy in this busy world to let youth get involved in the many activities that are available; but it is our responsibility to provide enjoyable, meaningful opportunities which also provide spiritual growth. The future growth of the Church depends upon the young people. There are many hopes for the Church in Peru, as well as for our locations throughout the world which make up The Church of Jesus Christ as one body.

We ask for your prayers for these new Peruvian sisters, and also for your prayers and efforts for all the young people throughout all our branches and missions worldwide. It is essential to take time to encourage and nurture them.

Our responsibility is to plant the seed by our testimonies, our good deeds and our consistent efforts to share this precious gift with our families, friends, neighbors and all those in need. To do this, all our conversations and thoughts should be geared to this priority. The time and season Christ spoke of is here. We must feel the urgency as world events depict His words to His disciples about what would happen in the days in which we are living.

Let us pray that God will send more workers to all of His vineyards, including our home communities.

## Are You Ready for Zion?

Continued from Page 1

*enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire” (1 Nephi 22:16–17, Underline by the author).*

God’s people, and let us use the words of the scripture – “the righteous” – need not fear. Need not fear what? The righteous need not fear the shaking of the earth that God will accomplish. The righteous need not fear the destruction of evil that will occur through the plan and the power of God. The righteous need not fear evil, because evil will no longer overthrow righteousness. From the creation of man, each time The Church of Jesus Christ was established, evil eventually overcame and destroyed the righteous. NOT now! NEVER again. Today, we have the Church of the Lamb of God, Christ’s Kingdom established on the face of the earth never to be changed, corrupted, or overthrown by evil. God has promised He would rather destroy a nation, and shake the earth, than lose The Church of Jesus Christ again to the designs of Satan.

### How Should We Prepare?

The subject of preparation is many times thought of in the context of natural preparation. Most people discussing this subject turn to the natural items of life. Should I stockpile food and water at my home? Should I take my money out of stocks and put it somewhere else? Should I have a 4-wheel drive truck? The list of questions can go on and on. Let me be perfectly clear on this point. I don’t know the answers to any of those questions. I believe it is prudent and wise to prepare naturally for normal life situations. But it should be clear and well understood that when God decides to shake the earth again, it will be anything but a normal life situation.

I do know one thing about preparation. The most important item, the absolute highest priority, the essential issue in preparation, is spiritual not natural. If your heart and soul are not right with Jesus Christ, all

the natural preparations in the world will be worthless when the changes come and the destruction of evil hits America with full force. When God decides it is time to shake the earth, I want to be prepared and I want that preparation to be correct. I want my preparation to be a spiritual preparation so that I can be numbered with the people who “need not fear.”

As we look at preparation, I want us to look at Moses and the Israelites as they prepared for change – unfathomable, life-altering change. God told the Israelites to prepare to leave Egypt at any moment. He didn’t tell them to take gallons of water, nor did He provide any instruction about supplying food for the journey. They knew they were going into the barren desert where there was no water, no supplies, no stores, and no employment. The instruction God gave was preparation of the mind, heart and soul. Here is how God asked them to prepare:

First: Believe in God, Believe His Promises.

*“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Exodus 3:14-15).*

The Israelites had to be reminded of, and they had to have belief in, God—the great I AM. They had to understand that I AM was now ready, after 430 years in Egypt, to lead them to the promised land. After 430 years they were going to leave home for a new place. Most importantly, they were going to a new spiritual life. We of the restoration have only been waiting a fraction of that time, only 175 years. Do we really believe in God? Do we believe that I AM has spoken to us and is speaking to us today? Do you believe that God has a promised land—Zion—for you and me? The Israelites had to believe or they would have remained in Egypt. We must

believe or we will remain enslaved chasing natural security and wealth while the earth begins to shake.

Let me ask some serious questions concerning your belief in I AM. Do you believe God created all things of our world in six days? Do you believe that God is the supreme deity and His son, Jesus Christ, is the way of salvation for all mankind? Do you believe in the Bible and The Book of Mormon as the truth, the infallible Word of God? Do you believe God speaks, directs, and works with men and women today as He has in all ages of time? Do you believe God has a plan and a work for The Church of Jesus Christ today? To be prepared, we must believe. We must know God. Yes, we must know God. We must know and understand His word. If we do not know the great I AM, we will not believe.

Second: Covered by the Blood of the Lamb.

*“Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the*

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matthew 2:6).*

Bethlehem was the town in which Jesus was born. Bethlehem was considered a low-class town, certainly not where the rich would build their beautiful homes and live. It would not be impressive to tell someone that you were from Bethlehem. Think about your surrounding area, and the reputation of towns or cities nearby. I'm sure we can all pick out at least one town or city in which the poor live, or in which it is dangerous to walk the streets. We can all pick a town in which many people would NEVER think of living in. Mary the mother of Jesus, not only had to give birth in Bethlehem, but because none of the inns had any rooms available, Jesus was born in a dirty manger, used for animals. Imagine giving birth today and laying your baby in a dirty manger that animals eat from. I'm sure Jesus could have been born to a wealthier woman who lived in a big beautiful home and had lots of comforts and conveniences. However, there was never a woman before or probably after who could be worthy to bear Jesus in her womb, and give birth to the Son of God, then Mary. Mary didn't need to be rich or famous to be the mother of Jesus. In fact, she was quite the opposite: poor, obscure and humble. And so, Jesus was born of Mary in the poor town of Bethlehem, but He became the "Governor who ruled Israel," and is the Son of God who is the only one who can grant eternal life to all of mankind. The place where Jesus was born, and to whom He was born, is not a coincidence. God planned it that way for a reason.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).* Regardless of one's material wealth, when Jesus comes into one's heart, their heart is "poor in spirit" and needing a healing. Jesus comes for people like this. When we accepted Christ into our lives, He healed our spirits and forgave our sins. We were spiritually living in the poorest town in the area. The moment that we repented, and accepted Him, and He was born within our hearts, we were like Mary, humble and completely submissive to the will of God for our lives. When we repent and are baptized, our souls are changed from being in POVERTY, to being a GOVERNOR over sin and the devil. This is because Jesus now becomes our spiritual military force that can overcome the enemy for us. We are raised from the spiritually poorest town, to the spiritually wealthiest neighborhood around (notice I am saying "spiritually"). Our souls become filled with joy because we realize we are reconnected to our Creator. We were connected to Him as a child, but as we grew older, we separated ourselves from Him because of sin. This is why many people today long to be a little child again. Why? Little children do not have stress. They are not depressed or bitter. They love to laugh, play and enjoy everything around them. We cannot enjoy life unless we are like a little child. And the key to a child's happiness is that they are connected to their Creator. When we reconnect with Him as an adult through becoming His son or daughter, we too can experience that joy, happiness, and "stress-free life" that a little child has. Unfortunately, even many saints today who have Jesus in their hearts do not have joy or happiness. If this is you, then perhaps you should go back to the day you accepted Him, the reasons why, and ask Him to reheal your spirit. Tell Him that somehow along the way, you spiritually moved back to that POOR town, and need to be rescued back to where you belong. For those of you who have not accepted Jesus, and made the decision to be one of His, and let Him heal your spirit, then there is no better time than today.

Perhaps this Christmas season we can all bring ourselves back to these life-changing truths. Perhaps this season our lives will change for the first time, or will change again. Either way, let our lives change by allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts, now and forever.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God Can Reveal the Deepest Mysteries

(Jacob, Chapter 7)

Dear Girls and Boys,

When I was a young girl growing up at the St. John, Kansas Mission, my Uncle, Alex Jacob Robinson, was my MBA teacher and the only elder in our Branch. He told me that there was not any question that I couldn't ask an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ to help me find the answer. Brother Alex told me that all we had to do was to go to God in prayer and ask. If we did not get the answer, then we could pray more and search the scriptures to see if there was an answer there. Nothing is hidden from God and God can do all things, he and my mother taught me.

In the Book of Mormon, there was another minister, who agreed with Brother Alex, named Jacob. Jacob was born far away across the ocean in the wilderness when his father Lehi led their family away from the big city of Jerusalem. God warned Lehi to take his family and friends and leave behind all their jewels, their fancy houses and their riches because there was going to be war in their land and Jerusalem was going to be destroyed. Two of Jacob's big brothers, Laman and Lemuel, got together with some of their friends and tried to force their father and their other two good brothers, Nephi and Sam, to go back. They did not believe God had spoken to their father and their good brother Nephi.

But God gave Lehi and then



Nephi the power to force Laman and Lemuel to go. Jacob was born in the wilderness during their journey away from Jerusalem.

Jacob was just a little boy when the entire group built ships and headed for the Promised Land. He was there when those two oldest brothers beat up his good brother, Nephi, tied him up and hurt him. He saw how God caused a big storm to come until the mean brothers freed the good brother. Jacob grew up seeing how that old devil used his tricks to try and confuse the family and get them to fight.

When all the people landed in this new, rich country, they were at it again! The older brothers did not want to serve God and be loving and kind. They wouldn't believe the scriptures which were written on sheets of brass and carried over from the old country. They tried to destroy Nephi and the people who served God. Our friend Jacob was very young when his family woke him up in the night and said, "Come on. We must leave this part of the country and get away from our brother Laman and his followers who want to kill us!"

Jacob left with his family and went where the Lord showed them would be safe. For all of his life he was with the good people, called Nephites after the good brother. They were attacked many times by their terrible cousins, who called themselves the Lamanites now.

Jacob had grown up, gotten married and was an Elder teaching the people about God's ways when trouble came among them. A man named Sherem started to preach among the people and say there was no Jesus. Sherem lied and said there was no

Holy Ghost to lead, guide and direct us. He used nice words and the power of the devil to confuse God's people. Many decided it would be easier or nicer to go to Sherem's church.

Sherem wanted to meet with Jacob and try and trick him too. But Jacob did not forget all the miracles he had seen in his life while serving God in truth. Can you think of miracles and healings that you have experienced in your life? Would you forget these and throw them away to go to another fake church where someone talked to you in a fake way to flatter you and make you feel important?

Well, Jacob would not forget or fear Sherem either. Jacob came to the meeting and heard Sherem saying his lies. Jacob who prayed to God, was not confused. Sherem tried trick after trick. But God showed Jacob what

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

BOOK	HE
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C	C	D	E	V	I	L	D
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M	O	R	M	O	N	F	W
L	O	V	E	D	T	S	G



## Southeast Area Ladies' Circle Business Meeting & Seminar

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 was a beautiful day as we met with the sisters in the Hollywood, Florida Branch to conduct the Southeast Area business for the year to come. We elected a new President, Sister Alicia Draskovich and Vice President, Sister Angela Jasmin, with Sister Sunshine Risola retaining the office of Secretary. We are looking toward to a wonderful year ahead, full of good things to come.

After the business meeting, the sisters of the Hollywood Branch served us a wonderful luncheon, followed by delicious desserts. We truly enjoyed social time with each other. Our compliments to all the sisters for a job well done.

We then reconvened in the auditorium where we were presented with a blessed seminar titled, "Renew Each Day the Hope I Have."

Oh Father, God of joy and love,  
Oh Prince of grace and peace,  
The wind may howl, but when you smile,  
The storm has got to cease,  
The waves obey, the clouds divide,  
The lightning bows to thee;  
So take my hand an hour today,  
And walk awhile with me.

Renew each day the hope I have,  
The hope on which I stand;  
A hope that rides above the storm,  
To view the promised land.

Sister Susan Moraco headed the seminar that brought to us much needed hope for today and the times to come. Our cups were filled to overflowing as

we learned to keep hope alive within us. This hope sustains us both spiritually and naturally—without it we have nothing. We learned to have hope and renew it daily, as well as having strong faith. With both of these we have charity, the pure love of God. Jesus is our hope! Just as we read about it in I Timothy and also in Titus 3:7 it says as follows, "*That being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*"

We were also presented with a packet prepared by Sister Diane Risotti, which contained several treats to remind us of the day. For instance, a package of cheese crackers enclosed represented the fact that we can count on God when we come to "crunch time" and a Peppermint Pattie reminded us that God wants commitment. Great day! Wonderful memories! We look forward to a wonderful upcoming year.

## Learning and Leaning on Our Pillars

*By Sister Kathy Giannetti*

Proverbs 8:11 states, "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." On Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> the Ladies' Circle of Detroit Branch #1 gathered together to praise the Lord for the "rubies" He has given to us. This night, we were focusing on the wisdom of our seasoned sisters and wanted to show our love and appreciation to them for the wonderful example they have been to us.

We first enjoyed a delicious dinner, and then singing, testimony, and much praise. The younger girls and sisters started our service by singing, *The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows*. Then several sisters expressed themselves. It was a blessing to hear, even through trials, God has been right by our sisters' sides, and the love they have of the Gospel and Lord is stronger than ever.

Sister Rosanne Champine then sang a song she wrote about the example so many sisters set through their devotion to Christ even through the hard times in their lives. The song, *I will Praise Him Still* says:

The passing years have brought their  
share of sorrow,  
And some days I grow weary of the race.  
That's when I'm carried by the joy of  
my salvation,  
And satisfied sufficiently with grace.  
I will praise His name even when the  
storms come.  
I will praise Him even when the nights  
are dark and cold.  
Always in the glad times, and even in  
the sad times,  
His love is like a gentle soothing balm  
unto my soul.  
I will praise Him still..."

The words were so fitting to our theme. We continued the meeting with testimony and it was so good to hear many experiences of how the Lord provided jobs, spouses, food, and strength and comfort. The sisters encouraged us to press onward in the Church and to be ready to be used by the Lord. They shared much wisdom that we will carry and use in our spiritual and natural lives. We all enjoyed the time praising the Lord and were very blessed to have this time to share with our spiritual Mothers. Thank God for the pillars He has given us to learn from and to lean on.

## Phase 2 Progress on World Conference Center

As Phase 2 renovation of the World Conference Center continues, there are surplus items that are available for all branches and missions. If interested, please contact the Secretary of the General Church Trustees, Brother Joe Ross.



## Southwest Campout Transformed into Evacuee Shelter

The saints of the Church love campouts because they provide a time of worship, learning, and fellowship in an environment that is removed from the cares of the world. When the campout ends, and we return to our everyday lives, we know we must put what we have learned into practice. As the saints in the Southwest Region traveled to their Area MBA Campout, held September 2-5, 2005, we did not know that we would have a unique and unexpected opportunity to shine for Christ before the camp even concluded.

The theme of the campout was "Stand Upon the Rock," based on the scriptures found in Matthew 7:24-25 and 3 Nephi 14:24-25, which reads: *"And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock."* As the saints learned, the rock is Jesus Christ. When a life is built upon the foundation of His word and His example, nothing can destroy or topple it. This analogy came to life on Sunday morning when the manager of the campsite (Kamp Kiwanis, owned by a world-wide charitable organization) received a call informing her that the Kiwanis property had been commandeered by the State of New Mexico and was to be transformed into a temporary shelter for nearly 100 evacuees from Louisiana who had lost everything due to hurricane Katrina.

Upon hearing the news, the saints immediately began to pack their belongings and clear out the dormitories to make room for the incoming evacuees. Many left behind sleeping bags, pillows, sheets, towels, toiletries, and other items that might make the evacuees more comfortable. The GMBA was also able to donate a large

number of T-shirts and sweatshirts that were leftover from the GMBA Campout in Flagstaff two months prior. Earlier in the week, those in charge of selling the leftover shirts commented that no matter how many were sold, the shirt piles never seemed to get smaller. Before Sunday afternoon, this was a frustration; afterward it became a blessing.

Additionally, an on-the-spot collection was taken among the one hundred plus campers in attendance. Over three hundred dollars was raised, which will go toward transforming the Kiwanis property into a Red Cross shelter. A small group of saints volunteered to stay behind and clean the dormitories, bathrooms, kitchen area, and chapel. The Kiwanis staff was overwhelmed by the generosity of our group. Praise God for His love! It is only because He loved us that we are able to show love toward others.

Although the departure from the camp was abrupt, God's inspiration during the Sunday morning service afforded the saints a chance to greet one another in love. Just before sacrament, Apostle Isaac Smith felt inspired to ask the whole congregation to rise from their seats and ask forgiveness of any they have offended so they might partake worthily. As the saints did this, many got a chance to express words of love to one another and feel God's spirit. After the announcement was made that everyone had to leave camp, everyone left quickly, and later we realized that because of Brother Isaac's inspiration, we had gotten a chance to say goodbye.

The theme of the camp, "Stand Upon the Rock," could not have been more timely, particularly after seeing an entire city sink into the sand. Knowing that all of one's possessions could be destroyed beyond repair reinforces the importance of God's command to set our souls upon a foundation of solid rock where no wind is strong enough to tear it down. As we've seen, our homes, vehicles, jobs, and even loved ones can be taken away from us, but what can never be taken from us is our own relationship with Christ. Can we imagine our lives without the possessions that surround

us? Are we willing to leave them behind? As long as Jesus is in our hearts, possessions become ornaments, and anywhere can be home.

In the days following our sudden departure, we learned that the evacuees who were to be transported to Kamp Kiwanis were diverted to other states instead. Some of the donated items were used for Katrina victims in the area, but the Red Cross will store most of the donations for future emergencies and needs. Our hope is that God will bless and be with all who were affected by this tragedy, and our fervent prayer is that God will do what He does best: use unfortunate circumstances to bring His children closer to Him.

## GMBA Campout 2005

*By Sister Christine Maddox and Brother Jameson Staley*

Last July, brothers, sisters, and friends hiked their way up to the mountain of the Lord. With a theme of "Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord," The Church of Jesus Christ GMBA Campout took place July 2-8, 2005 in Flagstaff, Arizona. The Lord's Spirit could be felt from the initial orientation meeting on Saturday evening.

GMBA President, Brother Jeff Giannetti, welcomed all to the campout. "Good things happen on top of mountains. You can say 'Amen' to that!" Brother Jeff said during his opening remarks. After announcements from Camp Director, Brother Luke Smith, the meeting was adjourned. All were asked to prepare for what the Lord would deliver during the Sunday meeting.

The Sunday morning meeting began with a welcome by Brother Jeff. After an opening prayer by Brother Jim Suska, Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine offered their praises to the Lord in the form of song. They sang, "When He said: 'Come follow me,' He had credibility.

Credibility means you're who you claim to be. Credibility means you speak with liberty. Credibility because you walk in power. When you're living faithfully, you have credibility."

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. opened the morning service by speaking on vision. He asked, "Can you see the mountain of the Lord? The Church of Jesus Christ: can you see the Savior this morning?" He referenced II Kings 6 and the story of the Prophet Elijah. Brother Pete explained that many things in our lives want to cloud our vision. Our challenge, as members of the Restored Gospel, is to keep our focus on the mountain when the clouds come. We are blessed because we can see the glories of Zion. Brother Pete exhorted, "Do we see the green mountains? Do we see Zion before us? The Lord is turning to us and asking, 'Who do you say that I am? How do you see me? Where is your vision?' " Brother Pete then pointed out that we must have sharp peripheral vision. The evil one does not always attack straight on and we must have 20/20 vision at all times.

Apostle Isaac Smith followed by proclaiming that members of The Church of Jesus Christ have a great vision of God's plan. He called this vision "greater than anyone else's vision on the Earth" and encouraged us to never lose sight of the vision God has given us.

Brother Walt Jankowski continued God's message by stating that our journey up the mountain may have rocks, obstacles, and a narrow path. He said that we must persist and have vision to get to the mountain top.

Following Brother Walt, Brother Jim Sgro utilized the story of the Brother of Jared. He said that because the Brother of Jared asked for a greater vision, the Lord revealed himself unto him. "Our vision will take us from the place we started to the Kingdom of Heaven," he promised.

During the evening meeting that night, GMBA Vice President Brother David Catalano introduced the meeting. He said, "This is going to be a night of praise where we praise Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior." Sister

Amy Bucellato then sang a beautiful rendition of *I Surrender All*.

Following Sister Amy's song, Brother Phil Jackson introduced the communion service with 3 Nephi 18. Apostle Joe Calabrese then encouraged the congregation to utilize the communion time for self-examination and reflection upon Calvary. Ten brothers from the ministry then administered the Lord's Supper. An incredible spirit of repentance and mercy filled the room.

After communion, the meeting was dedicated to praising the Lord through song and testimony. Sister Jo Ann Catalano sang *At the Cross*, Brother Barry Mazzeo used *He Touched Me* as his testimony, and a group of brothers and sisters sang *Andar Delante de Mi* and *Jesus Está* in Spanish.

Monday night's meeting began with Brother Jim Huttenberger pushing The Church of Jesus Christ to expand its vision. Reading from I Corinthians 2:9, Brother Jim said that we tend to limit God by our negative thinking. "He wants to bless us. He just wants us to step up with great faith." Trials we face should draw us closer to God and increase our faith in Him. They give us the experience and abilities to help others. We cannot be bound by our past. "He forgives you. Go on. Move on. Don't carry it with you. Let the past stay in the past," Brother Jim boldly spoke.

Before the meeting was dismissed, Brother Ken Brown spoke in the Spirit of the Lord. He said, "Thus saith the Lord: Climb the mountain. I stand at the top and I beckon you to come."

Tuesday night was filled with great blessings as seven converts were given the gift of the Holy Spirit: Amber Morle (baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother John Buffa), Emily Eskut (baptized by Brother Ron Morle and confirmed by Brother Dick Christman), Charity Lombardo (baptized by Brother Ken Lombardo and confirmed by Brother David Catalano), Jennifer Catalano (baptized by Brother David Catalano and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo), Jordan Turley (baptized by Brother Jeff Giannetti and confirmed by Brother Peter

Scolaro), Kiley Obradovich (baptized by Brother Doug Obradovich and confirmed by Brother Paul A. Palmieri), and Larry Montano (baptized by Brother Isaac Smith and confirmed by Brother Jeff Giannetti).

Following the confirmations, Brother Tom Liberto explained that the gift of the Holy Spirit is to help the new brothers and sisters "endure the challenges of life from this day forward." You cannot buy it with money nor can you trade it in. It is irreplaceable and invaluable.

On Wednesday evening, Brother Paul Palmieri shared his testimony with the congregation while providing instructions for the Church and the young people of the Church. "The Church of Jesus Christ is on the move, more than we have ever seen before," Brother Paul exclaimed. He said that the young people are stepping up and taking the Gospel to the world. "The Lord has commissioned this Church. We won't fail Him. We must bring salvation to the world. It is up to each and every one of us to do all we can while we have breath," preached Brother Paul.

During the Thursday night meeting, two more confirmations took place: Dirk Rustin (baptized by Brother Isaac Smith and confirmed by Brother Dwayne Jordan) and Tracey Vctor (baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Timothy Mott).

Brother Jeff then addressed the congregation. He said, "They say that if you work at a higher elevation, your lung capacity is greater. You can do more, you have more energy." After a week of mountain climbing with the Lord, all left campout with greater lung capacity and energy to devote to the Lord's work. Brother Larry added that we must always be ready to go up the mountain, bear other's burdens, and help others along the way.

After inspiring performances by the children and adult choirs, Brother Luke made closing announcements. He revealed that there were 675 registered for camp and a total of 13 people asked for their baptisms that week. The theme song chosen was *They Can't Burn the Flag on Zion's Mountain*.



## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings in Metuchen, New Jersey

What a day of rejoicing in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. God is good and His name is worthy to be praised.

Words cannot express the joy of the saints that was felt in our Sunday meeting, August 7, 2005 in the Metuchen Branch. We heard of three miracles that day.

Sister Carol Davey related a miracle that took place the week before. Carole and her family had gone to the beach. Sister Carole's daughter, Sister Alyssa Reyes, went into the ocean and lost her footing. Sister Carole saw her stumble and thought she would be fine, but soon she realized something was wrong and cried out for help. By now, Sister Alyssa had stiffened up and was face down in the water with her arms outstretched. Her niece ran to her and pulled her out, yelling for help. The lifeguards came to assist them. Sister Alyssa had suffered a seizure in the water and was already blue. Sister Carol thought for sure she had lost her daughter, but God heard her cries and he revived our Sister Alyssa. This was miracle #1.

Now for miracle #2. Brother Len Benyola is a building contractor and was building a home to be sold. The house was framed out, but the sheathing had not been put on yet. Brother Chet Lombardo works for Brother Len. That day, Brother Chet who usually arrives at about 4:00 p.m. was delayed arriving to work. As he was driving to the job, a bolt of lightning crashed in front of him, causing him to pull over to the side of the road. Brother Len left the job early—just before 4:00 p.m. and went to his grandmother's home to finish painting her kitchen. Leaving early and arriving late a coincidence? Absolutely not! God again was in control. A terrible storm

arose, and the home collapsed between the times our one brother left and our other brother arrived. Tons of lumber fell. If Brother Len and Brother Chet would have been on the job, they surely would have been killed. Brother Len's dad, Brother Leonard Benyola, Sr. had a dream the previous night. In his dream he was sitting in his mother's kitchen, when she turned to him and said, "We have to pray." Brother Leonard woke up and went into prayer.

Now for miracle #3. Sister Maggie and Brother Jason Klorman have had much financial difficulty and were being evicted from their home. This Sunday, she stood upon her feet and told how they received a letter from the owners of the property which stated that not only would they not be evicted, but they would not have to pay the \$900 a month they had been paying in rent. The letter stated they could make monthly payments of whatever they could afford.

On top of all this, the greatest miracle of all is that we are saved by His love for us through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May we share in many more of His blessings!

### Ordination at Bell, CA

By Sister Virginia Surprenant

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Bell, California Branch was full to capacity as the saints gathered to share this long awaited day of Brother David Areola's ordination into the Priesthood. Brother Jesse Guerrero opened in prayer followed by the Zioneers singing *He Is Lord*.

Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr. visiting from New Jersey spoke from 3 Nephi 1:8. He spoke on Hope. We all need hope to be visionary.

Brother Stacy Light followed and told of a dream he had. He was standing in a Regional Conference and knew that Brother David Areola and Justin Paxon would be ordained elders.

Paul Vinsick spoke followed by Brother Santos Zamora.

The Spanish Choir sang followed by Sister Erin Light singing in Spanish *A Grain of Sand*.

Brother Jesse Guerrero washed Brother David's feet as we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Brother Tom P. Liberto ordained him. Brother David's family came forward and Brother Paul Liberto offered a prayer of blessing upon them.

Brother Ken Jones spoke of how Brother David lived with him and how proud he was of him, as though he was his son. Brother Ken said he always had high hopes for him.

Sister Marianne Heaps testified that 20 years ago a young man embraced the Gospel in Santa Ana. The young man's name was Samuel, and he was later killed in an accident. Through Samuel, David met the Church and married Samuel's sister, Imelda.

Sister Christina Paxon sang *Maybe I'm a Dreamer* from *The Songs of Zion*. Other testimonies followed. Brother Rudy Meo closed in prayer and a lunch was served.

Remember Brother David and his family in prayer as he begins this portion of his life spreading the Gospel.

**Merry  
Christmas**  
to all our readers.

### Are You Ready for Zion?

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*morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover" (Exodus 12:3-11).*

Passover was the instruction for Israel in Egypt. Passover, or the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ, began with Adam and it



continues today. Only the blood of Jesus Christ will allow the calamity and death to pass over you and me. The salvation of mankind has always been and will always be the same since the fall of Adam and Eve. It is the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other way of salvation and no better preparation than to be covered by the blood of the Lamb. Be assured, this is our true preparation; our confidence today as it was in the days of Moses. Are you sanctified by the blood of the Lamb today? Have you prepared?

Also, what are you feasting upon today? Are you consuming the Lamb as the Lord instructed the Israelites? It is spiritual food that we must be storing today! What consumes your time and energy today? It is normal to be busy with work, activities and family. However Satan has used "busy-ness" to keep us from God. We must be devouring the Word of God and feeding our souls for the times that will be soon upon us. Do you spend as much time every day in prayer and in reading the Word of God, as you do consuming natural food? If not, maybe we should. The Israelites needed this nourishment and we do as well. Our spiritual strength must be great to face the events ahead of us as God's people. All human resources may fail, as they did with the Israelites in the wilderness, but the spiritually strong will see the plan of God and eventually the great promises as well.

Third: Trust In God.

*"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover" (Exodus 12:11).*

*"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people" (Exodus 13:21-22).*

Are you prepared and ready to go at any moment? Is Zion, the promised land, in your future? Israel

had to make that decision. Do you love God enough? Do you trust Him completely to cast all your welfare and future completely in His hands? This can be hard. It can be inconvenient. It IS essential. Our days of labor in Egypt are soon to be at an end. We have enjoyed abundant food, employment, security, and tremendous natural blessings. But when the great God of the universe begins to shake the earth, our faith and trust must be in Him, not in the security we feel we have in natural things. The Israelites were given daily reminders that God was by their side. They had a pillar of fire at night (what a great nightlight to make you feel secure), and a pillar of a cloud during the day. They were directed in every step they took. They were supplied water when they needed it and food from heaven. The natural items of life, shoes, clothes, etc., never deteriorated. God will do the same and more for us. We must prepare to trust.

### Summary

In his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster writes that the Christian convert can easily practice the many spiritual disciplines, however he says, "The primary requirement is a longing after God." This is the key to all spiritual preparation. We must have a great longing for Zion, for the promised land, for believing, for knowing and trusting God.

*"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked..." (Acts 4:32-34).*

This church described in Acts truly believed. They were united, they were bound together; and because of this belief, they were given great power, great grace—they lacked NOTHING. This powerful church did not achieve the level of spirit-filled guidance and preparation

overnight. It was a process. It was a process of individuals becoming spirit-led and spirit-prepared. Then in due time, these prepared individuals became a prepared and spirit-led group, a church with a zeal and fire that would change the world.

The Church of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem during the days of the Apostles sounds like our desire today for our Church, doesn't it? The Word of God declares that in the last days there would be a people of God, a church, a Kingdom that will be the best that ever existed in the mortal life. A people, a church, a Kingdom that will be a prepared and worthy bride for the Son of God, Jesus Christ. All of creation is watching and waiting expectantly for us. Let us prepare.

Next article: "Are You Ready For Zion – Israel Is Important."

### The Children's Corner

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Sherem was really thinking. He finally said to Jacob, "Show me a sign by this power of the Holy Ghost that you know so much about."

Jacob told him, "Why should I ask God to show you a sign when you know it is true? Yet, you are so full of the devil that you would lie. I say, not my will be done, but if God will strike you, let that be a sign unto you that He has power both in heaven and in earth, and also a sign that Christ shall come."

And when Jacob finished answering him, the power of God did come down and Sherem fell to the earth! And for many days people took care of him. Then the day came that sick Sherem said, "Gather the people together tomorrow for I shall die. But I want to talk to them before I die!"

The next day a multitude (huge crowd) of people came to hear the words of Sherem. He spoke plainly to them and told them that he had

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## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Karen Liberto and Brother Randy Lee of the Yucaipa, California Branch were united in holy matrimony on September 24, 2005.

Brother Jonathan Patsy Fallavolitti was baptized on September 25, 2005 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Joseph Draskovich and was confirmed by Brother Jason Monaghan.

Sister Ashley Laur was baptized on October 2, 2005 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Patrick Monaghan and was confirmed by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Brother Nick Laur was baptized on October 2, 2005 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Tom D'Orazio and was confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

## Children Blessed

Thomas William Matthew, son of Brother James and Sister Patricia Matthew, was blessed on July 31, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

William Charles Dominick Miller, son of Sister Rhoda and Erik Miller, was blessed on October 2, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Haley Savannah Hunt, daughter of Courtney and Brother Brandon Hunt, was blessed on October 16, 2005 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Josephine King of the Liberty, Ohio Branch was reinstated on September 25, 2005.

Brother Carl Duane Rhodes was baptized on September 25, 2005 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Timothy Gehly and was confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Rosalinda Dix of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated her 50th spiritual anniversary on October 9, 2005.

## The Children's Corner

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listened to the devil and lied. He told them that he knew that there was going to be a Christ, and there is the power of the Holy Ghost, and he said he was horribly sorry that he had tried to destroy the beautiful things of God. Sherem begged God to forgive him.

As the people heard his terrible confession, the power of God came down upon them and they were so overcome that they fell to the earth. Brother Jacob was so pleased. The people who had listened to Sherem's lies and had made their hearts hard were so sorry. They also begged God to forgive them. And it came to pass that the peace and the love of God was restored again among the people, and they searched the scriptures and listened no more to the words of any wicked man spreading lies.

God had protected His Church and His people again by showing Jacob the true lies and thoughts of the evil Sherem who was listening to the devil. God can show you what to do and say when you feel scared and in danger too. He can answer any question you may have.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## OBITUARIES

### ERNEST ALESSIO, SR.

Brother Ernest Alessio, Sr., of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on October 15, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Helen Tisler-Alessio; sons, Leonard and Ernest Jr.; his brother, Brother Jim Alessio; sisters, Elvira McVey and Sister Rose Surdock; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Address Change

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