

# The Gospel News

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## The Restored Gospel Message Established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri, African Sector Chairman

*"For behold, the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach his word, yea in wisdom, all that he seeth fit that they should have; therefore we see that the Lord doth counsel in wisdom, according to that which is just and true. I know that which the Lord hath commanded me, and I glory in it. I do not glory in myself, but I glory in that which the Lord hath commanded me; and this is my glory, that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God."*

These words recorded in The Book of Mormon came to me very forcefully upon my return home from our Congo/Malawi trip in February, 2005. I acknowledge this scripture was meant for me to understand God's purpose for my ministry and I bless His name for it.

God was preparing a man from another African country (the Congo) to be an instrument in His hand to accept the Restored Gospel message and to be a preacher of righteousness. This individual by the name of Cipeng A' Kapend, began to correspond with Evangelist Joel Gehly.

He introduced himself as being a former member of the RLDS Church and ordained into their Quorum of 70. Having been a part of the Restoration movement, he wanted to remain with this teaching. He was married, a father of 10 children, a French linguist and an attorney. As his interest grew with each correspondence and reading the Faith and Doctrine, receiving favorable answers to his questions, he was satisfied this was the church he wanted to be a member of. He was requested to visit with our Brothers in Nairobi, Kenya and was baptized by Brother Stephen Osaka. Returning home to the city of Lubumbashi Congo he began to hold church services in his living room, calling the Church "Eglise De Jesus Christ." Brother Cipeng was invited to join and visit with us on our maiden trip to Malawi in September 2004. As he sat and listened to the preaching of the Restored Gospel message, our Faith & Doctrine, feeling the spirit of God very strongly he was convinced more than at any other time, this is the church he wanted his people to embrace. Upon his return home, this wonderful man

of God presented to the people he was meeting with the Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ telling them we had the truth. It did not take long for the people he was holding worship services with in three different locations to become interested in the faith of our Church. Brother Cipeng, being their leader, accepted the Church and Her faith, it was good for him as their Spiritual leader, it would be good for them as well. His people wanted to hear of the Restored Gospel also, thus Brother Cipeng sent a message back to America, extending an invitation to our Priesthood to come to his country and preach the Restored Gospel message and to establish The Church of Jesus Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The latter part of January, 2005, Brothers Gehly, Joseph Perri, Lyle Criscuolo and Mike Nuzzi from The Church of Jesus Christ made the exploratory trip to the DRC. Upon our arrival we met with Brother Cipeng and a small group of people in the dining room of our hotel for our stay. My brothers and I immediately began to see the power and the glory of God beginning to pave the way for the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in this country. A number of experiences were related. Several testified they saw the faces of the

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## Restored Gospel in Congo

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visiting missionaries and the date of our arrival. A brother said he saw the Spirit of God in the form of a dove encircling us as we spoke to the group assembled. In meeting with the people in the living room at the home of Brother Cipeng, we began to experience a unanimous feeling of the Spirit of God, making us understand Brother Cipeng was being called into the Priesthood of the Church. The night before Brother Cipeng was ordained into the Priesthood, Brother Criscuolo was given an experience in which he was shown which brother would pray setting aside Brother Cipeng for ordination by washing his feet, who would pray and ask God to select the brother to ordain Brother Cipeng prior to the ordination, and the brother who would ordain Brother Cipeng into the Priesthood. Brother Lyle related the experience after the ordination confirming his experience. As in his experience, Brother Lyle offered prayer that God would select the brother to wash his feet and ordain him. Brother Gehly washed Brother Cipeng's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Perri. Brother Nuzzi related that while Brother Joel was washing the feet of Brother Cipeng, he saw the Lord Jesus Christ standing behind him with His hand on his shoulder.

### CONFIRMATION OF THE OF BROTHER CIPENG INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

(Experience related by Brother Florimond Mukadi from the Congo.) During the ceremony, at the moment of the washing of feet and the laying on of hands by the American Missionaries, the Lord God gracefully allowed me to see the following vision: There were Angels, all in robes of white surrounding the missionaries that had formed a circle around Brother Cipeng. There were vertical columns of flowers to the right side and to the left side. Also in the center of these flowers there were Palm Branches. A voice made itself

heard; "You have entered into my glory. Know that I am beside you, but do not abandon me because if you would, you will have tribulations and temptations. Avoid evil, do what is good. Peace, my Lamb." A wonderful experience to confirm God's will.

On the 29th day of January we baptized the first 39 converts. What a glorious sight to behold as one by one these folks whom we had just met for the first time and preached the Restored Gospel message felt the spirit of repentance and requested to be baptized. During one of the baptismal services, a rainstorm arose. The dark clouds and the heavy rain were coming towards us, but we were not moved from performing this holy ordinance. Brother Joel prayed silently asking God to divert the storm in another direction, so we could complete the baptisms; and as it was requested, it was done. Everyone watching the baptisms also saw the storm turn away from where we were standing by the small body of water.

During our teaching and training sessions, we received inspiration from God to call and ordain several brothers and sisters to assist Brother Cipeng for the day-to-day operation of the Church. As mentioned earlier, the Spirit of God was present to confirm everything we did. While Brother Joel was offering a prayer

for the ordination of a Teacher, I had to open my eyes to see whether it was Brother Joel praying, because instead of hearing his voice, I heard that of Brother Russell Cadman. Never had I experienced anything of this kind before.

A testimony we heard related during one of our meetings touched our hearts. Our prayer is that the *Gospel News* readers who have the opportunity to read this testimony will share in the same blessing of hearing of a young man who said he had no reason to live because nothing seemed to go right for him. On numerous occasions he tried to put an end to his life. He named some of the things he tried but the last try to commit suicide was the most frightening of all to hear. It was when he climbed on top of a moving freight train box car and threw himself to the ground. His life did not end and he wondered why.

One day, not long before our arrival in the Congo, he was invited to come to church, was told, soon missionaries were coming to Lubumbashi from America. He accepted the invitation and for the first time in his life he heard the message of the Restoration, the love that Jesus Christ had for mankind wherein he was willing to offer His life as a sacrifice to redeem the souls of men and women, regardless of their ethnic



background, color of skin, etc. He listened very intently to how Jesus Christ had paved the way for mankind to have a better life, to give us hope, to offer salvation to them who believe and have a repentant heart. This man named Faustin Kabongo was touched by the message, and he began to exercise a particle of faith in the message that was preached. He repented with a broken heart and requested baptism. Brother Faustin testified he had come to understand why he could not put an end to his life, because God had other plans for him.

My brothers and I felt the inspiration of God to call and ordain Brother Faustin to the office of a Teacher. At his ordination, I felt prompted to set him apart for this office by washing his feet. I was so overcome by the Spirit of God in offering prayer that he and I began to weep for the joy we both felt. Upon arising from prayer, we embraced and cried with more tears, expressing the inward feeling in an outward way of God's touch and love we were sharing for each other. Please note Brother Faustin only speaks and understands French; he speaks just a couple of words in English. Love and the spirit of God knows no bounds of language or color of skin. Brother Criscuolo ordained him into the office of a Teacher. By vocation, he is a schoolmaster and is respected by and loved by all who know him.

During our stay in Lubumbashi, our schedule consisted of a full day's activity from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30-5:00 p.m. Subjects covered were the Restoration; Faith and Doctrine; Book of Mormon; ordinances, such as baptism, holy communion; ordained officers; anointing; naming of the Church; blessing of little children; feet washing; monogamy, etc. Every day the sisters prepared lunch for between 70 to 85 people. Many questions were asked on each subject presented, and with the guidance and inspiration of God, all were answered to everyone's satisfaction.

There were many other experiences we heard which are too many to mention in this article. In total, there were 45 baptisms, 35 children

blessed, and one Elder, three Teachers, two Deacons and four Deaconesses ordained.

At a meeting on February 1, The Church of Jesus Christ was officially established in the Congo. Various officers were appointed for the operation of the Church. Brother Cipeng was appointed the Director of the Church in this country. Three branches have been established; namely Katuba, Raushi and Kalebuka.

**THE CITIZENS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN AFRICA, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, HAVE EMBRACED THE RESTORED GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

Brother Cipeng baptized 13 more converts since our return home, making a total membership of 59 in the DRC as of August 1.

**OUR AUGUST 2005 MISSIONARY VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Six months have passed since our first visit to this country in January/February of this year. This mission field was placed under the New Works Program of the International Missionary Operating Committee, with the African Sector officers overseeing the operation of this new mission field. Corresponding with Brother Cipeng during our absence, he would ask and relay the message from the brothers and sisters requesting for us to make a quick return visit. This being a new mission field, we understood the need for a return visit to train the newly-ordained officers, encourage the membership, and to show our love and concern for them. Evangelist Philip Arcuri and I made this trip and arrived in the Congo on August 10. We were looking forward to being with the saints of the Church in this part of the world. Our mission was to ordain another Elder to assist Brother Cipeng. The opposition, who is ever present when the work of God is progressing, knew of our mission, tried in many ways to discourage us, but God would not allow us to be sidetracked. Meeting

with our beloved brothers and sisters assured us of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church and their determination to keep the promise made the day of their baptism.

Brother Cipeng had been caring for the saints and, with the membership increasing, we sought the will of God in ordaining another brother to assist him. Knowing the need for more workers to assist in the Great Work of the Lord, God gave me an experience, confirming it was the will of God to call another brother into the Ministry.

"In a dream on May 24, I was in a room with my father, Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. who was an Evangelist in the Church for 67 years and passed away in May, 1986. There was another brother in the room and we were talking about the needs of the Church. I mentioned we had a need for another Elder in the Congo to assist Brother Cipeng, the only priesthood member we currently have in the country, and told my father I wanted to recommend Brother Amisi Muweza. My father said, "But we do not know of nor anything about him." I then began to describe Brother Amisi's characteristics, the spirit he demonstrated during our visit and the help he would be to the Church. The brother sitting with us just nodded his head and seemed to agree with everything I said. At that moment my dad said, "Go for it: re-commend Brother Amisi for ordination into the Priesthood." The other brother in the room though silent and very observant listening to our conversation, appeared to be Brother Bob McDonnell, who is the Assistant Chairman of the Africa Sector.

Approval was granted by the IMOC and the Quorum of 12 Apostles to ordain Brother Amisi Bin Muweza. Brother Amisi was once a Moslem. He was converted to Christianity by Brother Cipeng a number of years ago while he was a member of his former church. Brother Amisi was a former Priest in the RLDS church. He followed Brother Cipeng as many others have and embraced The Church

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of Jesus Christ during our first visit to the Congo earlier this year. I ordained him a Teacher during our first visit and was inspired to set him apart for the ordination as an Elder by washing his feet. He was ordained by Brother Arcuri as an Elder.

Brother Faustin Kabongo had an experience on June 10, confirming the ordination of Brother Amisi. What was so impressive about Brother Faustin's dream was no one beside Brother Cipeng knew Brother Amisi was recommended to be ordained an Elder. Brother Amisi was not even

others understand both French and Swahili. Very few of our Church members in the Congo can understand or speak a little of the English language. If you meet a person who says they can speak or understand English, you must speak in very simple terms. There were requests for more baptisms. On August 15, we baptized 14 more souls. One young woman who requested to be baptized had a tremendous struggle with the power of evil as we walked together in the water towards the place of baptism. While I began walking with her in the water towards the depth to baptize, she began to twitch, twist and turn her body in all directions. It was very

choirs sound beautiful, and they love to sing. We've asked several of our young brothers, who are ordained Teachers, to take an interest in the young people of their respective branch by starting a mentoring program, so God may raise up young men to be used in "The Great Work of the Lord." The disease of Aids, as is the case in many African countries, is taking the lives of many young people and there is a concern by the parents that the Church help the youth to understand the consequences of immorality and be taught the ways of serving God and the blessing they will receive.

As mentioned earlier in this article, the adversary is not happy to see the work of God move forward and the people to whom the Gospel is preached to be happy. One morning following the day we baptized and confirmed the candidates, Brother Cipeng came to our hotel in preparation for our day's activities. He is a very happy and pleasant person to be with, but he looked very sad. Upon our arrival at this home, I asked what seemed to be the problem. He told me his little grandson of two years had an accident. The family was preparing to cook their meal and had a pot of boiling water on top of a wood burning fire outside of their house. This little boy was running and he fell with his back side into the pot of hot boiling water. Going into the room where this little boy was lying on the lap of his aunt, we saw the burns. It was difficult to look at, big blisters and the skin was very dark and disfigured. Our first thought was to anoint this little angel, that God would extend His healing hand so the skin would heal and his body would not be disfigured nor would there be any complications. I was informed by Brother Cipeng upon my return home that his grandson was healed with no visual scars. "God is good all the time."

**AN INVITATION FOR OUR MISSIONARIES TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY: ZAMBIA.**

Brother Cipeng introduced us to a

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informed until the day of our arrival he was going to be ordained. A very large crowd gathered at the Ruashi branch and experienced his ordination on August 13.

During our visit we spent many hours training the Priesthood, Teachers and Deacons in the Faith and Doctrine, Restoration, ordinances, their duties, and the order of meetings. As during our first visit, the brothers and sisters want to learn more about our Church beliefs. Many questions were asked particularly on the Restoration and the Book of Mormon. They requested the Book of Mormon in French and Swahili. Some only understand French, while

difficult to control her but I held on to her very tightly, concerned she would slip away. Our brothers and sisters on the shore were observing what was taking place and were very concerned. The spirit upon her was rebuked in the name of Jesus. She quieted down and I baptized and walked her to the shore; she did not experience another episode of this kind. The power of evil is very strong and can only be subdued and rebuked by the power of God. As of this writing we have 73 members baptized in the Congo.

Many young people were in attendance during our worship and question and answer sessions. Their



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"But the more part of them did not believe in the words of Samuel; therefore when they saw that they could not hit him with their stones and their arrows, they cried unto their captains, saying: Take this fellow and bind him, for behold he hath a devil; and because of the power of the devil which is in him we cannot hit him with our stones and our arrows; therefore take him and bind him, and away with him" (Helaman 16:6).*

Samuel the Lamanite was a prophet of God who stood on the walls of the city to warn the Nephites about their impending destruction due to sin, but he told them that if they would repent, and turn to God, they would be spared. They would not allow Samuel in their city, but he was still able to get the message across by standing on the wall.

Samuel was a Watchman, and there are Watchmen today who are standing on the walls of our cities to send a warning that impending destruction is coming unless people turn from their sinful ways, and serve the true and living God. It is interesting to note that when they could not destroy Samuel with their stones and arrows, they felt he had a devil, and the devil was protecting him. Today, many people are calling the things that are evil good, and the things that are good, evil. This verse is such an incredible type and shadow of our day and time. Those who are pushing the principles of Christ are being accused of overstepping their boundaries and infringing on the rights of other human beings. Laws have been put into effect or taken away to stop this "perceived evil" perpetrated by the "Watchmen."

The devil is cunning as to deflect blame back on us. People do this all the time when confronted with criticism. One's usual response is, "You are criticizing me for this, but look at what you are doing!" Whenever we tell people they need to repent and turn to the Lord, be prepared for them to tell us how guilty we are, and the awful things we have done. Be prepared for them to turn the tables and say it is WE who need to repent! If we are not spiritually minded, we may not be able to see through this, and think that maybe they are right. We might back down from sending the warning signal to sinners to come to Christ. This is the devil's way of "shutting us up." Samuel didn't back down, but eventually he was chased down and had to flee the walls of their city. The Book of Mormon says that he went into his own land preaching repentance. That was the last we ever heard of Samuel.

Being a Watchman and sending a warning to sinners of impending destruction due to the wrath of God is not the same as judging others (take out the mote in your eye when I have a beam in mine). Unrighteous judgement of others occurs when someone wants to excuse himself or herself for committing their own sins. Samuel was not committing sin. His judgement was a righteous one. His warning was a warning of love. He wanted the Nephites to be spared a horrible destruction. Unfortunately, he was not able to save them as a people, but the scripture says that there were those who believed on his words and repented. I'm sure in the end, they were saved.

We have a responsibility to be Watchmen and send a loving warning to those who need to hear it. There is much history in the Word of God to give us an example. The story of Noah is a great example. The Book of Mormon is full of examples of how even year to year, the people would wax in iniquity more and more, until God said enough is enough. His wrath was unleashed despite the warnings of the Watchmen. We must be aware that if we act as Watchmen, we ARE worthy to do this, and we don't just do this to excuse or minimize our own sins. We must also be prepared for the accusations back to us, and realize this is a tool of the devil.

In these last days, we must stand our ground and stand on the walls of this nation, and preach repentance to a spiritually dying people so that as many as we can reach, will be spared. We must point them to the darkening skies, because if they choose to become one of God's children, then there is no storm that can take them down.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Words of God Come True

(Genesis 23-27)

In The Church of Jesus Christ we have love and sharing, and in America, we have laws that are fair for everyone. But, in the days of the Bible, long ago, there was not fairness or sharing. Most people stayed in family groups for protection. Each family group was headed by the man who had been the oldest, first born child.

How would you like it if you knew from the time you were small that your older brother would get all of your parent's wealth and be in charge of you? How would you like it if your brother would make arrangements about who you were to marry, and what jobs you would do among the family? This oldest brother would end up with a lot of power over his family's lives, and this was a big job to carry. If you disagreed, there was no place to go and no one to take care of you; people distrusted strangers.

Other special blessings came from being born first, and this was called the "birth right." It meant that the first son born had the right by birth to be the next leader of the family.

In the Bible, in the book of Genesis, is the story of two twin brothers. One, named Esau, was born a few moments before the other twin, Jacob. Esau was a boy who loved hunting and grew up to be his father's favorite son. Jacob was more interested in running the family's huge sheep herds, and was his mother Rachel's favorite son.



Right before the twins were born (Genesis 25:22), Rachel prayed and asked God why these babies felt like they were struggling inside of her. The Lord answered her and told her "Two nations are inside you and two manners of people shall be separated from your bowels, and the one people shall be stronger than the other people and the elder shall serve the younger."

When the babies came out, Esau was first and baby Jacob was holding onto his heels. So, Esau was going to get to be in charge of everything. But, Rachel knew God had a special plan for Jacob.

As the boys grew into young men, I imagine that their unhappiness with each other grew too. One day, when Esau had been hunting for hours, he returned to camp and saw Jacob had food cooking. When he told Jacob to give him some, that he was starving, Jacob replied, "I'll give you the food if you give me the birthright!"

"What good is a birthright if I am dead?" Esau answered.

"Swear to me that I can have the birthright and I will give you this bread and lentil stew to eat," replied Jacob.

Esau agreed and quickly ate the food. But later he became very angry with Jacob.

When more time passed, their father, Isaac grew old and became blind. He told Esau it was time for him to pass on the blessings of God. He told Esau to go, kill a deer, cook it and bring it to him. After the meal, Jacob would say a special prayer to God asking for a blessing for Esau's children that would go on to the end of the earth.

Esau left to go deer hunting. But his mother Rachel had heard her

husband's request. She ran to find her favorite twin, Jacob. Do you think she remembered what God had told her before the twins were born? Do you think that she knew that the second twin must get their father's special prayer and God's blessing?

She told Jacob to quickly kill two young goats for her to cook for his father. Jacob was afraid. He said, "Father will know I am not Esau because he is hairy and I am not. What if he discovers what I am trying to do and puts a cursing from God on me?" Rachel believed God's words.

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### WORD SEARCH

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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Youth In Action Tse Bonito, New Mexico

By Sister Jennifer Champine

A week before the 2005 GMBA Campout in Flagstaff, Arizona, nine young people from throughout the Church traveled in great anticipation to support the Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Tse Bonito Branch in New Mexico. As part of the YIA tour, Aaron Palmieri (Aliquippa), Peter Benyola (Cincinnati), Dirk Rustin (Mesa), Andrew McNamara (Kinsman), Ben Hemmings (Fredonia), Amanda Schall (Detroit Branch #1), Erin Light (San Diego), Jen Champine (Detroit Branch #1), and Chelsea Ignagni (Fort Worth) prepared the Tse Bonito building to embark on a Serengeti Trek, which was the theme of the VBS. Each YIA participant was a crew leader in charge of at least six children between the ages of five to twelve years old. Members of the Tse Bonito Branch were in charge of activity stations named Wild Games, Watering Hole Snacks, Sing and Play Roar, Bible Expedition, Critter Crafts, and The Mane Event. The teaching strategies implemented throughout the VBS reflected the successful strategies as presented by the current Education Curriculum Committee materials and training.

Each night the children came in and sang with our Trek Leader, Serengeti Wendy. Then, the very confused Serengeti Eddy would grace us with his presence. He was always in need of some help from God. Sun-day night, kids learned how important it is to *Know God*. They learned how knowing God helped Gideon's small army with no weapons defeat the all-powerful Midianites. The first night children were still warming up, meeting new faces and learning all the songs and motions. Many children brought friends and/or relatives Monday night!

We were very happy to see the children enjoy themselves so much that they wanted to share it! This night everyone learned to *Talk to God*. We learned how Daniel refused to give up on prayer, and while in the lion's den, the Lord protected him. We also learned how to pray. A lot of these children did not know how to pray. The crew leaders had the privilege of helping children when they prayed. It was such a blessing hearing these children pray for their parents, friends, and family. They were all so proud once they had ended the prayer. By the end of the night, the children's apprehension had diminished. They all raised their hands to sing in front and help hold signs. All of the children wanted to go up and pray, and it was wonderful to see them learning about Christ.

Tuesday night we learned what it means to *Tell About God*. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were a perfect example. There was no way they would submit to the idol, and even though they were thrown in the fiery furnace, the Lord protected them and kept them from burning. The kids loved this story, and in Bible Expedition they really came to see how it was truly the Lord that spared their lives. That night each crew leader got to take a picture with their group, which was really nice for the kids and the YIA participants. It's something to remember all the wonderful experiences we had. As the week progressed each group grew closer, and it was such a blessing to feel as though we were really having an impact on these children. Each night children had to pick a daily challenge where they would put into action the message learned. If they came back the next night and had fulfilled the challenge, they would receive a leaf to place upon our tree! By Wednesday it was amazing to see how full the tree had gotten. This night we talked about *Loving God*. Jesus died upon the cross because of His love for us. The children were so attentive when they learned how the stone was rolled away, and Jesus was nowhere to be found. That night in Watering Hole Snacks, we made giraffes and learned

how God reaches longer than a giraffe's neck because of His love for us. The children and crew leaders really enjoyed that night. Thursday night was both exciting but sorrowful. We could not wait to be able to share VBS with the parents of the children, and we had a really nice turn out. All of our visitors went around with their children in the daily routine. This night we learned to *Work for God*. Paul and Silas were thrown in prison because they were preaching the Gospel, and even in their cell, they sang praises unto His name. In our Bible Expedition room we sang as loudly as we could to the Lord, and we witnessed the walls of the prison fall down. It was wonderful to see the parents and children singing as loud as they could. We had a wonderful night and praised the Lord for all of His blessings. At the end of the night, we were able to invite the family members of the children back to Tse Bonito and also to the upcoming Conference of Native Americans. Afterwards, we enjoyed some fellowship with many of the parents and children.

In addition to the VBS, we were privileged to visit a beautiful creation, Canyon de Chelly. We hiked down the side of the canyon and saw an ancient Anasazi ruin built in the canyon walls. They call it the White House. The Navajo came to live here after the ancient Native Americans of long ago. We also were able to visit with two women who are sisters from the Philippines. They have attended the branch and are very interested in singing. We had a wonderful time with them and were able to pray, sing and praise God. One afternoon we enjoyed a seminar taught by David Jordan. He taught us more about the Navajo culture, history and many of their beliefs. We had a great time learning of how some of their beliefs perfectly intertwine with some of the future events we believe. In addition to learning about the Navajo beliefs, we were able to see a museum full of arts and crafts as well as music from the Navajo people. The last day of VBS we were able to go to the Navajo

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## Branch and Mission News

### Lake Worth, Florida News

By Sister Josie Jasmin

Brother Mike Radd opened our service on Sunday, May 22nd, 2005 and was inspired to speak of our Lord Jesus Christ and how He hung on the cross for the sins of the world. Jesus came and gave of Himself for you and for me by shedding His blood that we might be saved.

Brother Mike then read from Moroni concerning the baptism of little children and that this was not needed except for those of age and knowledge. Brother Kevin Jasmin continued and spoke on the same theme. We were reminded that when **HE** was on the cross we were on His mind. Yes, every single person was on **His** mind as **He** died for you and me. We were exhorted to never dispute what Christ has taught us, because this Gospel has the authority and we are accountable for all things. Everything must be as Christ instructed us to do. Brother Kevin read scriptures from Alma 39 and 2nd Timothy and of how the Lord knoweth them that are His and to remember this, **"When he was on the cross you were on his mind!"** Brother Andrew DiNardo was visiting today from the Hollywood, Florida Branch and as it turned out Sara Beth Davis asked for her baptism after the service.

On Sunday, May 29th, oh what joy filled our souls as we gathered at the river shore to witness the baptism of Sister Sara Beth Davis into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We were very happy to have Brother Andrew DiNardo return with us and also have Brother Justin and Sister Tina Severson and their children from Miami attend the baptism. Tears of joy were shed to see this beautiful ordinance once again in our branch. We pray that many more will follow.

Brother Kevin Jasmin baptized

Sister Sara and then we returned to the church for our morning worship and the confirmation of the Holy Ghost upon our sister. *Take My Life, and Let It Be* was sung before the confirmation and Brother Mike Radd, our presiding elder, read the duties of a member. The priesthood formed a circle around our sister and prayed for inspiration to bestow the Holy Ghost upon her. Brother Gene Perri confirmed Sister Sara.

The children who sang and recited in honor of Memorial Day also presented us with a program.

Following, Brother Mike Radd eulogized our beloved Brother Mel Petri. Brother Gene Perri and Brother Kevin Jasmin also spoke words of love for our brother in remembrance of the many visits that they made while he resided at the home (Sutton Place). Brother Mel was transferred on into Paradise as a dutiful member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Justin then opened the service with joy and enthusiasm. Our brother was thrilled to be a member of this glorious Gospel and continued to expound upon stepping away from the seashore and continuing the journey in faith, fully believing. Brother Justin read from the scriptures in Mosiah 18 and Alma 32 concerning the seed of knowledge and the importance of a good seed. We were advised to earnestly run the race with joy in our hearts. The authority is upon this earth and in this Gospel, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been given this awesome legacy to be a part of the restoration.

Brother Gene Perri continued and expressed himself well and full of inspiration. We were told of our brother's recent evangelistic trip to Arizona and he attested of the affirmation of the saints in that region. Brother Gene also affirmed of the touching of the Spirit of God, a touch that pierces the heart and revives us from time to time. Brother Gene also visited in California and remarked that it is an oasis of fruit, but more importantly is the oasis of the fruit of the spirit among God's people. It was wonderful to see the saints full of the Spirit of God and praising God with all their

hearts with full determination to serve the Lord to the end.

On Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, Brother Gene Perri opened the service and brought wonderful words of life to us. We were reminded to take all our burdens to the Lord. We were never promised a life free of all trials, but we were promised that Jesus would see us through and He would set us free. Our bodies are the temple of God and we need to keep the temple clean. It was very evident that our brother was being touched by the Holy Ghost and the evidence of the love from within our brother was felt by all in attendance.

We were reminded of Joseph of Egypt and the dreams given to him and of young Samuel being called of God and the calling of David, the youngest son of Jesse, anointed by Samuel. Samuel knew that David was being called of God as he stood in the door-way and said, "This is him." He had a heart after the heart of God.

On Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> we observed the ordinance of feet washing and a beautiful spirit prevailed throughout the day. The message presented today by Brother Kevin Jasmin was that Jesus came to save every soul and many are still waiting to hear this message. Who is going to tell them? We are responsible to give the message to everyone that we possibly can. By the love that we show the world, our neighbors and friends, they should see the difference between us and other people. Hopefully they will inquire of us and begin to question us on what we believe. Jesus showed ultimate love when He bowed to wash the disciple's feet. What a forceful example of love.

On Father's Day our presiding elder, Brother Mike Radd, opened the service and called the hymn, *Near to the Heart of God*. He asked us to think about whether we are near to the heart of God. It is so important to be in tune with God and know that we are pleasing Him and staying near to His heart. By staying near to the heart of God we feel a closeness that cannot separate us from His love and His desire to see us grow spiritually.

A small program was presented

by the Sunday School in honor of Father's Day and the sisters joined in to sing to the fathers the hymn, *I Will Serve Thee*.

A beautiful spirit was felt today as we celebrated the Lord's Day in honor of our Heavenly Father, whose graciousness and love to us can never be replaced. Our Heavenly Father constantly stands with open arms for us to run into for comfort and peace. God has set before us many spiritual fathers who set good examples for us to follow.

Brother Mike read from Luke 2 concerning the child Jesus who went to the temple and was about his Father's business.

Brother Gene Perri continued and brought to our attention the importance of a good father and the example that he sets forth for his family to follow. "A wise son makes a glad father." The apostle Paul was a spiritual father to the saints in his time. Many of us remember the spiritual fathers in our own lives and especially remember their firmness in the Gospel and their strong faith. God was always first and they never put anything else ahead of Him that would hinder their service to Him.

On Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> Brother Kevin Jasmin opened the service and asked us to consider the cost of not doing the Lord's will and have we counted the cost if we don't do His will? "*Oh soul have you thought what it means to be, without God, without hope for eternity?*"

Brother Kevin read from Mosiah 27 concerning Alma and his conversion and how he had brought dissension among the people by using flattering words. He was awakened from destruction to salvation by the angel of the Lord. What joy they felt when they heard the words, born of the spirit. We were advised to remember the day of our conversion, the joy that filled our hearts, and to always stay strong and firm for the Gospel. Praise God continually that you have been released from the bonds of iniquity and brought to the light of the Gospel. Remember to have your lamps trimmed and ready for when the bridegroom cometh! Stand strong and tall for the Lord!

## News from Forest Hills, Florida

By Sister Alicia Draskovich

With an air of soberness and serious contemplation, the MBA of the Forest Hills Branch met on Wednesday evening, September 21, 2005, to review and discuss the recent message from the Quorum of Twelve "Now Is Our Time." As the Newsletter was passed out and read aloud the message was clear: God has a great work for His Church and is imploring each of us to step up to fulfill our service to Him.

We reviewed Isaiah 65, 1 Nephi 22, and Hebrews 3 to better understand what we are hoping for and to gain a complete grasp on things yet to come which we will be instrumental in bringing forth. It is in these texts that God declares Himself to the Gentiles and describes the glory of the Peaceful Reign. Isaiah 65:22 tells us "*...for are the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*" We will live to the age of a tree, and before we can even call upon God He will answer us, and while we are speaking to Him, He will have already heard us. "*The wolf and the lamb shall feed together...*"

We were all encouraged to take a stand for what the Lord has called us all to do; for there was not one person present who didn't want to be counted among the blessed in these Latter Days and those yet to come. Brothers and sisters, it was as if God Himself was sitting with us during our meeting; because as our teacher was summarizing our lesson and reminding us to continually strive to be a more righteous people so the Lord would work with us, Brother John Griffith spoke in the Gift of Tongues and immediately followed in the spirit with this interpretation: "*Where then is HIS acceptable place of rest but on a bed of righteousness?*" It was understood that the "bed of righteousness" God referred to was each of us. This is a message for the body of the Church. If God is going to work with us and through us as His Kingdom established

here on earth, we must individually attain an acceptable level of righteousness.

Brother John passionately exclaimed how there are many in the Church who take for granted the glory that we witness from time to time in our lives. He challenged us all to move forward and take the glory with us. We give thanks and praise to our God who has called us out of this world to be found among His chosen and to bring forth His Zion.

## Evangelist Ordination in McKees Rocks, PA

By Sister Betty Ann Manes

Sunday, October 16, 2005 was a special day in the life of Brother Anthony Ricci. Approximately 125 brothers, sisters and friends came from different parts of the vineyard to witness another minister ordained into the Quorum of 70.

The service was aptly opened with a solo by Brother Patrick Monaghan, *A Few Good Men*. Brother Pete Giannetti offered the opening prayer.

Our first speaker was Brother John Genaro who spoke of the tremendous amount of work that is before the Church. He referred to the 4th Psalm, verses 2 and 3; how "the Lord has set apart those that are godly for Himself. They are sanctified to preach the Gospel." He explained how the Lord is opening doors in many lands, and stressed the need to be dedicated to the work of the Lord.

Brother Joel Gehly of Erie, Pennsylvania followed Brother John speaking of the memories when they were in Nepal together, especially Brother Tony's love of the children there. Brother Joel read from the 1st Chapter of Joshua, verses 5 and 6, where it states: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage..." He stated that our brother "needs to be strong and courageous and not let the adversaries discourage

(Continued on Page 10)

## McKees Rocks, PA

Continued from Page 9

him with what is before him. Let's all be Joshuas today. Let's lift people up and set them on a higher plane."

Brother Nephi DiMercurio of Detroit, Michigan was our next speaker. He exhorted the congregation regarding our Elders and Evangelists—that they have special gifts in spite of their frailties and/or vulnerabilities. "After they are ordained, they are no longer ordinary; they are special." He also reminded us that prayer is of utmost importance when going to any mission field in order to accomplish the work which God does through His ministry. He stressed the fact that all of our members are important because they have been chosen by God and have been put into the ark of safety. In conclusion, Brother Nephi spoke of the importance of unity among the brothers and sisters. He exhorted us to "serve God and love one another. We must pray that God allows us to be the people we ought to be and show it by our love for one another."

Brother Carl Frammolino then summarized the duties of an Evangelist.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri washed Tony Ricci's feet. After our brother Evangelists encircled Brother Ricci, Brother Richard Lawson offered a prayer for God's spirit and guidance to be upon each of them. Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. offered the ordination prayer.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. spoke briefly of the importance of the Lord's Supper and communion was served. After this sacred ordinance was completed, Brother Tony spoke of his thankfulness to God. He stated how much he missed his dad, Brother Dennis Ricci, who died in June of this year. Brother Tony told us of his desire to see his dad once more. While praying, he had a vision where he saw Brother Dennis in a blue oriental robe as a young man. He saw his sister, Sue, as a little girl hugging her father and also his brother, Dennis, as a little boy standing next to him and his mom, Sister Thu, by his side, young and beautiful. He went to Brother Dennis and said, "Dad, they're going to ordain

me an Evangelist." Brother Dennis just nodded his head and said, "Son, I know."

Brother Tony also thanked God for his testimony of how his mother came to know Jesus Christ and how the love of God drew his family to the Church. He thanked the Elders and members of the McKees Rocks Branch for standing in the gap for him and his family.

Apostle Phil Jackson expressed himself briefly about his experiences with Brother Tony while on missionary work together in Nepal. Brother Tony was admonished to "use the power of the Seventy."

Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. gave a few closing remarks elaborating on how Brother Dennis and Sister Thu Ricci miraculously came to this land from Vietnam.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. mentioned that while Brother Paul Ciotti was ordaining Brother Tony, he heard the words, "I brought you out of that land as a child so I could send you back as my servant." He stated, "I don't know how; I don't know when, but the Lord has a plan for you, brother. God bless you."

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo closed our service with a beautiful rendition of *My Tribute*. Closing prayer was offered by Brother Frank Giovannone.

## Restored Gospel in Congo

Continued from Page 4

man by the name of Albert Kawama from the city of Chingola in the country of Zambia. He like so many others is very dissatisfied with his former church. He sat in all of our meetings with the exception of one, listened very intently and accepted everything he heard. The day we baptized the 14 brothers and sisters, the bus carrying the candidates to the baptismal sight failed to pick him up. He wanted to be baptized also; but, since he missed the opportunity during our visit, Brother Cipeng informed me his desire is to be baptized when the Restored Gospel is brought to his city. He like Brother

Amisi was a priest in his former church, understands the basics of the Restoration and has requested for our Priesthood to go to the city of Chingola and bring the message of the Restored Gospel to a number of his people who like he are not satisfied with the leadership and doctrine of their former church. At the request of this man, Albert and others, we have obligated ourselves as a church to send Brother Cipeng to Zambia and present the message of the Restoration and the faith of our Church to this group of people. As it was for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so it is with other countries within the continent of Africa and other parts of the world. We are being invited to bring the message of the Restored Gospel to interested people who have a desire to hear the truth of the teachings of Jesus Christ

We ask for the prayers of our brothers and sisters that God will bless the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ around the globe that we may see the fulfillment of the scripture which states the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The scripture records in that day it will not be necessary to say to our neighbor, "Knowest thou the Lord?" for they shall know him from the least to the greatest.

The Kingdom of God will be established and His purposes will be fulfilled on earth even as the angels do it in Heaven. God bless each of you is my prayer

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

"Don't worry," Rachel replied. "You can wear Esau's clothes that smell like him. We can tie goatskins on your arms and your neck and when he feels you, he will think it is Esau!"

Jacob obeyed his mother. It all happened as she said. Isaac felt Jacob's arms, he smelled Esau's scent of the outdoors and he asked a wonderful blessing for Jacob and his children to come.



When Esau returned and found that his brother had been able to get the special blessing from God, he was enraged. He planned to kill his brother.

But Rachel heard about it and sent Jacob, her favorite son, far away to go back to where her brother and people lived. Jacob went and spent the next twenty years there. When he finally returned, he had two wives and twelve sons who each grew up to one of the famous twelve tribes from Jacob. These are the Jewish people of today and also the Native American people.

Esau, who stayed behind, quit being angry at Jacob for taking his birthright and getting the special blessing. Esau, married many pagan wives, and also became the leader of a huge number of people. Seven of his sons became kings. His descendants are still living today. But the greatest blessings of God went to the children of Jacob and continue until this day just as God told Rachel.

## Youth In Action

Continued from Page 7

Nation Capital, Window Rock. The name is pretty self-explanatory. There is a large rock with a perfect hole in the middle. It is so amazing what God can create!

The night before our group left for campout, Todd and Wendy Heinz opened their home and had us over for a big barbecue along with beautiful fireworks at night! We fellowshiped together and sang hymns. The final event was spectacular watching the lights over the desert and mountains as we celebrated the Independence Day festivities.

The evaluation component is an important part of the Youth In Action Program to assess the impact on the participants as well as the host branch or mission. The young people reflected upon their experiences throughout the week of events, such as chapel and seminars along with the VBS program. The participants are prompted to

reflect upon blessings, new life experiences, and spiritual growth along with recommendations for improvement. Many comments were recorded. Some notable expressions are related here such as being "able to focus on the vision of Zion" with a hands-on approach to the work among the Seed of Joseph. They want to go back and implement and/or improve upon their own branch's VBS. An opportunity to "prepare for their future roles in the Church" combined with "a greater appreciation of the work among the Native Americans" was mentioned. All of the comments demonstrated a deeper, maturing response, giving us confidence in the spiritual development of the youth in the Church.

The members of the Tse Bonito Branch were in concert when expressing the appreciation to the young people, the parents, branches and also the GMBA officers for responding to the request for assistance and support without which the VBS could not have been so successful. More dedicated, beautiful youth role models have stepped forward learning that "Now Is the Time" to make a difference in both the lives of others as well as their own.

In summary, the VBS welcomed ninety-eight children who participated, and each of them was a blessing unto us. The Lord richly blessed the YIA in Tse Bonito. It was wonderful to have touched the lives of children who may not have the family life or spiritual life we have been so fortunate to have. It was hard to say good-bye to the children we had grown so attached to in the past week, but it was a blessing to know they had grown a step closer to knowing the Lord. We all had an excellent time in Tse Bonito, and the work there is so important. When we had left, each of us had a part of the vision to bring the Lord's people to the understanding of His Gospel. The Lord blessed all nine of us, and we are so thankful for the opportunity.

## A Postscript

Since the implementation of these programs and events, two of the participants have made a covenant with the Lord through baptism. Dirk Rustin,

White Mountain Apache, and Verna Mariano, Navajo Nation participated in the YIA/VBS and attended GMBA Campout. Brother Dirk asked for his baptism at NAU and was baptized at Lake Mary in the Flagstaff, AZ area. Sister Verna asked for her baptism at the end of the summer while attending Ladies' Circle in the Tse Bonito Branch. She was baptized at Lake Asaayi on the Navajo Nation. The efforts of the work of the youth cannot be underestimated in the lives of these individuals.

The Tse Bonito Branch invites you to consider volunteering for the 2006 VBS scheduled for Sunday, June 18 through Thursday, June 22, 2006. Donations to support the work are also welcome.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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248-473-0662

Quinn, Bob and Betty  
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Mentor, OH 44060  
440-209-1182

Happy  
New Year  
to all our readers.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Sister Anne Rockoff and Brother Thomas Grover were united in holy matrimony in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on November 26, 2005.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Brittany Nicole Harris was baptized on October 30, 2005 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and was confirmed by Brother William Colangelo.

## OBITUARIES

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

Thomas Grover was baptized on November 27, 2005 at the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Crudup and was confirmed by Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

### MARY KLINENGSMTTH SAVONA

Sister Mary Klinengsmith Savona, of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on March 9, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles. She is survived by her daughter and her husband, Joyce and Timothy Yonko; a son, Charles F. Savona, Jr.; and a grandson, Timothy Charles Yonko.

### RALPH L. WALTZ

Brother Ralph L. Waltz, of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on October 4, 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by a son, Kevin and his wife, Becky; one brother, Brother Orville Waltz; two sisters, Sister Virginia Laktask and Ruth Percel; two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

## Ordinations

Brother Anthony Ricci was ordained an Evangelist on October 16, 2005 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Paul Palmieri, Jr. and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, phone calls and cards during my recent illness and hospitalization. God was with me during that time; please, continue to keep me in your prayers.

Brother Chet Nolfi

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

At 2:30 AM on August 29, 2005 I was awakened by my inability to breathe. As moments went by, I noticed a very heavy pressure on my chest along with a very cold sweat. I cried out to my wife to call 911. A police officer was the first to arrive. I only remember hearing his voice telling me to calm down. I do remember rolling on the floor trying to catch my breath. I don't remember what transpired when the paramedics arrived. At a later time

my wife informed me that when she told them to take me to the Sewickley Valley Hospital a paramedic stated, "He'll never make it." As a result I was taken to the Aliquippa Community Hospital, only one mile from my home.

While in the Emergency Room I was anointed by Apostle Paul Palmieri. After a short while, with the aid of oxygen, my symptoms all were gone and I was able to communicate freely with all those who were present. That same day I was transferred to the Sewickley Valley Hospital. The cardiologist examined me and due to my improvement, he felt it was safe to delay my catherization until the following day. After the catherization, I was informed my arteries were clear. The cardiologist's comments to me were, "Mr. Ross I cannot tell you what happened to you." At a follow-up visit with my regular cardiologist I was told, "Mr. Ross I can only tell you what you didn't have!"

I want to thank all of my brothers and sisters for their prayers, phone calls and cards. They were all greatly appreciated. God's power is still alive and well in this troubled world. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

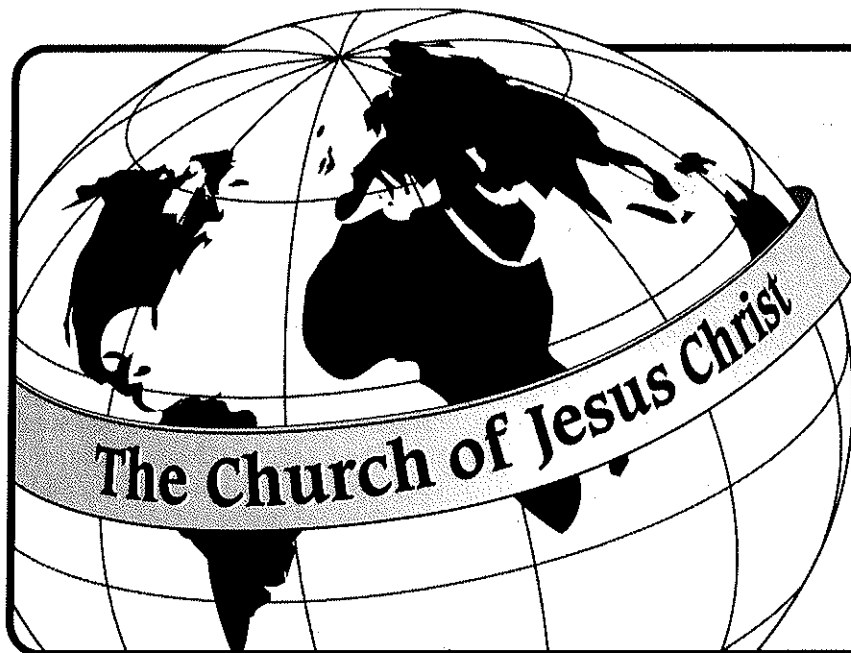
Brother Lou Ross

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

February, 2006

Volume 62, No. 2

## Manifestations in the Philippines

*By Evangelist Ken Staley*

From September 22 through October 1, 2005 Brothers Art Gehly, Sr., John Mark D'Antonio, Sal Azzinaro and Ken Staley visited The Church of Jesus Christ located on two of the 7,200 Philippine islands, namely the islands of Mindanao and Bohol.

Before leaving the United States, as we began to discuss the recent struggles of the work of the Church in the Philippines, Brother Azzinaro made the following PROPOSAL: Let's offer prayer, right here and now in the Los Angeles airport, that the Lord will allow us to uplift the Church in the Philippines during this trip, and above all else, we will witness a manifestation of the Holy Spirit among the Philippine Church (Acts 3:6 "...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have, give I thee").

**PROPOSAL DISPOSITION:**  
Prayer works!

After the 31-hour trip (airborne for 19 of those hours) we arrived safely in Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines around noon on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. After a brief rest, we were met by Brother Malachi and Sister Delma Galing who warmly welcomed us and joined us at our

hotel for dinner. The familiar faces of our brother and sister quickly erased any memory of our exhausting trip to make this visit possible. Brother Malachi was the original contact to the Church in the year 2000. 175 members and six missions later, this one inquiry will, no doubt, lead to the salvation of many more souls. During our dinner, we were impressed with the intensity of their experiences, testimonies, and questions regarding the Latter Day Glory. This maturation, in itself, was a manifestation of the power of God, as these relative newcomers to the Church are taking a strong hold of the Restored Gospel.

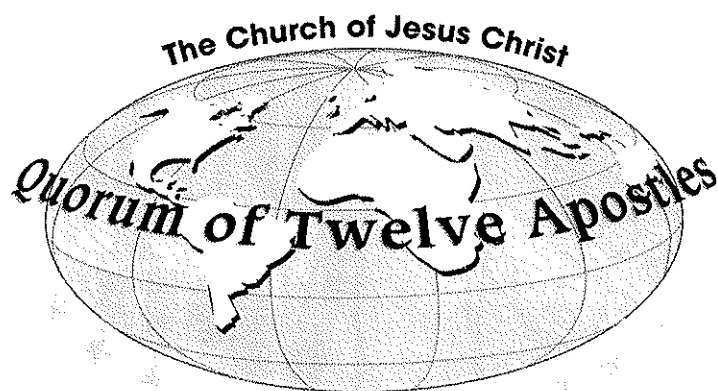
### THREE DAY REGION CONFERENCE ON MINDANAO

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> we began our second Philippine Region Conference with a Spirit-filled worship service held at the Molave Hotel in Tagum City, about an hour drive from where we were staying. Over one hundred men, women and children were in attendance. Brothers, sisters and friends in Christ were present from each of the six missions on the island of Mindanao; namely, Davao City, Bunawan, Tagum City,

Pantukan, Sapang Tin-aw and Las Arenas. In greeting the many brothers and sisters who were present at the Conference, it was noted that, while the holy kiss is not a widely accepted concept by our Filipino brothers and sisters, they have graciously adopted a "warm embrace" (hug) as a more socially acceptable salutation among the Church membership. After several congregational hymns (their praise songs are quite lively, and usually involve instruments and clapping of hands, while their worship songs are, in contrast, much more reverent and solemn), Brother Sal Azzinaro was inspired to deliver the Word of God from the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mosiah. He emphasized the 13<sup>th</sup> verse, "*This is the true Church of Jesus Christ and no power shall prevail against it.*" Truly his words were seasoned by the Spirit of God, as we had requested during our prayer back in the States.

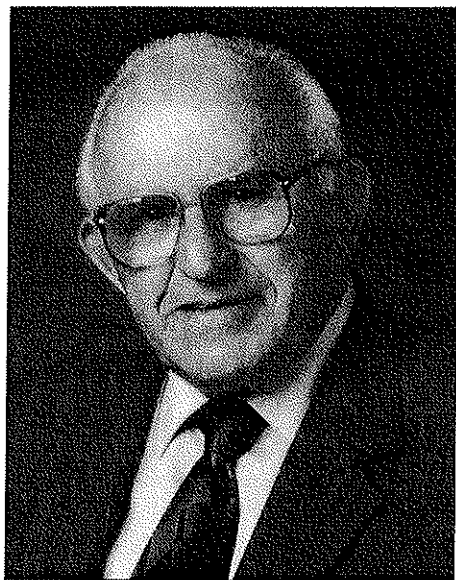
During his sermon, Brother Sal recounted an experience he had during our flight from Los Angeles to Manila. Brother Sal had a dream wherein he saw and understood that the brothers and sisters in America were praying for our safe passage to the Philippines and specifically for our spiritual success during the trip. Little did Brother Sal, or any of us for that

(Continued on Page 3)



## Apostle Joseph Lovalvo Passes on to His Reward

December 31, 2005 marked the end of perhaps the longest Apostle tenure in modern times. On that day, the Lord called Brother Joseph Lovalvo home to rest in His Paradise. Brother Joe was born on March 1, 1910 in



**Apostle Joseph Lovalvo**

Corleone, Italy. He was the seventh child of nine in his family. Everyone who knew Brother Joe, even those who did not have extensive interaction with him, would agree that he was a unique man – a man of God, a family man, a man of the people. The paragraphs that follow cannot do justice to his life and contributions. They were written in the hope that they would stir up warm and precious thoughts to be cherished in your heart

as you wander among your own memories between the printed lines.

Brother Joe grew up in America, immigrating in 1914, along with his mother and siblings, to join his father who had come ahead to earn the money to bring the rest. He married his wife Virginia (Randazzo) and adored her the 70 years of their marriage until she preceded him in passing. All four of their children survive them: Leonard, Rose, Sharon, and Faye. They had 7 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren with whom they shared their love and blessings.

God chose Brother Joe as a young man and gave him gifts to do His work. He was a natural leader. Take-charge scenarios characterized his life. Still, he was a true follower – of Christ. People were happy to be with him, to work with him, to worship with him, to learn from him. He was an avid mentor of young people.

His diligence and study prompted the Lord to gift Brother Joe with knowledge and understanding that was readily at hand whenever he confronted an opportunity to preach the Word. Under the inspiration of God, he would be transformed into one whose articulation and delivery of God's message was spellbinding. This was not an occasional event. We witnessed this gift repeatedly. Even in his last years, when age and affliction had taken their toll in other ways, Brother Joe frequently sparkled with this gift.

Brother Joe did not grow up in The Church of Jesus Christ. In his youth, he belonged to another faith, which eventually left him feeling far from God. Brother Joe encountered the Church at 23 years of age along with brothers (Vincent) James and Anthony. True to Christ's promise, "Seek and ye shall find..." when he met The Church of Jesus Christ, a spark ignited in his heart. He quickly absorbed the restored Gospel of Christ in its original truth and purity and was baptized on July 16, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan. From that day on, he became a soldier in the army of Christ.

The scriptures provide wonderful examples of men who, when converted, immediately began to produce spiritual fruits. Brother Joe's conversion was one such as these. In January of 1936, he was ordained an Elder. In July of 1937, he was ordained an Evangelist.

Those were the early days of the Church in the Detroit area. Growth was rapid as the testimonies of new converts opened many doors. Brother Joe was always ready to respond to such opportunities. He was a missionary right to the end. Many families' testimonies of their origins in the Church include an encounter with Brother Joseph Lovalvo. He visited the Church and made lifelong friendships among the brothers and sisters in every part.

Brother Joe diligently aligned himself with the Church's Divine Commission. He was never passive or shy. The Windsor, Ontario Branch developed under his youthful leadership. He was blessed in "seeking to bring forth Zion," reaching out to the Seed of Joseph of the House of Israel. He ministered regularly to the Native Americans at missions on reservations in Ontario, at Sarnia, Muncey, and the Six Nations. After he moved with his family to Modesto, California (1953), he continued his missionary work in the West and was very active in Mexico, there to the Spanish-speaking Seed of Joseph.

Brother Joe was called and ordained an Apostle in July of 1939. He was only 29 years old. Early on,

he was concerned over his inexperience in the face of such responsibility. The Lord gave him a tremendous experience, during which he was visited by the archangel Michael. The account of that experience is worth your time to go to the Church History, Vol. II, and read it on page 562-3.

Brother Joe was often an instrument in God's hand in bringing healing to the sick and distressed. Many of those experiences were pure and simple miracles, unexplainable by any temporal rationale. Afflictions beyond the reach of man or medicine yielded under the power of God and gave Brother Joe added testimony to share whenever he had the opportunity to tell of the power of God.

He filled too many leadership positions at every level of the Church to list here. He will be remembered as one of the dynamic leaders of the Church who comprised an era, an era in which the "Domestic Church" (as we refer to it today) took shape and the outreach to the world was effectively initiated. During his 28 years as President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, he sought to be a role model, an example of commitment, diligence, love, compassion, and faith.

We will miss him. Upon his passing, it was well spoken by one who loved him, "The messenger is gone, but the message remains." Surely, the man, Brother Joseph Lovalvo was a messenger of God who has now passed on to be with the Lord and with the saints who went before him. Nevertheless, that which made him the man that he was – the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ – remains with us.

As Brother Joe faced the reality of his age and mortality, he rested confidently, stating that God will provide more messengers to carry on. Perhaps you are wondering who he had in mind. Be assured, you were among them.

(Additional biographical information may be found in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ: Volume 2*, p. 561-65 or [www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com).)

## Manifestations in Philippines

Continued from Page 1

matter, know what the Lord had in store for us that day, and in the coming week.

First of all, during the previous week five souls had made their wishes known they wanted to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. When these individuals were asked to come forward during the Sunday service to be recognized, two more candidates were moved upon by the Holy Spirit and expressed their desires to be baptized, as well. Of these seven individuals (five sisters and two brothers), four were from the Bunawan Mission, two were from the Las Arenas Mission, and one was

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*"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:6-7).*

---

from the Pantukan Mission. Their ages ranged from the mid-teens to the mid-seventies.

Then, one of our young Elders from Las Arenas, Brother Rolando, told us that he had a "primitive" surgery on Friday, just two days earlier, to remove a large cyst from his upper leg. He was in the Sunday service, but was in considerable pain, and the incision was bleeding and was beginning to become infected (there simply is no money for medicine or treatment). As we complied with Brother Rolando's request for anointing, the Power and Spirit of God swept over the congregation to the extent others who wanted prayer for an affliction rushed into the ministry's prayer circle while we were praying for Brother Rolando, and fell on their knees and joined us in prayer for Brother Rolando. The writer can attest that during this prayer he heard a sound like a mighty rushing wind. It prevailed the entire duration of the

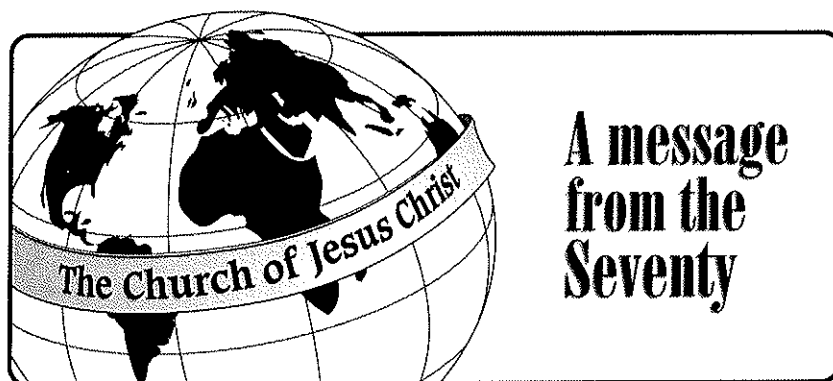
prayer on Brother Rolando.

We were a bit discouraged on Monday morning when Brother Rolando could neither attend the Restoration seminar for the ordained officers which would be conducted by Brother John Mark, nor the Gifts of the Spirit seminar which would be conducted by Brother Sal, because of his continued illness. Placing our trust in God, we called for a fast and prayer service on Tuesday morning, specifically for Brother Rolando. During the Monday services Brother Art Gehly, Sr. was inspired to speak on the words from 1 Peter 5:6-7, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."* His words sank deep into the hearts of the brothers and sisters as they remained prayerful for Brother Rolando all the day long. To close the Monday service Brother Manuel Sabino, an ordained Teacher, honored God with an awesome rendition of *It Is Well with My Soul*. It had been a blessed day, yet we hungered and thirsted for more of God's manifestations.

Oh, how we serve a LIVING God! On Tuesday morning, the final day of our Region Conference, during the fasting and prayer service, our Brother Rolando entered into the meeting and was noticeably HEALED! Brother Rolando's nature is quiet and subdued, but his wife, Sister Ruth, could hardly wait to offer a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and dedicate a worship song to God for having spared her husband's life. It was a "Thanksgiving" event that this writer will never forget!

Also, during the fasting and prayer service, Brother Sal Azzinaro witnessed that as we prayed a sweet spirit grew stronger and stronger in our midst. As this happened, Brother Sal had a vision wherein he could see the Filipino brothers and sisters praying (note that all of those present were assembled at round tables covered with white table cloths). In the vision Brother Sal witnessed

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## Miracle in Italy

In August we received word from Italy that our beloved Sister Imacolatta Romano of Calle Gonone, Sardinia was hospitalized with three broken vertebrae she suffered from a fall. The doctors said the outlook for her recovery was very poor. To make matters worse, while in the hospital, our sister suffered a stroke, which left her partially paralyzed, her speech slurred, and nearly incoherent. The doctors sent her home with little hope of ever recovering.

One morning while in this condition, she awoke and with very difficult speech told her granddaughter, Marta, she had seen a vision. She had seen Evangelist John DiBattista descend and stand at the base of her bed where he began praying for her. She was very encouraged by this experience, as was the family, but her progress remained negligible. The next morning she awoke and had a second vision. This time she saw Brother John and another older man with white hair. Both prayed for her. Still there was little progress to report.

On August 21, Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista arrived in Sardinia for an extended stay, which would include participating in the annual Italian conference. As is the custom the very first night and every night, Brother John and Sister Caryl, along with Brother and Sister Scravaglieri, began visiting the saints, with the first stop being at Sister Imacolatta's home where she lay recovering. When Sister Imacolatta saw Brother John and Sister Caryl, she beamed with delight for she knew God

had something good in store for her. Immediately she asked to be anointed. Brother John anointed her, praying in the Italian language, and when finished Sister Imacolatta embraced him with her good arm and began kissing him. Although she was very happy, there was very little improvement noted. In fact, her general poor health brought dismay and alarm to the visitors' hearts. The evening was devoted to singing hymns and helping the family with chores to lighten the burden they were bearing while being deeply concerned for our sister.

A few nights later Apostle Joe Lovalvo, Sisters Rose and Sharon Lovalvo, and Sister Elaine Jordan arrived. Brother Joe, along with his daughters and niece, was on a pilgrimage to Sicily to visit his birthplace as well as to attend the conference in Sardinia. After a "repose" and dinner, we told Brother Joe it was our custom to visit the saints every night and, in particular, Sister Imacolatta. Like usual when there was spiritual work to be done Brother Joe said, "Let's go."

When we arrived, I advised Brother Joe there were 27 steps to our sister's apartment and perhaps the climb was too much for him. He ignored me and started ascending with no assistance. (For those who do not know, Brother Joe is 95 years old.) The two of us entered the bedroom and, immediately upon seeing Sister Imacolatta's condition, Brother Joe asked me for the blessed oil. He then turned and asked me to offer prayer after which he anointed her. He spoke the Italian language like he practiced every day. The power of God came into the room

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## God Moving "Behind the Scenes" – Progress in Western Venezuela

By Brother Timothy Mott

*"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:3-6).*

Imagine you have grown up in a place where the closest saint lives ten (10) hours away. You have just been baptized, and you feel that, if the work of the Lord is to be established in your town, it must happen through you. Apart from several visits from the saints during the year, it will be just you and God? After the Apostle Paul and others embraced Christ's Gospel, they traveled to distant lands, baptizing souls into God's Kingdom here on earth. These early saints then became pioneers in their respective countries. After receiving instruction, they went out and began to tell others of their new-found gospel. Just as the early Church spread, The Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow, and this time I would like you to consider your new brothers in Christ in the State of Zulia, Venezuela.

Brother Jose Chavez was baptized in January 2005, becoming the first member of The Church of Jesus Christ in the state of Zulia. You might remember him from previous Gospel News articles – he is the young man (now twenty-seven) who found the Church through the internet. Four (4) months after that first visit to Jose, his natural brother, Angel, also decided to give his life to Christ. After our new brothers had received the Gospel, they began to share their testimonies with those around them, with the hope the work might begin to grow. *"He which hath begun a good work in you..."*

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world" (Romans 10:18).*

The Church of Jesus Christ has a distinct sound. If you travel the world over and visit different countries, you will always be able to pick out the sound of the Church. The sound is one of soberness, sincerity, honesty, love and hope. It's not a loud booming sound, it's not a contemporary sound, neither is it a repetitive sound or an unfeeling sound. It is the sound of Heaven. It is a sound that stirs something very deep in one's soul. It is a sound that brings enormous comfort and peace if you let it. The Church of Jesus Christ can never sound different because if it does, it loses its identity. The Church will never lose its identity. It has been restored in these last days to be the kingdom of God on Earth that will never be destroyed. And so, when we gather together to praise and worship the Lord, the sound will always be the same. Whether it is in the content or tone of the preaching, whether it is in the singing and music, whether it is in the tender testimonies, or spirit that descends during ordinances. The sound is unmistakable and cannot be found anywhere else.

In the days of Paul, he spoke about believing in Jesus Christ and His Church. The only way one can truly believe and understand is by hearing. They cannot hear unless they step into the walls of The Church of Jesus Christ and hear preaching from one having authority. They cannot hear it unless they hear music and songs, sung with understanding, given to The Church of Jesus Christ. They cannot hear it unless they hear the sincerity and love expressed by converted brothers and sisters for one another. Paul goes on to say that these things cannot be felt unless God ordains it. The Church of Jesus Christ has been ordained to bring the pure Gospel to the world and its ministry has been given authority to preach the truth. Paul describes those who are sent to do this:

*"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15).*

And so in the days of Paul, Israel heard the Gospel, according to Romans 10:18 above. But they did not all obey. Not because they didn't hear the Gospel but because they did not believe what they heard. This proves that a person can hear the truth of the Gospel, and reject it as false. There is a saying that people find it easier to believe a lie than to accept the truth. This is why when some come under the sound of the Gospel they feel nothing while others are overflowing with the spirit. Later Paul describes Israel:

*"But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people" (Romans 10:21).*

We live in a very confusing time. Just as the magicians duplicated the miracles of Moses, Satan is duplicating the truth of The Church of Jesus Christ in a very deceiving way. However, the SOUND of the Church is unmistakable. Satan can try to duplicate this sound, but if we utilize the Holy Spirit that is within us, you can never be misled by other sounds. This is why it is so important to preserve the sound we have. This pure "sound" cannot be labeled by the world with labels like, "charismatic, contemporary, progressive or modern." There is no label to describe the beautiful sound of the Gospel. Israel could not discern this sound, even though they heard it. Many today cannot discern this sound even though they hear it.

Thank God we have heard and believe. Someday all will hear and believe when the sound of The Church of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed from the mountain tops. It is a sound that has no beginning and no end. It is the sound of His precious Gospel.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Why Pray?

(Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3)

I once knew a young girl who knew how to pray but did not want to pray. She was older and mad at God because someone she loved had died. She did not think about the proof that Jesus gave us when he was resurrected. He proved that there is a heaven that we pass on to. He taught us about love and being a good person so we can go to this place of joy when we die too.

This girl missed her loved one and felt that she needed him so much that God must be mean to have taken him. What do you think?

She felt her anger deep inside and was furious that other people were still having nice lives and did not feel her deep sense of loss and pain. She also was afraid. Someone that she loved and needed was not there for her anymore. What if other people she needed also left her?

She knew that life is all about change. She did not want things to change. But, change is part of God's plan for the world.

In much of the world, the weather changes from deep, cold winter to fresh, growing spring to hot summer to lovely fall and all back again. People also have seasons too. They start from being little babies, change to children, change to young people, then change to be young parents, older parents, to grandparents and then die and pass on to a heavenly place of great beauty and peace that the Bible calls Paradise.

In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, we are taught, "There is a



time, a season for all things...a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted,...a time to weep and a time to dance,...a time to get, and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away,...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak..."

Jesus knows when you are going through a hard season in your life. He gave advice to us how to help others go through the hard times. For example, one of the saddest things is when someone you deeply love dies and there is such a deep sadness that you feel like your heart is breaking. Maybe other people are afraid of making you sad, or upset, so they don't talk to you about their own happy memories of the person who died or tell you how much they miss that person too.

Jesus commanded us that we are to mourn with those that mourn, and weep with those that weep. Yes, we can share someone else's pain that way. But the best thing to do to help is to quietly and constantly pray to God about them.

Ask God to show you ways to show them love. Ask God to help them be able to sleep, to feel happiness again. Ask God for wisdom to help them with problems in their lives where they need help. Talk with them and don't be afraid if they tell you how angry they are.

Since we in The Church of Jesus Christ are surrounded by people who have had miracles in their lives, we know God is the great Creator, and He can make miracles happen. That is one reason that it is so hard for us when we are entering a season of change that seems full of loss.

It took several years for that

young girl to get over being mad at God. But, we kept praying for her and loving her even though she was very angry and doubting. And God continued to bless her and show her goodness.

One day she realized that she had many many good things in her life. One day, she realized she was thankful for her good health and for the people in her life that loved her. Little by little her frozen heart thawed. She started thinking about the seasons of life. She started being grateful. She even saw the pain in other people's lives and tried helping them.

When she realized that she did not have the answers to help them, she

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## WORD SEARCH

JESUS	THOSE	MOURN
TAUGHT	THAT	LOVE
US	WEEP	ONE
DO	MOURN	ANOTHER
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R	E	H	T	O	N	A
N	R	U	O	M	U	V
Y	A	R	P	S	J	B



## Ordinations at the Mesa, Arizona Branch

*By Brother Jim Alessio*

The Mesa, Arizona Branch enjoyed a spirit-filled meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2005 as we witnessed the ordinations of eight individuals. The Giannetti brothers sang *Just As I Am*, to open the service. Next, Apostle Tom Liberto spoke on I Corinthians 12:27 which says, "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." He addressed those who would be ordained, that they are called to labor, to honor God, to see greater works come forth. He also referred to a scripture in Ephesians which states that ye are called for the perfecting of the saints.

Brother Tim Scolaro explained the duties of a deaconess prior to the ordaining of Sister Mary Duncan. Her feet were washed by Sister Vanessa Watson and she was ordained by Brother Ron Brutz.

Sister Renee Scolaro had her feet washed by her mother, Sister Betty Alessio, and Apostle Joseph Calabrese offered the prayer to ordain her.

There were four brothers called to be teachers and Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr., elaborated on their duties.

Brother A. J. Dyer, from the Tucson Mission had his feet washed by Brother Stacy Light, and he was ordained by Brother David Jordan.

Brother Ron Mazzeo's feet were washed by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr., and Apostle Dick Christman offered the prayer ordaining him.

Brother Michael Watson had his feet washed by Brother Jim Alessio and his father, Brother Larry Watson, ordained him.

Brother Jordan Giannetti's feet were washed by Brother Albert Giannetti, and Brother Joe Giannetti offered the prayer ordaining him.

Apostle Dick Christman spoke on the duties of an elder.

Brother Barry Mazzeo, called to be an elder, had his feet washed by Brother David Jordan and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti.

Brother Larry Watson spoke on the work of an evangelist. Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. was called to be an evangelist. His feet were washed by Brother Frank Giovannone and Brother Jeff Giannetti offered the prayer ordaining him.

The afternoon communion and testimony service was opened by Brother Paul Ciotti. An opportunity was then given for all the newly-ordained to express themselves regarding their calling. It was clearly evident that they all take very seriously the responsibilities that accompany their calling. May God accompany them in their spiritual endeavors. They have all demonstrated their willingness to work in the vineyard of the Lord.

We gathered again in the evening for a dinner and time of fellowship and enjoyed the presence of many visitors from several areas of the Church. What a joyous and blessed weekend we had witnessing many take up offices in the Church.

## "Here I Am, Lord, I Am Willing." Ordinations in Pacific Region

*By Sister Erin Light*

"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" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

While many brothers and sisters fellowshiped at GMBA Conference in Pennsylvania, the Pacific Coast Region prepared for three ordinations: Brother Joel Christman was to be ordained a Teacher, and both Brother Tom P. Liberto and Brother Stacey Light were to be ordained Evangelists. We are thankful for the saints who traveled from the Great Lakes, Midwest, Southwest, and Atlantic Coast

Regions. Also, we were thankful to have been joined by saints from the many missions of Mexico.

The powerful Spirit of the Lord resided with us on November 12 during our Saturday night meeting at the San Diego Branch. During this gathering of spirit and praise, visiting and local evangelists related experiences about the power of God manifested throughout their travels to foreign countries. We heard about the missionary work in Malawi, Africa, India, Italy, and Mexico. As they shared with us the blessings of the Lord that were experienced during their missionary work, the evangelists emphasized the magnificence of God's purpose and promises, encouraging us to discover where we fit in His marvelous plan.

The following morning, we gathered in anticipation of the day's events. Brother Jim Sgro opened the service, asking us to look for God's Spirit in all that we do. He spoke about the sixth chapter of Isaiah, where a prophet was ordained by God to work for the House of Israel. Brother Jim asked those who were ordained about their desire to work for the Lord, "If you had known what you were getting into, would you still have accepted this job?" And Brother Jim knew they would say, "Yes!" The theme of establishing our relationship with God presented itself as Brother John DiBattista gave an inspiring message with these words: "When Christ descended, there was joy in Heaven because power was given to the human race, so that people might walk with the Light of Christ to show others the way." Referring to Ephesians, where it is written, "He gave some, apostles...evangelists...and some, teachers...for the perfecting of the saints." Brother John related an experience in which, as the evangelists traveled throughout a drought-stricken land, rain fell wherever they traveled. These are the promised signs of the Lord that would follow the ministry. He added that, "We don't represent ourselves; we represent someone who walks with the Lord."

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## Ordinations in Pacific Region

Continued from Page 7

From Jacob 4:11, Brother Frank Natoli spoke upon reconciliation; the reestablished relationship with God that we have achieved through Christ. He stated, "God will continue to exist," while referring to a scripture where God says, "*I am that I am.*" Brother Frank then told us how we are to prepare ourselves when we are called by Him. We have to be able to say, "Here *I* am, Lord, willing to do whatever work you would have for me. *I* am willing."

Before the ordination of Brother Joel, Brother Paul Liberto spoke a few words about the office of a teacher. He acknowledged that a teacher has to be "willing and ready" to interact with the members, uplifting and supporting them. As a sweet spirit filled the room, Brother Dick Christman washed his son's feet, and Brother Lou Cicatti ordained Brother Joel into the office of a Teacher.

The service was then turned over to Brother Bob McDonnell, President of the Evangelists for the Pacific Coast Region. He spoke about the office of an Evangelist: "We believe in revelation," he commented. "We are building upon the foundation and restoration of God's plan the same way that our brethren did so many years ago. And he sent them out two by two, for the harvest is great and the laborers are few." Brother Bob encouraged us not to shun the work, and to not let anyone else do it. "Go without fear," he spoke "the Lord will provide." And referring to Romans 10:14-15, he concluded, "And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace."

Brother Jim Sgro then shared an experience confirming the ordination of Brother Stacey into the office of Evangelist. He recounted: "Just before conference, I was asked by Brother Eugene Perri to join the committee for the recommendations of evangelists. Brother Eugene didn't say which Brothers were recommended, just, 'Show up at this time.' So I began praying to the Lord, and I said, 'Lord,

who are you going to call into the Quorum of Seventy?' And as I said that, the Lord spoke to me in such a clear-sounding voice: 'Brother Stacey Light.' " At conference, I was handed all the paperwork concerning the recommendations, and there was Brother Stacey Light's name, so I then related the experience I had to the Quorum."

Brother Tom P. Liberto also shared an experience he had received, where he heard the voice of the Lord say, "I will use you" and directed him to 1 Nephi 13, in which Nephi's vision details the work of the Gentiles.

A beautiful spirit filled the room as Brother Jim Sgro washed Brother Tom's feet and Brother Joel Gehly washed Brother Stacey's feet. After the Evangelists and Apostles surrounded the two brothers, Brother Tom Liberto ordained Brother Tom P. Liberto, and Brother Russell Martorana ordained Brother Stacey Light into the office of Evangelist. The brothers then expressed their desires to work for the Lord and gave thanks for the blessings in their lives. All in attendance could feel the sweet Spirit, and all recognized how sincerely the three brothers expressed: "Here I am, Lord, I am willing." Continue to pray for our newly-ordained brothers and all who work for the Lord.

## Blessings in Tampa, Florida

*By Sisters Kim Zilinski and Linda Walton*

On June 26, 2005 we enjoyed a very blessed day in Tampa. We had many reasons to rejoice on this particular Sunday, as we prepared to witness several wonderful events and to welcome many visitors.

We first enjoyed the blessing of a set of sacrament cloths that had been donated by Sister Bethany Smith. (Sister Bethany had purchased them in Brussels during a visit she made there while attending a college course in London.) The cloths were blessed by

Brother Sam Risola and immediately put into service. Sisters from both Forest Hills and Tampa participated.

Brother John Griffith began the service with Mark 10:14 delivering a wonderful message about Jesus' love for children. Then three beautiful children were blessed. Samara Henderson was blessed by Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., Roneisha Daniels was blessed by Brother Sam Risola, and Ashley Daniels was blessed by Brother Scott Griffith.

Brother John then continued; he explained the duties of a deaconess and the responsibilities and history of this office. His text was from Timothy and he encouraged us to become a living sacrifice to God, and to strive for the desire to be used in the Gospel. He continued by reading from the Law and Order teaching us about the role of this office in the Church. Sister Stacey Murphy (granddaughter of Brother George Timms of Herndon, Virginia) then came forward to be ordained. Her feet were washed by Sister Kim Zilinski and the brothers knelt and Brother Scott asked God to select one to confirm the office on Sister Stacey. She was then confirmed by Brother Sam Risola.

Brother Scott then spoke about the need to be ready to serve. He was followed by Brother Sam Risola who reminded us that the Lord Jesus Christ was our cornerstone and our strong foundation. We then had a musical selection by Brother Isaac Smith who sang a beautiful rendition of *Our Church* and we were closed in prayer by Brother A. J. Dyer from Arizona.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a time of fellowship. We praise God for the many brothers and sisters and friends who visited us on this Sunday. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone visiting our area to worship with us, and we thank God for His love towards us.

In this world it is not what we take up but what we give up, that makes us rich.

## New Songs of Zion

### #128 New Day on the Mountain

(1 Nephi 22:24-25)

It's a new day on the mountain,  
There's a new star in the sky.  
There's a new child running freely,  
With a mother standing by.  
While the angels sing the story,  
All the bells in Heaven chime.  
Sending down to earth the message,  
"A new thousand years of time."  
Sending down to earth the message,  
"A new thousand years of time."

If you ever reach this mountain,  
If you ever come this far.  
You will see a city rising,  
Like a brand new morning star.  
If you ever reach the highlands,  
You will see a shepherd there.  
Where His sheep bask in the sunshine,  
Of His tender loving care.  
Where His sheep bask in the sunshine,  
Of His tender loving care.

If you've ever heard the story,  
If it's ever reached your ears.  
If you've ever read the prophecies,  
You can wipe away your tears.  
And come hurry to this mountain,  
For a new day has begun.  
If you make it to the mountain,  
You can too bask in the sun.  
If you make it to the mountain,  
You can too bask in the sun.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
June 21, 2005

### #129 Winds of War

(Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars...")

When winds of war invade the sky,  
And many ask the question, "Why?"  
But time and years have passed away,  
Since prophets prophesied this day.  
Since prophets prophesied this day.

When winds of war blow cold and fierce,  
And terror strikes the hearts they pierce;  
Be comforted by knowing this,  
God will protect each child of His.  
God will protect each child of His.

When winds of war and threat'ning skies,  
Cause hearts to fail and fears to rise;  
Mount Zion calls down "Come to me,  
Come up to where you're safe and free."  
Come up to where you're safe and free."

When winds of war blow constantly,  
God's children know it's time to flee;  
Then to the mountain top they soar,  
So far above the winds of war.  
So far above the winds of war.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
July 17, 2005

### #130 It's a Jubilee Morning

(Esther 9:22 "...from sorrow to joy,  
and from mourning into a good day...")

It's a Jubilee morning  
God has sent a decree,  
That all slaves and all captives  
Will be finally free;  
And all debts be forgiven  
They were cancelled today,  
What a beautiful morning  
What a beautiful day.

It's a wonderful morning  
It's a wonderful day,  
All the pain that stayed with me  
Has been taken away;  
And the burden I carried  
On my back for so long,  
I can't feel it this morning  
It was gone with the dawn.

There's a beautiful mountain  
That God made from above,  
And He wrapped it in silver  
And He formed it in love;  
And I saw it this morning  
When the clouds rolled away,  
And I'm crying to see such  
A beautiful day.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
July 27, 2005

### #131 God Sent Manna

(Psalms 78:24 "And had rained down manna upon them to eat...")

God sent manna down from heaven  
To His children long ago,  
To sustain them on their journey  
To the Promised Land and so;  
Still today He's sending manna  
In His word and in His song,  
Fill your basket with this manna,  
You'll be singing all day long.

God sends manna down from heaven  
As we journey on today,  
Take your basket up and fill it  
With these melodies and say;  
We will praise the Lord forever,  
He has nourished, He has fed,  
As we journey to the promise  
Of a better land ahead.

God sends manna down from heaven,  
Lift your basket to the sky,  
Catch the blessings like the raindrops  
That are falling from on high;  
When you hear the pretty music  
Hold the notes close to your breast,  
For 'tis very precious manna  
That will make your journey blest.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
August 25, 2005

### Miracle in Italy

Continued from Page 4

and we all knew the other man that Sister Imacolatta saw in her vision was our beloved Apostle, Brother Joseph Lovalvo. What a sight to witness! Brother Joe offered a prayer that brought tears to our eyes, and when finished, Sister Imacolatta began to kiss Brother Joe and to praise God for His mercy.

The next day the news traveled fast, as we heard Sister Imacolatta was sitting at the table with the family for her meals. Each day before our eyes she grew stronger and stronger. The Sunday following our departure she walked into the church unattended

(Continued on Page 10)

## Miracle in Italy

Continued from Page 9

and offered a prayer that seemed to shake the building.

During the next few days the rest of our traveling missionaries arrived: Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Micale, Brothers John Buffa and A. J. Cuerrier, Apostle Paul Liberto, Brother Brian and Sister Lisa Alessio, and Evangelist Alex Gentile. We were blessed to be a part of the conference where we witnessed the ordinations of Brother Nino Romano as an Elder and Sister Marisa Romano as a Deaconess and the baptism of Stephania Romano.

Brother Joe never ceased to amaze us as he taught lessons, prayed for the sick, preached in English and Italian, ordained and participated in the feet washing service.

He climbed those 27 steps every night!

## Progress in Western Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

One of the first places where the Chavez brothers shared their testimony was in their father's childhood village, El Palo. Back on the first trip to Maracaibo in January, the visiting missionaries stopped by this village to visit different friends and family of the Chavez family. While there, God gave us an opportunity to pray for a friend of the Chavez family, Isabel, who was on her deathbed stricken with cancer. She had heard Jose's testimony of God's healing power and wanted prayer. The Ministry did so, and continued on with our journey. Jose also received a job transfer that took him to the city of Valera in the state of Trujillo. This new home base has offered Jose the opportunity to reach out to others of the Restoration faith. Our brothers have not been idle, and as you are about to see, neither has God. *"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it..."*

Several months later, Jose received word Isabel had begun to show marked improvement. This past

October 2005, Brothers Brandon Miller, Bob Nicklow, Jr. and I made a special trip to El Palo to see how Isabel had improved. What do you think we found? Isabel looked wonderful and had been completely healed of all cancer! Additionally, she has told her friends and neighbors throughout El Palo; many have received her testimony of the power of healing in The Church of Jesus Christ.

At times in God's work, we feel like we are on our own. It is easy to forget the work belongs to our Maker, the God of Israel. He is a God who has guided mankind for thousands of years. Just when we begin to feel the work depends solely on us, God steps in and shows His wonders. We see through recent events He plans on performing the work He began with Jose and Angel earlier this year. Brother Angel has recently spent time in El Palo, reaching out and sharing his testimony. Brother Jose plans to spend two weeks there soon in an effort to explain what Great Power can heal mankind of cancer.

Please keep our brothers in prayer as they continue to labor, realizing the work God began in them was a work meant to be performed until completion.

## Manifestations in Philippines

Continued from Page 3

many other round, white tables appeared around us with men and women seated at them. Each new table had twelve people seated at them and, one by one, these people left their tables and came and joined the brothers and sisters in a season of prayer. Brother Sal later stated that during this vision he felt a wonderful spirit that words cannot express, and he said this experience gave him a great hope for the spiritual growth of the work in the Philippine islands.

On Wednesday, we left the island of Mindinao and traveled by airplane to the city of Cebu. Once there, we took a two-hour ferry boat ride to the island of Bohol, where we have two Mis-

sions; namely, Bugsoc and La Victoria. We thank God He watched over us as we traveled many miles to minister to our Filipino brothers and sisters.

Thursday we traveled by van into the mountains of Bohol, to the little mountain village of Bugsoc. As we pulled onto the Church property we could hear singing coming from inside the Church building. Two specific manifestations of the Spirit of God were made evident during our visit with the saints in Bugsoc.

First, during a particular praise song when the brothers and sisters sang the phrase, "I greet you in the love of Jesus Christ," they physically left their seats, came up to the pulpit and warmly greeted us. Brother Sal began to weep and was overcome by this outward demonstration of their love toward us.

Secondly, during our services on Thursday, one of the young sisters of the Bugsoc Mission sang a worship song, as follows:

### For You Alone

You are the peace that guards my heart,  
my help in time of need.  
You are the hope that leads me on,  
and brings me to my knees.  
For there I find you waiting,  
for there I find release.  
So with all of my heart I worship,  
and unto you I sing.

### Chorus

For you alone deserve all glory,  
for you alone deserve all praise.  
Father, we worship and adore you,  
Father, we love to see your face.  
Father, we love you, and we worship  
you this day.

Tears of love and joy streamed down her cheeks as our sister in Christ began to sing. Soon the congregation joined her in singing, and, likewise tears began to fall from their eyes as well. Nothing can describe the joy and blessing we experienced as we stood in the midst of our Filipino brothers and sisters, having the Spirit of God "poured" upon us like an ointment, until our cups could not contain the measure of this wonderful blessing!



Soon it was Friday morning, and time for us to ready ourselves for the long trip back to America. Before leaving, we met with the ordained officers in Bohol to encourage them to "hold the fort" until we meet again. Their zeal for The Church of Jesus Christ is remarkable. The sisters spoke up and requested we organize a Ladies' Uplift Circle on our next trip. Likewise, the young people also made a request we organize the MBA on our next trip.

Finally, we taught them the hymn, *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again*, and as we formed a circle of prayer the tears began to fall once again, only this time tears that expressed the longing in our hearts to be together again, only to part no more.

Please pray for the Philippine Islands. There are 7,198 islands left in the Philippines to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am reminded that "man's extremities are God's opportunities." In other words, we can do **all things** through Jesus Christ who strengthens us!

**Praise Him for the manifestations of His Holy Spirit!**

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

began to pray for them. And God answered her prayers. She could see good things happening in their lives too.

As her understanding grew, so did her willingness to trust God and lean on Jesus by praying for help. She finally began believing that God had a special and beautiful plan for her if she chose to look for it. She quit fighting and started giving. Today she is happy, caring and understanding. She has come through a bitter season and trusts God to bring her through the other seasons of life. She helps others and lets others help her. And that is what love in this beautiful Church is all about. Don't fear. Pray and reach out with care and acceptance.

With love,  
Sister Jan

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## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls on my behalf during my recent cancer illness. I received so much love and support that I will never forget it. I wish I could thank each of you individually to express my gratitude. Most of all I want to praise God for carrying me through and giving me back my good health...that I may continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ along with you.

All my love,  
Sister Jean Ciarolla

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Nick Katsaras and Sister Natalie Sonra were united in holy matrimony in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission on November 19, 2005.

Brother Jordan Champine and Sister Karen Henderson were united in holy matrimony in the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch on October 1, 2005.

Brother Dan Parravano and Sister Dannielle Picciuto were united in holy matrimony in the Tampa, Florida Branch on November 26, 2005.

Brother Terry Grant and Sister Barbara Hughes were united in holy matrimony in the Quincy, Florida Branch on October 1, 2005.

## Children Blessed

Micah Elias Reyes, son of Brother Osbaldo and Sister Nyema Reyes, was blessed on October 16, 2005 at the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

Richard Michael Carter, son of Sister Holly and Nick Carter, was blessed on October 30, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Eric Timmereck was baptized on September 25, 2005 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch. He was baptized and confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas.

Brother Michael Cook was baptized on November 20, 2005 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Continued from Page 11

Brother Julius (Sonny) Purkall was baptized on December 18, 2005 at the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Apostle Paul Benyola and confirmed by Brother Leonard Benyola.

Sister Kayla Nicole Campbell was baptized on July 17, 2005 at the Mid-Georgia Mission. She was baptized by Brother Art Campbell and confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxon.

Brother Micah Nathaniel Kunkel was baptized on September 11, 2005 at the Atlanta, Georgia Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tom Jones and confirmed by Brother Mark Kovacic.

## Ordinations

Sister April Calabro was ordained a Deaconess in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch on November 20, 2005. Her feet were washed by Sister Angela Reyes and she was ordained by Apostle Paul Benyola.

Sister Kathy Peshl was ordained a Deaconess in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch on October 2, 2005. Her feet were washed by Sister Judy Coppa and she was ordained by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Brother Joel Christman was ordained a Teacher in the San Diego, California Branch on November 13,

2005. His feet were washed by Apostle Dick Christman and he was ordained by Brother Louis Ciccati.

Brother Stacey Light was ordained an Evangelist in the San Diego, California Branch on November 13, 2005. His feet were washed by Evangelist Joel Gehly and he was ordained by Evangelist Russ Martorano.

Brother Tom P. Liberto was ordained an Evangelist in the San Diego, California Branch on November 13, 2005. His feet were washed by Evangelist Jim Sgro and he was ordained by Apostle Tom M. Liberto.

Sister Mary Duncan was ordained a Deaconess in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. Her feet were washed by Sister Vanessa Watson and she was ordained by Brother Ron Brutz.

Sister Renee Scolaro was ordained a Deaconess in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. Her feet were washed by her mother, Sister Betty Alessio, and she was ordained by Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

Brother Anthony Dyer was ordained a Teacher on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Stacy Light and he was ordained by Brother David Jordan.

Brother Ron Mazzeo was ordained a Teacher in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr. and he was ordained by Apostle Richard Christman.

Brother Michael Watson was ordained a Teacher in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Alessio and he was ordained by his father, Brother Larry Watson.

Brother Jordan Giannetti was ordained a Teacher in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Albert Giannetti and he was ordained by Brother Joe Giannetti.

Brother Barry Mazzeo was ordained an Elder in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother David Jordan and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. was ordained an Evangelist in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on October 23, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Frank Giovannone and he was ordained by Brother Jeff Giannetti.

## OBITUARIES

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

PETER W. MOLINATTO

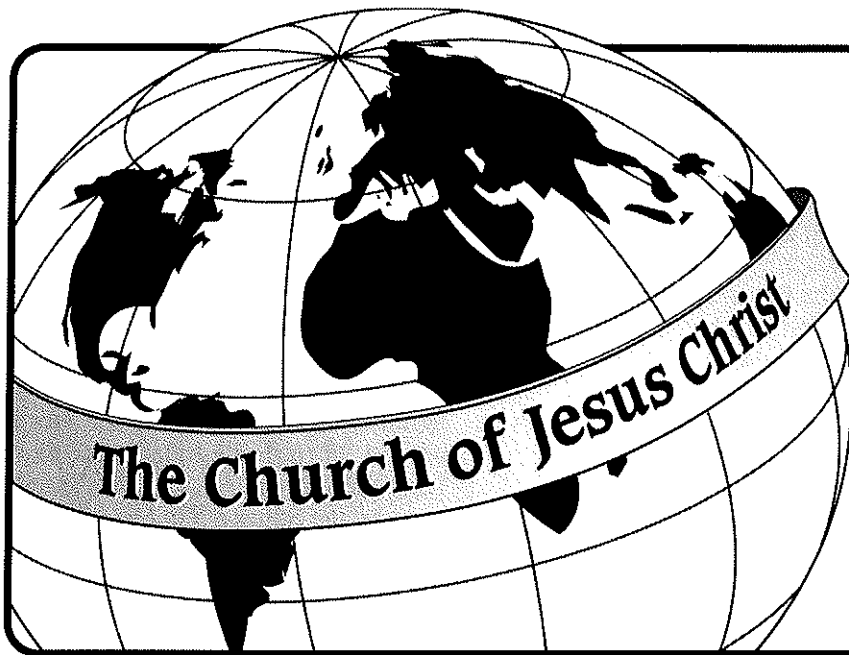
Brother Pete Molinatto, Jr. of the Liberty, Ohio Branch passed to his reward on December 22, 2005. Brother Pete is survived by two sisters, Sister Josephine King, Sister Rita Koeth; one brother, Brother Jonathan Molinatto; three sons, Thomas, Russell and Kevin; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

March, 2006

Volume 62, No. 3

## Missionary Visit to the Church in Kenya

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

Evangelist Philip Arcuri and I made a month long missionary trip to Africa in August 2005. After our visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was completed the first two weeks last August, our last two weeks were spent with the saints of the Church in Kenya.

The first Sunday in Kenya was with all of the Priesthood and as many of the membership from the various branches who were able to come to the headquarters building where we received a very warm welcome. Brother Stephen Osaka, the Director of the Kenya Church, introduced us. It was very enjoyable listening to various choirs sing as they presented a number of selections. After our preaching services were concluded, it was a beautiful sight to see the Holy Communion being administered unto the saints by the Priesthood and to witness how reverently they partook of the bread and wine which represented the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each brother and sister would bow their head as if to pray thanking God for the sacrifice of His Son Jesus, as the bread and the wine were administered to them.

Some days were devoted to training the Priesthood, Teachers, Deacons, and Deaconesses on our Faith and Doctrine, the Falling Away and Restoration, the structure and order of the Church and how they each could improve in their various ordained offices. Each training session we scheduled was well attended by all of the Priesthood and a good number of the ordained officers. They came with pencil and paper to write the information they heard on each of the subjects presented and each of them seemed very anxious and excited to learn more of the Church's beliefs. Each brother and sister expressed their appreciation for our time and effort to visit, teach and encourage them.

In between our training sessions, we visited a number of the branches in the outlying areas of Kisii Highlands. We enjoyed the singing of various choral groups, and experienced good liberty in preaching. At each branch visited, we would request the Presiding Elder to ask the brothers and sisters to testify of the goodness of God in their lives and how they had been blessed. Many testimonies were heard of how God touched their lives

since they obeyed the Gospel. They expressed they have experienced a change from being involved in their traditional ways of living where once they erred and displeased God and even felt to some degree the effects in their natural and physical bodies to a life of peace and hope. A number of the members praised God for The Church of Jesus Christ and the change experienced in their lives. It was gratifying to also hear about their love for Brother Stephen, their Church Director, and the Priesthood members who administer to them.

In some instances, we were privileged to spend time in the homes of the saints, hearing about the bounties of life which God had provided for them. We offered a special prayer in each branch and home visited, asking God to bless all the saints in Kenya with His Divine Spirit and sustain and provide them with all they would need.

Some brothers and sisters being recommended for ordination were interviewed and the inspiration and the unity of God's Holy Spirit were felt, confirming the calling of each individual interviewed. The Kenya Church Director, along with all of the Priesthood and the missionaries present, expressed it was the will of God to set aside and ordain three

(Continued on Page 2)

## Missionary Visit in Kenya

Continued from Page 1

Elders. One of the three Elders was from a village called Kimilili, five hours away from the Kisii area where most of the Church membership resides. Seven Deacons and four Deaconesses were also ordained from the different branch locations throughout the Kisii Highlands. The work of the Church has spread to

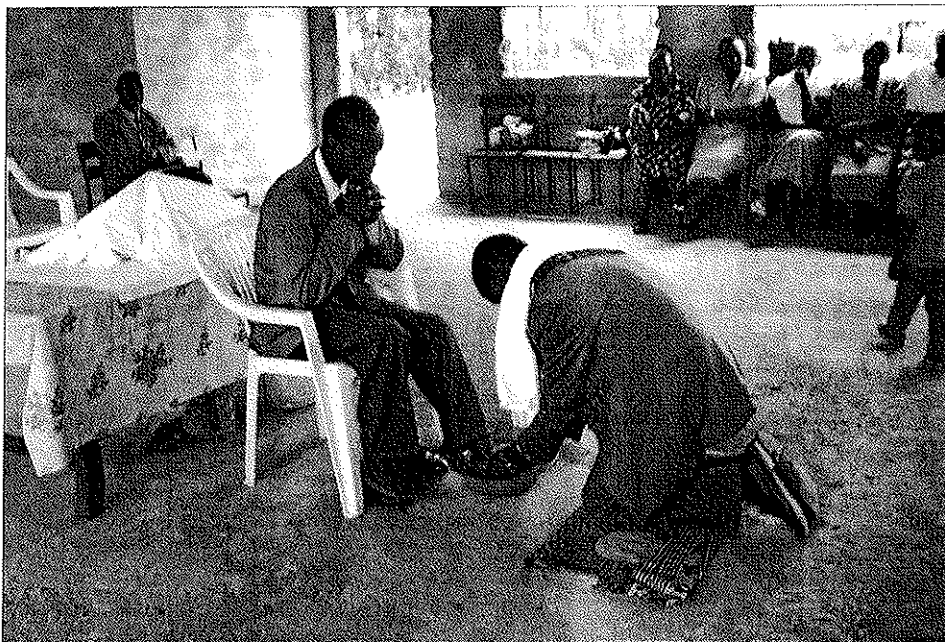
other villages, so it became necessary to ordain more officers to assist in maintaining and servicing the various locations.

For the first time, Brother Philip and I traveled five hours to the Kimilili village with Brother Stephen to meet with a group of brothers and sisters, friends, and acquaintances of Brother Cleophas Matete, one of the newly ordained Elders. The small building was filled to capacity and the

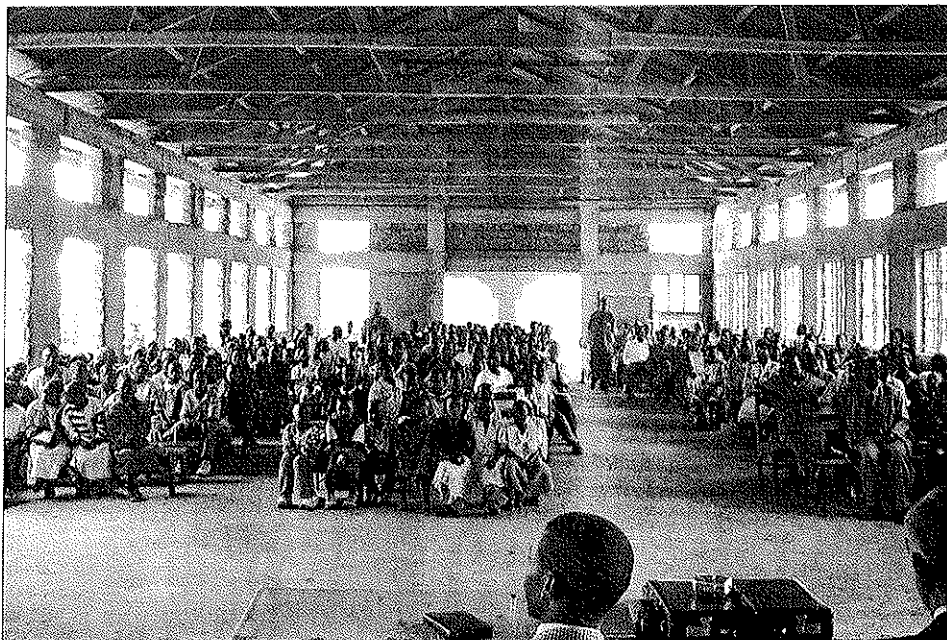
singing was beautiful. Several of the members stated they were thankful The Church of Jesus Christ came into their village. Brothers Stephen and Cleophas presented recommendations for a Deacon and two Deaconesses to Brother Philip and me. Each individual recommended displayed humility and knowledge of the Word of God. Their desire to labor for the Lord and His Church was confirmed to us by the Spirit of God which bore witness to set them aside by the washing of feet and ordained them to assist Brother Cleophas in administering to the needs of the saints in this mission.

Even though we were exhausted and our bodies were very tired from travel, having encountered a number of inconveniences during our month long journey and the number of hours spent in our everyday activities with the brothers and sisters in this part of Africa, we can say it was worth every moment spent. Brother Phil and I were very encouraged in being among the saints of God and to hear how blessed they are since rendering obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A few experiences have occurred since we returned home. Several times during our visit with Brother Stephen and the Priesthood, we encouraged them to have crusades beginning on the grounds of the headquarters building in Ogembo/Tendere village. Although the building has not yet been fully completed, meetings are held in this building for all of the saints to welcome the missionaries from America and once a week by one of the Elders. During the latter part of October, the brothers organized a crusade. With the use of a PA system provided for this purpose, one evening, while the brothers were preaching to a very large crowd, Brother Stephen said the other brothers of the Priesthood and he were overwhelmed by the large gathering they had not anticipated. The singing and preaching were amplified as they echoed throughout the villages. In a nearby factory where a group of men were working, one of them became very ill. Hearing the preaching, one of these men ran to the church grounds and requested the brothers to come quickly and pray for



Brother Stephen washing the feet of Brother Cleophas a new Elder.



Congregation that came to welcome us to Kenya.

the man who was ill. Immediately, several brothers went to the factory to aid the man. They anointed and prayed for this individual, asking God to show His power of healing so everyone in the surrounding villages might hear and know beyond a doubt the true Church of Jesus Christ was restored and established in the village, and by the faith that was exercised by these men in calling for the Priesthood of the Church requesting this man to be anointed for his illness, God would reveal Himself in a positive way. When prayer was concluded, this man instantly received a healing. It was reported he had malaria and typhoid, both of which can be fatal diseases.

The news of this individual's healing spread very quickly throughout the villages, and our brothers of the Ministry were invited into the homes of many people who were ill, requesting to be anointed and prayed for.

There was a man in the village who heard of the healing at the local factory. The brothers of the Priesthood were called to his home and he requested to be anointed because of a long-standing illness of epileptic seizures. Brother Stephen reported this man also received the gift of healing, and he and his family have begun to attend church services at the center. He has requested to be baptized. The power of God cannot be minimized. Not only were the brothers requested to pray for those who were sick, but they also have had the opportunity to preach the Restored Gospel message.

Many people have said they have seen the building being constructed and were waiting to see when there would be a gathering of the Church members for worship on a regular basis and were waiting for an invitation to attend worship services. The invitation was extended to all who were at this first crusade to come and worship together in this building, and a number of visitors have begun to gather with the saints of that area.

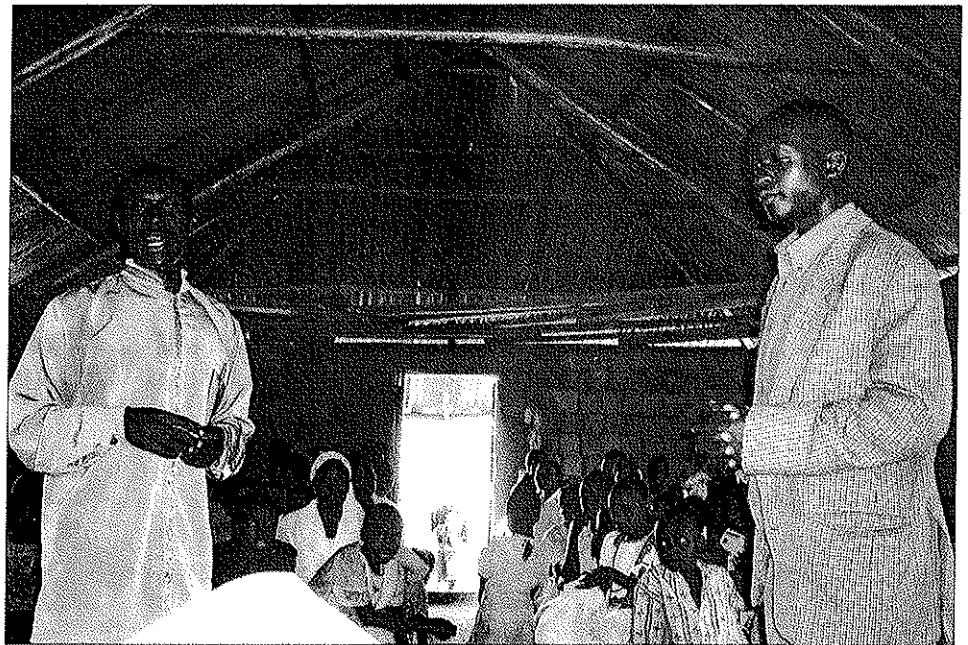
Brother Stephen informed us he, along with all the members of the Priesthood, intends to hold crusades in every village where The Church of Jesus Christ has a branch. The

members in every village where the Church is established are inviting their friends, neighbors, and family members to come and worship with them and share in the same blessings.

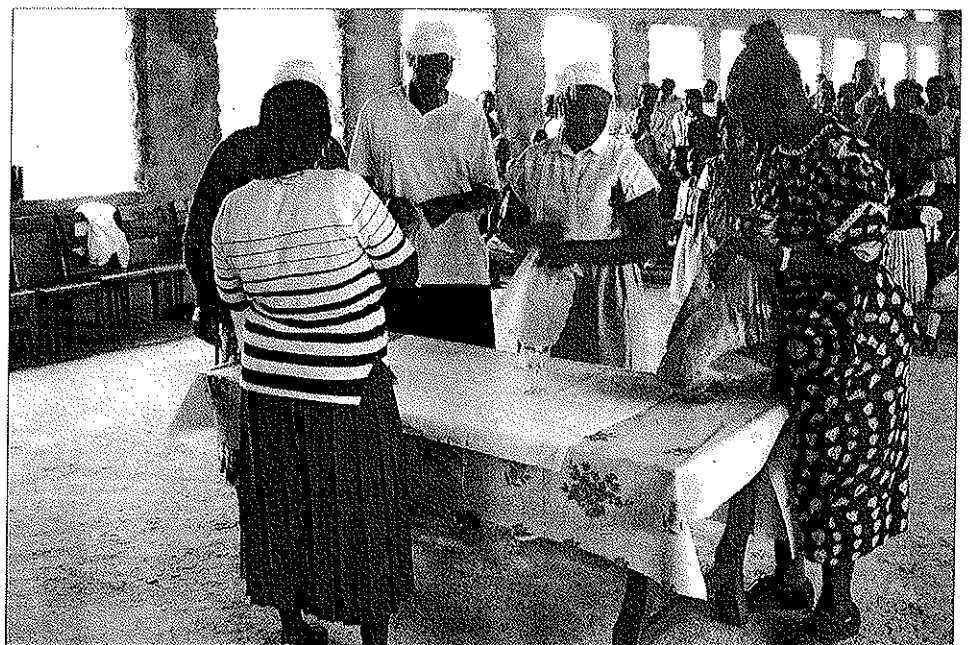
As we concluded our visit and the time approached for us to make our departure from the brothers and sisters in Kenya for our home in America, it became very difficult to say goodbye (as many of our missionaries know who have visited the

various mission fields of the Church abroad) because you know their needs and you have grown to love them. The disappointment can be seen on each face, their expressions being much different from the greeting you received upon your arrival. Their plea is for us to return for another visit as soon as possible. Even though difficult times have

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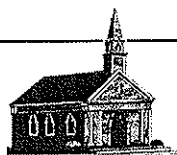


Left: Brother Dismas. Right: New Elders preparing to pass communion.



Sister Nina Osaka setting the communion table with other Deaconesses.





## Branch and Mission News

### A Visit to the Cree Nation

By Brother Jim Bork

It was a cold icy morning on Saturday, January 7, 2006, as Brothers Lyle Criscuolo, Larry Henderson, Matt Collison and Jim Bork left Harrison, Michigan on an eleven-hour drive north to visit Brother Matthew Sutherland. Brother Matthew is a Cree Indian living at Calstock, Ontario, Canada. Calstock is located on Highway 11 (Trans Canadian Highway) the farthest north, east/west road in Canada, approximately 40 kilometers west of Hearst. Brother Matthew Sutherland is an herbal medicine man living with his wife, MaryAnn, on the Constance Lake Reservation. He is a very religious man who found The Church of Jesus Christ after much fasting and prayer. He asked the Lord for guidance and heard the Lord direct him, in 1977, to "go south and see Peter to be baptized." He set out on his journey south visiting many reservations looking for Peter.

He trusted God to show him what to do next. While in Sarnia, Ontario attending a conference for native people, he met a brother, Arthur Maness, from The Church of Jesus Christ, and told him how the Lord directed him to "go south and see Peter to be baptized." Brother Maness immediately introduced Brother Matthew to Brother Pete Capone who was also attending the conference at the time. Brother Matthew was baptized by Brother Pete Capone and afterward set out on a four-year tour to tell his Native American brothers about Jesus Christ.

We met with Brother Matthew on Sunday at his home with the intention of a short visit and going later to meet with the band at a church building on the reservation. The Lord had other plans. We spent most of the day at Brother Matthew's home listening to him talk about his experi-

ences, learning of his knowledge of the scriptures, and understanding the situation on the reservation.

We finished our visit at Brother Matthew's home late in the afternoon and went out to visit members of the band in their homes with the purpose of anointing the sick. Brother Matthew had a small list of those who needed prayer. As we left the first home and arrived at the home of Lorna Sackaney, Brother Matthew's daughter, we were met by a band member who provided a list of additional band members requesting prayer. Praise God. The rest of Sunday afternoon and into the evening was consumed by visiting and anointing the sick in their homes. Constance Lake has many of the same problems seen on other reserves: drug abuse, depression, poverty and the like. A lumber mill on the reserve has polluted the lake, which was the source of drinking water and many band members are suffering with cancer as a result.

Monday morning came early with much to do. We met again at Brother Matthew's home. We started off with the laying of hands upon Brother Matthew, praying that the Lord would restore him and heal him of his afflictions, making him whole once again in every way. MaryAnn, Brother Matthew's wife, was also anointed as she was going to see the doctor in the afternoon.

After lunch we enjoyed time with Brother Matthew reviewing articles of the Faith and Doctrine of the Church. Time was spent discussing the sacrament of bread and wine. Afterward we all enjoyed partaking of the bread and wine in Brother Matthew's home. This was the first time Brother Matthew has received sacrament on the reserve. He was thrilled to receive sacrament in his own home. What a blessing we had.

Arrangements were made to meet that evening at a church on the reserve. The theme of the meeting was "Looking for a better way? Come hear what Jesus can do for you." Brother Lyle introduced us to the group; we were approximately twenty souls total. Brother Matt

Collison addressed the group first. He spoke from 3 Nephi explaining the plan of redemption. He told of how Jesus Christ appeared to the Nephites on this continent of America after His resurrection and told them, "And as many as have received me, to them have I given to become the sons of God; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on my name, for behold, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the law of Moses fulfilled" (3 Nephi 9:17).

He was followed by Brother Larry Henderson. Brother Larry used the *Songs of Zion*. He told of Sister Arlene Buffington's experiences receiving the *Songs of Zion*, how she was given the melody, the rhythm, and the words. He told them she did not possess any musical talent whatsoever. He explained the songs are songs of hope of a better day. He said we have not come this far from home to lie to you. Brother Larry opened the *Songs of Zion* to #93, *We Won't Cry Tomorrow Friend* and began to read the verses. The Spirit of the Lord was upon him as he read each verse. He then asked the group to tap their feet on the floor as he gave the beat and then sang *Send Hunters and Fishers*. We could not hold back the tears as we sang each verse.

Brother Jim Bork told them what God did to save his own son from drug addiction. He said God had specifically designed programs for his son, programs that moved his son through recovery, programs that dissolved when his son completed them. He said God has blessed his son and has kept him sober now for sixteen years. Praise God. Brother Jim said, "God did this for my son and my family and I'm a white man. I know He'll do it for you because you are His covenant people."

Brother Lyle Criscuolo spoke last using James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Brother Lyle said the children must be taught about Jesus Christ. He said it is imperative that you start teaching them right

(Continued on Page 7)



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me has flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:10-13).*

The Philippians had sent a message to Paul about how much they loved and missed him. Paul responded to them in this passage how much he rejoiced in their love for him, even though he had not heard from them in some time (due to slow means of communication in those days). He wanted them to know that their expression of love, though much appreciated, was not necessary for Paul to "feel good." He went on to teach them that he has learned, through very difficult circumstances in his life (imprisonment, starvation, etc.), that true inner joy comes from complete independence of man's praise, and complete dependence on God in order to "feel good." Paul had advanced his spiritual understanding to a point of no return. As he stated in another part of scripture, there is nothing that would separate him from the love of God. Therefore, he was able to do ALL things through Christ (not some things...he says ALL things which includes spiritual, natural...anything...because God can do all things!).

Today, as much as we say that we don't care about the praise of man, but would rather have the approval of God, I'm not sure this is truly the case, when put to the test. Not many of us have been imprisoned, or are starving, or had to face many of the things Paul had to face in his life, yet when faced with our little afflictions or problems (little in comparison to Paul), we complain and become hopeless, and desperately seek the approval and support of others. While getting approval and support from others is nice (even Paul rejoiced in the Philippians expression of love), and we should be thankful for this, we should not be dependent on this. Rather, we should be dependent on our strength and joy coming from the living God. Only He can lift us up, carry us through, and truly make us "feel good."

I had a conversation with a sister from my branch the other day, whose testimony of overcoming hardship and hopeless situations by relying completely on God and not at all on man, was inspiring. In all situations she mentioned the one thing that was consistent was that she, nor anyone else, did anything to solve the situation. Miraculously, it worked itself out on its own. This is the involvement of a true and living God in her life. Paul had learned this (though it took many years), and even in the most deplorable conditions, never complained or needed a shoulder to cry on. He cried on the shoulder of our heavenly Father, and was never let down.

In traveling to other countries on missionary work, it is interesting to see how people who live in poverty are so happy and joyful. We expect them to be miserable and depressed, and just the opposite is true. They don't know or understand any other life. They are content with different things than we might be. We can't gauge happiness and joy on natural things or on humankind. If we do, we will eventually be let down. We must rely on God for our contentment, for our answers, for that "good feeling" because we will never be disappointed. Every obstacle will be removed by Him, not by natural means. When we can learn this, as Paul did, we can actually live a life in constant joy and assurance, and never, ever work to solve a problem on our own, but truly rely on Him. We can then say assuredly like Paul and many other people who have overcome extreme odds, that we too can do ALL things through Him!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## They Worked for Their Dream

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever really wanted to be able to do something or have something and gone to God in prayer and asked for it? Have you been mad or confused when God didn't just give you what you wanted? Did you realize later that maybe it would take you years of practice or learning, or even many prayers before you could do it?

My friend went ice-skating for the first time last week. She fell down over and over and got so mad she told her mom to just take her home. Then after she was home, she wanted to go back and try skating again. She'd given up too soon; now the skating rink was closing and her mom wouldn't even think about driving all the way back. She had been disappointed and upset when she realized how hard it was to skate and how hard she had to work at it.

In the Book of Mormon, there are many different stories about people working to take a long journey and

have a better life. Three groups of people came over from the Mideast to this wonderful Promised Land that we live in today. There is a lot of information about two of these journeys and how God prepared each group with much walking to get strong, food, animals, plants, and even air or lights for the darkness.

The first group was the Jaredites that came over during the time after the Tower of Babel. Their leader, the Brother of Jared, loved to talk to the Lord in prayer. He spent many days fasting and praying and listening to God's directions. God promised to lead this man and his family and friends to a Promised Land. After eight years of walking through the wilderness, they ended up on the seashore by a huge ocean.

God told him that he was going to lead his people to a wonderful land across the ocean! When he asked God to show him what kind of boat to build, God showed them how to build eight, small, unusual barges to travel in. These special boats were shaped tight like a dish and built to go under the ocean at times, and to be pushed by wind, waves and deep currents (Ether 6). God told the Brother of Jared to build them with an air opening at the top and at the bottom of the ship. When they needed air, they were to unstop a hole and let air in. But He also told them that if the water started gushing in, they were to close the hole. Can you imagine how much they must have prayed each time they realized that the air being breathed by them and their flocks was running out and they needed to open the air hole? They had to be faithful and trust God's guidance so they would not drown. It took them

344 days to make the trip.

Before they began their trip, God told them to work and gather plants, seeds, and herds of animals of all kinds. Now we know God has all power. If God wanted to, He could have just given everything to these people. But, God told them what to do and how to gather food, animals, seeds, and even fresh water fish, and this group did the work.

As the boats were being completed, the Brother of Jared realized how dark the barges would be without windows. He prayed, and then made a hard climb to the top of Mt. Shem. He worked to build a hot fire and melt the rock to make sixteen small white, clear stones. Then he carried them back down from the mountain and went to God in prayer and asked God to touch the stones to make lights.

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### WORD SEARCH

NEPHI	ETHER
MELTED	CLIMBED
ORE	MT SHEM
MADE	MELT
TOOLS	SIXTEEN
WORKED	SMALL
TO	STONE
BUILD	GOD
SHIP	LED

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

## Correction

In the January Children's Corner, Isaac's wife was mistakenly mentioned as Rachel instead of Rebecca, and Jacob is mentioned as giving the blessing, when in fact it was Isaac who gave the blessing. We apologize for this oversight.

## Visit to the Cree Nation

Continued from Page 4

away, quoting Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." He ended by saying that you may not be here tomorrow. If you don't teach your children who will?

Brother Lyle asked if any present wished to be prayed upon. One visitor came forth and asked if he could express himself first. Others then followed carrying on the theme of the meeting in testimony. Our brothers then began praying for all those who came forth. It was truly wonderful to see God's covenant people come forth to be prayed upon.

As we were preparing to close the meeting, Jemima Sutherland spoke up. She asked, "What do you do when evil spirits are attacking our children? We have a street in the reserve where many children are hearing voices and noises at night. Children are being thrown out of their beds, unable to sleep." Jemima said she contacted a psychic. The psychic asked who she was and told her to send money and he would get rid of the spirits. A man who lives on this street named Stanley, who is not superstitious, chose to explain to his grandchildren the noises they hear are the new homes settling on their foundations.

Brother Matt Collison responded by telling the group Jesus gave us the power to rebuke those evil spirits in the name of Jesus Christ. He explained that they must follow and obey Jesus' commandments if they expect Him to hear their cries to cast out these evil spirits from their reserve. He told them that they cannot continue to do the things they are doing and expect Jesus to respond to their cries. We closed the meeting as we gathered in a circle to sing *Jesus Loves Me* and with a prayer of hope that these people will call upon the Lord to answer their prayers, asking the Lord to bless His covenant people, to protect them by putting a hedge at the entrance of the reserve to stop drugs from entering the reservation. The Spirit of God was truly in our presence.

This region of Canada is north of

Lake Superior. It is full of inland lakes, wildlife and forests. This time of year it experiences temperatures of 40-50 degrees below zero with heavy snowfalls. This was a reason the November trip had to be delayed; the snows began. This was a concern when we considered this trip, but the brothers did not want to delay the trip for even more months until late spring. Prayers were said, and warm gear was packed. The Lord heard our prayers. The coldest temperature we experienced was approximately 15 degrees below zero with light snow dustings. Our drive home was uneventful as we enjoyed God's beautiful creation in a winter-coated wonderland all around us. Our trip came to an end on January 10. The blessings of God were truly with us.

Please remember Brother Matthew Sutherland, his family and the Cree Indians on the Constance Lake Reserve in your prayers.

## Detroit Branch #2

As brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ, our desire is always to share the Gospel with the rest of the world, to see the family of God spread throughout. In particular, we desire to see our own families take hold of the Gospel and give their lives to Christ.

On September 11, 2005 our desire came to fruition as two "children of the saints" were brought into the waters of regeneration, Brother Anthony Gentile and Sister Celeste (Quinlan) Gentile.

We were delighted to hear the news the day before that these two had chosen the following day to be baptized. We gathered at the waters shore the next morning to witness this beautiful event. Brother Alex Gentile asked them each if they repented of their sins. He first brought Anthony, his natural son, into the water. As he raised his arm to exclaim the authority of Jesus Christ, he was so overcome with joy that he began to weep. A prodigal son, a child of the saints, was coming home.

Brother Alex then brought Celeste, his daughter-in-law, into the water. The sun shone bright as he lowered Celeste down and rose up a sister in The Church of Jesus Christ.

After opening our service, the two new converts were asked to come forward to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. The brothers knelt around the two as Brother Alex prayed to choose among them. Brother Duane Lovalvo came forward to confirm Brother Anthony and Brother Dino DiMelis laid hands on Sister Celeste to bestow this precious gift.

The two were asked to express themselves, and they eloquently shared their testimonies of how God had brought them on life's journey to this point.

### Sister Celeste:

"I have always known that I would be here one day. I am sure that I passed on many opportunities along the way. I thank God for getting me to this point today and for each and every one of you. This family is unlike any other in the world. I am very fortunate to have been born into this. I want to thank my parents for bringing me to Church. My mom always put God and everyone else before herself and my dad, who even though he is not here often, always made it a point to make Church important for me. I can't thank God enough for all of you. God has blessed me so much that I could write a book about it. I want to thank all of you for always keeping me in your prayers and thank God for bringing me through so many things in life. Sitting in the hospital room with Sister Cathy, my mother-in-law (during her back surgery and subsequent serious infection), I knew that I was going to do this. I just needed to be able to have her here. This has been a long time coming. Pray for me that I can be as good or half as good of a sister to you as you have been to me."

### Brother Anthony:

"There was never a question in my mind that one day I would be baptized and one day would begin to work for the Lord and try to spread love in

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## Detroit Branch 2

Continued from Page 7

this world. God has surely spared my life on many occasions. There have been several times that if it was not for the prayers of my family I would not be here in body. I thank the Lord for sparing my life and for all of you caring about me and Celeste enough to keep the prayers going for so many years. Not too long ago I turned 34. In my 33<sup>rd</sup> year, I thought often of the fact that Jesus only lived for 33 years and I thought about all that He did in that short amount of time and comparatively how little I have done. I felt a heavy load of unworthiness. I had been thinking about baptism for a while.

About three years ago I had some serious health and life problems and one of the most wonderful people that ever graced this earth helped me in so many ways, Brother Dominic Thomas. We would meet here often and talk for hours. I came one day thinking about what I could tell Brother Dominic and what I should keep to myself. When I got here, the man was so loving and non-judgmental and compassionate that everything just flowed out of me. Up until that point I don't know if I had ever felt that type of love. I have much love in my family and with my wife but there was something about the love that Brother Dominic showed me that was beyond comparison. It was at that point that I knew I must be baptized. We spoke about it but I was intent that I not get baptized at a time when I felt weak. I wanted to be prepared to start working for the Lord. Brother Dominic told me that the time would come that I would do work for the Church and he prayed that the Lord would reveal to me why certain things happened in my life that were hurdles for me.

In the last three years since that day, all of those things have been revealed to me and become clear. I have had opportunities to use those negative experiences in my life for good. Our family went through a big ordeal this summer with my mother's back surgery. I was so afraid that she would not make it through and told Celeste this, and we prayed. I knew

the morning of the surgery that it was not going to be easy. My love for all of you that helped our family grew exponentially. I knew that I wanted her to be well and here for this day. I don't believe for a moment that anything could be better than it is right now. I am very thankful to have made it this far and essentially begin my journey and begin working for the Lord. One thing that has come out of it being so long is that we have had the time to look back on our lives and prepare for the things we want to do and be. I have all the confidence in the world that today is the perfect beginning. Most of you know that today is Brother Dominic's birthday. I knew that I was going to be baptized when my mom was in the hospital and that I would do it this summer. When I realized it was Brother Dominic's birthday, I knew that today was the right day."

## Blessings in Tampa, FL

*By Sisters Kim Zilinski and Linda Walton*

On June 26, 2005 we enjoyed a very blessed day in Tampa. We had many reasons to rejoice on this particular Sunday, as we prepared to witness several wonderful events and to welcome many visitors. We first enjoyed the blessing of a set of sacrament cloths that had been donated by Sister Bethany Smith. (Sister Bethany had purchased them in Brussels during a visit she made there while taking a college course in London.) The cloths were blessed by Brother Sam Risola and immediately put into service. Sisters from both Forest Hills and Tampa participated.

Brother John Griffith began the service with Mark 10:14 delivering a wonderful message about Jesus' love for children. Then we had the blessing of three beautiful children. Samara Henderson was blessed by Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., Roneisha Daniels was blessed by Brother Sam Risola, and Ashley Daniels was blessed by Brother Scott Griffith.

Brother John then continued. He explained the duties of a deaconess and the responsibilities and history of this office. His text was from Timothy and he encouraged us to become a living sacrifice to God and to strive for the desire to be used in the Gospel. He continued by reading from the Law and Order teaching us about the role of this office in the Church. Sister Stacey Murphy (granddaughter of Brother George Timms of Herndon, Virginia) then came forward to be ordained. Her feet were washed by Sister Kim Zilinski. The brothers then knelt and Brother Scott asked God to select one to ordain Sister Stacey. She was then ordained by Brother Sam Risola.

Brother Scott then spoke about the need to be ready to serve. He was followed by Brother Sam Risola who reminded us that the Lord Jesus Christ was our cornerstone and our strong foundation. We then had a musical selection by Brother Isaac D. Smith who sang a beautiful rendition of *Our Church*. We were closed in prayer by Brother A. J. Dyer from Arizona.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a time of fellowship. We praise God for the many brothers and sisters and friends who visited us on this Sunday. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone visiting our area to worship with us, and we thank God for His love towards us.

## Lake Worth Branch News

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

We are starting the New Year with the outlook for great things to come in the future. It is exciting to see the Restored Gospel going forth among all people and to all nations. It is re-freshing to be a part of this glorious Gospel. We had some wonderfully blessed meetings throughout the past year, and I will give some of the highlights from November and December 2005.

Brother Gene Perri spoke to us about the love of God and the importance of having this love in our lives.

Without the love of God we would be a miserable people because the love of God keeps our lives in good order and our marriages committed for life. With the love of God everything can run smoothly for us; without it we will falter and possibly fall into sin.

Making our covenant to the Lord is the most important step that we undertake in life and we should remember that there are joys untold for us if we remain faithful to the end.

Brother Kevin Jasmin also stressed the importance of staying faithful to the Lord and the attributes of staying steadfast and humble before the Lord. We were reminded that there isn't any fear in love and that the reward is so great if we endure the trials of life that come before us. His love is made perfect in us!

We were reminded to count our blessings each day and to say, "It is well with my soul," no matter what comes our way. We were reminded to consider the words of the song that says, "That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed His own blood for my soul." Then we were asked, "What do we want, do we want the material things or do we want the heavenly things?"

Brother Gene Perri reminded us to always be concerned for the welfare of our souls and to remember that we are drinking from the fountain of living waters. Jesus will give each one the message of what they should do to come unto Him to be saved. Brother Gene expounded on the importance of saving our souls.

Brother Mike Radd opened one service asking us, "Will we go through the fire with Him? We must remember that if Jesus goes with us, we can do anything. He promised never to leave us alone."

At another service, Brother Gene Perri opened with "Where could I go but to the Lord," and expounded on how we cannot do anything without the Lord to lead and direct us. Brother Gene read from Mosiah 18:8 concerning the Waters of Mormon and how great was their desire to serve the Lord with joy and gladness. They clapped their hands for joy at the blessings they received from the Lord.

Brother Gene advised everyone to let our desires be made known and to trust fully in the Lord for all things.

Brother Kevin Jasmin reminded us to remember the day of our baptism and of how we started our walk with the Lord. We were asked, "Where is your desire today?" We need to rekindle that spark in our hearts and go forward in our service to the Lord with an eye single to His glory. It should be our desire to spread the Gospel and to reclaim the lost ones back to the fold.

The congregation was asked, "Do you love to tell the story? Do we take every opportunity to tell the story of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us?" We must be dependent on God for all things and never forget to praise Him for His mercies extended to us. We have been constantly encouraged by our elder brothers to stay close to the Gospel and to visit with one another keeping ourselves in constant unity and in the love of God.

On New Years Eve we gathered together in our branch for a Potluck Supper and needless to say it was delicious indeed. It was wonderful to come together and to fellowship one with another. After supper we gathered in the auditorium for some good spiritual food. It was a time to reflect on the passing of the old year and of the many blessings that came our way and also of how we were brought through different trials that may have come before us, but always ready to praise the name of the Lord.

Brother Mike Radd opened the meeting and reminded us how we were spared through the many hurricanes and difficult times in our lives.

Following is one recent incident that happened to Brother Mike and Sister Ann Radd on Christmas Eve: As they were returning home from dinner, two men followed them and approached them with a gun. Only through God's mercy were they spared and not hurt. We want to praise God for sparing their lives during this terrible ordeal.

Brother Gene Perri followed and spoke of the Good Samaritan. "Can we say we take part of the Good Samaritan in our life? We must always be willing to help others and to be a

good neighbor." Brother Gene stressed the importance of love and forgiveness toward everyone.

After a few duets and congregation singing we joined together in a circle of prayer by Brother Gene to prepare us for the New Year of 2006. It was a wonderful time spent in fellowship on the last day of the year 2005 and what better place to be than with the saints in His Church.

The saints in Lake Worth wish everyone a blessed New Year. Please continue to pray for us as we will be praying for each of you!

## Hollywood Branch

*By Sister Jan Humphrey*

### The Spirit of Giving

On Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>, the children in the branch presented their annual Christmas program entitled "Heavenly Signs at Christmas – The signs of Jesus' Birth in the Promised Land and Bethlehem." Beautiful hymns were also sung by Sister Barbara and Sister Gianna Dinardo as well as Brother Peter Benyola, who was visiting from Indiana. We were blessed with many other visitors from other parts of the vineyard.

Brother Joe Catone spoke on the "Spirit of Giving" and how much the Lord has given each and every one of us. Since we are with the Spirit of Christ, the Lord teaches us how to give to each other with our hearts. Without monetary value, we show the love to everyone. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 it is written that "God loves a cheerful giver...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." What ye shall sow, so shall ye reap. What the Lord gives to us, we share with others. The gift that He gives to each of us is to share with others. He doesn't give it to us to keep to ourselves. If we sing of our redeemer and live the life Christ intended for each of us, we would be able to

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## Hollywood Branch

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exercise the gift of Love to everyone.

Brother Silver Coppa told us how the holiday lights motivate in us the beauty of the season. Love is the most crucial part of the care He gives to His children. Unless you feel within you the Love of God, no one can explain it in words or by the giving of gifts at Christmas time. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." The greatest gift of all is God's gift of His Son Jesus Christ. To understand the power of God's love, you must desire it. He manifests His love to us daily.

## Ordination at Plumbrook, Michigan

On October 2, 2005 the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch was blessed to have Apostle Peter Scolaro in our midst. This day was set aside for the ordination of Sister Kathy Peshl into the office of a Deaconess.

Brother Peter opened with Hebrews 12:12, telling us to run the race that is before us to achieve our goal, always looking to Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith. He continued with Helaman 10:4-5. "We must continue to do our calling no matter what may come our way. Have joy without weariness and you will always be blessed." Brother Peter stated that he chose these verses as they apply to all of us in our lives not just the ordained offices.

Sister Judy Coppa washed Sister Kathy's feet and she was ordained by Brother Nephi DeMecurio, Sr.

After Sister Kathy was ordained she relayed an experience she had. Many years ago as she was cleaning the church alone, she started to polish the sacrament table. She felt an overwhelming presence of the Spirit of God come down on her. The Spirit was very strong, and all she could do was stand in front of the table and cry.

Praise be to God for all of His blessings!

## New Songs of Zion

### #132 And Then the Rains Came

(Psalm 34)

'Twas a beautiful garden,  
God tended it well,  
All His beautiful flowers,  
They were so quick to tell;  
Of the bright sunny mornings  
And the cool evening breeze,  
While the small birds rested  
In the strong tall trees.

Noah called out to sinners,  
So many long years;  
"The storm it is coming"  
But they laughed at his tears.  
While the ark was preparing  
God held back the tide,  
But He closed the door quickly,  
When they all were inside

#### Chorus

And then the rains came,  
And the trees fell down,  
And the wind blew harder  
With an awful sound;  
But then the sun shone  
And the rainbow found its place,  
And the little birds sang out,  
"We were saved by grace."

### #133 The Gospel's Sound

(Romans 10:18 "...their sound went out...")

The Gospel has a sound we know,  
No other sounds the same,  
The Church of Jesus Christ will stand,  
It's built upon His name.  
There are many sounds on earth today,  
There are many spirits too,  
But nothing sounds so clearly sweet  
And nothing rings so true.

The Gospel has an ancient sound,  
Our fathers walked the same,  
They never left the sound they heard,  
The Church in Jesus' name;  
Contemporary sounds and songs  
Don't have the Gospel's ring,  
Peculiar so they say we are  
Of Latter Days we sing.

The Gospel has a lovely sound,  
It penetrates the night,  
And lifts away the heaviness,  
And makes the burdens light,  
Be careful children lest ye march  
To quite another sound  
And leave the ancient path and lose,  
The Gospel you have found.

Sister Arlene Buffington  
November 13, 2005

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for your many cards and phone calls and most importantly all of your prayers. I have been blessed with a speedy recovery from my recent stroke, and I am now receiving physical therapy at my home.

Thank you again and may God bless and be with each one of you.

Brother Andrew Locci

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for your phone calls, cards and prayers during my recent recovery from knee surgery. Your thoughtfulness was deeply appreciated and very uplifting.

Sincerely,  
Brother Dan Buffington

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Carlini, Kerry and Isolina  
734-418-2978

O'Connor, Carolynn  
8007 Schneider  
Manchester, MI 48158  
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Genaro, Ron and Cathy  
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Warren, OH 44483  
330-718-5492



## Missionary Visit in Kenya

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come because of the economic conditions being experienced by the people within the country, our brothers and sisters are doing the best they can to survive. They request our prayers that God will provide all of their daily needs.

Everywhere we travel, whether it is at the airport or walking in a town or village, we receive many inquiries as to what our interests are for being in this country. Everyone who has ever traveled to Kenya will say it is a beautiful country to visit. Tourists from all over the world come to enjoy a holiday and spend time going on safari rides to see the different wild animals that roam Serengeti plains. However, when we tell them we are missionaries, they extend an invitation for us to come and preach the Gospel to them and their people, whether it is in Kenya or another country within Africa. The Church of Jesus Christ has an open door to preach the Restored Gospel in many parts of Africa. We know this is true because of the many written and verbal invitations already received to bring the message of the Restored Gospel to either their village or country.

The words of Jesus in St. John 4:35-36 to His disciples are: "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. *And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.*"

What we urgently need and request are laborers who have a desire to become involved and are willing to go out and work in God's vineyard, performing "**The Great Work of the Lord**" and who hear the cries of the people wanting to listen to the Restored Gospel message and the good news of hope and salvation.

The saints of the Kenya Church extend their love and regards to the entire Church membership in America and around the globe. God bless one and all.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Again, he worked. He also spent many days in praying for guidance from God. Do you see that God wants us to work? He wants us to spend time in praying and telling Him what we need. Then God wants us to be brave and follow His directions.

There is also an amazing story about the sons of Lehi who came to the Promised Land about 1,600 years after the Jaredite people. His four youngest sons loved and served God; they were led by their good brother, Nephi. His two oldest sons, Laman and Lemuel, argued and resisted leaving their home in Jerusalem and constantly caused trouble for Nephi. God's plan was to save this family from destruction in their country. They journeyed in the wilderness many years and also ended up at the seashore.

When Nephi realized that God wanted him to build a ship, he did not argue. He said, "Lord, where should I go to find ore to melt so that I can make tools to build the ship like you've showed me?" The Lord told Nephi where to go to find the ore and then Nephi really worked. He had to hit two stones together to make a fire, and then he had to make a bellows to blow air on the fire, and then he had to work to melt the metal out of the rocks. Next he could take the metal and form cutting tools — saws or hammers. Now, we know that if God had chosen to, he could have sent a tornado to a town where there were tools and just had the wind sweep them up and drop them at Nephi's feet. But God did not. God's plan was for Nephi and the others to work and learn!

In a dream, God showed their leader, Nephi, how to build a large ship to come across the wide ocean. His older brothers were furious and told him he did not know how to build a ship. They refused to do any work or help build the ship. Nephi prayed and asked God what to do. The Spirit of God came upon Nephi so great that he warned his brothers not to touch him or they would be shocked to death. After several days, God told Nephi, "Reach out your hand now and touch

them. I will only shock them." When he shocked them, they saw the power of God and agreed to work on the ship. They marveled at God's plan. But this did not happen in one day. It took months and months of hard work without giving up. It also took unity among the people so they could work as a team.

At last the day came and their beautiful ship was ready to be loaded! For months they had worked building the ship then gathering seeds and plants, honey, fruits, and animals. The Lord sent a powerful wind that blew them towards the Promised Land. As long as they were prayerful and worked together, the winds blew them safely on their way. When Laman and his friends tied up Nephi and were wicked, God sent a huge storm that nearly crushed them until they repented and were sorry.

When they reached the Promised Land, they were so joyful. It was a country full of riches. Their seeds grew abundantly. There were all sorts of useful animals already there waiting to be tamed (1 Nephi 18:25). There was silver, gold and copper to use to make plates to write on and tools to use. There were great rewards for anyone who wanted to work and learn. Nephi and his followers started building their cities. They worked to build a temple like the temple in Jerusalem.

These men prayed, served God and worked to have their dreams come true. My friend told me that she is going to try ice-skating again next week. She told me she'll probably fall a few more times, but she is going to keep trying. What is your dream? What special thing do you wish that you knew how to do? When do you plan to start working on it? Why do you fear working? All of the great men and women of the scriptures worked and were happy. We can be too. Your dreams may take many prayers or many months or years to come true, but they can happen. Pray and ask God what you should do and get started! Philippians 4:13 teaches us, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Children Blessed

Willow Naomi Hale, daughter of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

Sky Billie Hale, daughter of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario branch.

Hunter Lydia Hale, daughter of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

Alexandria Mariah Hale, daughter of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario branch.

Woody Clarence Hale, son of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

Takota Blue Hale, son of Ed and Virginia Hale, was blessed on November 26, 2005 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

Anthony Steven Thomas, son of Brother Paul Thomas and Jessica Kelly, was blessed on January 8, 2006 at Detroit, Branch #1.

Oriana Sophia Bicelis, daughter of Brother Raul and Sister Liliana Bicelis, was blessed on January 8, 2006 at the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Deanna Smith, daughter of Brent Smith, was blessed on October 2, 2005 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Ron Thompson was baptized on December 4, 2005 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Timothy Mott and confirmed by Brother Zachary Jackson.

Brother Gary Thompson was baptized on December 4, 2005 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Timothy Mott and confirmed by Brother Brandon Miller.

Sister Michele Peltier, of the Windsor, Ontario Branch, was reinstated on April 5, 2005 by Brother John Collison.

and Vickie Naples; grandmother, Sister Rose Naples; grandfather, Dan Naples; one brother, Anthony; aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

### JOAN (D'ANTONIO) GIBSON

Sister Joan (D'Antonio) Gibson of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on October 25, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Brother James Gibson; two sons, David and his wife Marian, Brian and his wife Kathleen; one daughter, Earleen and her husband, Thomas Hunt; as well as eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Ordinations

Brother Daniel McNamara was ordained a Teacher in the Kinsman Ohio Branch on November 20, 2005. His feet were washed by Brother Jeremy Nicklow and he was ordained by Brother Jim Moore.

## OBITUARIES

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

### NICOLE MARIE NAPLES

Nicole Marie Naples of Lake Worth, Florida passed to her reward. She is survived by her parents, Dan

### CARMELLA D'AMICO

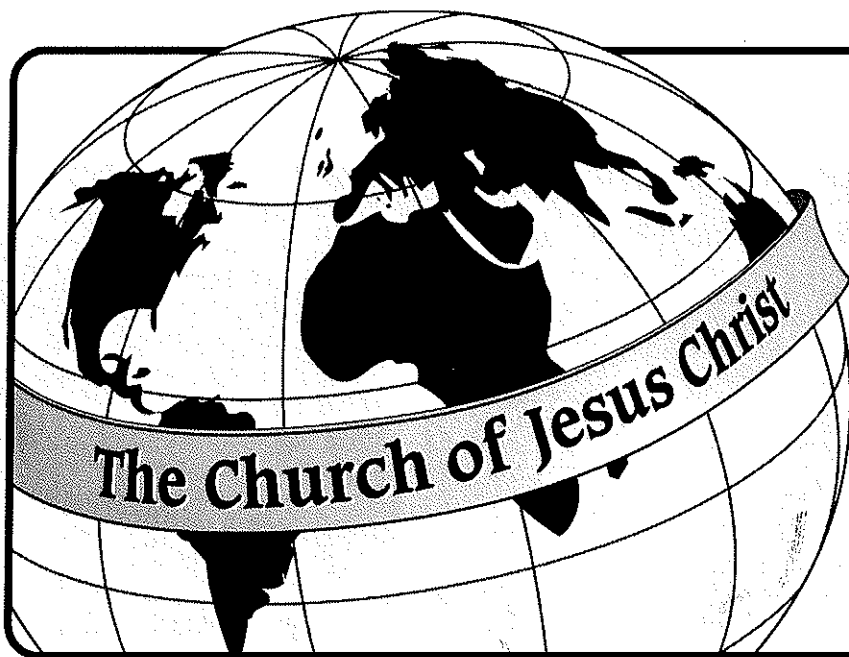
Sister Carmella D'Amico passed on to her reward on September 2, 2005. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Ansel D'Amico. She is survived by her sisters-in-law, Sister Grace D'Amico, Sister Irma Rossi, Jemma Gallucci; and many nieces and nephews.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

April, 2006

Volume 62, No. 4

## The Church of Jesus Christ Established and Organized in the Country of Rwanda, Africa

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

The Africa sector has been blest in the year of 2005 to have established the Church of Jesus Christ in two African Countries. It was in the month of February 2005 the Church of Jesus Christ was established and organized in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the month of November in the country of Rwanda. Many inquiries are being received from different countries within this large continent of Africa requesting our missionaries to come and preach the Restored Gospel message with many opportunities for The Church of Jesus Christ to open new mission fields.

The Capital City of Kigali has some very modern structures, beautiful homes, office buildings, etc. The main roads are paved with asphalt but some of the road pavement leading up to the villages are plain dirt and rough to ride on; however the area is very clean. As you travel away from the city, you see typical African style homes made of bamboo and mud with thatched roofs, cement and bamboo with steel sheet-ing on the roof. The weather

was warm during the day; at times we would experience a heavy downpour for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, then the weather would clear. The nights however were rather cool. The terrain is very mountainous and I would say it is beautiful country. The

hotel where we stayed and called home for almost three weeks was very comfortable and accommodating. Food was excellent. The people are very kind especially when they know what your purpose is for being in their country. Rwanda like other African countries because of wild life, especially the mountain gorillas, attracts many tourists; however, our main objective in traveling to the various countries in Africa is to preach the

(Continued on Page 2)



Brothers and Sisters of Rwanda with missionaries.

## Church Organized in Rwanda

Continued from Page 1

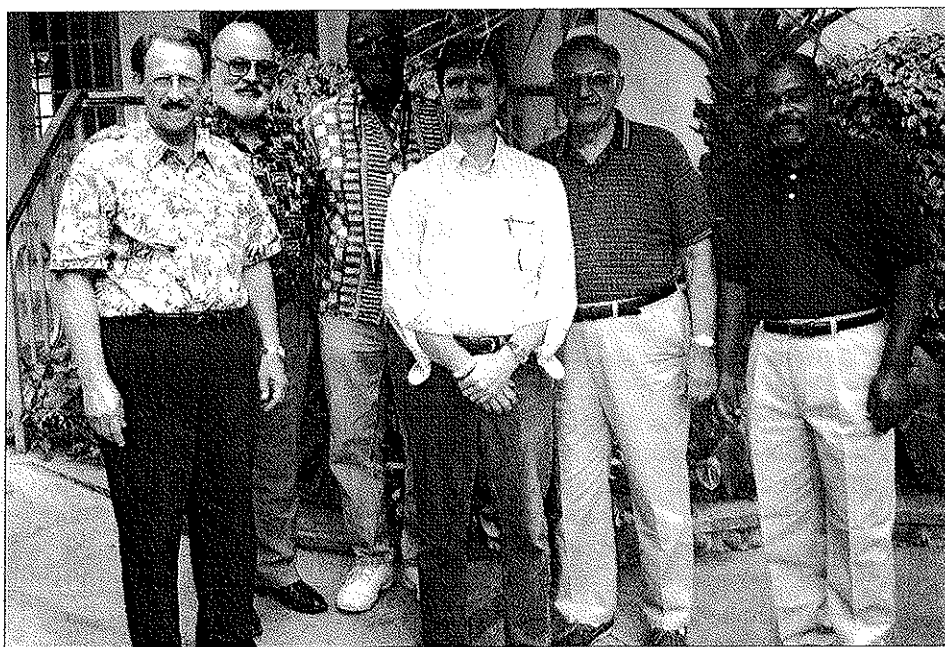
### Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ

In the November issue of the *Gospel News*, Brother Chat Young wrote an article giving historical facts on how the missionary efforts of the Church began in the country of Rwanda. Everyone who read this article will understand that God had a plan for this nation of people. The citizens of this country experienced a tremendous loss of life because of the genocide that occurred a few years earlier; however, the way was being prepared to fulfill the scripture among this people written in Luke 4:18. Jesus having returned back to Nazareth after overcoming the temptation of the devil, went into the synagogue and the minister delivered to Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. When he opened the book He found a place where it was written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of the sight of the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord"* (Luke 4:18-19). After reading these verses He closed the book and gave it back to the minister and it is written the eyes of them that were in a synagogue were fastened on Him. Jesus went on to say to these people, *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears"* (Luke 4:21). Verse 22 continues, *"And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"* Each of our missionaries who has visited this country came with the thought in mind to fulfill this scripture. The year of 2005 was the time this scripture had its beginning in the country of Rwanda.

It is very difficult for us to understand and we cannot imagine how badly these people were bruised and their hearts broken seeing the loss of life of so many of their loved ones. Because one of our beloved brothers



Brother Damascene and his wife, Sister Jeanine.



Missionaries on November 2005 Trip

of the Priesthood felt the need to bring the testimony of the Restored Gospel to Rwanda, the Church of Jesus Christ has experienced its beginning in this country. God began to do His perfect work by inspiring His anointed to make a visit in the month of August 2005. After the brothers who made this maiden trip preached the Restored Gospel message to those they met with, the Spirit of God bore evidence of the truth of this message

and nine souls were baptized. Our brothers laid the foundation and paved the way for others to build upon that foundation. Through His Holy Priesthood and preaching under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, the words spoken were gracious for those who were privileged to hear. God through His word had begun to heal the souls of many that had been bruised because of witnessing this great tragedy, to mend the broken-

## Report from Evangelist George F. Arthur, Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, West Africa

On the 13th day of November 2005, the Nigeria church priesthood, the national director, deacons/deaconesses, teachers and members of various branches of our Church congregated at a new location, where newly-baptized members of the Church in Ikot Obio Oruk were located. There were two hired buses and a taxi to convey visiting members from Atai Otoro National Headquarters to the new location. We were highly received with joy, happiness and with hymns of praises and thanks to the almighty creator of Heaven and earth.

The national church director, Evangelist George Frank Arthur, conducted the service. His sermon centered on the points "Ye are my friend, if ye do according to the wishes of my father in Heaven." The sermon sparked up many people to testify gloriously to God. Many visitors from the congregation audience requested baptism. This new mission location was established following the baptism of twenty souls into the Church at this area. A teacher

and a deacon were also ordained from this congregation. The new mission made an appeal to the national Priesthood director to assist them to get a permanent place of worship. The director in response to their request told them that by faith, co-operation and trust in the Lord, nothing is impossible to accomplish in the hands of God.

The director, Evangelist George F. Arthur, made an arrangement to have a minister sent to take care of the new mission on a regular basis.

### GOD'S MIRACLE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 2006

The year 2006 was the dawn of miracles of God in The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2006, the members of the priesthood were sent out in groups to celebrate by fasting and prayers throughout the various branches and missions and some individual homes by thanks and prayers to the Almighty God and

Saviour for His great love, care and protection in keeping us alive till the new year 2006. Many miraculous events took place in various branches revealing God's wonderful love to the Church and mankind.

Evangelist George F. Arthur had reported of how sickness had tortured and tormented Brother James John Akpan throughout the month of January 2006. Brother Effiong Ntiense with the same experience of sickness for many months was treated at various times at various hospitals with no results. The brothers and sisters in the Church as well as the members of the priesthood had been visiting and praying at various times for our sick brothers, and it was by the hand of God that they were both healed.

At Atai Obio Akpa Branch a dead child of one of our members was brought to church and through the power of Christ, restored to life. A new birth of a baby was delivered with no hard labor. The sick ones were healed and baptism was administered to new converts. Brothers Pastor Joseph Usoro and Malachy Nwomo and many others did testify of what the Lord had done by their hands during the prayer week events in January 2006.

hearted for many of whom lost their loved ones and to set at liberty those that were held captive by the power of evil, having bitter hatred in their hearts because of the tragedy they witnessed, having no real meaning for life or purpose for living.

There was an urgent need for a follow-up visit to be made after the August visit because word was received there were a number of other people interested in receiving the comforting words of Jesus Christ who requested to be baptized but no ordained Elder from in country was available to perform this ordinance. The month of November 2005 was set aside for a number of missionaries; namely, Apostle Paul Liberto, Liaison to the IMOC, Evangelist Joel Gehly, Vice Chairman to the IMOC,

Evangelist J. Joseph Perri, Africa Sector Chairman, Evangelist James Crudup, Africa missionary, and Elder Lyle Criscuolo, Malawi Mission Field Chairman to make a second visit to Rwanda. Brother Chatman Young was already in country because of his employment. Brothers Alexander Rudatiskira and Jean Pierre Habimana were being recommended for ordination into the Priesthood, becoming our Church's spiritual leaders for this nation. It was during this visit that a man by the name of Damascene Twizeyimana was introduced to Brothers Paul and Joel. When brother Damascene saw Brother Joel for the first time, he said he knew him, but Brother Joel was puzzled because he could not remember ever meeting him.

The following dream will give

details as to when and how Brother Damascene came to know Brother Joel. In his dream, Damascene saw himself walking down a dirt road in Rwanda. Ahead of him on the road was a large group of men, church leaders from other churches (pastors, bishops, church leaders, etc.) walking down the road as well. This group of men was walking ahead of Damascene and would occasionally turn around and make fun of him, pointing and making comments of ridicule. A car drove up from behind Damascene, passed him, and then stopped between Damascene and the group of church leaders. A man got out of the car and walked back to Damascene, took him by the hand, led him

(Continued on Page 8)



## IMOC Meeting at the Mesa Branch

By Brother Jim Alessio

The Mesa, Arizona Branch was privileged to host the IMOC meeting on Saturday, November 26, 2005.

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 someone's 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 presented by our brothers.

### Notice

World Conference Center construction has begun!

Photos of the progress are available at the Church's website – [thechurchofjesuschrist.org](http://thechurchofjesuschrist.org).

These photos will be updated as construction advances. Please continue to support this project so that we can meet our goal of fully funding the construction.

Send donations to:  
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World Conference Center  
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Greensburg, PA 15601





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*(This editorial was written by Brother Don Ross and is reprinted from a previous issue of The Gospel News.)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of the Lord's Apostles, John, is known as the Apostle of love. He tells us in his writings

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Dear Friends,

When someone new comes to the church to visit, what do you do? Stop and think. Do you say to yourself, "I'd go up and visit, but I'm too shy." Or "I'm too busy." Or "What if they don't like me?" Or "They are probably someone else's friend. They can go talk to them!"

We know in The Church of Jesus Christ that there are three influences trying to affect us all day long—our human side, the devil and God. The Scripture tells us that our human side is an enemy to God. It will tell us we are too scared, or little, or tired to be great-er than we are. Our human side is often afraid to change and try to be different than we usually are. The old devil always tries to discourage us from doing anything good or kind. But the part of us that listens to the words of God is stronger, wiser, and bigger and better! Only the Spirit of God can give us the power to do good. Only the Spirit of God can make us greater than we are alone. If we let Him, God can change us to be braver and more loving.

Serving God means you will have a friend named Jesus to help you constantly as you face the changes in life. When you move to a new class or someone you love dies, or someone is counting on you to do a big job, you need help. That's when we remember the Apostle Paul's letter to the people of Philippi. He told them in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." When you are really and truly trying to let God use you to help others, you will change. You will talk it over with the Lord and tell him, "Lord, help me to



change and be the person you want me to be."

Moses, the son of a Hebrew slave, was raised and educated in the Pharaoh's palace. At age forty he killed an Egyptian guard who was beating a Hebrew. He ran away from Egypt to the desert to save his life and lived there for forty years. God then appeared to him in a burning bush and told Moses to go back to Egypt to help free the Hebrews. God told Moses He wanted him to tell the Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go (Exodus 3rd and 4th chapters).

Moses was so afraid. He was an old man now of eighty years, but he gave the Lord one excuse after another. He said, "Lord, who am I? They won't believe me." The Lord told him what to say. Then Moses said, "They won't listen to me. They'll say the Lord has not appeared unto you." The Lord heard what Moses said. He decided to help him.

The Lord gave him powerful signs. He gave him a rod that turned into a snake. God also showed him another sign. He told Moses to put his hand into his coat. When he took it out, it turned diseased with leprosy. Then when Moses put his hand back into his coat, the leprosy was removed. Moses was still afraid. So, God told him, "I have a final sign. Take water out of the river and pour it onto the ground. I will turn it into blood! These are powerful signs that will convince the Hebrew people that I am real."

But Moses was afraid. He said, "Lord, I'm not a good speaker." God replied, "Who made your tongue? Go and I will tell your mouth what to say."

Moses was still afraid. He pleaded with the Lord saying, "Send, I

beg you, whoever you will send." Moses did not want to go.

God was angry with him, "Isn't Aaron your brother?" he asked. "I know he can speak well. You can speak to him and he can speak to the people." And that is the way it happened. God sent Moses and Aaron to stand up to the Pharaoh and free the Hebrew people. It took many miracles and forty years to make the Hebrews into a great nation, but it happened.

An eighty-year-old man became the leader of this great nation. A person, who was afraid to let God use him, overcame his fears. Sometimes when we're afraid, we can tell the Lord to please send someone to help us and God will. The evil one tried to discourage Moses, but God understood and sent a brave brother to help him do the work.

(Continued on Page 11)

## WORD SEARCH

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## The Journey Was Easy

After 1,970 miles, 36 hours, 11 branches/missions, nine local MBAs, countless stops for coffee, too many laughs and two potential MBAs later, the Midwest Area MBA officers said they would do it all over again. Even though the Midwest Region is spread over eight states, the MBA Officers decided to break away from the standard media of communicating by postal mail and e-mail, by traveling to all our locals. Brothers Timothy Mott and Dan McNamara and Sisters Deanna Nuzzi and Elizabeth Kall climbed into a car almost every weekend and even a few Wednesday nights for two months to visit the saints in their home branches.

Not sure of what the outcome would be nor even having a previous trip like this one after which to model, the Area MBA officers created a PowerPoint presentation with information on the upcoming schedule of events and plans for the future of the

Area MBA. This slideshow also described the Midwest MBA Area web site, <http://www.midwestmba.org>, along with information on upcoming activities. All the trips had proved to be a success. After spending weekends with different groups of saints, those who had presented the agenda left feeling great. The brothers and sisters were able to have some visitors and a brand new outlook on the future of the Area MBA.

It wasn't very often when all of the Area MBA officers were able to be together and present in full force, but when they were, God had truly blessed them. One Sunday night the four traveled to the Perry, OH Branch and met up with the other MBA officers. That night they had a unified presentation with all the Area officers present. Brother John Genaro, the Area Chaplain, presided over the meeting and gave some of the brothers from the ministry the opportunity to share a message. The message our brothers presented was how we must make ourselves available for the Lord, like clay in the hands of a potter. Brother Al Mayher followed these young brothers, stating how proud he was to see the young people stepping up to fill offices and running with them.

The saints agreed in concert with an "Amen!" while God rained His blessings softly on our congregation in Perry that night.

Although the tour is now over and the Area MBA whirlwind has begun to subside with weekends returning to normal, the Area's officers and saints were left excited and inspired as they continue to follow God. We thank God for this opportunity given to our Area to unite and grow stronger as we head into the future hand in hand, serving the Lord.

## Announcement

GMBA Conference  
May 20-21, 2006  
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## A Wonderful Port in the Storm

By Sister Barbara P. Williams

When we first arrived in Gastonia, North Carolina Mission in November 2004, we were scared and broken due to the loss of employment and essentially our livelihood. We did not know much about this place or the people who worshipped here.

Of course, that changed immediately! There is no other love like the love of the brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ. The sisters

gathered together and provided us with food and Sister Vera Jackman, who has a soft spot for all the children, made sure that there were goodies for them. As Sister Virginia Molinatto says, "When God speaks, we must listen." Whatever our sisters provided was exactly what we needed at exactly the right time.

Over a year has passed since that day and our little mission has grown much. After the Williams family from Florida arrived (Brother David, Sister Barbara, David and Sarah), the Vicinis from Texas came to join us (Sister Christine, her husband, Donald, and their daughter, Kathleen). The blessings did not stop there. Brother George and Sister Jill Kovacic as well as their daughter Sister Nichole and her husband, Nester, arrived from Miami, Florida.

The story of the Gastonia Mission began many years prior to our arrival. Sister Virginia and Brother Jonathan Molinatto arrived here some fifty years ago. After Brother Bill and Sister Florence LaRosa and the Dyer family came to Gastonia, the group started to meet in homes of the saints. Brother Darrell and Sister Connie Rossi, Brother Sam and Sister Vera Jackman, Fred and Sister Maryann Keener as well as Brother Joe, Donna and Abigail Catone are all part of the group now meeting in Gastonia. We are so thankful to our gracious, all-knowing Lord who according to His will, planted all of these brothers and sisters in this part of the vineyard. They continue to sow the Lord's seeds for us to enjoy.

Brother Chris and Sister Becky

(Continued on Page 8)

## Port in the Storm

Continued from Page 7

DeRoo and their children also joined the saints in Gastonia and are such a blessing to us. The children love to sing praises to the Lord. Brother Chris truly has an inspired knowledge of the Book of Mormon, and as our Sunday School teacher passes that knowledge onto us. We are so blessed and grateful to have them in our midst.

The Lord is in our presence each and every Sunday with the manifestations of healing the sick, beautiful testimonies of our brothers and sisters, and the love that is felt by all who attend. God's voice is heard by the youngest among us. Sister Connie Rossi shared an experience that her grandson, Kaleb, had. Kaleb resisted going to bed and kept asking if God puts a shield of protection around us. He asked this several times and would not settle into sleep. Sister Connie kept reassuring Kaleb that God does put a shield of protection around us. A phone call came a few minutes later stating that Caleb's father was in a very serious accident at his workplace. We praise God for God's comfort to Kaleb when all were unaware that Kaleb needed comforting.

David wrote often concerning our Lord's shield of protection in the book of Psalms. One such verse: *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song I will praise Him"* (Psalm 28:7).

Our doors are open in Gastonia. Please, stop by this wonderful port in the storm. The spirit of our Lord is here!

## Church Organized in Rwanda

Continued from Page 3

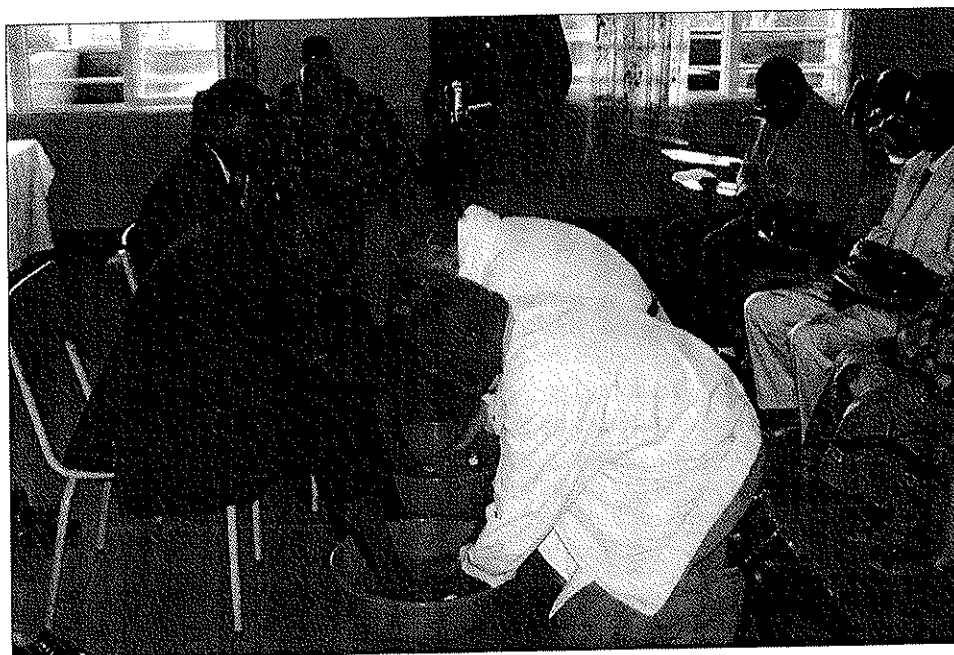
back to the car where they both got into the vehicle and drove past the group of church leaders and on down the road. The group of church leaders was astonished that Damascene was invited into the car. At the time Damascene had this dream, he did not

know who the man was that took his hand and led him to the vehicle until Brother Joel was introduced to him. The man driving the car was also unknown to brother Damascene but as the dream was being related, he thought perhaps the person driving the car might have been Brother Joel's father. One afternoon the brothers were sitting around the table talking about scripture, when Brother Chat spoke up and related an experience the Lord showed him that the man driving the car was Brother Russell Cadman. The revelation and Spirit of God are very important for us to rely on to understand and confirm what the will and purposes of God are in our lives.

Every day of our being in country was spent in training these two brothers. Brother Damascene, though not ordained at that time, also sat in all of our training classes where various subjects pertaining to our ministerial responsibilities, the Faith and Doctrine, Apostasy and Restoration, ordinances and the structure of our Church were taught. These brothers asked many questions and were anxious to learn how they would be able to perform their duties as ministers of the Church. What we were able to observe by the many questions asked and how they were absorbing what was being pre-

sented to them, was that each one of them had taken their responsibility as Elders very seriously. November 9, 2005 was the date set aside to ordain brothers Alexander and Jean Pierre, but the power of the enemy of our souls tried to stop us from attending to these ordinations. Brother Paul, Brother Joel and I became ill the night before. We were anointed a number of times, and even though our bodies were weak because of the illness, we prepared ourselves to attend this ordination service.

It had rained very heavily about two hours before the scheduled time of our meeting and all of us thought there would be just a few people in attendance for this occasion. However by the time the meeting was to commence the sun came out and soon the building was filled to capacity with brothers and sisters, family members and friends who came to witness this historical event. Brother Alexander and Brother Jean Pierre were set apart for ordination into the priesthood by the washing of feet. Brother Chatman Young washed the feet of Brother Alexander and Brother Joseph Perri washed the feet of Brother Jean Pierre. As we looked over the congregation in attendance, we could see the people were blest to witness such



Brother Chat and Brother Joe washing the feet of Brother Alexander (left) and Brother Jean Pierre (right).

a wonderful occasion. They were anxious and waiting to see the moment when these brothers would be ordained. Brother Lyle Criscuolo ordained Brother Alexander Rudatiskira, Brother Joel Gehly ordained Brother Jean Pierre Habimana. Two sisters one of which was Sister Rhoda, the wife of Brother Alexander, and another sister by the name of Judith who had been recommended as deaconesses were also ordained in this meeting. These four ordinations were the first of its kind to take place in the country of Rwanda. When the service was concluded a number of visitors expressed their joy in having been a witness to experience this kind of an ordination service.

We were requested to visit with Brother Damascene who lives in the province of Kibungo about 2 1/2 hours from Kigali. However the branch of the Church where he has been holding meetings with a group of people is in the village of Rukira high on the top of a mountain. He is able to get public transportation when funds are available, for the distance from his home to the base of the mountain; but from the base of the mountain to the top where he meets with a group of people is quite a distance and many times there is no public transportation available. Brother Damascene then has to walk

approximately 17 km or 10.5 miles.

One morning as we prepared to make a visit to the village of Rukira, because of the distance we were about 1/2 hour late. Men from different religious groups told the people who were waiting for our arrival that Brother Damascene was not telling them the truth about American missionaries coming to their village, that they were wasting their time, so they all dispersed and went to their homes. Upon our arrival however, word spread very quickly we had arrived and within 20 minutes the building was filled to capacity with adults and children who were anxious not only to see us but also to hear words of encouragement from the Holy Scriptures. These men as it was described in his dream had been persecuting Brother Damascene because he was not affiliated with any religious group. He was teaching his own beliefs. The people that gathered in the humble meeting place built by Brother Damascene sang a few choruses for us and we could tell by listening to the way they were singing that there was joy in their hearts, that our Brother Damascene was indeed telling them the truth, that missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ were coming to visit and hold worship services together

with whomever wanted to come to the meeting. The men women and children who came and filled the building not only wanted to see us but also they wanted to be encouraged by the word of God.

After our meeting was concluded we took some group pictures and then prepared to exit the village not knowing the tragedy that we could have been involved in. We boarded the van and some of us were singing because of the beautiful spirit that we felt in meeting with these people for the first time. We were just a short distance from beginning our descent down the mountain—the road was winding and steep and on one side a drop went straight down into a ravine of several hundred feet—when the front brake disc pad and the bolt that held the pad in place fell out. The driver was able to stop the van but we did not know why he was stopping. However, when he told us the reason why he stopped, we gave thanks to God that this happened before we began our descent down the steep mountain road. If the front brake disc pad would have fallen out while we were going downhill, there would have been no way of controlling the van as it went down the winding road. The end thereof would have been certain tragedy for all of us in the van with serious and possible life-threatening injuries and possibly even death. God preserved our life for which we praise and give Him thanks. We could feel the prayers of the saints that were being offered for us. Brother John DiBattista informed us he was awakened about 4:30 a.m. on that morning (US time) to offer prayer for us, just about the same hour this tragedy could have occurred.

The morning of November 10, Brothers Paul and Joel having recovered from their illness, prepared themselves to take their journey back home to the United States. A number of visitors came to bid farewell to the brothers wishing them God's protection and care for their return home. It was sad for those of us who would remain to see our brothers leave; however, we knew there were other



Left to Right: Brother Alexander and wife, Sister Rhoda; Brother Jean Pierre and wife, Sister Neema.

(Continued on Page 10)



## Church Organized in Rwanda

Continued from Page 9

activities of the Church our brothers would be attending. It is a blessing for all of us to be together serving as missionaries in the country of Rwanda.

Saturday, November 13, we drove a distance to a body of water where we baptized 12 converts. Among them was Brother Damascene and his wife, Sister Jeanine. I was privileged to baptize both husband and wife and when I prepared to baptize Sister Jeanine, the Spirit of God revealed itself to me that she would be ordained a deaconess. Brother Damascene related the following experience to us, which was very encouraging, and I would like to share it with our *Gospel News* readers. Our brother told us that in 1994 he became very seriously ill where he thought he was going to die; however, one evening as he prepared to retire to bed, he asked God to help him in his affliction. That night he had a dream where a personage appeared to him and told him that he would not die but that he would serve God all the days of his life. Also in the dream, he saw a beautiful place which was plush and green with beautiful trees, a place that was beautifully landscaped that he had never seen before.

In the same year in April, a tribal war broke out in Rwanda which resulted in the genocide of over one million people. Hearing that the war was getting close to his village, he along with his wife and small child, left their home and began traveling towards the Tanzanian border. When he felt he was a good distance away and felt somewhat secure, he came upon a group of people who were also refugees from Rwanda having escaped the genocide. Viewing the area where he decided to settle he recognized it as the place that he saw in his dream. He felt God directing him to meet with the people and hold Bible study and prayer services but was unable to establish a Church because he and those he had been meeting with were refugees. As time passed and conditions improved in his country of Rwanda he made his way back along with his wife and child

to the village and home that he had left. He began to pray that God would reveal Himself as to what he should do; however, the more he prayed the more discouraged he became because no answer was forthcoming. One day it came to his mind that prayer alone was not going to help him find the answer he was looking for, but he had to begin fasting and praying. He kept on fasting and praying seeking God's direction but received no answer. This caused him to question God. He began to question God by saying, "Why is it that I am praying and seeking your direction but not receiving an answer?" He told us that he began to realize the Lord was testing his faith to see if he was sincere in what he was requesting.

It was in the year 2003 that he had the experience where he saw Brother Joel as it was described earlier in this account. When he finally met Brother Joel during the month of November 2005, he said he received the answer he was looking for and his searching was over. There was no need to continue praying and asking God to reveal His will for him. With this experience and that of the one he previously related, we felt through the inspiration of God that he was being called to serve and labor for the Church in his country, and it was the will of God that he be recommended into the Priesthood. On November 20, 2005, Brother Damascene was set apart to be ordained into the Priesthood by the ordinance of feet washing. Brother Alexander washed his feet and he was ordained by Brother Chat Young. The same day his wife, Sister Jeanine, was ordained a Deaconess and two young brothers by the name of Innocent and Aime were ordained as Deacons. Since we have returned home, the branch of Rukira has had six baptisms, the ordination of one Teacher, two Deacons and one Deaconess.

We heard the testimony of one young brother while we were in country that was in the Rwandan Army during the genocide. He related to us that he saw the carnage and death of so many innocent people, and all that he had in his heart was bitter hatred and anger because of what he wit-

nessed. He like so many others was held captive by the enemy of our souls. It was during our visit that the Gospel was preached to him but with greater meaning. He was baptized and his soul was liberated and set free. The testimony Brother Aime relates today is that he no longer has hatred or anger in his heart, but forgiveness and love for all mankind. This young brother, like a number of brothers and sisters who surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ, can now sing the song of redeeming love.

On the last Sunday we were in Rwanda, it was the day set aside for ordinations and the gathering of our brothers and sisters from Kigali and Rukira to bid us farewell. A large group of friends to some of our brothers and sisters also came, among them a medical doctor who befriended Brother Chatman. Just the day before, this same doctor told Brother Chatman that all churches, no matter what the denomination, were the same. He told Brother Chatman that when you visit one church you have visited them all. At the end of our worship service, I stopped for a moment to greet him and he told me he had seen a vast difference while attending our meeting that Sunday. He said you brothers preach by the power of God and you show a lot of love to our people by shaking hands and holding a conversation with them. He said we do not see this in other churches and there is a noticeable difference. Before we parted he told me to please return quickly for another visit because his people need the kind of love that you brothers have demonstrated. Jesus spoke these words, "*By the Love you show towards one another, the world shall know you are my disciples.*"

While in country we also visited the homes of a number of people introducing the Faith of our Church, and some attended our meetings. We prayed for the sick, visited and spoke to a large number of men, women and children who had HIV/AIDS, at a center managed by several of our sisters called the "Faith Association." Many women were raped during the conflict and some had unfaithful spouses. The sad part of this visit was



seeing the little children with this terrible disease. They sang a song with words in the chorus, "We are not afraid to die because we are going to Jesus." Brother Alexander has been holding meetings and praying for these people, some of whom are baptized. We also visited the Genocide Memorial which was a very moving experience.

Brother Alexander informed me that after we returned home it did not rain for several months in Rwanda. They were experiencing a drought like a number of other African countries. In the village of Rukira there were several people attending our Church high on the mountain that requested baptism. The day the baptisms were to take place, our brothers and sisters had to walk a distance to find a place with water to baptize the candidates. After offering a word of prayer invoking God's blessing upon all that was to take place, the brother who was performing the baptisms took the first candidate by the hand, and as they both stepped into the water, brother Alexander said the heavens opened up and it rained very heavily during the baptisms, while the membership walked back to the church building and during the confirmation service. Not only our newly-baptized brothers and sisters, but also the many visitors who were at the baptisms and at the confirmation service said we should have more baptisms so God will continue to send rain.

The Church of Jesus Christ was established and officially organized in the country of Rwanda on November 16, 2005, the acceptable year of the Lord for this country. Brother Alexander Rudatiskira is the Pastor in charge. Brothers Jean Pierr Habimana and Damascene Twizeyimana are his two counselors. Appointed are the following officers: Secretary, Finance Committee, Treasurer, Historian and two Auditors. We have two branches, 50 baptized members, two Teachers, four Deacons, and four Deaconesses.

All of our brothers and sisters from Rwanda send their love and regards to the Church membership in America and request our prayers so they will be able to fulfill their promise to serve God in the Church of Jesus Christ.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Staley, Cameron and Jennifer  
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South Lyon, MI 48178  
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## Note of Thanks

Sister Rosemarie Ali, along with her family, wish to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers received during Brother John's illness and subsequent death. The family felt strength from the prayers being lifted up to the Lord. They are very thankful for brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

that we know that we have passed from death into a life with Jesus Christ because we love or loved the brethren. Those that do not love their brother or sister abide in death! Those who do not love the Lord, do not love their enemies, their neighbors, their brethren, those that despise you, are in a sad spiritual state.

The love of God is also known as charity. It is the pure love of God. It abides forever and whoever possesses it at their last day, it will be well with them. It is this love that attracts people to the saints of God and The Church of Jesus Christ. A young man has recently been attending The Church of Jesus Christ. He was raised in another faith. What is the attraction he finds in The Church of Jesus Christ? It is the sincerity of the brothers and sisters which is based on the love of God. He told his former faith that what they are doing is good, but it is about eighty percent. He went on to tell them that he has found The Church of Jesus

Christ to be one hundred percent! His comments were not conveyed to be offensive. His comments were describing the love of God found in the Lord's Church, known as The Church of Jesus Christ.

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

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Serving God is an adventure. Next time you are afraid, talk the problem over with God and ask Him to help you overcome your fear. The next time you notice a problem that you think you might be able to help with, say a little prayer in your heart and ask God what to say. Go talk to that stranger at church. Try to help teach someone, try to do a new job. Just pray and keep trying. See what the Lord can do for you. See how He will make you into a greater person than you are on your own.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. and Sister Esther (Cadman) McCartney were united in holy matrimony in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on February 11, 2006.

Michael Kizer and Sister Jill Chambers were united in holy matrimony in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on September 10, 2005.

Brother George Smith and Sister Colleen (Davella) Pittius were united in holy matrimony in New Jersey on February 18, 2006.

## Children Blessed

Cristina KangYu Scolaro, daughter of Brother Anthony and Sister Linda Scolaro, was blessed at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Lilly Ann DiFalco, daughter of Wendy DiFalco, was blessed on June 12, 2005 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Bradley Charles Rogan, Jr., son of Charles and Holly (Keeney) Rogan, was blessed on November 6, 2005 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

America Quetzaly Zermeno, daughter of Arturo Zermeno and Miriam Torres, was blessed on December 11, 2005 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Landon Lewis Moore, son of Robert L. and Courtney Shane Moore, was blessed on January 15, 2006 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Michael Anthony Vadasz, son of John Vadasz, was blessed on February 19, 2006 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Albert Brian Scuotto was baptized on November 13, 2005 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Calabro and confirmed by Brother Anthony J. Scolaro.

Sister Clara Preler was reinstated on July 3, 2005 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Susan Romano was reinstated on October 16, 2005 at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother David Booth was baptized on August 8, 2005 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Lou Vitto and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Brother Al Boccomino was reinstated on August 8, 2005 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Sister Wilma King and Brother Dale King were reinstated on January 1, 2006 at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Carol Davey was reinstated on December 4, 2005 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

Brother David Purkall was reinstated on January 22, 2006 in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Elizabeth (Suds) Staley of Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 65th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Stella Heslop of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT CHRISTOPHER VENUTO

Brother Robert (Bob) Christopher Venuto of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed onto his reward on August 7, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Judy; three children, Lisa, Robert Jr., and Jessie; and eight grandchildren.

### BAMBI TEMPO DULKIS

Sister Bambi Tempo Dulkis of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed to her reward on January 28, 2006. She is survived by one son and two daughters.

### JOHN ALI

Brother John Ali of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on November 7, 2005. Brother John was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Rosemarie; daughters, Sister JoAnn Niehl and her husband, Patrick; Sister Linda Morle and her husband, Brother Jerry Morle; and son Brother Larry and his wife, Sister Vicki Ali. Kayla, Lucas and Logan Ali and Michelle and Amber Morle, grandchildren, also survive. He is also survived by two sisters and one brother.

### LIZZY DiFABIO

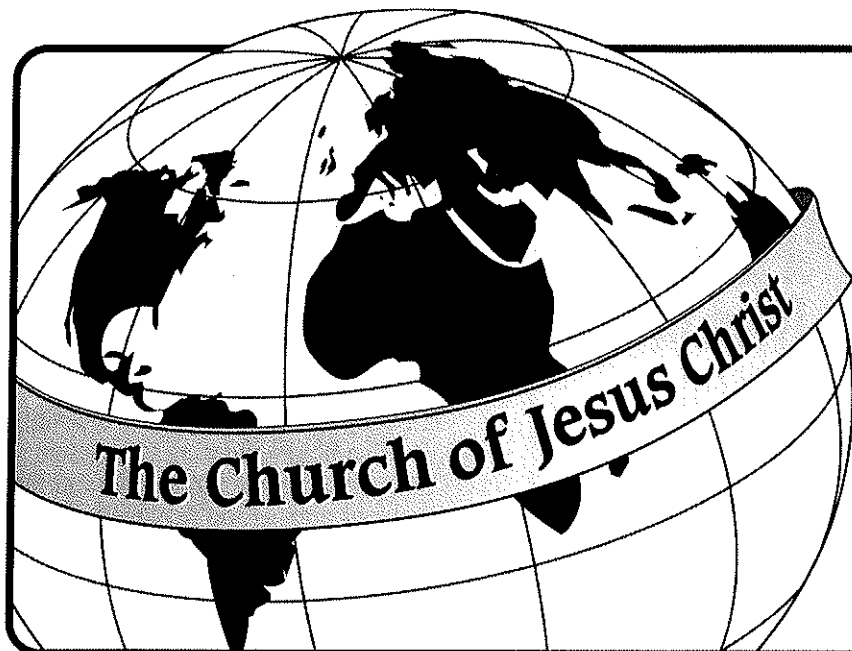
Sister Lizzy DiFabio of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on February 3, 2006. She is survived by two sons, Brother Carl DiFabio and Donald DiFabio; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

May, 2006

Volume 62, No. 5

## Native American Outreach Committee

The Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC) met in Mesa, Arizona on Saturday February 18, 2006. Thirty-one members of the priesthood were present including five apostles and about 40 brothers and sisters. There were several Native Americans in attendance as well.

Brother Tom Everett welcomed everyone and said we would begin with a season of prayer, petitioning God for His blessing on our meeting and on the work of the Lord. Prior to closing our prayer service, a sister expressed that she had a vision of Native Americans stuck in mud or tar and a voice spoke to her saying, "Only fasting and prayer can release my people."

After a short break, General Church President, Brother Paul Palmieri, addressed the congregation. He stated that at an IMOC meeting in Detroit, he commented that for years we dreamed about the Gospel going throughout the world and now it is. The Lord is looking at this people to do His work. He also stated that the Book of Mormon specifically said that the work begins with the Native Americans. God is always seeking for a people to "showcase" as to how people should serve Him and His son, Jesus Christ. Our challenge is to bring everyone

into focus on the Native Americans today. "God is waiting for us! It is not time to wait." The sons of Mosiah trembled at the thought of one soul being lost—"We must have the same intensity. Waiting time is over!"

At this time, all non-priesthood members assembled in the multi-purpose room for a seminar conducted by Brother Larry Watson. Brother Tom Everett, meanwhile facilitated a discussion with the priesthood regarding the Pilot Operational Plan which includes:

1. Operational Purpose and Design
2. Committee Membership and Leadership
3. Operations
4. Method of Approach
5. Other Steps

A lunch was served by the sisters of the Mesa Branch after which we gathered once again to continue our activities. Apostle Isaac Smith addressed the congregation. He stated that the Quorum of 12 has reorganized its efforts, and is now focused on Israel and the whole Church. They are concerned about all aspects of the Church and have representation in all mission fields, particularly the seed of Joseph.

Breakout sessions were con-

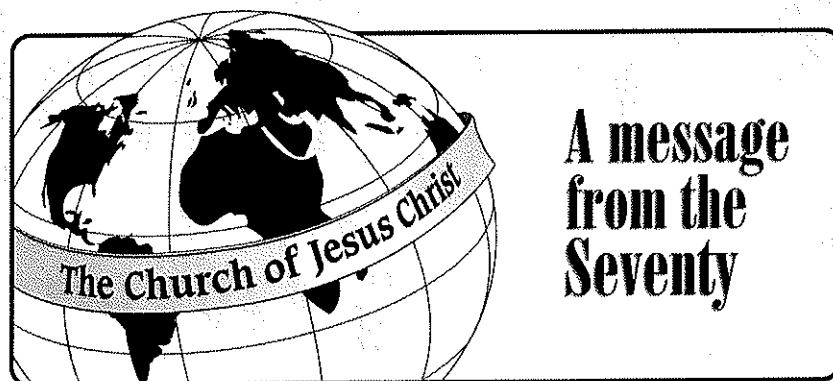
ducted by facilitators to discuss the following:

1. Presentation to Native American Tribes, by Brother Lyle Criscuolo
2. Publicity and Media, by Brother John DiBattista
3. Information/Data Gathering, by Brother Nephi DeMercurio
4. Recruitment and Training, by Brother Joel Gehly
5. Financial Component, by Brother David Jordan

We adjourned for dinner, prior to beginning our evening service.

Apostle John Griffith was our speaker. He related events from the history of the Church and how we are the legacy of past generations. He then stated, "You are ordained to be missionaries for the Lord. In 2006 we are reshaping the NAOC; it's a win-win situation. The Choice Seer will convince the seed of Joseph of the word that was delivered to them, so we must get the message out." He closed with the words "What's before us is success, the Peaceful Reign, the First Resurrection. So let's love one another."

A slide presentation by Brother Larry Watson regarding Native American work was shown. Another slide presentation produced by Brother Mark Mancinelli was shown to conclude our day.



## Great Blessings in the Philippines

*By Brother Chris Gehly*

There was a great anticipation for all of the brothers traveling to the Philippines. Brothers Art Gehly, Sr., Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., Chip Smith and Chris Gehly made the more than twenty-hour trip the latter part of February to enjoy and uplift the saints of God located there.

We all arrived in Davao City safely. However, Brothers Art and Chip's luggage did not arrive with us. This did not discourage us in our endeavors. Instead, we continued on to one of the villages that have some of our members and had a Sunday service. They welcomed us with open arms and the Spirit of God was there with us. Brother Nephi spoke to us, reading from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and instructing us that we are all sheep and Christ is our shepherd. It was a beautiful meeting.

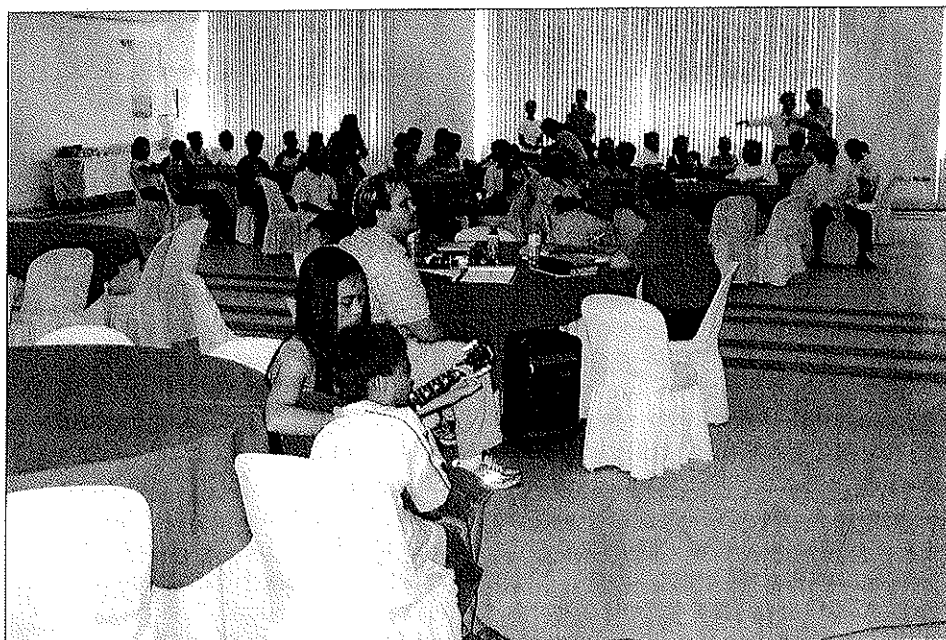
While on the island of Mindanao, we held a meeting with all the ordained officers and a conference with all the members who could make it to the hotel. During the ordained officers meeting, Brother Nephi opened with his seminar on the Holy Spirit. Many of them then shared their testimonies and related how God has blessed them in their lives. Brother Chip gave a seminar on the importance of fasting and prayer and Brother Chris gave a seminar on the office and duties of a Teacher. It was a great blessing for all who participated during these meetings. After concluding the business, we shared a great blessing in having Holy Com-

munion and Feet Washing together. The spirit our brothers and sisters carry is a beautiful thing. The Spirit of God poured out upon us that day. During the next day's conference, we were blessed in the singing and the preaching. The American brothers opened the day, but the Elders from the country followed and the Spirit of God was prevalent in their speaking. Their words were not translated into English, but God blessed us with understanding the spirit they carried. Later that day, three Deaconesses, a Teacher and a Deacon were ordained. It was a beautiful time spent with them on this island.

The second part of our trip was on the island of Bohol with our saints there. While on this island we traveled to the new property just purchased in the town of La Victoria. We dedicated that land to God for the Church and had a short meeting. It is a beautiful plot of land and the saints are very thankful for God's blessings. We also held a meeting at Bugsoc. They are a wonderful people and they sing and praise God just as we do. The ordained officers met with us for a day while on this island. The seminars were beneficial for these brothers and sisters as well. The MBA was established on this island. They have desired this for many years and now they can share in this wonderful organization with us.

Our Sister Delma was struck down with a grave illness while we were there. She had a horrible fever, couldn't speak or eat and was clearly suffering. We went to their house and prayed for her. Immediately the fever broke and she was speaking her broken English, thanking us for coming and praying for her. The next day, we were told she was eating and recovering quite well. Brother Nephi got a slight cold while we were traveling. He was prayed for and God healed

(Continued on Page 10)



The saints on Mindanao, Philippines.

## Bogotá, Colombia Blessings

*By Evangelist Anthony Ricci*

This March 23, 2006 Evangelist Richard Scaglione made his seventh trip to the Bogotá, Colombia Mission. He was accompanied by Brothers Juan Rivas and Anthony Ricci, who were making their first trip to that country.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by our new minister, Brother Felipe. What a wonderful blessing to meet our brother, the first minister of The Church of Jesus Christ in Colombia since the days of the Nephites. History truly became alive to us brothers.

The next day, we were prepared to visit the saints in their homes, but the Lord had different plans. While waiting for transportation, friends of the Church kept coming to visit. Many people who, through the labors of the brothers who have visited before, came to talk about the Gospel. One man, who is Colombian, proclaimed to us he knows the "other flock" of whom Jesus spoke is his people. How powerful to hear Joseph proclaim to be Israel!!

We were told of one young woman who has been troubled by an evil spirit for about a year. Just a few weeks before she was brought to a priest of a different faith to pray for this spirit to leave. When confronting this spirit, the man had to get up and run out of the room. We boldly proclaimed this ministry, the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ, has power to cast this spirit out. Well, just a few hours later we had the opportunity not just to talk the talk, but to walk the walk. This young woman came to the home and we quickly prayed for her. As we laid hands on her, we rebuked this spirit to leave her. She proclaimed that, as we prayed for her, she felt a powerful warmth come through her body from head to toe. She stayed and enjoyed the rest of the evening with us, to the amazement of her family and friends. God does His perfect and powerful

work. Our plan was to visit, but God's plan was to demonstrate His power in that home. It was midnight before the last person left.

On Saturday, a group of about 25 of us boarded a bus to go to the countryside to witness the baptism of our new Sister Jenny. Because of the bus' failing inspection (causing us to switch buses) and a tremendous amount of road work, what was a scheduled two-hour ride became a five-hour ride to the water. But the Lord filled those hours with fellowship, song, and the love of Jesus Christ. We watched with great joy as Brother Juan raised his right hand in the waters of regeneration and baptized our sister, "En el nombre de Jesu Christo"—how powerful—In the name of Jesus Christ!! After a spirit-filled eight-hour round trip, we returned to Bogotá with a new sister in Christ, our beloved Sister Jenny. She is a young woman who met the Church and fell in love with what she heard and saw. I praise God He continually calls men and women to serve Him.

Later that night, Brothers Rich, Juan, and Anthony were privileged to go over sections of Elder training with Brother Felipe in the upper room of the home, adjacent to the sanctuary. I witness to the reader that the Spirit of God entered that room and the power of the authority of this ministry was witnessed by us four brothers. The Word of the Lord came forth, proclaiming Brother Felipe was called and Brother Felipe began to proclaim this was his fourth confirmation that God has called him to work as an Elder in this church. What a powerful God we serve; and this was just the second full day.

The Sabbath services were begun with Sunday School. Brother Felipe and our ordained Teacher in Bogotá, Brother Carlos, led the class.

To begin our worship service, Brother Juan exhorted our people of the importance of the Holy Spirit after which Sister Jenny was confirmed. Brother Juan laid hands on her and bestowed upon her the gift of the Holy Spirit. The preaching portion of the meeting was introduced by Brother Ricci, who spoke on Jesus

being the Son of God.

Many of the saints and visitors came up to be prayed for. The word of the Lord came forth during one prayer, just proclaiming—"In the Name of Jesus Christ, In the Name of Jesus Christ, In the Name of Jesus Christ!!" One young girl came up and asked us to pray that God will use her to bring her family to the Church. The testimonies of the congregation gave witness of the wonderful and powerful spirit that was felt. Sister Maria Sol, our Deaconess in Bogotá, testified that every time she heard our brother say, "In the Name of Jesus Christ," a powerful spirit would enter her body and was even felt by the sister sitting next to her. The young woman we prayed for who was being troubled, jumped up and began to testify how good God is and how she felt the Spirit of God enter her and begin to call her as one of our brothers shared his testimony of how God delivered him. God allowed a spirit of power, confirmation and love to overcome each and every one of us.

Later that evening as we all sat and shared in a wonderful meal prepared by our Sister Maria Sol, the family and friends all spoke about the power of God felt that day. They testified to us how amazing it was since we prayed for the young woman on Friday and the tremendous difference there had been. They could not believe how she stood and testified. It is just an amazing witness that truly, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." It is also a wonderful testimony and witness of the power of the ministry of The Church Jesus Christ.

I praise God that the country of Colombia now has this authority established in the land! I truly look forward to the work God will do with His covenant people in this northwest corner of South America.

I thank God for the safe trip and the many blessings, the hospitality and love of the saints, and the privilege to work with Brothers Scaglione and Rivas. What a blessing to work with Joseph within this mission. God is truly good and remembers His promises to the Seed of Joseph!!

## Venezuela

*By Brother Mark Naro*

Brothers David Arreola, Don Ross and myself, Brother Mark Naro, journeyed on Thursday, January 12, 2006 and met at the Miami International Airport without any difficulty. We enjoyed the day, as we spoke of the things of God and discussed the goals and objectives for the trip to Maracaibo and Valera City, Venezuela. There was complete unity in the discussion, goals and objectives. While at the airport and during our discussion, we were surprised to meet Brother Dennis Moraco who was on his way to Guatemala. What a blessing for all of us!

Upon our arrival in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Brother Angel Chavez was not there to greet us. We did not know why he was not able to meet us at the airport and initially we were concerned. We called the Hotel Santa Barbara and determined it did not hold our room reservations; therefore, we had no hotel accommodations. Airport personnel, who extended us every courtesy, contacted hotels in Maracaibo and we decided to stay at the Best Western, also known as Hotel el Paseo. It turned out to be a blessing. God is so wonderful, good and in control! The hotel is an excellent one, clean, with restaurants, very friendly employees, with excellent corporate rates that were granted to us during our stay.

Friday morning, since we did not make contact with Brother Angel Chavez when we arrived, we had no idea what to make of the situation, how to contact him, where he might be, what happened, what was our next step? Brother Don Ross then advised Brother David Arreola and myself that if we did not make contact, we were not going home; we would stay, walk the streets, bear our testimonies, tell everyone we came in contact with, whether on the streets or at the hotel, about The Church of Jesus Christ.

The cell phone that Brother Don brought with him is not an international cell phone. The cell phone carrier said

it would not work internationally and this was evident during previous trips to Venezuela, including the May 2005 trip. We prayed, asking God for His divine help. Brother Don called the cell phone number for Brother Jose Chavez. He answered!! God answered the prayer! Contact was made and every call made from the cell phone during our trip went through, whether in country calls within Venezuela or long distance to our wives and families. We praise God for His goodness, love and tender mercies.

We visited the village of El Palo the entire day, morning, afternoon and evening. It was not an unlucky day!! We visited with the "impoverished" villagers of El Palo village, bearing our testimonies, anointing the sick (several), teaching the Scriptures and sharing with them the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ. We left copies of the Spanish Book of Mormon that we brought with us. They welcomed our presence and made us feel right at home. We visited every member of Brother Angel Chavez's family in El Palo and in the town of Santa Cruz! We prayed for his cousins' business, Rayza Chaparro and Omaira Chaparro, that has been struggling. The business is for dental services and dental hygiene. We offered to pray with them that God would bless their business. We formed a circle right in the lobby and held hands. As the prayer concluded and "Amen" was said, clients drove up to conduct business! God answers prayer and is always on time!

Isabel Nana, who had cancer and was given three (3) days to live, is very much alive and expressed her sincere thanks to God for the anointing by the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. She looks wonderful and healthy! Isabel Nana was anointed during the first trip to Maracaibo in January 2005.

We anointed others, Jesus Nava who is up in years and having difficulty walking; Estalina Roo who is elderly, infirm and suffers a number of medical problems. We truly felt the Lord's presence as we visited, and spoke of many wonderful experiences within The Church of Jesus Christ, both past

and present.

Saturday morning, we journeyed to Valera City and met with Brother Jose Chavez. We continued instruction on the duty of a member and the duty of a Teacher. We enjoyed the Spirit of God during our discussion and meeting. What a blessed meeting! You could feel the Spirit of God during our discussion and instruction.

We visited with Brother Jose Chavez's parents, Angel and Daysi Chavez, and also his girlfriend, Carolina Almanza. We spent a beautiful afternoon discussing the things of God and the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brothers David Arreola, Don Ross and myself conducted Sunday service at the home of the Chavez family. I had the privilege to open using Alma chapter 37. The Lord blessed our words and message. The words were translated by Brother David Arreola who then followed, speaking in Spanish. Brother Don Ross concluded with a few remarks. We then laid hands on Brother Jose Chavez, prayed for Carolina Almanza, bore testimonies, held feet washing and passed the Lord's Supper. There were many tears of joy, especially from the parents. A blessed spirit was evident and felt by all. At the conclusion of the meeting, we returned to Maracaibo to prepare for our journey home on Monday, January 16, 2006.

We were requested to go to Caracas to visit with Vinicio Hernandez who is sorely afflicted with cirrhosis of the liver. His wife Magalia and family members asked if we could go but we simply had no time with Caracas ten (10) hours away by car! We deeply regret that we could not fulfill that request. The request came late during our visit. It is sad that Vinicio Hernandez has since passed on to his reward.

We discussed with Brothers Jose Chavez and Angel Chavez the possibility of visiting the brothers, sisters and families in Valle Guanape, Venezuela. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote in-country fellowship and to work together as ordained officers for

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot: for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so" (Joshua 5:13-15).*

There are times in life when enormous struggles, conflicts or illnesses come about. For those who are putting their lives in the hands of the Lord, He will always prepare us. In this scripture, Joshua was about to lead Israel in conquering the great city of Jericho. Without the Lord, this feat would be impossible, and just before Joshua was about to go in, the Lord appeared to him as a Captain with his sword drawn in his hand. At first Joshua didn't know if he was a soldier for Israel or from Jericho, but once this Captain spoke, Joshua knew this wasn't a man, but the Lord. Joshua fell on his face and worshipped him. Immediately Joshua wanted the Lord to give him instruction or direction, and the Lord simply told Joshua to remove his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. In other words, the only preparation Joshua would need is to recognize that the Lord is holy and has His sword drawn, and will fight this battle for Joshua and for Israel. In a similar way, God prepared Moses for his position of leadership when He appeared to Moses in a bush. To Abraham, God appeared as a traveler visiting Abraham's tent to prepare him and Sarah to become the parents of Israel, even though Sarah laughed because at her age, she thought having a child would be impossible. But with God, all things are possible.

Today, God works the same way with us, but I'm not sure we always recognize Him. When you find yourself in the middle of a great struggle, look back to the beginning of it, and I guarantee you will see the Lord's involvement. In fact, you will probably realize that He is in total control of what is happening to you. Knowing this will make you easily see the end of the struggle, and the better person you will become because of it. Paul said we should glory in our tribulations. This is why. God always supernaturally prepares us in so many ways. I remember when my father was alive, he got into a car accident. The accident caused him to have terrible back pain for which he went to the doctor. Amazingly, while looking at the x-rays, the doctors noticed an enormous aneurysm which could have burst and killed my father at any moment. A surgery removed this aneurysm and spared my dad's life for another 10 years. That car accident was caused by God. My father would have never known he had this aneurysm until it would be too late. I'm sure you can come up with your own experience that is similar to this. That's because as God's children, our lives are not our own. Our death is not determined by us. Our jobs are not selected by us. Our spouses and families are not chosen by us. Where we live is not our choice. The illnesses and problems we may be facing, although unpleasant, are not something we can solve. The Lord will fight these battles for us, by preparing us to weather the storm. He will show up in a mysterious way, before we have to go through the fire. He may do it in a less subtle way than He did with Joshua, or with my dad, but rest assured, He will show up! Let's be encouraged to know that we don't have to try to overcome anything in life. We only need to trust in our Savior who is carrying us in His arms to a better land and a better day that awaits us.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Thousands of Lamanites Return to God

Six hundred years before Jesus was born, there were people in far away South America called the Nephites who read ancient records and were awaiting His birth. They had founded their church according to God's words and revelations. God warned them that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed and directed them to build ships and come to this Promised Land. When they landed, the oldest son, Laman, and others did not want to follow God's laws. They also did not want to work and toil for a living and they hated being told what to do. They broke away from their younger brother, Nephi, who was a godly man. Nephi's people fled in the night and took with them the ancient records from Jerusalem that contained God's commandments. From that day on the two groups of people were terrible enemies.

A second group of people also left Jerusalem and came to the Americas about eleven years after the Nephites and Lamanites. They settled north of the country where Lehi had landed. They called the place they settled, Zarahemla. This group was with Mulek, who was the son of King Zedekiah in Jerusalem (Mosiah 25:2).

It took over four hundred years before the two groups who had left Jerusalem met. When they met, the people of Zarahemla joined with the Nephites in serving God. Their leaders were Mosiah and a powerful minister, Alma (the first). These two great men (Omni 12) led the people by preaching



and prophesying. As years passed, they took wives and they raised sons. But their sons were rebels against God.

Ammon, his three brothers and their friend Alma, hated The Church of Jesus Christ. They were wealthy, smart young men and the devil used them to cause a lot of confusion. They quit going to church and went around saying evil things about the Church to others. No one could stop them alone, but their fathers, Alma Sr. and King Mosiah, knew how to fight the problem. They fasted and prayed to God. God sent an angel with a voice of thunder that shook the earth. The angel let the young men know that God was aware of what they were doing in secret, and they would be destroyed unless they stopped!

They were shocked to see an angel. They fell to the ground in astonishment. Alma actually was so overcome with the power of God that he was too weak to move and could not speak (Mosiah 27:22). They carried his body to his father and all the priesthood fasted and prayed two days for Alma. God worked again and Alma woke up full of rejoicing and sorrow that he had done such evil things. Their fathers and the Church people were thrilled how God had stopped them, and changed them.

All these young men were now filled with the desire to go and tell others about the great love and power of God. At first, they traveled around going to one Nephite city after city. They confessed their sins, and did everything they could to repair the damage they had done to the Church. They had great success, but then the Lord gave them the desire to also go

teach their fierce enemies, the Lamanites, about the love of God. For almost five hundred years these Lamanites had tried to destroy the Nephite people. Their fathers were deeply troubled and went to God in prayer. God told King Mosiah to let his sons go and preach. He told Mosiah that they would suffer many troubles but that He would protect the lives of his sons, and they would bring many thousands of souls to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

After much fasting and praying, these four young men, Alma, and some others (Alma 17:8) left their safe homes and traveled through the wilderness to preach the word of God unto the Lamanites. Each man went alone towards a different part of the

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### WORD SEARCH

SONS	WERE
OF	BEAT
FAITHFUL	FOUGHT
KING	MEN
MOSIAH	FINALLY
SUFFERED	MANY
STARVED	BELIEVED
IN	IN
PRISON	GOD

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



## Branch and Mission News

### Leesburg, Florida Mission Established

*By Sister Dolly Seitz*

On Saturday, September 24, 2005, the Southeast Regional Officers met with the Leesburg Mission members at the Orange Blossom Hills Community Center, Summerfield, Florida to organize the mission to be an "Established Mission."

The members have been meeting in the Leesburg area for the past ten years as part of the Southeast Region RMOC, under the guidance of Elder Jim Speck. They met in their homes for the first five years and since September 10, 2000, they have been meeting at the Orange Blossom Hills Community Center in Summerfield, Florida. There were three members at the start. Today, there are a total of thirteen members with Evangelist George Benyola, Sr. and Elder John Gray responsible for the mission.

From the very start of the meeting, you could feel the excitement and spirit of enthusiasm from the members to assume their new responsibilities as officers of the Leesburg Mission. After a few encouraging remarks by the region president, Evangelist Sam Risola, Jr., the duties and responsibilities of each office were read and the establishment of the Leesburg Mission was finalized. After closing our meeting in prayer, we all gathered to fellowship and enjoy the refreshments prepared by the Leesburg sisters.

On Sunday, September 25th, there was a good representation from various locations in Florida, Georgia and Kentucky in addition to the Southeast Region President and his officers. After the meeting was opened with song and prayer, Elders Frank Rogolino, Jim Speck and John Gray told of the early days meeting in Leesburg with the few saints that lived there. Their first baptism was Brother

Charlie Seitz and their first ordination was Sister Verna Cogar as a Deaconess. In the past year we had our second ordination, Brother David Anderson as a deacon, and our first child blessed, Autumn Stella Anderson. God is good and we hope and pray for continued growth in the Leesburg area.

As the service continued, Brother Sam Risola, Jr. acknowledged the saints in Leesburg for their accomplishment in becoming an established mission. He told them to stay focused on the things of God and to exercise the gifts that God blessed them with for the welfare of the Church in this part of the vineyard. He admonished them to stand firm and fast to their promise to serve the Lord and to remain dedicated to the work of the Church, not only in Leesburg but wherever God will take them.

Brother Alphonso Hopkins followed referencing Alma in the Book of Mormon, as he was used to establish the Church in his day. It was no different today as the Leesburg Mission was established by the Southeast Region. He stated that God is the same today as He was in the days of Alma and that He will be the same forever and will bless us according to our faith and trust in Him.

Brother George Benyola, Sr. told an experience he had in Dallas, Texas in 1979. He stated the members were trying to buy their first church building. The building was used as a private preschool and for the building to become a church, it had to be rezoned or reclassified to qualify for tax exemption. This resulted in having many meetings with the city. After a couple months, the final meeting was called to take a vote in favor or against the rezoning. When the vote was taken, it was three councilmen in favor of the building becoming a church and three councilmen against.

The mayor stated that it was procedure for him to vote to break the tie. Before he could continue, there suddenly came a loud thunder and lightning storm. It was so loud and sudden, it got everyone's attention. It didn't last long but when it stopped, the mayor said with a smile, "Mr. Benyola,

you obviously have somebody a lot bigger than all of us on your side. I vote in favor of the church." Brother George said that was how they got the first church building in Dallas and God proved to us once again that nothing is impossible to Him. This was said to encourage the saints in Leesburg, who are looking forward to the day when they will have their own building. God can and will provide!

Brother John Gray expressed his appreciation to God for calling him into the Church and using him as he did to be a part of the Leesburg work ten years ago. It is a great blessing to him to see the mission established and to be part of the mission's growth. His desire is that God will continue to use him as a worker in the Church and to do whatever he can for the Lord.

After enjoying a season of testimony and the passing of communion, the meeting was dismissed with song and prayer, thanking God for a beautiful weekend. We also thank the Leesburg sisters again for preparing a delicious lunch for everyone to enjoy.

In conclusion, the Leesburg members would like to take this opportunity to thank the Southeast Region President and his officers for their part in organizing the Leesburg Mission. We also thank the Region RMOC for their spiritual and financial support for the years past and ask that you continue to prayerfully support us that we may stay on a spiritual path of success and growth for The Church of Jesus Christ and for the honor and glory of God.

### Meeting with Native Americans

*By Sister Juliette Smith*

For thirty years, the Monongahela Branch has had a relationship with the Native American Indian Center to reach out to the Seed of Joseph as we are instructed to do. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the branch invited the

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## Meeting with Native Americans

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Center to a Sunday meeting. Approximately forty members arrived in a center-owned bus. There were many visitors from various branches making the total attendance about one hundred.

Following opening prayer, Brother Chuck Kogler gave a quote that is on the Indian Center's wall about the binding friendship between the white man and the Native Americans, and how we are trying to continue that bond and understand each other. *Never To Be Apart* was then sung in memory of those from the Church and the Center who have passed away recently.

Brother Rich Scaglione, Sr., opened by speaking of the history of the relationship between us and the Native American Center. Before the first meeting which was held some thirty years ago, there were two dreams given—one to Billy Hayes, a native from the center. Mr. Hayes saw six preachers come, first wearing black and white collars, then in suits and each had their own occupation in addition to being preachers. He took this as unusual, as most preachers do not have any other job. But when six brothers from our Church came to the center wearing suits and having other jobs, he understood the meaning of the dream. Brother Rich Scaglione had the other dream. In his dream, he was led to a table with all Native American men and one woman. These people became the board of directors for the Center. When Brother Rich came to the table, the people asked why he was interested. He then replied by saying that it was his belief to work with the Native Americans, and if he didn't follow through with it, it would be held against him at the last day.

Brother Scaglione mentioned the different projects the Church has helped with over the years. He briefly mentioned the beliefs of the Church; namely, how we believe a Choice Seer will come out of the House of Joseph whom we believe to be the Native Americans, and that this Choice Seer will be named Joseph and how the

Seer will aid in the gathering of the tribes of Israel.

Russell Simms, the head of the Native American Center, addressed the congregation. He first talked about the struggles of being a Native American in an urban environment and how those struggles prompted the inception of a center where they could gather together. He and the others had much apprehension when first approached by the Church because it was something that they were not accustomed to, but they slowly learned about our Church and grew closer. The most important aspect of our Church was that we wanted to help and walk next to the Indians, rather than convert them. Their right to self-determination was always very important to them.

A highlight of the day was when Russell, a Native American, stood at our podium and talked about the Choice Seer. He supported the belief we have that the Seer will come out of the Seed of Joseph, his own people. We were then encouraged, repeatedly, to get involved with the work. It is very crucial that the younger generation work with continuing the relationship that has been established over the past thirty years by our elder brothers.

A luncheon was served. The Church and the Center attendees fellowshiped together which is necessary for the relationship to continue. I encourage all of you to get involved with the work of the Seed of Joseph and all of the House of Israel.

## The Changing Face of Israel

By Sisther Ruth Gehly

On Tuesday, February 14, 2006, I awoke at approximately 4:00 a.m. My husband, Joel, was out of town and my sons were both away at college. My mind began to wander toward things that I could be up and doing prior to going to work. I decided instead, however, to dedicate the added time in my day to prayer and reading God's word. Knowing that the upcoming

weekend Joel and I would be traveling to Phoenix, Arizona for the Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC) weekend, my thoughts were drawn to the work our Church has done with the Seed of Joseph and what more we can be doing to reach the Native Americans with the Restored Gospel. As a result, I selected the *Book of Mormon* and proceeded to read I Nephi Chapters 1-4. As I read, a number of verses made a great impression upon my heart and mind.

Reading in Chapter 1, I was impressed that Nephi, having had many afflictions, was *highly favored* of God in so much that he had been given *great knowledge* and understanding regarding the *mysteries* of the Lord. In Chapter 2:3-4, I was further impressed that Lehi was *obedient unto the word of the Lord* and did as the Lord commanded him by taking his family and departing out of Jerusalem into the wilderness. The scriptures state that he took nothing with him except his family and the *provisions* they needed to sustain themselves in the wilderness. I wondered about the *provisions* they took and also began contemplating the meaning of the word *commandment*. I immediately turned to the four gospels in the Bible and read Christ's instruction to love God and to love one another, as well as His great commission to take the Gospel throughout the world.

Chapter 2:19-20 goes on to say that Nephi was blessed by God because of his *lowliness of heart* and was instructed that "*inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you...*" My thoughts immediately were taken to the word *prosper* and I considered what it means to prosper in the Lord as opposed to prospering in the eyes of the world.

Continuing on, Chapter 3 relates that Nephi and his brothers were commanded by their father, Lehi, to return to Jerusalem to obtain the brass plates containing the record of their genealogy and history. Impressed upon my heart and mind was the fact

that Nephi obeyed the directive of his father, knowing that it was a **commandment** from the Lord, as opposed to his brothers, who begrudgingly followed the directive of their "visionary" father. The verse that commanded my attention, however, was Chapter 3:7, **"...the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."** Because it was the Lord's **perfect will** that Lehi obtain the brass plates in order to preserve their history and lineage, He already had **prepared the way** for them to accomplish the task.

What impressed me next was the fact that the brothers devised two plans to retrieve the plates from Laban and that both attempts were unsuccessful, causing much contention between the brothers. It was only when Nephi went forward totally and completely reliant upon the Spirit of God for His directive that the Lord blessed him with success. Chapter 4:6 says, **"I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. Nevertheless, I went forth..."** Continuing in Chapter 4:17, **"And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause – that I might obtain the records according to his commandments."**

When I read the word **delivered**, I was given to understand that the Lord had actually **presented** Laban unto Nephi for His mighty plan and purpose. Also brought to my mind was the great labor of love that has been put forth by many dear brothers and sisters in an effort to take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, yielding results much smaller than this great work encompasses. Mind-boggled by the magnitude of the task, once again I was taken back to Chapter 3:7, **"...the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."** Comforted by these scriptures and thoughts, I was blessed in knowing that God surely has a way prepared to accomplish this effort. Our job, as his people, is to

remain lowly in heart, obedient unto His commandments, and to strive to live within the perfect will of God. I was also blessed when struck with the thought that we are living in the day and time when the Lord will begin to **present** Joseph unto the Church.

Not realizing there would be more to this experience, I was overwhelmed by the understanding of the analogy that God had given me. The most exciting part of the experience, however, is what happens in...the rest of the story...

After having been greatly blessed in participating in the Saturday events of the NAOC weekend, the following Sunday morning Joel and I desired to travel to Lakeside, Arizona, to worship with the saints in Pinetop. On our way we stopped in Globe to stretch our legs and to grab a quick bite of breakfast. As we always do, we bowed our heads to pray for God's blessing upon our food and upon the remainder of our trip. When we raised our heads, we were startled to find a Native American woman standing next to our table staring at us. She stood by us silently for a moment and then spoke. "I saw you praying over your food and I just wanted to come and praise God with you this morning." She continued, "My people don't pray anymore..."

Gladly, we proceeded to introduce ourselves, and she to us. Her name was Rita. She went on to tell us that she and her husband were traveling from Phoenix back to San Carlos. Knowing that this was not mere coincidence but rather the hand of the Lord, we immediately shared that we were from The Church of Jesus Christ and that we were on our way to Pinetop to worship with the saints there. We also explained that a mission of the Church is located in San Carlos and gave her the name of Brother Virgil Link, of whom she was familiar. Joel explained the location of the Church in San Carlos and we invited her and her husband to visit and worship there.

As quickly and quietly as she appeared, Rita left to join her husband for their breakfast. Immediately, I began to weep as I was filled with the presence of the Lord, knowing that

God, in His graciousness and goodness, had **presented** Joseph to Joel and me that morning, just as He had **presented** Laban to Nephi. The most amazing thing about the whole experience was that it was not preplanned on our part, nor was it a difficult task! We never even had to search! We were simply following God's directive and He took care of the rest. Rita saw something different in us and came with an open heart desiring more for her people. She came to us!

Brothers and sisters, we have been highly favored of God in so much that we have been given to understand many of the great mysteries of His perfect will, even unto the gathering of the House of Israel, beginning with the Seed of Joseph. We have also been charged with the great task of keeping His commandments. We must hold fast and continue to be diligent in our efforts in working with the Seed of Joseph. The Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the pure, unadulterated Restored Gospel are the provisions with which we must equip ourselves, and we must continue moving forward simply by making ourselves available just as Nephi did, **"I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. Nevertheless, I went forth..."** In doing so, God **will present** Joseph and the House of Israel unto us.

"Gather her babies, all her young men,  
All her fair daughters, go gather  
them in;  
Raise from the dust and the tears  
where they bow;  
Won't it be something to see Israel  
smile!"

One final thought, brothers and sisters; before Rita left our table, she shared a very special gift with us. She smiled! ISRAEL SMILED! The time is drawing nigh when we SHALL begin to welcome Israel home in its entirety. The challenge set before us is to ensure that we, as the bride of Christ, are truly in a condition prepared to receive her. May God bless each one of you as you yield to His perfect will in furthering this *Great Work of the Lord*.

## 134 We Have Found Him, Our Messiah

(St. John 1:41 "We have found  
the Messiah...")

We have found Him, our Messiah,  
He has bade us follow Him;  
Thru the brightest sunny mornings,  
Thru the night we followed Him.

We have loved Him, our Redeemer,  
Many years we followed Him.  
Once our youth was like the springtime,  
Winter's eyes are growing dim.

We have waited by the willows,  
Where the pathway meets the gate.  
To the mountain where the sun shines,  
For 'twas here He bid us wait.

We have seen Him, our Messiah,  
Reaching for our lowly hand.  
Leading us into His kingdom,  
Little children, there we stand.

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

the cause of Jesus Christ. They agreed to this request and will travel to Valle Guanape in the near future.

Prior to our departure from Maracaibo, Venezuela back to the United States, on Monday, January 16, 2006, Brothers David Arreola, Don Ross, Angel Chavez and myself enjoyed one another's company at the Maracaibo Airport. Prayer was offered before departing. In the prayer, the Lord was petitioned to have Brothers Jose Chavez and Angel Chavez work as a team to promulgate the Restored Gospel. Brother Angel Chavez had tears of joy and was overcome with the Spirit of God.

The entire time we were accompanied by Brother Angel Chavez. What a Deacon! He bears his testimony to everyone. He is for want of a

better phrase, spiritually relentless! At his encouragement, we visited everyone of his family in El Palo and the surrounding community. He wanted them "to see" The Church of Jesus Christ in action! He shed many tears of joy.

The Lord truly blessed our trip. We enjoyed a wonderful spirit of unity that only comes from the Spirit of God. We prayed together, counseled together, visited together, bore our testimonies together to acquaintances, friends, family members, individuals we met at the hotels (hotel employees, taxi drivers and visitors), and the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. We felt the presence of the Lord in everything we did and felt a calming assurance and peace throughout the entire trip. We were blessed by the efforts of one another and thank God for His goodness, protection and love.

Upon our return to the Miami International Airport, we met Brother Dennis Moraco who was returning from Guatemala. God is good! We thank Him for all He does for us, whether in country or away from home. Who should we trust? God and Jesus Christ! They never fail us! They keep each and every promise made in the Holy Scriptures!

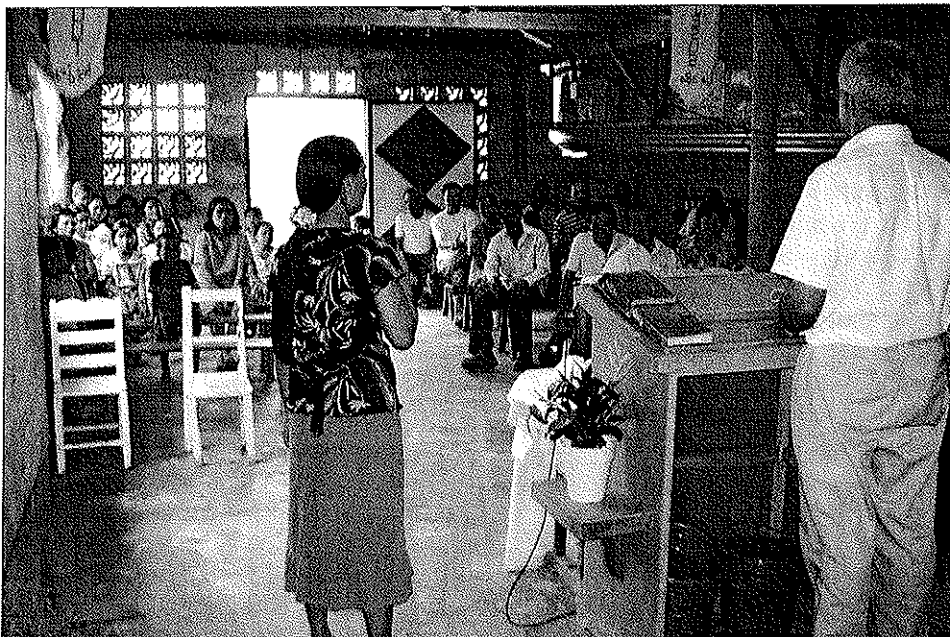
## Blessings in the Philippines

Continued from Page 2

him. While on Bohol, a sister came to our ordained officers meeting and was doubled over in pain. Our brothers anointed her and as the day went on,

she began sitting up and by the end of the day she was completely healed.

We thank God greatly for all that He does for these missions of the Church. Please continue to pray for the works in this country of the world.



The saints on Bohol, Philippines.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Lamanite kingdom to talk and preach to the people. They stayed for fourteen years working with these wild and fierce people and had much success. But at first there was much suffering.

Aaron, Muloki, and Ammah had all been directed to a part of the country where the people were more hard-hearted than the country of Ishmael where Ammon was sent. They were beaten, starved, tied up so tightly they had wounds from the rope and were thrown in prison in Middoni (Alma 20:2). Yet, they praised God and were patient while these terrible things were done to them. They did



not complain or scream and yell, "Why? Why me?" They put their lives in God's hands. They continued to hope and pray they could convert the Lamanite people while they suffered.

Sometimes we forget that God can heal broken bodies. God can also take away terrible memories of pain, and He can take care of us and His missionaries in our darkest hours. He took care of Aaron and the other missionaries as they suffered in prison. God had a plan to free them.

As the first several weeks had passed, God was working miracles with their brother Ammon who was sent to King Lamoni. Ammon had been allowed by the King to stay in his country. He got a job guarding the flocks from robbers. When Ammon was attacked, he used his slingshot and his sword to defend the flocks. Many enemies of the king were killed, yet none of their weapons could be used to hurt Ammon. Everyone was astonished!

That king thought Ammon was the Great Spirit. He listened in amazement when Ammon told him about God's great plan of salvation. The king and his wife were converted and they allowed Ammon to freely preach to their Lamanite people. This King Lamoni went with Ammon to free his brother and friends in prison (Alma 20:29).

Eventually his father, the great Lamanite king over all the land, was also converted to believe in God. This great king allowed these faithful, patient men of God to go throughout the land preaching until thousands of Lamanites turned from their evil ways and were converted into the Church. For the first time in nearly five hundred years, many of the descendents of Laman were finally understanding the beautiful love and power of God, and the error of their traditions. Many reunited with their cousins, the Nephites. They became a new nation. These Lamanites were called the Anti-Nephi-Lehis, or the people of Ammon. They were people who did not fear death and who decided that they would never kill another human. They refused to fight when other Lamanites attacked them. Finally this faithful

group had to move far away in the land of Jerushon. The Nephite armies stood between them and the other Lamanites who wanted to murder them for loving God. The Book of Mormon tells us, "They were a zealous and beloved people, a highly favored people of the Lord" (Alma 27:30).

This group and their descendents faithfully loved and served God through the next ninety-one years (approximately) until the birth of Jesus, and the great destruction thirty-four years after the death of Jesus when only the most righteous were saved. The pain and suffering of the men of God had brought great rewards for the converted Lamanite people. Four centuries later, thousands had found their way back to the Lord.

## A Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am home safe and sound after spending the last year in Iraq. Thank you does not seem enough, but I wanted you to know how much it meant to me to receive your cards, care packages, e-mails, and especially knowing you were here praying for me. It made me realize that you don't have to know someone to really care. It was a great feeling to know you were back here supporting me, my family, and all of the troops.

May God Bless you all,  
Nick Vitto

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and phone calls I received after having open heart surgery. Thank God I made a complete recovery.

Sister Betty Azzinaro  
Simi Valley, California

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards and e-mails during my recent stay in the hospital. They have lifted me up.

Sister Cristy Reynolds Ramos  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

\* \* \* \* \*

Sister Goldie Jones (age 95) from the Simi Valley, California Branch would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, cards and phone calls. Sister Goldie has a new heart valve, double by-pass and had a pacemaker put in. She has recovered well, thank God.

\* \* \* \* \*

Being diagnosed with interstitial pulmonary fibrosis in October 2001, and placed on oxygen in November 2002, I received a lung transplant on April 22, 2005. At one time after the transplant, my sugar dropped to 22 and I went into a seizure. In November and December of last year, I was rushed to the hospital in near death conditions.

I had many experiences where the Lord showed me He was with me. Because of the mercies of God and your love and prayers, I am doing very well and am able to live a normal life without the aid of oxygen.

I was anointed by the ministry, and received many calls and cards. My wife and I spent many hours reading scriptures, singing hymns and recalling the blessings of God in our lives. While walking the hospital corridors we sang, *In the Army of the True and Living God*. I don't want to waste the time God has given me; I want to do my part in this wonderful army of the Lord and fulfill whatever assignment He gives to me. I feel a need to encourage those who are in need of help. Thank you all for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits which helped me get through this battle.

Brother John (Buck) Bilsky  
Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Brother Ronald Stewart and Sister Mary Boylan were united in holy matrimony in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania on February 4, 2006.

**Children Blessed**

Libby Beth Naro, daughter of Tim and Kim Naro, was blessed on February 19, 2006 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Nicholas Christian Liberto, son of Brother Thomas P. and Sister Lillian Liberto, was blessed on February 26, 2006 in the San Diego, California Branch.

Jordan Riley Lowther, son of Steven and Carol Lowther, was blessed on February 26, 2006 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

David Adrian Bryce Adams, son of David Adams and Niki Perne, was blessed on February 26, 2006 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

**Ordinations**

Brother AJ Cuerrier was ordained a Teacher in the Redford, Michigan Branch. His feet were washed by Brother John Impastato and he was ordained by Brother Dick Lobzun.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Sister Marilyn (Tisler) Lang was reinstated on February 12, 2006 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Sister Marlene Harris was baptized on February 12, 2006 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., and confirmed by Brother Patrick Monaghan.

Sister Tammy Morle was reinstated on February 19, 2006 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

**OBITUARIES**

**CARRIE (CALABRESE) SIMMONS**

Sister Carrie (Calabrese) Simmons of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on December 29, 2005. She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Calabrese and mother, Sister Lena Calabrese. She is survived by her husband, Larry E. Simmons; sons, Clifton Simmons and Matthew Murray; daughter, Deanna Brown; three brothers, Ralph, Joe and Brother David; a sister, Sister Mary Nardozi and six grandchildren.

**MARY FLEMING**

Sister Mary Fleming of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on March 11, 2006. Sister Mary was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, one son and two grandsons. She is survived by her son, Brother John Fleming and wife, Sister Donna; daughters, Sister Newanna King and husband, Brother Charles King; Thelma Nichols and husband, Emerson Nichols; nine grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Ciotti, Paul, Sr. and Ann  
114 Park Place  
McKees Rocks, PA 15236  
412-331-8487

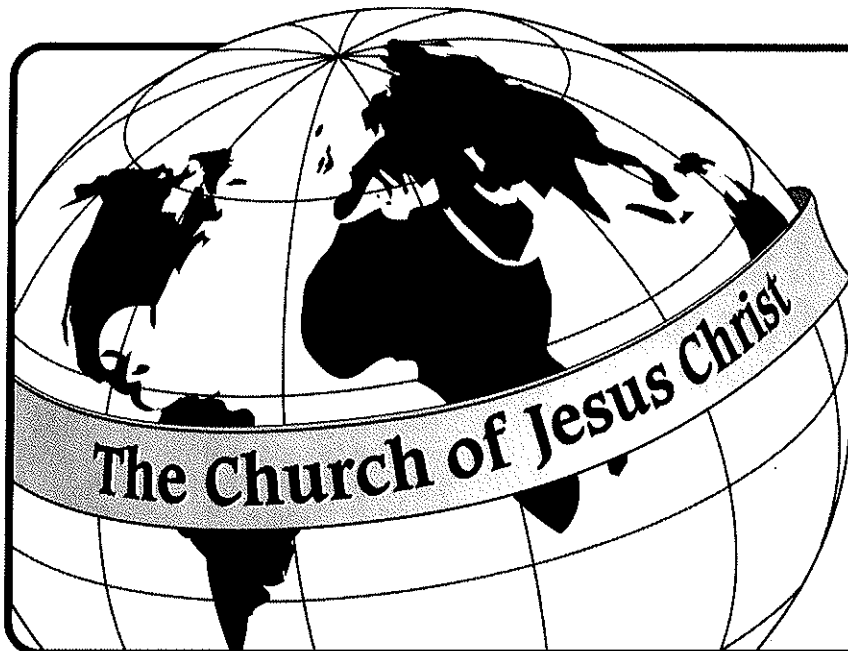
Giannetti, Albert and Diane  
138 Terra Drive  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
412-331-3169

Murray, Kenneth and Sandra  
12921 Springfield Road  
Lot 65N  
New Springfield, OH 44443  
330-549-9130

Perry, Irene  
c/o Park Vista Ret. Comm.  
1216 5th Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44504

Sayavich, Lori  
6552 Pacifica Drive  
Poland, OH 44514  
330-757-2302

Williams, Marsha  
1614 West Hampton Drive  
Austintown, OH 44515  
330-799-5953



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

June, 2006

Volume 62, No. 6

## The Gospel Goes to Ecuador and Ordination in Bogotá!

*By Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri*

The Lord has a plan for all nations to receive His Gospel through The Church of Jesus Christ. We are instruments in His plan and many times we marvel at His doings. Such were the findings on the Church's first trip to the nation of Ecuador since the restoration of the Gospel in 1830.

The brothers who went on this trip were Apostles Isaac Smith and Paul Liberto, Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri and Brother Daniel Mora, who was our translator for the trip. We left on March 14<sup>th</sup> but, as we were traveling through Houston, Texas, we discovered that Brother Mora needed a visa to get into Ecuador. After much prayer, he went on the morning of March 15<sup>th</sup> to the Ecuadorian embassy and not only was he the only person in line but he also received his visa and all papers were completed in less than 90 minutes! He stated he had never received a visa this fast; we thank God for this miracle.

On the flight to the capital city of Quito, Brothers Smith and Palmieri changed seats to sit nearer Brother Liberto so we could talk; but little did

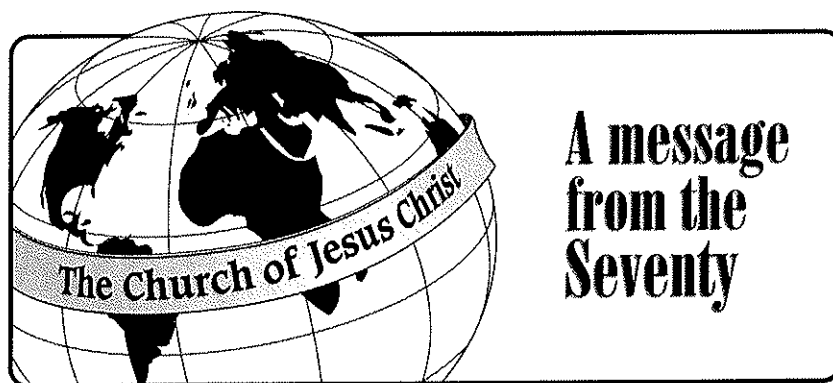
we know this was part of God's plan. As a result, Brother Smith was sitting in the same row with a person who has relatives in Quito who runs tours specifically designed to interact with the indigenous peoples of Ecuador. Brother Palmieri sat in the same row as a woman who had traveled the world with her spouse working for the US State Department and had a wealth of information on Ecuador, being a native Ecuadorian who was flying home to see her family. These two provided much information that will be used on subsequent trips.

Before our missionary visits, we offered prayer and went seeking God's plan. We were able to arrange a guided personal tour of the capital city, Quito, from a referral of hotel staff that just happened to know a trustworthy man who could help and also speak English. The day was spent in touring the beautiful city and talking with our tour guide, Jose Luis Zurita. We were even allowed to visit the presidential palace up to the inner secured area during a time when the entire presidential palace was locked down to nonessential personnel.

We felt a wonderful spirit with Jose Luis, and the following day, he escorted us four missionaries to visit the Tsachilas or Colorados, one of the many indigenous tribes in Ecuador located in Sto. Domingo de los Colorados. During our visit with this tribe, we were able to spend time meeting with a tribal leader. While meeting with this man, we explained the beliefs of the Church including the Book of Mormon and the restoration of Israel commencing with the tribe of Joseph. During this meeting, Brother Smith was given the Gift of Tongues and the power of God came in our midst. The leader asked for a Spanish Book of Mormon and he gave an invitation to visit him and his tribe on our return visit.

During the trip, the missionaries were able to observe the beautiful country of Ecuador with its beautiful mountains and green valley. It should be noted that the nation of Ecuador has a large percentage of its population who are native, indigenous people tracing their ancestry back to the original inhabitants of South America. We understand through the Book of Mormon and Bible these people are the tribe of Joseph, part of the House of Israel. Unknown to the brothers, the tribe visited, the Tsachilas, state they

(Continued on Page 11)



## IMOC Meeting January 2006

By Sister Deanna Nuzzi

I cannot imagine having been anywhere other than the IMOC Conference the weekend of January 27-29, 2006—a gathering of the missionaries! There was a beautiful turnout from all over the Church; brothers and sisters from the east coast, west coast and anywhere else that you can imagine. It was a wonderful representation of the Lord's Army.

Friday started out with business. Each Sector (Africa, Asia, Central America-Mexico, Europe, South America) met to discuss the business for 2006. We planned our trips for the year, we reviewed the highlights of last year and we shared in the wonderful love that we have for the brothers and sisters in the mission field. It was exciting and food for the soul. Friday night we had a presentation from the Asia Sector. They introduced their committee to us and then gave detailed reviews of each of their works. We heard about the miracles and blessings in India, the Philippines and Nepal. We also heard the exciting news that our brothers are going to Malaysia in February to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This will be the first time that we will have gone there. Malaysia is not a Christian country so this is a wonderful opportunity for the Lord to do a mighty work. We were encouraged to remember these brothers in prayer and that same invitation is extended to each of you.

As we returned from lunch, we

were looking forward to being addressed by the Apostles. Brother Paul Liberto started by mentioning how enjoyable it is to be at a meeting of the missionaries of the Church. He gave a lesson entitled *Missionaries For Dummies*, touching on four points:

1. Salvation is to be declared to every creature and we should abhor that any would perish.
2. Give yourself to fasting and prayer.
3. It is a journey full of sorrows, suffering, affliction and JOY.
4. Answer the great call of diligence to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

Brother Phil Jackson opened with remarks concerning the big difference from the beginnings of the MOC compared to now. He stated that in the last fourteen (14) years, so many different brothers and sisters have been involved in many different countries. Brother Phil Jackson stressed that we all have a ministry. He then recalled a statement made by Brother Nephi DeMercurio: "Missionary work is not a replacement, but an extension of our work." He went on to state that we need to be successful in our branches and missions, and furthermore, that work on the home front is the foundation we build upon. Brother Phil Jackson also remarked we need to be at work wherever we go. He reflected on a trip to the Cree Nation of Canada he made recently with Brother Josh

Gehly and discussions they had concerning the spirit-driven missionary work of the Sons of Mosiah. Brother Phil Jackson concluded with the messages that "the gospel will go all over the world," and "don't forget [the Seed of] Joseph."

Brother Richard Christman recalled 1955 and particular missionary trips he made with Brothers W.H. Cadman, Joseph Bittinger, and Thurman Furnier. He remarked that for young people today, the challenge is greater, the work is greater, and exciting. He went on to say that missionary work is a lifetime commitment. If we give the time, energy, and devotion, God will bless us. He further commented that we are "not planning on retreating." Brother Dick Christman concluded by stressing measured growth in the Church, and that the "goal is to win, not just make noise."

We learned that there has been direction and experiences given in regards to the Gospel going to China. We were encouraged to petition God on behalf of this work and that God's will be made known.

We then retired to the homes where we were staying and I am happy to say that the majority of us stayed in the homes of the saints.

I think it would give you an idea as to what happened over the weekend, if I gave you a sample of the itinerary:

### FRIDAY

- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 8:30 – Sector Meetings
- 12:00 – Lunch
- 1:30 – Sector Meetings
- 5:00 – Dinner
- 7:00 – Evening Service
- 10:00 – Depart

### SATURDAY

- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 8:30 – Addressed by Brother Paul Palmieri
- 9:30 – Seminars
- 12:00 – Lunch
- 1:30 – Seminars
- 5:00 – Dinner
- 7:00 – Evening Service
- 10:00 – Depart

Both Friday and Saturday were well over twelve (12) hour days. It was spiritually exhausting and we could not have been happier!

Saturday started off with Brother Paul Palmieri addressing the conference. He spoke about the vision of the future for the Church and the missionary endeavors of the Church. He also stressed a great need for workers in the Church, recounting a dream he had where one side of his branch was filled with members, while the other side was empty. In the dream, many people from the community were coming into the building and there was a great need to assist them. It was very edifying to hear our President encourage and lift up the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ. He expounded on the hope of Zion and the gathering of Israel. They were words of beauty and hope.

Our day then continued with various seminars and presentations from the brothers. Brother John DiBattista, IMOC Chairman, gave a presentation on opening our minds that God may do a greater work within us and the Church. Various brothers presented new programs for the IMOC's consideration. These programs would help the Church grow and reach more of the world. In the afternoon there was a training session for the young people interested in missionary work. The young people left the main congregation and were addressed by several brothers: Brother Nephi DeMercurio (seasoned missionary), Brother Jeffrey Giannetti (GMBA President), Brother Larry Champine (GMBA Chaplain) and Brother Joel Gehly (IMOC Vice Chairman).

Brother Nephi DeMercurio addressed life as a missionary, what to expect in the mission field, how to prepare yourself naturally and spiritually. Brothers Jeffrey Giannetti and Larry Champine addressed the young people in the manner that the GMBA would support their roles as missionaries. Brother Joel Gehly went over the operations and formalities of the IMOC and what is entailed in going on a missionary trip. It was a very

educational session. There were approximately forty (40) young people in this seminar. As the young people were dismissed back to the main meeting, the brothers and sisters that had been in the mission field moved to the aisles. As the young people walked in they were greeted, hugged, kissed and supported by the love of the missionaries. It was such a beautiful scene as the Church of yesterday and today greeted the Church of tomorrow. It was said by one of the ministry, "It's a new day, it's a new day." As the young people gathered in the center of the room, the ministry encircled them and we all sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*. A wonderful spirit was felt as we sang praises to God. Brother Mike Nuzzi had the following experience while the young people entered the main room. "When the young people came in and were walking towards the front, I saw a cloud come over them and it stayed there until the Elders prayed for them."

Saturday night we were given presentations from each mission field that was present. They gave a small update and shared experiences from the field. It was marvelous to hear and be a part of this wonderful gathering of workers. The Italian Committee showed video footage of Brother Joseph Lovalvo's missionary trip to Italy in 2005. The video showed him preaching and praying in Italian.

Brother Carl Huttenberger relayed to us that on his last trip to Guatemala he must have eaten something that did not agree with him. Once he was home he noticed that he had not been feeling well and was feeling some ill affects. He came to the IMOC weekend and was anointed. The next week we received the following message from Brother Carl. "Last Saturday I was anointed in Detroit at the IMOC meeting, and praise God as each day has progressed after that, my stomach problems have subsided! I didn't even have to go to the doctor. Praise God, He answers prayers. Thank you for your prayers. Now, back to the work!"

Throughout the weekend we sang (many times) #122, *In the Army of the True and Living God*, and let me share with you that the building shook with the cries of the song. (Just a portion of the song is listed below.)

"Stand tall, it's a mighty name to bear. Stand free, Jesus bought your 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."

"There's a fight and we know it must be won. There's a place that's assigned to everyone. 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."

On behalf of the IMOC and all the attendees, we wish to say thank you to our brothers, sisters and friends of Branch #2 of Allen Park, Michigan. They hosted the IMOC Conference, provided lunch and dinner and hosted many of us in their homes. May God bless each and every one of them for their love and hospitality.

## Note

The Asia Sector is happy to announce that we are presently staffing a missionary team for Malaysia and shortly will be staffing another team for China. Anyone interested in volunteering for these teams please contact Brother John Genaro.

Also, anyone who has traveled to China and has any contacts who may be interested in the Church please forward their name, phone number, address or e-mail address to John Genaro at [genaro111@earthlink.net](mailto:genaro111@earthlink.net).

## A Missionary's Journey

By Brother Ron Giovannone

Often we think of the journey a missionary takes to visit saints abroad as just the physical travel it takes to get to their final destination. The long drive to the Cree Nation in northern Canada, or the long flights to South America, Asia or Africa can be both exciting and exhausting. But the actual missionary's journey may begin well before he or she leaves their home.

Several months ago I began to take notice of what a missionary's true journey really is. It actually began several months prior to the scheduled trip to visit the saints in the Kingdom of Nepal. I was discussing the trip to Nepal with my physician making sure I had the appropriate shots and vaccinations. During the discussion the inevitable question arose, "What is the name of your Church and why are you going to Nepal?" This quickly led to a detailed discussion on Joseph Smith through William Bickerton. I told him how many have written to us from the East and from the West to know more about the truth of this Gospel just as Brother Benjamin Meadowcroft prophesied many years ago. I rehearsed unto him the same speech I have used time and again. It's what I say when I only have ten minutes to pique their curiosity enough to ask where they might learn more.

Within about a month of my departure, many of my co-workers began asking the same questions, "What is the name of your Church and why are you going to Nepal?" I have been employed by the same company for eight years, and prior to each trip I still get the same questions. I actually enjoy this part of the journey and it's a road well traveled. My reply was no different than the discussion I had with my physician several days earlier. I told them about these wonderful people of Nepal who discovered an understanding for the

need of another record as prophesied by Ezekiel in the 37th Chapter. Just as always, there are new employees who have not heard of my beliefs who inevitably say, "I never knew there were other churches, besides the Mormons, who believe in the Book of Mormon." I love hearing this because it means they are mentally separating the Book of Mormon from the Latter Day Saints of Utah and their faith. My hope is that a seed has been planted, which may grow to an understanding that God is still alive, and He has promised to love those that serve Him in truth and righteousness.

This same discussion didn't end with my work. Each trip my wife, Sister Cindy, and I find ourselves telling our neighbors and friends about the Restored Gospel and what it has meant in our lives. This past journey was no different as we prepared our home for our departure. My wife usually takes this opportunity to visit her family in Detroit and our neighbors offer to assist in any way they can. They offer to watch our home and attend to any needs that may arise while we are gone. They often comment on how involved we are in our Church and the friendships that we enjoy from across the country. Just as prior trips, two weeks before I left for Nepal, my wife found herself sharing her testimony of the Restored Gospel at our kitchen table and in our driveway with close friends and neighbors. She explained why we believe what we do, and how important God has been in our lives, expressing that she can't explain why other churches believe what they do, but can only share with them what she has found.

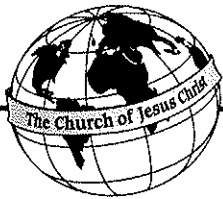
This preparation proved itself to be beneficial for the flights to the Kingdom of Nepal and while visiting the saints there. The flight to Kathmandu valley is a very long and trying trip. On each leg of the trip, the persons sitting next to me would often begin a discussion on our final destinations. This inevitably led to the same questions, "What is the name of your Church and why are you going to Nepal?" One gentleman was in the military and just attended a military minister's conference in Korea. He

was thoroughly fascinated with the fact that there were others besides the Utah Mormons who believed in the Book of Mormon. We had a wonderful discussion on Joseph Smith and the division of Brigham Young and Sidney Rigdon. On another leg of the journey, I was being questioned about why I believe in God and is there really life after death, with a senior in high school on her way home from a three-week stay in Bangkok, Thailand. She was confused about her parents having differing faiths and wasn't sure about the path which she should go in life. James 1:5, "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him,*" quickly entered our discussion. I also helped her to understand that God created the heavens and earth and can easily hear and answer prayers. I found myself explaining, on both occasions, the deepest core of my belief and sharing the joy that God has given me.

While in Nepal, we had planned several seminars on the Restored Gospel, including the early Church history and the defense of the Book of Mormon. As one of the sessions had ended for lunch, Brothers George Kovacic, Jerry Morle, and myself all found ourselves in a deep discussion with different individuals who had come for the first time to see the "Americans." We were discussing the very foundation of the Gospel, and what impact the Book of Mormon has on the world. The gentleman who had approached me was Hindu by birth and had very little understanding about Jesus Christ and had no knowledge of the promises of God to the House of Israel. This promptly led to a detailed account of the plan of salvation from the beginning of the world until the days of Christ. It concluded with that same discussion Brothers George and Jerry were having with a man who was visiting from another Christian faith. This gentleman had never heard of the promises to Israel in the latter days while in his current faith, even though he had been a Christian all his

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

My oldest son who is about to turn 5 years old is beginning to ask questions concerning spiritual things. Here are some of the questions he asked me today: "Daddy, how did God put our lungs inside our bodies? When we die, does all our blood come out of our body and we shrink? What did God use to make our bodies? When we die and go in the ground, won't the snakes get us?" I think I'd rather answer questions about Apostasy and Restoration than these kinds of questions!

*"And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are" (Ether 4:7).*

There is a "Sealed Record" containing all the revelations of Jesus Christ which will unfold all the mysteries of God, and answer all the questions we might have. When that day comes, we will be exercising faith like the brother of Jared. Some say this condition of perfect faith will usher in the Peaceful Reign. This chapter in Ether later explains that even the revelations of John will be revealed in that day, and when they are, we should know that what is revealed, is about to actually happen! The brother of Jared doubted nothing and when he saw the Lord there was no need for him to have faith any longer because he had seen his Redeemer in all His glory and believed. This same chapter in Ether unfortunately describes our day in time wherein it says that many remain behind a veil of unbelief, are in an awful state of wickedness, have hardened hearts, and blinded minds. Because of this, the Lord will reveal nothing more than He already has.

What questions do you have today? How many are paralyzed by blindness because they are unable to answer questions like why, when and how? How many try to figure out answers to these questions on their own? How many times does this open the door for Satan to answer these questions in our minds with lies? As much as I like to think I have faith, and maybe you do too, we are obviously not close to the level of faith that the brother of Jared had. If we were, all the mysteries of God would be revealed and we would be living in Zion already. Why did the Lord cause that these revelations, along with the revelations of John be hidden from mankind? Why couldn't He just tell us everything? Even the answer to that question will be revealed one day, but I believe the reason is that He requires faith from us. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Exercising a new dimension of faith will result in God not withholding anything from us, like He did with the brother of Jared.

This new dimension of faith would cause us to completely turn our lives over to Him, trusting completely. Think of Peter when he tried to walk on the water, but couldn't because his faith wasn't strong enough. If he had completely entrusted his very life to the Lord, he would have walked on water confidently. Next time we are faced with decisions, challenges, or questions, respond by imagining yourself walking on water (meaning completely relying on the Lord). If we REALLY do this day after day, our faith will become stronger, and God will be unable to hold back anything from us. The brother of Jared made stones out of molten rock and presented them to the Lord. He asked the Lord to touch them and give them light for their vessels as they were about to embark into the great ocean. When he held them up to the Lord he IMAGINED walking on water and the Lord couldn't hold back, and the brother of Jared watched in awe as the finger of the Lord appeared and touched each stone, and they became light.

Brothers and sisters and friends, I want to see that great Peaceful Reign come about. I know you do too. Let's not sit back and do nothing. Let's commit today, after reading this, that together, we are going to exercise faith to a much greater degree, and I am sure soon, we will all see the Lord "make bare His arm" not only in our lives, but for the whole world.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Wisdom of King Benjamin

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed someone at school or in your neighborhood who looked poor? Maybe their clothes weren't right, or clean, or maybe they wore the same thing over and over. Did you ever wonder why they weren't on your soccer team, or going to the same fun, summer camp as you? Did you ever think that their family may not have as much money or health as your family? Maybe their family worked hard every day at jobs but they did not get paid as much as someone in your family. Or did you ever wish that your family had more money or better clothes, or a better home?

Did you remember that the Lord hates a proud look (Proverbs 6:16)? That means do not think you are better than someone else just because you have more, or can do more. Don't forget that God gave you those talents in the first place. If you are a fast runner, you are blessed that you aren't stuck in a wheelchair like some other kids. If you are smart in school and have the kind of brain that can read and understand easily, be thankful because that came from God too. If your parents did not get divorced and were loving and kind to each other, be grateful because you know how to be that way, and you have been safely taken care of. Did you know that the Bible and Book of Mormon are very clear about helping each other? In Mosiah, Chapter 4, good King Benjamin gathered his people together and



instructed them. He told them in Chapter 4, to teach your children to love one another, and to serve (help) one another. And also, when you see someone in need, never refuse to help him if you have the ability to. Perhaps you will say, "This man did something and brought this problem on himself so I won't help him. He deserves to be punished." But God does not like that.

It is so easy to blame someone with big problems. Sometimes I think that we are scared by problems and do not think we can help, so we act shy, or unfriendly and stay away. But, God can help them. God can work through us and show us how to be a kind, loving friend. God can show us how to reach out to one another. In the Bible Jesus says that if you have two coats and your brother has none, give him one of your coats.

We really are not supposed to hoard so many things. Do you have one stuffed animal or twenty? Two toys or fifty? Could you share some of those toys or things with someone who is poorer than you? Before you buy more of something that you do not need, could you give the money to a poor person instead? King Benjamin went on talking and teaching his people. He taught us that when we see a man with a problem, remember that we all depend on God for everything we have. You want God to give you things. You are like a beggar asking for more goodness in your life. You ask God for blessings and forgiveness, you are depending on God for whatsoever you have. Then you must share what you have with others. It came from God anyway.

King Benjamin understood that sometimes we may really want to help

someone, but we do not have extra. He said (verses 25-27) that for those of you who do not have extra, and just get by from day to day, you are guiltless before God if you say in your heart, "I give not because I have not, but if I had I would give." God truly does know our hearts and if we feel stingy and poor, then where is our faith that God will take care of us? Where is our thankfulness to God for giving us the ability to have all that we have? If we cannot look around and see how much others need our help, all we have to do is ask God for wisdom to change and not be afraid of the future. God will take away our doubt and greediness. We will quit fearing and realize there is enough for us too.

Maybe you want to help someone but do not know how. Well, one of the best things you can do is to pray for them for God to help them. But

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### WORD SEARCH

KING	BRAIN
BENJAMIN	WE
WARNED	SHARE
US	OTHERS
GOD	DO
GAVE	BE
OUR	KIND
TALENT	FEED
WEALTH	POOR

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



## Construction Project in the Atlantic Coast Breaks Ground

By Sister Sally Curtin

We gathered together for a beautiful day on January 14, 2006. "They Are Builders!" and have much to do was the topic for the Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Seminar. The sisters from the Hopelawn, New Jersey Local graciously hosted our day and met our every need.

The seminar covered five points and related directly to the experience, "Tell them they are builders," by our General Circle liaison, Brother John Griffith.

1. They build lives of children to a spiritual awareness.
2. They build families to unity of love and trust.
3. They build confidence in their spouse to do the work of the Lord.
4. They build future generations through example.
5. They assist in the building of a kingdom not of this world.

Our Sister Mitzi Calabro introduced the theme for the day and we spent the morning discussing the best practices for following this wonderful direction given by the Lord.

We opened our meeting with the opportunity to sing, *It's a Jubilee Morning*, from the new *Songs of Zion*. "There's a beautiful mountain that God made from above, and He wrapped it in silver and He formed it in love, and I saw it this morning when the clouds rolled away and I'm crying to see such a beautiful day." How the words of this hymn set the course for our gathering!

Our Sister Enza Pusillo followed

the beautiful devotional singing with a heartfelt prayer on behalf of the meeting and the many other needs of the saints and the souls of this world.

Each sister presented one of the directions for building. Topic by topic we discussed and contemplated the Lord's direction as it pertained to our own lives. Many experiences were spoken of and our sisters Maria Montoya and Angele Reyes provided us with a greater insight into their personal testimonies and relationships with the Lord. Our sister spoke on the true meaning of what it means to be nurtured as a member of the house of Israel by the *nursing mothers and fathers* of The Church of Jesus Christ. We marveled at the possible impact that our actions can have on one life and one heart, that we should respect the role we all have in the restoration

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*"What is in your spiritual tool box that will help you to be the best builder you can be? Take a look, take stock, and go shopping in the store of Scripture, Prayer and Good Works!"*

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of the House of Israel. There is much power in what pleases the Lord and He gives *the great increase* that benefits us all as saints of God.

The question was posed: "What good in my life am I not doing? If not, is it sin?" Are we taking stock of our daily walk with the Lord? What can we do as individuals to repair and build our spiritual house? Our Sister Betty D'Orazio shared a beautiful testimony of how recently she began keeping a book of writings to the Lord: "A journal of praises, no complaints! Letters to God," she explained. This heartfelt action, out of love, has enhanced the results of her prayers.

Our Sister Maria Peterkin recited an experience had by her late father,

Brother Nathan Peterkin. She recalled how one day as he was preparing to go to a meeting he was all dressed up, and upon looking at himself in the mirror, he felt he looked pretty good. Then a voice beckoned for him to move a little closer to the mirror and as he did each time the voice beckoned him, he discovered he had spots of lint and dust in various places on his suit. Then it was given to him that he needed to take out the swish brush of prayer to get rid of those particles. Sister Maria relayed that as the experience was given to her father, we should always be prayerful and checking ourselves to see where we stand with God. Are we living our lives as we should or is there room for improvement?

Throughout the discussion, our awareness regarding what is needed in our lives to be fit builders became increasingly clear. The counsel of our sisters: "Be strong and of good courage, turn not to the right or left, follow the commandments of the Lord, pray without ceasing, commune with the Lord daily, assist and encourage those around you, cultivate love, not fear and insecurity, don't create excuses to not work for the Lord, make a way and the Lord will provide the increase!"

What is in your spiritual tool box that will help you to be the best builder you can be? Take a look, take stock, and go shopping in the store of *Scripture, Prayer and Good Works!* And take the old useless stuff to the dump!

Sister Angela Reyes closed our meeting with a fervent prayer spoken in Spanish. We then partook of a marvelous lunch prepared and provided by our sisters in Hopelawn.

As we enjoyed this fellowship we discussed the needs of the expectant and new mothers in various mission fields. We all had brought layette items to be donated to the layette programs of the Southwest Area Ladies' Circle and Dominica, West Indies. We collected over forty receiving sets! What a blessing to fellowship together in the name of the Lord, a benefit to everyone!



## The Beautiful Story of Freehold, New Jersey

By Evangelist Matthew Rogolino

I have felt to write this account to share with all how great the power of God is. Time passes so quickly and we tend to forget how precious those days were when we first began the work in Freehold. There is a certain touch that comes from God that makes it beyond human understanding. Hopefully you will understand that God led us all the way. Brother Cleveland Baldwin's autobiography is a more thorough account of the work. This article is only a brief account of the many blessings that we received. May you read this with a prayer in your heart that you too might feel the same great blessing.

I will try with God's help to write a few things about my involvement in the Freehold, New Jersey work.

Before I start I would like to make it clear that it was not by our own wisdom or anything we could boast that made the work a success. It was only a desire to see someone find the Lord. There were many who were involved in the work and many helped in prayer. I had a burning desire to do something in bringing someone to the Lord so we fasted and prayed continually. While in prayer the Lord showed me a church between two cities with a mixed congregation. I felt God's blessing poured out in singing hymn #99, *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm*.

Brother Cleveland and Brother Frank Rogolino asked me to go with them. The first night we were sent to Asbury Park, NJ to the home of Edith Bonds. When she saw us she didn't want to be bothered with us. But, there was something about us that she didn't understand as though she saw us before. She promised to come with us to church in Edison, NJ. When she saw the church it became clear to her. Three weeks before she saw the three

of us come to her. We brought her to this church. But she said, "Don't bring me here, but bring the church to me."

It was the beginning of the work and from then on we held meetings at Sister Burke's home. At that time, she was not a member but opened her house to us. God pushed us to go out every night and we went everywhere. We were not well versed in the scriptures but the Lord was with us and we were never confounded by anyone. I would want to remark that none of us held any ordained offices at that time.

Sister Edith Bonds was the first to ask for her baptism. She said she never saw the love of God anywhere like she saw in our Church. She was baptized with two other sisters. After her baptism, she had a dream that she was getting married, but didn't know who she was marrying until she looked to the right and saw a bright light.

After a period of about six months, we had six members in Freehold. At first, Brother Patsy Rogolino was put in charge, then Brother John Buffa.

In October 1956, Brother Nathan Peterkin, August D'Orazio and I were ordained elders. The mission began to prosper slowly. Along with this there were many trials and tribulations, but God helped us to carry on.

One day in 1958, Brother Cleveland and I were invited to the church of Josephine Hicks in Neptune, NJ. She was dissatisfied with the churches she knew and set up her own church. She was teaching 1 Peter 5:6-8, *"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God because the devil as a roaring lion walked about seeking whom he may devour."* Brother Cleveland and myself never forgot these words that she taught. We didn't say much but only prayed. We said we would be back the next meeting. Somehow we knew through God's spirit that she would one day belong to the Church. When we came back she wanted to know who we were. We told our testimony and she believed. She said, "I traveled all over looking for the true people of God and could not find them, but they found me!" She was baptized and gave us her church building. She was special to me and I

loved her as my own mother. She was a widow and had no children. Many years later it was her inspiration that moved Brother Nathan to go to Spartanburg, South Carolina to start a mission there.

We held meetings in Neptune, NJ for several years until the building was sold. Many blessings were had in that little church and the membership increased. We were holding meetings on Tuesday in Freehold and Sunday in Neptune. When the church was sold in Neptune, we went back to Sister Burke's home in Freehold.

In 1960 I married Sister Joan and transferred my membership to Hopelawn, NJ. I still continued the work in Freehold. I would want all to understand I was not the main person involved. Brother Cleveland was the main person, and Brother Nathan was the elder in charge and many others including our wives who were with us. Many others supported us such as Sister Ivy Fisher and others in the Region. The beautiful part about the Gospel is to see souls lost in sin who have found hope in Jesus. Oh, my brothers and sisters if you can draw a person to the savior, how blest you are! My heart leaps within me as I stand at the water's edge and see a soul make a covenant with God. How blest they are!

In 1964 I bought a home in Englishtown, NJ. In 1966, the Region voted to have me take over the work. I said I would do it if Brother Cleveland was with me and they agreed.

We began renting a storefront on Mechanic Street in Freehold. The building was hot in the summer and cold in the winter. One Sunday while a brother was visiting he said you should fast and pray that the Lord would give you a meeting place. After the meeting a man came to us and asked us if we were looking for a building. He introduced us to the members of the Italian Club. They wanted to sell their building for \$10,000. But, when Brother Galanti from Brooklyn, NY came down and talked to them in the Italian language, they lowered the price to \$8,500. I got a call from the chairman of this club who lowered it further to \$8,000.

Brother Cleveland and myself

went back to the membership and asked them if they wanted the building, and all agreed. Each member would need to give \$1000 each in order for us to request it from the Region. While it didn't seem like much money, none of us had much, and within two weeks, we had a quarter of the amount for the request to the Region. We bought the building in 1967. Within two years the building was paid for.

Many were the blessings we received in that building. When the church was dedicated Sister Mary Parlise from the New Brunswick Branch who had never been to the Freehold building, had a dream. Part of it was "the blessing of God, the Power of God and the Spirit of God. They are having a dedication of the Freehold church today." I will only say, the Lord was there with us.

Brother Cleveland and I were concerned about the work, that there were not many men in the Church. We fasted and prayed and a sister had an experience that she saw many men and women in the basement in chains struggling and crying, "Help us!" Not long afterwards, many men came into the Church. The Mission was founded on much fasting and prayer.

In 1968, Sister Meredith was a visiting nurse in Freehold. It was her job to go to the home of a woman whose son was burned in a fire to evaluate his need for plastic surgery. The woman was afraid to see her because she thought she would take away her children because she had nothing. However, instead she invited her to church. When she came, she found the love of God. Her story was long and she was destitute. She lost two children in a fire and another died being overcome by gas.

She loved the Church with all her heart. After she was baptized she brought many of her people to the Church. Whoever she would invite, they would come.

How blest were those days! We were united in love one to another with a desire to do God's will. On one occasion in a prayer meeting the question was asked, "Have you ever felt the embrace of God?" The next day, the power of God came down on

us. A brother, while testifying, passed out on the floor, the spirit of God had overcome him. The power of God fell on everyone so great that everyone was overcome. Oh how blessed we were! There were three baptisms that day. It was like the day of Pentecost.

One day a group from another religion came to our church. The leader walked right up to us on the rostrum and set up his loudspeakers. The church was crowded and people were outside looking in. He began to say that the black man is going to heaven and the white man is going to hell. Then all the brothers and sisters both black and white got up and began to embrace each other. They loved each other and showed it. The man fell back in his seat and could not say anymore, and left.

One day a sister brought a sick baby to church and during the meeting the baby stopped breathing. Sister Meredith gave the baby CPR but could not revive her and said she was dead. Brother Cleveland anointed her and she came back to life!

In 1970, Brother Cleveland and myself were ordained Evangelists. Brother James Howard, Brother Willie Brown and Brother Jim Crudup were ordained elders.

After that, Brother Cleveland had an experience to go back to Chattahoochee, Florida where he was able to start a mission there (later became Quincy).

Sister Hattie asked me to go with her to West Virginia. We started a mission in Elkins and turned it over to the Pennsylvania Region. Brother Nathan was called to go to Spartanburg, SC and established the Church there.

Truly God was with us wherever we went. These are only a few of the experiences God gave us that others might not forget how they were started. This is not the end but only the beginning of what God will do if we desire it.

Now we are working in Brooklyn and the Bowery in New York City. We are also holding meetings at the prison. We are continuing prayer meetings in Freehold with the elder's permission. My heart is full when I see

the Spanish people now receiving the Gospel in Freehold. Truly, our work was not in vain!

(Gospel News Editor's Note: As the current Presiding Elder of Freehold, and being a member there for the last 16 years, I can attest to the power that love can bring to a congregation, particularly in a branch like ours where black, white, Mexican, Guatemalan, and Jewish worship together and do not see differences. Not only do the blessings and miracles continue, but the ministry continues to be sent to other places to work like Rwanda, Guatemala, Congo, Kenya, Dominica and Colombia. I know there are many other branches throughout the Church with beautiful stories as well. I would hope to see articles from your branches and missions in future issues of the *Gospel News* because there is nothing like The Church of Jesus Christ! — Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.)

## A Celebration of Jesus Christ

*By Sister Cynthia Marie Onorato*

The Brunswick, Maine Branch gathered on Saturday, April 15 to celebrate Jesus Christ. This special day was hosted by the Maine Branch Ladies' Circle. Sister Kathy Onorato, president of the circle, welcomed all in attendance. She spoke of her desire to enrich our fellowship. Visiting with us for the weekend was Brother James and Sister Rose Andrews from Herndon, Virginia and Sister Jeanette Israel from Brooklyn, New York. Also family and friends of the saints were able to attend, which we were very thankful for.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. opened our service and prayed that we would be used as instruments and humble servants.

A full day of activities included a seminar, spaghetti dinner fund-raiser and a program performed by the branch youth portraying the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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## A Celebration of Jesus Christ

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A seminar was prepared and taught by Brother Richard Onorato, Sr. The subject was on Jonah and Job. The account of their lives was read and the events of God's power unfolded as we learned how God delivered them. It was also pointed out how these two men of God were used as a sign of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Jonah** – God gave Jonah instruction to go to Nineveh and preach repentance to the Gentiles. Jonah disobeyed God and ran and hid on a ship. A great storm came and Jonah was cast overboard. God was displeased with him. A great fish swallowed Jonah. We were asked to imagine how Jonah felt inside of the great fish. *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"* (Matthew 12:40). Jonah cried unto the Lord, *"The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains"* (Jonah 2:5-6).

Jonah prayed, *"I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord"* (Jonah 2:9-10). The great fish vomited out Jonah upon dry land. Jonah was compelled to work for the Lord!

**Job** – a very rich and righteous man, perfect and upright, feared God and eschewed evil.

Satan asked God to touch his perfect servant, Job, with affliction and persecution and see if he would still be perfect. Job lost all of his wealth, his children and he was sorely afflicted with boils from the sole of his foot to his crown. Job's friends wept for him and thought these things befell him because he sinned. Job rebuked them. Job's grief was very great, so great that he wished he had never been born. His wife told him to retain his integrity, curse God and die. Job did not sin with his lips. Job accepted what God saw fit to do with him saying, *"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath*

*taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."* Job maintained his faith in God.

Through all of Job's great persecution, the outcome was a wonderful thing. He praised God and repented in the dust and ashes. Job's fortune was restored to twice as much as before. God knew Job's heart and showed him he did not go through this because of sin, but for righteousness. Job ended up more blessed because of his faith and humbling himself unto repentance. A foreshadow of the coming of Christ, Christ suffered for righteousness sake!

We were asked at the close of our seminar, "Don't we all have to go through something?"

We ended by reading Mosiah 3:19, a sign of a saint, *"For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."*

After we received nourishment for our hearts and minds we enjoyed a delicious spaghetti supper prepared by the Ladies' Circle.

Following we gathered once again to enjoy a program entitled, "The Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ." Under the direction of Sister Heather Onorato, the youth of the branch performed and highlighted special events that transpired in the life of Christ. At the beginning of the program, our youngest, Jayson Perrello opened the door and with much enthusiasm welcomed us to The Church of Jesus Christ!

Our hearts filled with joy as we heard the story of Jesus and remembered why He came to earth and the great sacrifice and example He gave us. It reinforced in us the true significance of Easter. The program ended as JayShawn and Tylan Onorato, two of our younger children told us to always remember what Jesus did for

us repeating, **"Always Remember!"** Our younger generation did a beautiful job in honoring our Saviour.

As we gathered on Sunday for our service we felt tremendously blessed from the previous day of fellowship and wanted to offer our thanksgiving of praise to God.

Brother Darryl Onorato, Presiding Elder, opened our service and said every day is a day to honor God. Our meeting focused on celebrating Christ! Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. continued speaking of those Jesus loved and the instrumental roles they played in their service to Christ. Those he spoke of were:

**Mary** – She anointed Jesus' feet. She loved him very much. *"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus"* (John 12:3).

**John** – He was the forerunner of Christ, *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord..."* He baptized Christ. He proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Thomas** – He was a disciple of Christ. He doubted Christ's resurrection. He had to see and feel to believe. Then came Jesus and said, *"Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing."* Jesus said, *"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"* (John 20:27, 29). Thomas did believe and it was sufficient for Him.

**Job** – He was a rich and blessed man who lost everything and ended up receiving a double portion because of his faith, great love and belief in God. *"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy"* (James 5:11).

By the examples brought forth it showed us that God loves His children. We as parents also have a responsibility to teach our children and to work at it because of love. Our brother commented on how man perceives things and gets it wrong. God loved Thomas, His child. Man labeled him doubting Thomas. Man said Job suffered be-



cause of sin. Job praised God after all he went through.

Only God can get it right! We are more blessed if we truly humble ourselves. We can be compelled to serve God or simply serve Him believing. *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name"* (John 20:31).

Brother Richard stressed to us, **"Do not limit your faith or blessings from God."** Jesus has risen and He blesses us because we serve Him. Everyday is Easter to a saint of God. **"Celebrate Christ and just serve Him!"**

## Gospel Goes to Ecuador

Continued from Page 1

are one of the oldest cultures that came to the lands of the Americas and live intact today. This tribe is located in the tropical rain forest of the west Andes. Again, this was part of the plan of God revealed to us as the trip unfolded.

During our entire day's trip, Brother Mora and Jose Luis were able to converse about the Gospel and Jose Luis invited us to meet his family, which we did and were received very warmly. As we met, we were invited to hold a house meeting the following night.

On our last full morning, while the missionaries were ready to start the day in prayer, Brother Smith felt directed that we should sing hymn #405 in the *Saints Hymnal*, *Redeemer of Israel*, and a beautiful spirit filled the room. That evening we were blessed to meet with 13 men, women and children in The Church of Jesus Christ's first official meeting in Ecuador. We presented the Gospel message, explaining first the need for all to repent and be baptized according to the commandments of Christ and the Restoration, the Book of Mormon, the hopes we have for the gathering of Israel. The message was very well received and one in the congregation stated to us that if The Church of Jesus

Christ is serious in coming to Ecuador, then we can count on them! We thank God for the sincere in heart He allowed us to meet. We all felt God has a work in this country and plan to make more trips to the country of Ecuador in the coming months. It was truly a blessing to feel we were in one of the lands where the Nephites and Lamanites lived and know God's covenant to bring back Joseph into His Church will include this land!

We then flew to the city of Bogotá in the nation of Colombia. Two weeks prior, we were inspired to arrange to visit Bogotá to visit the membership and see what the Lord had in store. Brother Alan Metzler, who is in charge of the Colombia Field Committee of the South America Sector, met us in Bogotá. We were also greeted by the brothers and sisters of the Bogotá mission and rejoiced in our discussions. We felt to meet with Brother Felipe Pedraza, Sr. and it was evident God had prepared him for the ministry and, during our meeting, the gifts of God were displayed. It was a wonderful day on Sunday during the ordination of our brother into the Priesthood of the Son of God. The house of God was full and many asked for prayer and several were contemplating baptism. The fellowship after the meeting brought a beautiful spirit wherein the members grew closer to one another. We rejoiced that Brother Pedraza has been ordained a minister, as he is the first minister in the nation of Colombia. He is supported by the mission and has a wonderful spirit of humility.

Please pray for our new laborer in Bogotá and for the work throughout all of South America as our activity has been increasing steadily off of a solid base that many have labored to sustain for many years.

## Missionary's Journey

Continued from Page 4

life. He was intrigued by the knowledge he had just received and was eager to read the Book of Mormon for

himself. During the time we spent in Nepal, much of it was spent sharing our lives and testimonies with the saints in that country. We spent time in their homes, sharing dinner, and telling of how God has changed each of our lives. We ended our time in Nepal with five additional baptisms, each with a beautiful testimony to share with their family and friends.

While on this journey, which began long before I stepped foot on an airplane, I rarely preached or exhorted from a rostrum. Instead I found myself sharing the testimony of this wonderful Restored Gospel to anyone who would listen. Isaiah once stated, *"Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?"* The true missionary's journey starts with all of us whether we are in a distant, foreign land among strangers or visiting our friends and neighbors living next door. The Lord presents us with opportunities every day, as each of us stand unique to the world. We must be ready to share our report of the truthfulness that is found in this Gospel and the power and authority it holds!

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

remember, God loves it when we quietly give and share with one another. He tells us to share in private, not bragging or letting others know, or else we've already got our blessing here on earth. I think I'd rather get my blessing later, in heaven, don't you? The Bible promises that God, who sees in secret what we do will reward us openly.

Please do not be afraid to be kind to that person who looks poor or needy. They have a heart too. Many of them would give anything to be like you – loved, blessed and having ability to work or be smart. God, who has given us so much expects us to give back to others.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Note of Thanks

I have been overwhelmed by all of your kindness and expressions of love during my recent auto accident. Through your prayers and the grace of God, I am doing very well, for which I am extremely grateful. May God richly bless each of you is my prayer.

Love in Christ,  
Sister Sharon Staley  
Franklin, Tennessee

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Joe Arcuri and Sister Tammy Smith were united in holy matrimony in the Mesa, Arizona Branch on April 14, 2006.

Brother Todd Martin and Heidi Shaffer were united in holy matrimony in the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch on March 25, 2006.

## Children Blessed

Tatiana Janae Aichele, daughter of Gordon Allen Connor and Ashley Lynne Aichele, was blessed in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch.

Reese McCall Hood, daughter of Brother Chad and Sister Tawnya Hood was blessed on April 16, 2006 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Kennah Marie Hemmings, daughter of Shawn and Sonya (Goodwin) Hemmings was blessed on November 27, 2005 in the Lakeside, Arizona Branch.

Kylie Marie Gaston, daughter of Thomas and Candace Gaston was blessed on April 16, 2006 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Catte Ruth Clayton, daughter of Jerrica Picciuto and Clint Clayton was blessed on March 19, 2006 in the Modesto, California Branch.

Lainey Marie Uzman, daughter of Sister Shannon and Timothy Uzman was blessed on April 2, 2006 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Gerry DeCredico was reinstated on November 23, 2005 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

## Ordinations

Brother Steve Kerby was ordained a Teacher in the Anaheim, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Ken Jones and he was ordained by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

Sister Patricia Valenti was ordained a Deaconess on January 8, 2006 in the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Tammy Valenti and she was ordained by Brother Jerry Valenti.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Ethel Cadman of the Fredonia Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 60th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

### DOYLE BRYANT

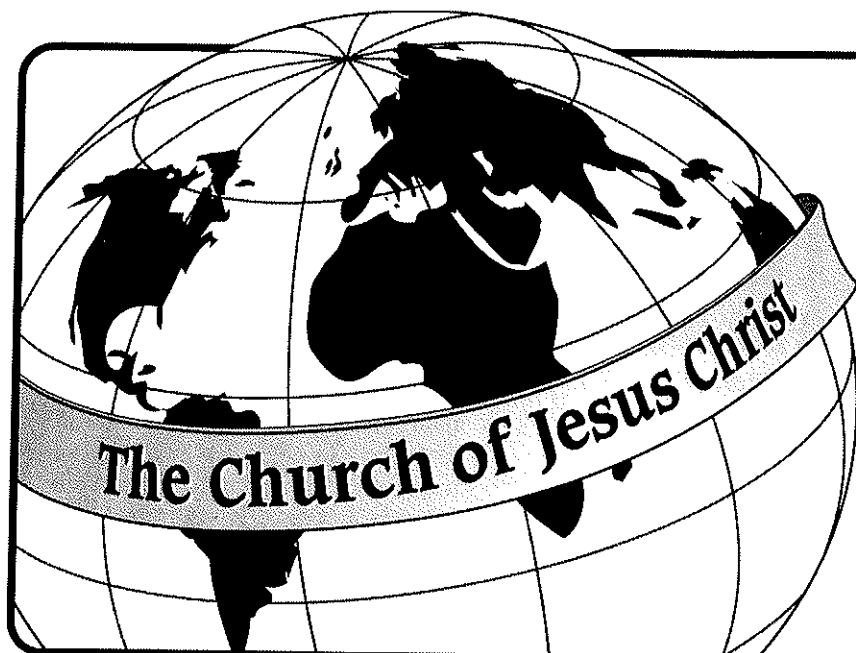
Brother Doyle Bryant of the Dallas – Fort Worth, Texas Branch passed onto his reward on February 7, 2006. He is survived by his wife Edith, one daughter Elaine Mathis and her husband James; grandchildren Melody, Stuart and Travis; and great-grandson, Ethan.

### JANICE FOXALL

Sister Janice Foxall of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on December 5, 2005.

### WILBERT McNEIL

Brother Wilbert McNeil of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward March 2, 2006. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his son, Wilbert "Roy" McNeil, and by four sisters and a brother. He is survived by his son, Brian McNeil and his daughter, Sister Carole Dorsey, and their spouses; his two brothers George and Elijah; three sisters-in-law, five grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

July, 2006

Volume 62, No. 7

## Guatemala Mission Update

*By Sister Darlene Marroquin*

The saints of Guatemala were blessed in March to go to the waters of baptism at a new site, Lake Amatitlan. Our newest converts were Mario Alvarez, age 17, Ronald Illescas, age 26 and Oscar Santos, age 50. Brother Mario's parents were baptized in the Church in 1990. His father passed away tragically nearly ten years ago and his mother stopped attending. Mario, his sister Johanna and his brother Jorge have been attending on their own all these years and we can see the fruit of their desires to serve the Lord.

Brother Ronald Illescas had a serious drug abuse problem and after going through an extensive rehabilitation program, realized he needed God in his life. He has attended different churches, but found peace in his soul he never felt before in The Church of Jesus Christ. He has an enthusiasm to tell others of what he has found and how merciful God has been to change his life. We were happy to see that his family attended the baptism and also to see the tears of joy in their eyes as they witnessed Ronald's baptism. They expressed how thankful they were that Ronald changed his life and they can see the peace that he has now.

The final candidate, Brother Oscar, worked near Brother Luis' café/restaurant and they began a friendship. He began visiting church and also felt the need to repent and serve God.

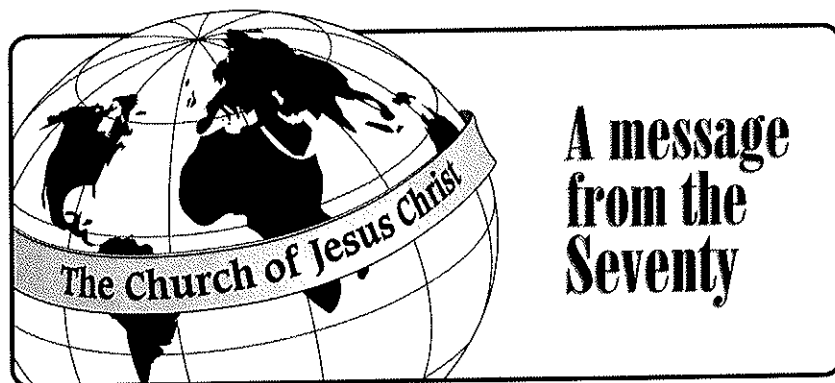
About three months ago, Brother Ronald invited his close friend Manuel to church. He also had a problem with drug abuse and had been in rehabilita-

tion. He still suffered the aftereffects of seizures. He never knew when the seizures would occur and he would then be very ill in bed for a few days. It happened that he started to have a seizure during his first visit to the Church. He was having convulsions on the floor. Brother Luis anointed him and he began to feel better. He didn't have to pass days bedridden. Even more miraculous, he hasn't had another seizure. Manuel testified of

(Continued on Page 3)



Mission in Guatemala City



## Venezuela May 25-29, 2006

The land is Venezuela. The word Venezuela means, "Little Venice." It is not difficult to comprehend why, since Venezuela has many large lakes, rivers and streams. The Native Americans build their homes on stilts in the waters. This allows them to isolate themselves to preserve their language and culture.

It is a country very rich in oil and other natural resources. Venezuela is even wealthier since the Restored Gospel is now established there for her citizens. The members in Venezuela state and testify that in spite of their impoverished conditions, they are now very wealthy!

We, Sister Joyce Ross and Brother Don Ross, arrived safely in Maracaibo, Venezuela. What a blessing to see the faces of Brother Timothy Mott and Miss Jimena Dagua of Colombia at the airport. Their smiles erased the anxiety and frustration of the trip to Maracaibo. An added blessing was that we were waved through Venezuelan Customs without any search of our luggage and personal belongings.

We were met in the lobby Friday morning by Brother Angel Chavez. His broad smile greeted us and we immediately felt the Spirit of God and His holy presence. We all embraced. We introduced Brother Angel Chavez to Sister Joyce Ross and Jimena Dagua. We felt welcomed. We felt the blessing of being a part of the family of God.

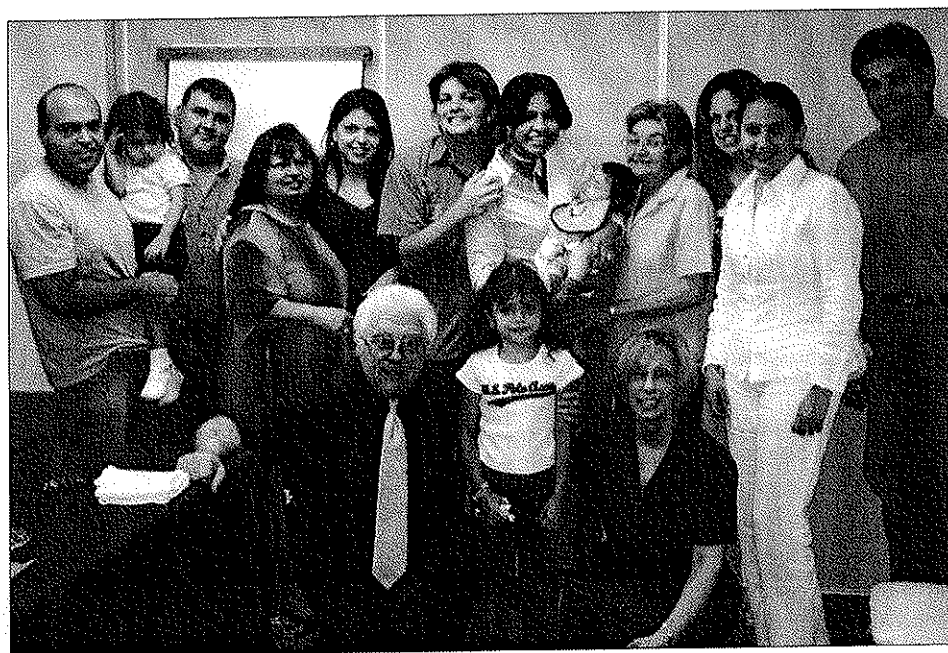
Our morning was spent shopping

for gifts, small tokens of appreciation, for the Chavez household and for feet washing articles. While shopping for the feet washing articles, Sister Joyce said, "Since no woman has asked for her baptism, I guess I will not have an opportunity to wash feet." Brother Don responded, "You never know, the day is not over yet." We found very adequate feet washing articles. New towels for feet washing were bought prior to our trip. During the evening, there was a request for baptism! How God works! How God is in control!

The afternoon was dedicated to counseling and instructing Brother

Chavez. We, Brothers Mott and Ross, provided him additional instruction on the duties of a Deacon. He was counseled to always set a humble and loving example. He was counseled to be quick to serve others, especially his brothers and sisters in the faith. Brother Angel was further instructed and counseled to bear his testimony to all. He was encouraged to bear his testimony to at least one (1) person a day. By doing so, he will help further and spread the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Chavez was very receptive to our counsel. Although shy, he has no reservations about "going and telling" others about The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Chavez was presented with a gift from the Youngstown, Ohio MBA. The gift was a digital camera. He had asked for this type of camera, not for personal use, but to take pictures of missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ so he could then distribute electronically to his friends in various regions of Venezuela. He was very appreciative of the gift and immediately began to take



Standing left to right: Vinicio Hernandez, holding his niece Maria Angela, Hernando Hernandez (sons of Magali Hernandez), Magali Hernandez, her daughter, Maria, Brother Jose Chavez, Sister Carolina Almanza, infant (Jose Angel Chavez Almanza), Daysi Chavez (mother of Brothers Jose and Angel Chavez), Yvette Hernandez (Hernando's wife), Jimena Dagua of Colombia (Brother Timothy Mott's fiancée), and Brother Angel Chavez. The young girl standing between Sister Joyce and me is Maria Angelica Hernandez, Hernando and Yvette Hernandez's daughter.

pictures of us to share with his family and many friends in Venezuela.

We spent the evening with Brother Chavez and his entire family. We fellowshiped together and spoke of the things of God.

It was during our discussion that Berkys Carolina Almanza Guejja requested her baptism. What a glorious feeling that in spite of travel disruptions and frustrations, the Lord still is on His throne. He never forgets those who want to love and serve Him.

Carolina Almanza was asked why she wanted to be baptized. She had met the Church in January 2006 during a previous missionary trip. Her response was, "When I am with the missionaries, the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, I feel full! What a blessed and wonderful testimony of the Spirit and love of God. We immediately made plans to perform the baptism the following day.

Brothers Mott and Ross spent some private time, counseling and instructing Brother Jose Chavez once again in his duties as a Teacher and member of the Faith and The Church of Jesus Christ. It was a Spirit-filled discussion with a commitment to work even harder for the cause of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

On Saturday, we journeyed by taxi to the waters of the Caribbean Sea. It is approximately a two (2) hour trip. It was a wonderful trip with the opportunity to discuss the Restored Gospel in detail with Brother Chavez and Berkys Carolina Almanza. Upon our arrival at the shore, Brother Mott asked Berkys Carolina Almanza, if she repented of her sins and promised to serve God all the days of her life. She answered, "Yes!" to both questions! Brother Mott performed the baptism with a number of curious onlookers watching the ordinance of baptism. Sister Ross had the privilege of serving as Deaconess for this blessed ordinance.

We returned to Maracaibo and spent the entire evening with Mrs. Magali Hernandez's family at their home. She recently lost her husband and is having a difficult time dealing with his passing away. It was a

wonderful visit with Sister Joyce Ross spending time with Magali Hernandez in private conversation, encouraging her to be strong, look to the Lord and seek His comfort and guidance. It was a wonderful visit, discussing the workings of God and to seek Him for encouragement, mercy and help.

The Sunday Service was beautiful. It was conducted in a conference room at the hotel, with the hotel billboard announcing the meeting, the time and place. There was a good attendance for the meeting. The entire family of Magali Hernandez attended the service. Sister Ross set the communion table and the atmosphere was solemn. The service was opened by Brother Mott who used John 3:16-22 in the New Testament. He was followed by Brother Ross. The meeting was blessed with the attendees stating they "felt something very different; a special spirit; it was beautiful!" Ms. Jimena Dagua of Colombia stated simply, "It was beautiful!"

Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza Guejja was confirmed by Brother Don Ross. She received, through the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Ghost. Prayer was requested by Yvette Hernandez, daughter-in-law to Magali Hernandez, for her young daughter, Maria Angelica Hernandez, who suffers from scoliosis of the spine. The anointing of this young girl was a blessing to witness as the parents and all attendees saw an anointing performed by the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. Communion was passed to the members.

At the conclusion of the service, Yvette Hernandez asked what we did to her daughter; how we pray and anoint in The Church of Jesus Christ. It was humbly explained how we are to come to the Elders of the Church and be anointed with blessed oil in the name of Jesus Christ, and the prayer of faith will heal the sick. A small drop of blessed oil was then placed on her head and she was anointed in the holy and blessed name of Jesus Christ. Please remember her in your prayers.

Yvette Hernandez asked, "When

are you coming back?" She was told later this year. She said, you do not understand, "I want, we want a specific date!" It is truly a blessing to witness the effects of the Spirit of God on those who listen and hearken to His words.

We thank God that the work in Venezuela continues to grow. We now have fourteen (14) members between the Valle Guanape Mission and the Maracaibo Mission. We have six (6) ordained officers; two (2) Elders, two (2) Deaconesses, one (1) Teacher and one (1) Deacon. They all send their love and regards to the brothers, sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ in the United States. They always state, "Say hello to our brothers and sisters in your country."

Remember the missionary work in Venezuela. Remember all of the missionary works of The Church of Jesus Christ, both domestic and international. May God use each of us for His honor and glory!

## Guatemala Mission Update

Continued from Page 1

how after attending these past weeks he feels such a peace and joy that he has never known and he too has asked for his baptism. The baptism was the week after Easter.

Now Manuel is so excited that he gave his testimony to a close friend, Minor, who has many problems in his life, including drugs. Minor has been attending and also is feeling something different and the need to change his life. Last Sunday his mother came to church with him and stood weeping to give her testimony. She had been so worried about her son's life and always prayed for him, but now she is filled with joy and thankfulness to God because she has seen the change in his life. Minor asked for prayer during the service because he wants God's blessings in his home. (Since the writing of this

(Continued on Page 4)

## Guatemala Mission Update

Continued from Page 3

article, Minor has been baptized into the Church.)

In February, following a service, Brother Luis had a strong desire to visit Brother Gustavo and Sister Mati Lima. They are Sister Michelle Lima's father and stepmother. The couple has not been active in the Church for a number of years, which prevented attendance by their 15-year-old daughter, Marjorie. Since the visit they have not attended; however, Marjorie has been allowed to attend which has blessed her and our congregation. We continue to pray that God will move His hand in behalf of her parents.

We were blessed to have Sister Lissette Kerby (a former member of the mission who now resides in California with her husband, Brother Steve) and her young daughter visit with us. She too was able to witness the beautiful testimonies of our young men.

Needless to say, our youth keeps growing and it is beautiful to see the excitement and desire to serve the Lord that they have. In a recent young people's meeting, Brother Luis told them that we have always said that they are the church of tomorrow. But

in this particular meeting he was inspired to tell them, "No, you are the church of today," a confirmation of the message from our apostles that this is *Our Time!*

### OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Dr. Walter Zea and his wife Vilma (also a doctor) have been close friends for a few years. Dr. Zea is a humble, kind man who always tries to do things to help other people. He recently contacted us to see if we were interested in having some health seminars at church for the community. He wants to address current health issues to inform the people. This is a great opportunity for community outreach, opening our doors to the neighborhood. The event is in the planning stage.

God is blessing the saints in Guatemala. Keep them in your prayers. These people are God's people and we desire to see many come to The Church of Jesus Christ.

### JANUARY TRIP

In January, 2006, Brothers John DiBattista, Joel Gehly, Dennis Moraco, Mario Morales, Isidro Dominguez, Carl

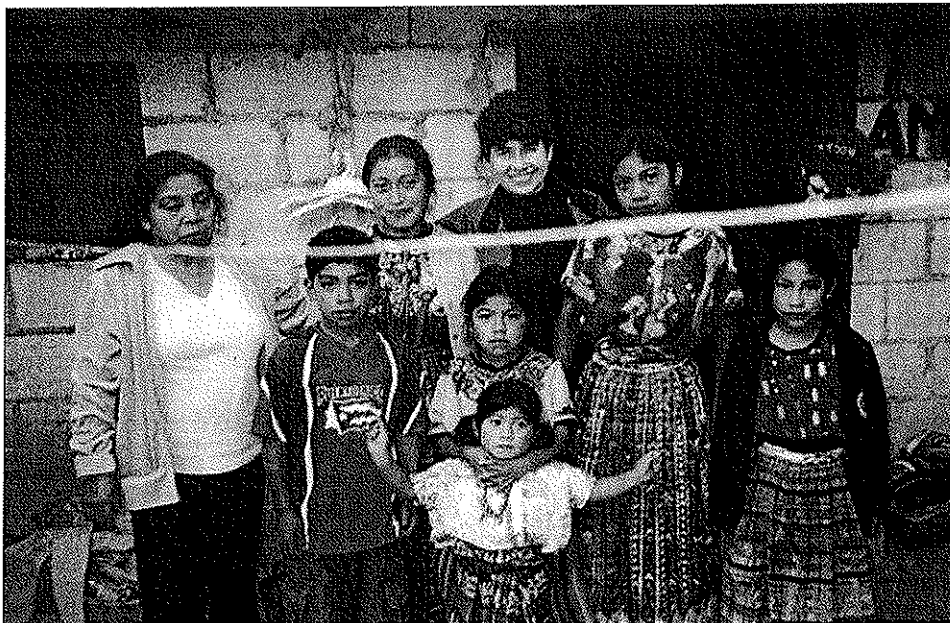
Huttenberger Jr., Sisters Rosario Dominguez, Olga Morales and two brothers from Tijuana, Mexico made a two-week trip to Guatemala. There were numerous blessings, healings, miracles and experiences. While conducting a meeting with the Mayan people in San Mateo (several hours into the highlands of Guatemala), Brother Joel Gehly opened on the angel spoken about in Revelations Chapter 14. Prior to his sermon, Sister Rosario had a vision during the opening prayer of an angel entering the room. She didn't say anything until after Brother Joel had spoken. Truly the angel has brought the everlasting Gospel to the native Mayan people, the seed of Joseph in the mountains of Guatemala. Both this work and the work in Guatemala City are flourishing and we ask for your prayers and support that this work will spread to other parts of Guatemala, as a dream many years ago confirmed that the Gospel would be established throughout this country one day.

## Thank You

The Quorum of Seventy and the IMOC, International Missionary Operating Committee, wish to express their heartfelt thanks to the Sunday Schools, PA Area MBA and to those who made personal donations to the Quorum of Seventy Welfare and Relief Fund. Your response to the letter that was addressed to the Sunday Schools of The Church of Jesus Christ has been very generous. The donations will provide help for natural disaster and emergency relief when and where needed in the mission fields. May God bless all of you for your giving and loving spirit.

Quorum of Seventy Officers,  
Brother Eugene Perri, President  
Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, Vice Pres.

IMOC Officers  
Brother John DiBattista, Chairman  
Brother Joel Gehly, Vice Chairman



Sister Olga Morales and Sister Rosario Dominguez with a Mayan family in San Mateo.





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent; therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead" (Alma 12:24).*

I recently witnessed my 52-year-old brother pass away and really began to think about what this probationary life is really all about. For many people today, such an enormous amount of time is spent on temporal things, and such little time is spent in preparation to meet God. Many feel they can "put it off," or they say, "I have time, I'm still young." But the truth is, the only reason we even have these few years in the flesh is simply to prepare for eternity. There is no way to predict when this probationary period will end. My brother did not anticipate that he would only be given 52 years of life. Many are granted even far less time than that. So, saying that we have time to serve the Lord, or even time to serve Him better, is really a foolish statement, since our life could be required of us this very day. A few hours before my brother died, he made a comment that he would never leave the Church, and never leave the Lord. I later had a dream in which he said he was all dressed up and ready to go. Thank God for that. But what about you and me?

*"Therefore, whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine Only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest. And whosoever will harden his heart and will do iniquity, behold, I swear in my wrath that he shall not enter into my rest" (Alma 12:34-35).*

If you have ever experienced sudden or tragic death in your family, you will understand what I am about to say. Knowing what the word "eternity" means, and knowing what we do in this short amount of time determines "eternity," and knowing that death can come like a thief in the night, it's time to take an inventory of our lives. It's time to see if there is any wicked way within us. It's time to lay down the weights that so easily beset us. Whatever bad habit, bad attitude, unforgiveness we have in our hearts and minds needs to be rooted out. I realize that a commitment like this can last a few weeks, but then slowly but surely, many fall back into their old ways. But that doesn't mean we give up. We start over again. Paul said we should fight the good fight of faith. Faithful to the fact that we should obey the commandments of God by "dying daily," renewing our spirit and commitment to be righteous every day. We should go through this routine of repentance and renewal over and over and over until our last breath is taken in this temporal life. These are those who will inherit the mansions of glory. Can you imagine dying and your soul faces God and He says He doesn't know you? Can you imagine eternity in misery and torture? Many feel that maybe it's just "too hard" to serve the Lord, or to serve Him to that degree. Remember, the Lord knows we are in a temporal fallible state. It's not about perfection, because if it were there would be no need for Jesus Christ. It's about letting "...his mercy, and his long suffering have full sway in your heart; let it bring you down to the dust of humility" (Alma 42:30).

Oh, brothers and sisters and friends, often times in our branch as we pray, we beg God that no one in the room would be lost, but that all would endure to the end and be saved. That prayer is extended to whoever is reading this. May God carry you in His incredible mercy and love, and may you not resist His spirit, and may you make a conscious effort every day to improve, so that at the end of each day, you will feel that the Lord was pleased with your actions that day. Let us pull ourselves into the safety of His arms so that if our life should be required of us, He will know who we are; He will smile upon us and welcome us into His paradise.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## The Gift of the Holy Ghost

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that when you make your decision to serve God and then get baptized, He immediately gives you a priceless, mysterious gift? This is a gift of power that will help you in your darkest, most troubled times. Once you start using it, you will also be able to help many other people. This gift is called the Holy Ghost. It is given to you when the Elders of The Church of Jesus Christ lay hands on you and pray. They pray to God in the name of Jesus for you to receive this gift.

This is an ancient gift that began in the days of Jesus. When Jesus was resurrected and came back to visit and teach the twelve Apostles in Jerusalem and the twelve Disciples in this Promised Land, His followers could not bear for Him to leave them. They were brokenhearted. They needed Him and wanted Him to stay. He told them that he would give His followers this powerful gift to lead, guide, and direct them. He told them that this gift is called the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Paul said it is the mind of Christ.

How does it work? Some people say they feel a great peace and calmness after hands are laid on them to receive the Holy Ghost (I did). Some people think that they did not feel anything, and not until some time passed did they understand they had received something so rare. I reply that just as Jesus got the gift, He gave it to them. They just never had the need or teaching to understand how it worked. Later, in a time of true

searching, they discover the amazing Holy Ghost within them, and call upon it for direction in what to do.

The more you use this gift, the greater it grows inside of you. Sometimes you will hear a little voice or thought telling you what to do. These thoughts are never mean, teasing, or sneaky. The Holy Ghost is pure, is powerful, and is love. When we listen to that little voice we become greater, wiser, and kinder than we would ever be on our own.

I have a wise, older-than-me special friend in our Church named Sister Jan. She listens to the Spirit of the Holy Ghost. Many times, over the years when I was having troubles, the phone would ring. It would be Sister Jan. She would say, "Sister Jan, are you all right? The Holy Spirit keeps bringing you before me all day. I am praying for you."

Then I see the Holy Spirit working. I am reminded of how deeply God loves me and Jesus does care that I am having a problem. I see the Holy Ghost working through Sister Jan in my life and I feel so hopeful and blessed! I realize that no one told this dear sister that I was struggling. Only the Lord knew. When He kept letting my prayerful friend, Sister Jan, think about me, He was encouraging me to stay strong and prayerful too.

Since we know the Holy Ghost leads, guides, and directs us, that means every single time we are confused or scared and don't know what to do, all we have to do is pray, ask God in the name of Jesus, then listen to that little voice inside of us, telling us what to do. The more you use this gift and let the good thoughts lead, guide and direct you, the

stronger it gets.

You can then ask God to let you be an instrument in His hands. Like we might pick up a pencil, God can talk to you through the Holy Ghost and bring to mind people who need your love and prayers or solutions to the problems that they are going through. You have a job to love and forgive others just like Jesus loved and forgave you. The Holy Ghost will teach you to be greater, wiser, and kinder than you could ever be on your own.

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### Blessings in Gastonia, North Carolina

By Sister Barbara P. Williams

We have so much to be thankful for in Gastonia, North Carolina. On March 11, 2006, the Penn-Mid Atlantic Regional Conference decided to make the Carolina Mission a branch. We are grateful to the brothers and sisters who, many years ago, took the narrow road to bring us to this place. Praise God for the growth we are experiencing in this part of the vineyard. When our presiding elder, Brother Darrell Rossi, shared this wonderful news, he also reminded us that as a branch we all have a greater responsibility. One of our sisters had a dream that week that she was visiting the home of another sister in our branch. She was straightening things up in the home and she started singing hymn #401, *Ready*. We are ready and willing to do His will.

On March 26, 2006, we enjoyed a beautiful spirit-filled day as we welcomed visitors Brother Art and Sister Martha Gehly and their niece Tonya, husband Mark and daughter Ashlyn. Brother Art opened our service by reading from Matthew 13: 16-17, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." We are truly blessed and humbled to be able to experience the plan of God for this day and time. Blessings overflowed as we participated in the ordinance of feet washing. We enjoyed the spirit of fellowship with a wonderful meal prepared by our sisters.

The children's Sunday School lesson was "Cast on Him your burden." Our teacher discussed how important it is, not only to cast your

burdens at the Lord's feet, but trust Him to work everything out in the best possible way – God's way. The children took a helium-filled balloon, wrote their burdens on it and released the balloons/burdens to heaven. One of the children saw human hands come out of the clouds and take his balloon. "But blessed are your eyes for they shall see..." (Matthew 13:16). We know these things to be real and true: "And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood" (Ether 3:3).

Our branch is overflowing with God's blessings. We are so thankful to Him for His kindness towards us. We meet every Sunday in Gastonia with Sunday school at 10:00 and church service at 11:00. All are welcome.

### Just Do It!

A baby blessed, two brothers ordained and three visions given. These joyous events and more unfolded to a packed house of saints who gathered in Anaheim, California on April 2, 2006 anticipating God's countless blessings. They came from near and far – visiting Evangelist, Brother Jim Sgro and his wife Sister Linda traveled farthest from New Brunswick, New Jersey. The tone was set by a warm and enthused welcome from Brother Flip Palacios and the inspired singing of the San Diego Branch (*Shine, Jesus, Shine*), the Zioners (*Carry Me Back to the Land of My Fathers*) and the Bell Branch (*Una Vez Mas, Gratis Dad*). After the opening hymn, *The Standard of Liberty*, Brother Bob McDonnell opened the meeting in prayer, petitioning the Lord to bless the brothers being ordained this day – Brother Ryan Huttenberger as a deacon and Brother Steve Kerby as a teacher – as they serve in the "frontlines of battle."

The service began with the blessing of Nathan Rodriguez, son of Brother Hector and Wendy Rodriguez, by Brother Rudy Meo. Somehow, it

was a fitting introduction to the service as the birth and blessing of a baby holds so much hope, joy and promise for the future. How might Nathan be used in the service of the Lord as he grows? Might we one day witness his ordination as we were this day with Brother Steve and Brother Ryan?

Lead speaker, Brother Jim Sgro, introduced the invigorating theme of "life changes" citing Solomon as an example of someone who underwent such a change according to I Chronicles 28. During this time in Israel, David was about to die and his son Solomon was to take over as king. One of David's goals was to build a temple to the Lord, a mission for which he prepared, but knew his son would have to complete. In much the same way, we need to prepare in our lives and service to God and to take a *proactive* "just do it" approach.

In I Chronicles 28:10, David admonished his son, "Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong and do it." He expressed this even more emphatically in verse 20, "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord." Long before Nike popularized the infamous "Just do it!" slogan, King David delivered this as a powerful spiritual message to his son and Solomon's life change subsequently brought about a life change for Israel.

Jesus went through life changes like no other – he went from "being a nobody to somebody who changed the whole world and mankind!" In fact, Jesus brought us the ultimate life changes and prepared a way of salvation by which our greatest life change is being called into His Gospel.

In concluding, Brother Jim counseled the brothers being ordained to "be strong because the Lord will not forsake you" and to "just do it" in reference to embracing their new offices and taking care of the brothers

(Continued on Page 8)

## Just Do It!

Continued from Page 7

and sisters – “love them as they will love you.” At this point, he asked Brother Ryan and Brother Steve to stand and face the congregation. In emphasizing the importance of the family of God, Brother Jim relayed a dream he had about his mom, Sister Ann, shortly before she died. She came to her son and told him, “I’m going to die.” She then brought Sister Dolly Huttenberger to him and said, “This is your mother now.” Truly, if we rely on the love of the saints and the power of God, He will carry us through.

After the congregation sang *He Changed My Life Completely*, Brother Ken Jones thanked God for changing his life. “I was raised in the Church... I was a good boy, but I knew there had to be a change in my life” – and Christ was the one who made that change. Brother Ken went on to proclaim, “I am looking at a congregation of changed people.” The seed of Joseph is in need of this very change, as Brother Ken witnessed when he spent two weeks in San Carlos. His heart was broken over the condition and poverty of the people; indeed, he felt like he was looking upon a valley of very dry bones, as described in the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel. Just as the bones became alive again in that time, such will be the case with the seed of Joseph when they become new creatures in Christ!

Brother Ken exhorted those who have not made their commitment to Christ to pray and proclaim, “I want to be free” because Jesus can change a heart and a life instantly! He admonished those who are baptized to get into the word of God and “seek first the kingdom of God,” concluding that “we have to be free and listen for the rattling of the bones. Do not become weakened and seek after things in this life.” While this impassioned plea was initially directed toward the congregation, at the end, Brother Ken was powerfully directing these words to Brother Isidro Dominguez. Sister Alicia Dominguez would later testify that she was given an experience at

this point in which she saw that, when he directed himself to Brother Isidro, it was not Brother Ken speaking, but a personage speaking through him saying, “Don’t let go of my work because this is My Church – don’t weaken – go forward.”

Apostle Paul Liberto echoed the “just do it” theme as fitting for all generations in moving the Lord’s work forward in the latter days. He shared his excitement over seeing the younger generation take hold of the work and feels blessed to see a fifth generation within his own family being brought up in the Church. Brother Paul made reference to Psalm 78:6 and 7, “That the generations to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” Brother Paul instructed the older generations to “just do it” by teaching the younger generations. He advised the younger generations to “just do it” by bringing others to the knowledge of Christ and by serving in the mission fields. Finally, to the brothers being ordained, he said, “You are the generation to follow – just do it – and all of us will be blessed.”

In his humorous and inimitable way, Brother Flip summarized by claiming, “Either you’re doing it or you’re not!” He referenced Acts 4:13, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” Brother Flip then asked a thought-provoking question, “What is it about your life that shows you’re hanging out with the Lord and just doing it?”

Leading into the ordinations, the Zionees sang *If Any Be Willing* while Brother Steve and Brother Ryan took their seats for feet washing. Brother Flip had extended the invitation to all deacons, teachers and elders, “If you feel the spirit of the Lord working upon you to wash the brothers’ feet, come up.” Brother Jim Sgro stepped forward and washed Brother Ryan’s feet. In his fervent prayer, he re-

flected on the fact that he had known Brother Ryan as a child and seen him grow – naturally and spiritually. He prayed that the power of Jesus would be upon him, blessing him and taking care of him all of his days and in the tests to come. He prayed for him to be sanctified and set apart for this work.

Brother Ken Jones then came forward to wash Brother Steve’s feet. Prefacing his prayer, Brother Ken relayed how he once got an urgent call from Brother Steve at 1:00 a.m., excitedly declaring, “I can’t take it anymore – I’ve got to be baptized!” Although genuinely thrilled for this young brother-to-be, Brother Ken couldn’t resist responding, “Not right now though...” As Brother Ken prayed, he touched on Brother Steve’s spiritual growth, his great love of the Lord and for learning the word of God. He petitioned the Lord to write the words of Jesus upon his forehead and, in times of confusion, to touch him with His holy spirit. He asked a blessing upon him as a peacemaker and that he may always bear the name of Jesus Christ.

Sister Maggie Meils then sang a soul-stirring rendition of *Take Me Down (to the Waters)* a-capella. Brother Flip remarked that he had heard the song previously in the Yucaipa Branch and it was at that point in the service that the spirit of the Lord entered in. The ministry then formed a circle around the two brothers being ordained, kneeled and Brother Tom M. Liberto prayed for the Holy Spirit to direct them.

Brother Ryan was ordained a deacon by his father, Brother Jim Huttenberger, who thanked God for blessing his life as both a minister and a father. He recognized that his son’s heart was soft in the Lord’s spirit and asked the Lord to equip Brother Ryan with those things necessary to serve in the office of a deacon. He cited Steven performing mighty miracles and prayed that the Lord would imbue Brother Ryan with the spirit of Steven. Brother Jim also asked that his son’s faith be increased, that his mind be illumined with greater understanding of the word and that his love for the seed

of Joseph continue to grow as he has so often exhibited this love through his gift of song and music. Finally, Brother Jim petitioned the Lord to seal the office of deacon upon him.

Brother Steve was ordained by Brother Isidro Dominguez, who expressed in his prayer, "Our natural eyes can't see what our spirits feel. The Lord chose you to do His work – this is not from men, but from heaven. So be ready, Brother Steve. When you study the word, be blessed with the wisdom from on high. Brother Steve – be humble – that is the key to teaching...and approaching the people of God." Brother Isidro went on to pray that Brother Steve would feel the fire in his heart to teach the word of God and to let people see the pure love of God in him when he speaks and teaches. He also recognized Brother Steve's bi-lingual ability in serving the saints as the office of teacher was sealed upon him.

As the newly-ordained brothers tearfully embraced and kissed the ministry, the congregation softly sang *Jesus Use Me*. Midway through the hymn, Sister Bennie Jones rose from her seat and relayed a beautiful vision the Lord had given her during the ordinations:

"When Brother Ryan was having his feet washed, setting him aside for the office of deacon, I saw a large table with a large white cloth on top of it. I then saw two vessels appear on top of the table of different shapes and size. I knew that they were Brother Ryan and Brother Steve. I no longer saw the two brothers. They were now these two vessels, which were transparent. As Brother Steve was having his feet washed setting him aside for the office of teacher, I saw a personage reach over and touch Brother Steve's mouth with the fingers of his hand.

"When Brother Ryan had hands laid upon him ordaining him into the office of deacon, I saw a very bright white light (like the sun) coming down from above and went inside the vessel upon the table that represented Brother Ryan. This light was so bright and thick I could see it turning inside the vessel, completely filling it. At that

point, I saw Brother Ryan standing where the vessel had been. I then saw a personage all dressed in white place a large white buckler around Brother Ryan.

"When Brother Steve was having hands laid upon him ordaining him into the office of teacher, I saw this same huge bright white light come down from above and went inside the vessel that represented Brother Steve. The light was very bright and thick like a cloud. It filled the whole vessel as it churned inside. At that point, I saw Brother Steve standing where the vessel was and the light was still coming down, going inside Brother Steve. Then Brother Steve opened his mouth and this bright light began instantly shining through his mouth into the room. It was extremely bright and very, very powerful. You could feel the spirit of God fill the room."

Brother Chuck Stevens confirmed this experience as he saw the light in the room intensify during this time. Praise God!

Given the opportunity to testify, Brother Steve expressed utmost gratitude to the Lord and had prayed that the Lord would manifest himself today – his prayer had truly been answered! While he jokingly claimed to make "no campaign promises," he confessed his great love for his brothers and sisters and felt blessed to serve in the office of teacher and as a brother in Christ.

Brother Ryan testified, "I know the Lord has a work for me – I'm going to take hold of it. To much is given, much is required." He thanked God for being born of Godly parents and requested prayer for his upcoming Youth in Action extended tour in Ohio.

As further testament to the Lord's abiding presence in our midst during the service, Sister Alicia Dominguez shared a vision she witnessed since the meeting began. When the brothers and sisters from Bell went forward to sing, stairs appeared behind the ministry. On the first stair, there were two children dressed in white. Behind them stood three personages. As Brother Ryan's feet were about to be washed, there appeared a personage dressed in white

with a towel around his neck. While the brother washed his feet, there appeared a huge rock that was coming toward Brother Ryan, but then a sword was placed in the hands of Brother Ryan.

Then, as Brother Isidro placed his hands on Brother Steve, there was a strong light covering his entire body from head to toe. There appeared a personage carrying a bag that seemed to be tied around his arm. He untied it and took out what appeared to be white seeds while opening Brother Steve's hand and placing the seeds in his hands.

The third vision was given to Sister Teofila Martinez, who testified to feeling unworthy of experiencing this gift. When the saints from San Diego sang, she saw a star with a bright tail above their heads. She knew that God was with us because of the spirit we felt.

The closing hymn was *In the Army of the True and Living God*, and the closing prayer was offered by Brother Lou Ciccati, who prayed that our newly-ordained brothers would remember to "just get up and do it" and that the Lord would bless them for it. Brother Lou also requested a special blessing upon Brother Bob McDonnell and the other brothers traveling to Rwanda this week.

Indeed, it was good to be in the house of the Lord today! May God bless our newly-ordained Brother Steve and Brother Ryan as they embrace their new offices and "just do it" in accordance with the Lord's will for their lives in His service.

## Young People in Ohio-Midwest Region

By Sister Christine Maddox

The young people of the Ohio-Midwest Region took advantage of the Memorial Day weekend last May and headed to Cincinnati, Ohio for a time of fellowship. A van full of about 15

(Continued on Page 10)

## Ohio-Midwest Region

Continued from Page 9

of the area's youth, led by Brothers Mike Nuzzi and Zac Jackson, traveled from northern Ohio to the Cincinnati-Morrow Branch on Friday night.

The young people of the Cincinnati-Morrow Branch met them at the church, and the group spent the night in sleeping bags inside the building. The following morning, the young brothers and sisters rose early and enjoyed a Saturday-morning chapel service led by Brother Josh Morris of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. After a light natural breakfast of bagels and donuts, and a filling spiritual breakfast of the Lord's word, the large group divided into smaller canvassing groups and set out into the neighborhood.

Equipped with flyers advertising regular meeting times and the upcoming Vacation Bible School, the young missionaries traveled door-to-door inviting all who answered to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Hours later, the group reconvened at the branch and socialized over pizza and drinks. When all had eaten their fill, they piled into cars and vans and headed down to the Little Miami Canoe Rental near the Little Miami River. Twenty canoes, forty life-jackets, and eighty paddles later, the group set sail. Laughter, songs, and conversation filled the scenic area for the next four hours. While some of the boats spent more time traveling in circles and tipping over than others, all enjoyed a fun-filled time with their brothers, sisters, and friends.

After canoeing, the young people (now accompanied by members of the Cincinnati-Morrow Branch) cleaned up and traveled back to the branch for an evening seminar taught by Brother Zac. The theme was the preparation and coming of Zion. Brother Zac utilized scripture from Nehemiah and encouraged all of the young people to take an active role in the building of Zion.

Sunday morning, the Cincinnati-Morrow Branch was packed to capacity with brothers, sisters, and friends. Visitors from Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Indiana, and all

parts of Ohio filled the pews that Sunday. The ministry felt directed to ask some of the young brothers up front to take charge of the service. While most of the ministry sat in the congregation, Brothers Chuck Maddox, Bob Batson, and Zac Jackson remained up front. They were accompanied by young Brothers Chuck Maddox Jr., Brad Kurowsky, Jameson Staley, and Dan McNamara.

Brother Brad opened the Sunday morning service by reminding all of the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Even those not baptized have a portion of the Holy Spirit, according to scripture, and Brother Brad encouraged all of us to frequently depend upon the Holy Spirit for guidance. Brother Chuck (Junior) followed Brother Brad and related our relationship with the Holy Spirit to the young people's canoe trip the day before. He remembered the difficulty in trying the canoe against the current of the stream. Brother Chuck paralleled this to the difficulty we face when we attempt to go against the direction of the Holy Spirit. However, when we succumb to the Holy Spirit and give it full control in our lives, we will find the journey much less strenuous.

Brother Jameson followed with brief words reminding us that not only do we have the Holy Spirit vying for our attention, but we also have the spirit of man and the spirit of the evil one. Brother Jameson encouraged us to be aware and to make extra efforts to follow the correct direction.

Brother Dan ended the preaching portion of the meeting by relating his personal canoeing experiences from the day before with the Holy Spirit in our lives. Brother Dan admitted that his canoe tipped upside down multiple times during the trip. Just like our spiritual walks, when we do not follow the voice of the Holy Spirit, we will find ourselves upside down and unsure of where to go.

Testimony and communion followed the preaching service. Brother Bob stood to introduce the communion service. When he sat down, Brother Mike Nuzzi stood up and related an experience he had at the beginning of the meeting. He said

that he saw a staff in each hand of the brothers up front except for Brother Bob. Brother Mike said that he was confused as to why Brother Bob was not holding a staff throughout the meeting. When he silently questioned his vision, the spirit told Brother Mike to wait before relating his experience. Brother Mike continued to wait and then when Brother Bob stood up to introduce communion, a staff appeared in his hand. Brother Mike was led to understand that this was the first verbal contribution Brother Bob had made to the meeting, and God was waiting to give him a staff until this moment. It was a beautiful confirmation of the Lord's presence and direction in each word that was spoken.

After the meeting, the Ohio-Midwest young people traveled up towards Columbus, Ohio for the night. They all gathered at Brother Joe and Sister Denise Pennell's home for a bonfire and fellowship. The following day, Memorial Day, the Columbus Mission, Cincinnati-Morrow Branch, and all visitors gathered together in Columbus for a Memorial Day picnic. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed delicious grilled food, cornhole games, football, basketball, and water balloons. It was truly a fun-filled end to a glorious weekend.

## New Songs of Zion

*(Editor's Note: The Songs of Zion currently printed and all previous songs printed are copyrighted by Sister Arlene Lea Buffington.)*

## #135 The Watchmen

*(Isaiah 62:61, "I have set watchmen upon they walls...")*

The watchmen on the wall cry out,  
Like many cried before,  
"Prepare to meet the coming storm  
Already at the door!"  
But still today like way back then,  
The careless walk on by,  
And still today upon the wall  
God's faithful watchmen cry.



When Samuel on the wall cried out  
So many years ago,  
"Repent!", he cried to no avail,  
Their hearts were hard and so  
They didn't heed the words he spoke  
They couldn't see their day.  
But many since that time have heard,  
The watchmen cry and say.

The watchmen on the wall have cried  
So many, many tears,  
The multitudes have never known  
The wisdom of their years.  
But prophecies and prophets spoke  
Of such a sudden storm,  
So children heed the wisdom of  
The watchmen when they warn.

### CHORUS

"Prepare children, prepare! they cry,  
In righteousness be found,  
When sheltered in God's warm embrace,  
No storm can take you down."

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Arlene Lea Buffington

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## Children Blessed

Nathan Rodriquez, son of Brother Hector and Wendy Rodriquez, was blessed on April 2, 2006 in the Anaheim, California Branch.

Lola Catherine O'Connor, daughter of Jody and Sister Carolynn O'Connor, was blessed on April 16, 2006 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Brianna Magdalena Lovalvo, daughter of Brother Duane and Sister Joannah Lovalvo, was blessed on April 30, 2006 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Martin Antonio Lopez, daughter of Silvio and Clara Lopez was blessed on May 7, 2006 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Xinthia Ixtzel Gomez, daughter of Elia Olga Gomez was blessed on May 7, 2006 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Timothy Robert Lenhart of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch was baptized on November 23, 2005. He was baptized by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr.

Brother Richard Ficara, of the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, was baptized on May 7, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Lyle Criscuolo and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto.

Brother Robert J. Stigleman, Jr., of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, was baptized on April 16, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Mike Capone and confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Sister Marion Grace, of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, was baptized on April 16, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Mike Capone and confirmed by Brother Paul Whitton.

Brother Bryan Lawrence Champine of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 was baptized on April 9, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Betty Azzinaro of the Simi Valley, California Branch celebrated her 65th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Ordinations

Brother Kevin Coppa was ordained a Teacher on January 22, 2006 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Attilio Trovarelli and he was ordained by Brother Gary Coppa.

Sister Laurie Whitton was ordained a Deaconess on January 22, 2006 in the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Arline Whitton and she was ordained by Brother Paul Whitton.

Brother Jonathan Nath was ordained a Teacher on May 14, 2006 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Joshua Nicklow and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Brother Matthew Kurowsky was ordained a Teacher on May 14, 2006 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Pete Darr and he was ordained by Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr.

Kimberly and husband, Scott Christoffersen; daughter, Sister Tanya Ramirez-Wood; son, Brother Shannon and wife, Meredith; and son Shawn, as well as two grandchildren, Wilder and Teal Christoffersen.

### JOHN HUTTENBERGER

Brother John Huttenberger of the Anaheim, California Branch (attending Freehold, New Jersey) passed onto his reward on May 19, 2006. He was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his mother, Sister Marie Huttenberger; children, Sister Jennifer and Johnny Huttenberger; brothers, Brother Jim and wife Sister Lynnette Huttenberger, Randy and wife Amaya Huttenberger, Brother Carl, Jr. and wife Sister Suzette Huttenberger, along with three nephews and one niece.

### CAROLYN ROUSE MARTIN

Sister Carolyn Rouse Martin of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto her reward on May 8, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Brother Idris James Martin and two sons, Steven and Doug.

Brother Nickolas Napolitano; her son, Dr. Samuel Trupiano; and her sister, Sister Grace Furitano. She is survived by her daughter, Agatha Cline; brothers, John and Joseph Trupiano; sisters, Sister Catherine Taormino, and Josephine LaCavera; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

## OBITUARIES

### DONALD WOOD

Brother Donald D. Wood of the Hollywood, Florida Branch passed onto his reward on September 21, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Sister Roseann; daughter, Sister

### SUE OLEXA

Sister Sue Olexa passed onto her reward on May 12, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother John Olexa and one son, Brother Fred Olexa. She is survived by her son Kenneth and his wife; daughter, Carolee and her husband; daughter-in-law, Sister Charlotte Olexa; eight grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

### ALEXANDER PRUDENTI

Brother Alexander Prudenti passed on to his reward on November 30, 2005. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his son, Dominick Prudenti; daughter Rose Amato; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

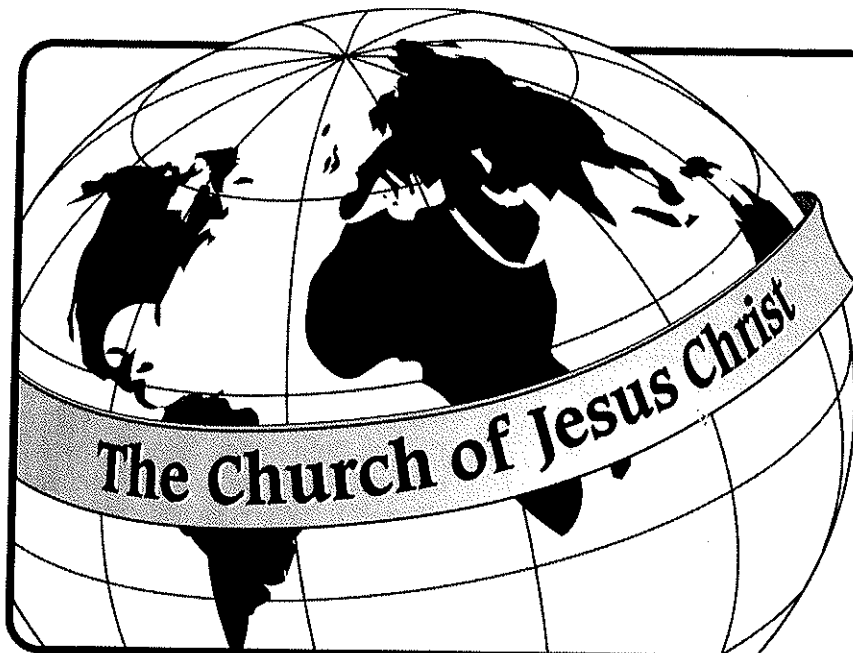
### AGATHA "IDA" (TRUPIANO) NAPOLITANO

Sister Agatha "Ida" (Trupiano) Napolitano, of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed on to her reward on February 1, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband,

## *Note of Thanks*

Sister Virginia Molinatto wishes to thank the brothers and sisters for their prayers on her behalf in regard to the illness and hospital visit while at Conference. God is good and answers the prayers of the saints.

Much love in Christ,  
Sister Jin



# The Gospel News

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## November, 2005 GMBA Conference

*By Brothers Jameson Staley and Peter Benyola*

In the months of winter and early spring each year, the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ experience the longest period of time without being in one place for a large gathering such as a General Church Conference, GMBA Conference, or Campout. These months allow for the growth of the brothers and sisters on an individual and branch level, as well as offer an opportunity to apply the important lessons learned at these gatherings where the saints are so often blessed with truly inspired messages from the Lord. The GMBA November Conference of 2005 offered many such messages that are worthy to be the focus of the members of The Church of Jesus Christ in helping them achieve righteousness in their everyday lives. These invaluable teachings are of great worth to the saints every day of the year and will hopefully inspire the body of Christ to strive to reach a higher spiritual plane.

Brother Larry Champine, Chaplain of the GMBA, began the Saturday morning service by expressing to the congregation the importance of the Divine Commis-

sion of the Church, particularly to young brothers and sisters. After asking the young people to realize how blessed they are to know Christ and His church, Brother Larry challenged them to find ways to support the work of the Lord and make this blessing a possibility for the whole world. He emphasized the importance of keeping the Gospel pure by keeping our own lives pure. Citing Alma 1:29, Brother Larry asserted that the Scriptures teach that God will bless His people abundantly when they serve Him in truth. However, later in Alma 4:10, the Book of Mormon shows that allowing the blessings of a temporal nature and pride in that with which God has graciously blessed us can lead to digression from the path which the Lord has paved for us. Brother Larry stated simply, "The danger of having many things is having many things." He encouraged all the brothers and sisters of the Church to be thankful for that with which the Lord has blessed us but not allow these things to become a stumbling block to the work of the Lord, which satisfies the spirit and not the flesh. Brother Larry assured the congregation that the

Lord will guide the Church according to the faith of His servants just as He led Lehi and his family through the wilderness through the instrument of the Liahona. He challenged the membership to live lives that reflect a hope in Christ and bear fruit of living righteous lives, which is the salvation of souls. This is accomplished through leading pure lives as well as giving testimony, the very vessels of the Spirit through which Brother Larry came to know the Gospel. The message that began the conference was truly blessed and is always applicable to the members of the Church: live each day with a single eye focused toward the spiritual purpose for which God has made us, which is to share the love of Christ with the world.

Brother Jeffrey Giannetti briefly elaborated on Brother Larry's words, emphasizing the need for faith and endurance to produce fruit for the Lord. Reading from the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of Alma, he related the account of the reunion between Alma and the four sons of Mosiah and the description of the spiritual diligence their task had required of them. Brother Jeffrey assured the congregation that when the saints put forth an effort for the Lord with faith that there will be a harvest to reap.

(Continued on Page 2)

## November 2005 GMBA

Continued from Page 1

After an afternoon of conducting the business of the GMBA, the saints gathered together for the Saturday evening meeting. After an opening prayer by Brother Bob Batson, Brother John Griffith offered a prayer for the installation of the newly-elected and reelected officers. Brother Nephi DeMurcurio, Jr. opened the service, referencing the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans, in which Paul discusses the difference between living to please the flesh and living to please the Spirit, which dwells in those who have taken on them the name of Christ. Brother Nephi focused on the need to be in tune with the Spirit of God at all times, not being discouraged or distracted by the conflicts of this world, but maintaining a Spiritual view of life and the obstacles and opportunities it presents. Brother Nephi enumerated several specific courses of action to be taken in order to live a life that is guided by the Spirit and is pleasing to God. He plainly yet powerfully asserted, "If you are not baptized, you need to be," emphasizing the importance of the ordinance which Christ himself established as the way to eternal life. Then Brother Nephi stressed the importance of studying the Scriptures. In addition, he encouraged the brothers and sisters to consistently attend services in their branches and missions, fast and pray often, and share their testimonies. "Making these activities a part of our lives daily," he said, "will help the members of the Church to put God and the needs of others before themselves. Being in tune with the Spirit of God allows for the growth of individuals and the growth of the Church."

Following the speaking, Brother Jordan and Sister Heidi Giannetti from the Mesa, Arizona Branch sang *I Surrender All* and offered their testimonies. They both testified to the goodness of God in preparing a wonderful companion for each of them and strongly encouraged the young people of the Church to seek the direction of the Lord in this aspect

of their lives, a very appropriate message for the young brothers and sisters seeking a loved one with whom they can share the Gospel. Brother Jeffrey then asked the young people to come forward and sing a few songs and share testimonies with the congregation. After singing *Soaring Over Canaan (Like a Bird)*, many young people shared testimonies, including Brother Anthony Gentile, a newly-baptized brother who praised God that despite the fact that he waited until his adult years to surrender his life to Christ, the Lord blessed him with happiness and newness in his early walk with God. Brother Isaac and Sister Alyssa Reyes also offered testimonies of the power of the saints' prayers and also echoed the message of Brother Jordan and Sister Heidi's testimonies concerning choosing a spouse, an aspect of life in which the Lord has provided for each of them. After several more testimonies were shared, the young people sang the beautiful and powerful hymn, *My God, Thou See'st Me*.

After taking a collection and singing *Maybe I'm a Dreamer*, a *Song of Zion* with which the Lord recently blessed the Church, the Saturday evening service was concluded as Brother Jerry Morle closed in prayer.

At the Sunday service, Brother David Catalano, Vice President of the GMBA, welcomed everyone. He asked that we would all have a prayer in our hearts that the Lord would bless our worship service. Brother Gary Martin opened in prayer and Brother Larry, Sister Rosanne, Sister Jennifer and Brother Bryan Champine offered *Home*, a song with which Sister Rosanne was inspired. Brother Tom D'Orazio opened with the message, "Isn't the power and redeeming love of Jesus something wonderful!" The Lord led his sermon to focus on the time Jesus stood still, as catalogued in Matthew 8:1, 9:18, 20:29. The times during which Jesus demonstrated His divine power occurred because the witnesses of His miracles compelled him to move His mighty hand.

The Apostles have been sending out the message encouraging us to work to move the hand of God. Brother Tom posed the question, "When has the Lord stood still in your life?" Whether or not you are a believer, the Lord *has* stood still in your life. You are the treasure for whom He sold it all and paid it all. Brother Tom shared several experiences in which the Lord has shown Himself to several saints standing still in their lives. "Christ stands still for us today. He gives us what we need in His own way and His own power," said Brother Tom. "Why does the Lord move on our behalf? Because of our faith! Not only can He help us, but He will. We are precious. We are that Pearl of Great Price he spoke of. We are His and He is ours. We need to be steadfast in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to have an eye of faith single to the will of God." Brother Tom concluded, "Don't ever think that you are worth anything else. Do not devalue what the Lord has put great value on. We are the saints of the Most High God."

Brother Tony Ricci followed by remarking, "Isn't it wonderful to have our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life!" He said that in the story of Lazarus' miraculous resurrection, Christ stood still just as He does for us today. "I need a time where Christ stops and stands before me," said Brother Tony. "Christ puts great value on us today just as he did back then. We have been called by the name of the Lord ... When Christ stood still and released [me] from the bonds of death, He put me in care of The Church of Jesus Christ." Brother Tony invoked the story of Joshua's battle when he spoke to the Lord, commanding the sun to stand still. See Joshua chapter 10. The Son of God makes intercession on our behalf today. "We are nothing today if God did not call our name. He is coming back and He is going to say our names again. Jesus Christ is the only one who died for our sins. No one in heaven is worthy to open the book except the one who was slain," said Brother Tony.

Brother Carl Frammolino cited

the 46th Psalm, which tells us to "Be still and know that I am God." "How many of us stand still and think of Jesus Christ and what he has given us? We need to find our quiet time with the Lord. We need to be filled with His love and His peace in our life. We know there is something out there for us. The joy and peace we feel today is wonderful. We are sheltered in the arms of God ... Glory to his name."

Brother Ken Lombardo arose to the podium, saying his heart was pounding and he was following the prompting of the Lord's Spirit. He reflected on how Christ had such compassion when he healed those who were sick. The Love of God is real! We have opportunities to experience it and we must remember to show it to those in our lives. "The Love of God has the power to conquer all ... If you felt the touch of the Lord, reach out your hand as the woman with the issue of blood did. Don't leave here without the healing you seek today!" He finished by praising God for the reality of Jesus Christ in his life. To follow this message, we sang #30 in *The Songs of Zion, Touch the Nail Prints, Know for Certain*. He can save where none deliver; He can do what none can do.

As communion was being passed the congregation sang #267 in the Saints Hymnal, *At the Cross* and the Holy Spirit inspired a Brother Apostle to arise and speak, "Thus said the Lord, Rejoice all you saints, great is the Supper of the Lord."

After communion, Brother Paul Ciotti added, "When God's Spirit moves on our heart we get excited about the things that we hear. Christ will never stop standing still. He came to redeem us from our sins."

"We need to get into our closets and have conversations with God, and He will answer our prayers," observed Brother Paul. "You might feel that Jesus Christ is passing you by, but if you cry out, He will stop and answer your pleas. God wants to give us all things. What is it that you lack in your life today? Sinner or saint, if you have not given in to the call of

God, you need to today. You may not think that God will stand still for you, but He will. If you feel the presence of God, you need to open the door because He stands at the door and knocks for you. As Christ loved Mary and His disciples, He loves us today, and He is still willing to stand still for The Church of Jesus Christ."

"Glory be the name of the Most High God. Someday we will stand in His holy presence. What a day that will be when we see Him in the mansions of glory! What a magnificent thought!"

As Brother Paul closed, the Word of the Lord was immediately given, "Thus saith the Lord, I have named you kings and priests over all." See Revelation 1:6 and 5:10.

Unbeknownst to Brother Bob Buffington, he introduced Brother Paul Palmieri's later words when he followed and said, "Today is the day of salvation." He quoted Jesus in the sixth chapter of Matthew, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." These are very wise words from our Savior.

Brother Paul Palmieri then thanked the GMBA on behalf of the General Church for all the work the officers do and for the donation of \$10,000 to the General Church. Reinforcing the Divine Commission, Brother Paul said, "There is more work for each and every one of us to do. The Church is reaching out to mankind. We are depending on the Lord and waiting, but the Church is asking us to do a little bit more." He referred to the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, which records the graphic, astonishing restoration of the dry bones of all the House of Israel. The Lord said, "Can these bones live?" and Ezekiel answered, "Lord, only you know." Brother Paul elaborated, "... A shaking was taking place and the bones started to come together. There are millions of dry bones all over the world. Today is the day the

bones are starting to shake. That shaking of the bones is the Church or Jesus Christ going out to all the world. People need to know what we believe and what we stand for."

He encouraged those who have the energy to do all they can do for the Lord. Christ said He will stop everything for you, but He wants you to reach out and to share this with others. "It's a valley of dry bones, but the bones are starting to shake," Brother Paul asserted. He added that those present should remember what was preached today; "That same power that causes the dead to rise, the lame to walk, and the blind to see is alive today."

"We need to remember what our forefathers taught us. We need to do the great work God has given us to do: the commission to the Everlasting Gospel. Let us cry out for those who have yet to hear the word of God."

Closing our wonderful service, Brother Jeff said he was thankful to God for the beautiful spirit He sent. Brother Jeff said, "God stopped for us in our lives. We were given the Gospel on a silver platter and we should be so thankful today. Do everything busily for Him. We possess a message that the world needs to hear. Go to your locals and branches and encourage others to come also. You have the responsibility to tell others of Jesus."

The November, 2005 GMBA Conference was filled with blessings and inspirational messages whose relevance far outreach the two days during which the saints gathered in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The importance of applying the concepts and ideas presented through the speakers and all who participated cannot be overstated. Let these "in between" months of the year be the time that the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ take advantage of the opportunity to practice endurance through and reliance upon the Spirit of God to reach a higher spiritual state of mind and state of living.

## May, 2006 GMBA Conference

By Brothers Jameson Staley and Peter Benyola

From May 20-21, 2006, the General Missionary Benevolent Association gathered in Troy, Michigan to hold its semi-annual conference. As in recent conferences, the GMBA strove to finish the business portion of the conference as quickly as possible to allow as much time as possible for spiritual meetings on Saturday afternoon and evening. As expected, this weekend's meetings held powerful and pertinent messages from the Lord for the brothers and sisters in attendance as well as the entire church.

Brother Larry Champine introduced the afternoon worship service with the message of preparation. Referring to Alma, chapters 48-50, Brother Larry drew attention to the analogy between the current saints of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Nephites preparing to defend their cities and families from the Lamanites. In these chapters, the Lord continually inspired the Nephites with wisdom and knowledge to place them one step ahead of their menacing enemies so that God's chosen people would not be destroyed. Likewise, Brother Larry explained, if the saints of God put their faith and trust in him, he will prepare them to face whatever obstacles may face them, particularly in this turbulent period of time in the world. Brother Larry then echoed the challenge of Peter in I Peter 3:15 to be prepared at all times to give others a reason of the hope that is within us.

Brother Phil Jackson continued with the Lord's message of preparation, turning the focus more narrowly to the obligation of each member of The Church of Jesus Christ to prepare spiritually so that the authority of the Lord may be made manifest unto us and through us. "God's miracles are not just going to happen if there's not preparation," explained Brother Phil. He continued, "These things come from persisting in declaring the Word of God, not just with our mouths but with everything that we do." He then asked us to examine ourselves and the

love we show to one another. "Can you say that you love every member of the Church?" he inquired. Brother Phil concluded his message with an exhortation to righteousness, citing the message that God delivered to the Church in a recent dream that tells us to make sure we have enough oil in our lamps.

To conclude the speaking portion of the service, Brother Peter Scolaro followed and read from Alma 37:34, in which Alma encourages his son Helaman to serve the Lord with diligence. Alma taught that servants of the Lord must never become weary of doing the good works the Lord has set before us. Brother Peter emphasized the importance of being willing to stand alone, if necessary, for the Gospel's sake. He asserted, "God will reveal Himself when we are willing to believe in all the things that make us unique as a church and as Christians."

Brother Jeff Giannetti then invited the young people to sing a few songs and share some testimonies with the congregation. As they gathered at the front of the meeting hall, Brother Jeff asked the congregation to pray for the young people so that they would seek refuge with the Lord and not in the things that the world has to offer them. After the young people sang and some testimonies were offered, Brother Paul Palmieri addressed the young people. He stressed the need for the young people of the Church to put the Lord first in their lives and seek His will in all aspects of their lives, including their education, vocation, friendships, and marriages. He encouraged the young people to live lives that are "pure and virtuous" and to never refuse a job or responsibility that they can do to help The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul then offered a special prayer for the young people.

In the Saturday evening meeting, the Great Lakes Region presented a wonderful choir program that included many different musical styles and messages, focusing mainly on Zion and

the promises God has given the church for its bright future. The inspiring program was given a very appropriate prelude with the new *Song of Zion, The Gospel's Sound*. The simplicity of the tune is quite apropos to its message, which is the beauty of the Gospel we hold, in all its purity and straightforwardness. Highlights included *Zion's Walls*, by classical American composer, Aaron Copland, as well as a unique arrangement overlapping and interweaving the melodies of *Keeping Step* and *In the Army of the True and Living God*, two *Songs of Zion* with very similar messages. Sister Rosanne Champine, backed up by the Great Lakes Region Choir, sang an original song entitled *Safe*, which would become the message of Sunday's preaching service. The choir concluded its program with a special arrangement of *We're Marching to Zion*, in which the congregation joined the choir to repeat the final, triumphant chorus. The continuity of the messages of each of the selections as well as the spirit felt by those in attendance confirmed that the Lord had truly inspired these brothers and sisters to be a blessing to the saints gathered in Troy, Michigan for the GMBA Conference.

Following the program, Brother Jeff Giannetti felt inspired to speak to the congregation and related a dream in which he witnessed thousands of people traveling out of the mountains toward the church singing *We're Marching to Zion*. He praised God for the glorious promises he has made to His people. Brother Jeff then read from the second chapter of Luke, in which Simeon, a righteous man awaiting the "consolation of Israel," was directed by the Lord to the temple on the day that Jesus, then a small child, would be there with his parents to follow according to the customs of the law. He was comforted and was able to witness the redemption of Israel. Likewise, the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ will reap the benefits of God's promises if we hold to them by working for the Lord and

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning that Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:27-30).*

A sister in our branch recently had a dream of a giant bed with many pillows on it. She was given to understand the pillows were for the many that are sleeping spiritually. Several years ago, a brother had a dream in which Jesus was to appear at church at 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. He anxiously arrived early. When 9:00 a.m. came, there were only a few who showed up in the congregation. Sure enough, the Lord appeared at 9:00 a.m. like He promised He would, but only a few witnessed it. The rest must have been home sleeping. This scripture warns us that if we eat or drink communion unworthily, we are eating and drinking damnation to ourselves, and for this reason we are weak, sick and sleep, not being aware of how Satan is carefully bringing us down to hell with him, by making us think, "all is well in Zion." There's a song that says *"It's not the time to be sleeping, or wile the hours away..."* Sometimes we may wonder why we feel distant from the Lord, or why we are spiritually weak. Other times we wonder why we are sickly, or feel like we are not experiencing the blessings of God, almost like we are asleep. Paul tells us in these passages that the reason is we partake of the Lord's Supper unworthily. *How can we be unworthy if we have already given our life to the Lord and acknowledge He is our Lord and Savior?* We must understand the concept of "dying daily," of "retaining a remission of our sins," of "enduring to the end," of "fighting the good fight of faith," of "keeping His commandments" and that "mercy can never rob justice." We can become unworthy through our backsliding actions, offenses to others, offenses to God. This is why whenever we kneel to pray for communion each Sunday, we always encourage our members not to listen to the prayer of the elders, but to beg God for His forgiveness. We encourage our members to sincerely ask the Lord to cleanse any spots that may not have been wiped clean from our garments so that when we reach out our hand to partake of the bread and wine, we can do it worthily. Once we were baptized, we received the ability to pray in this way, and tap into His grace so freely given to us on the cross. Through the gift of the Holy Ghost, we can connect with our Redeemer. But without accepting Him as our Lord and Savior through baptism, we cannot even connect with Him in this way. But baptism is not the end, but only the beginning. We must renew our worthiness every day, by crying out to the Lord. Whenever I see weariness and weakness entering the fold, I have to examine myself to see if I have unforgiven sin in my life. Do you do the same? Paul asks us to examine ourselves, and weed out anything that could be causing us to slide back into an unworthy position before the Lord. Many years ago, the late Brother Nathan Peterkin had an experience in which he was looking in the mirror and thought he looked pretty good. Then the Lord told him to look closer and when he did, he began to see spots on his clothes. The Lord showed him that there are things in our lives we need to rid ourselves of in order to truly partake of His body and blood worthily.

Brothers and sisters, let's remember His broken body and shed blood is precious to us. Without it, the grave would be a prison and we would be lost forever in outer darkness. It is only His body and blood that can give us eternal life in the light and warmth of His love. Let us never reach out our hand during communion unless we are in the depths of humility, and can truly feel His forgiveness upon us. When we do this our spirits will soar with strength and we'll be able to face the world with the strength of the Lord on our side.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## How God Can Direct Us

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you know that every day you have a secret friend who can help you and guide you and tell you what is the best way for things to work out? This friend is Jesus. He is the son of God and he knows the past, the present and the future. For real, the one true, Creator, our God, loves and cares about each of us and our heartaches, fears, and troubles. How can he help me? You may ask. Or how does He hear me or answer me? You many wonder.

Sometimes the Lord answers us with a little voice in our minds. We pray, and God clearly gives us a sound to hear. When God wanted the boy Samuel to warn his master, Eli the High Priest, that his sons were doing evil, God spoke to him in the night. (I Samuel, Chapters 3 and 4) Three times Samuel heard the voice of God calling his name. When he woke up, he went to Eli and said, "Did you call me?"

Eli told him, "Go, lie down, and if God calls you again, say, Speak, Lord, for your servant hears you."

And the Lord came and stood and called like He did before. He told Samuel, "I warned Eli that His sons were doing much evil and that he must stop them. He has not. They cannot keep sinning and just offer a prayer and animal sacrifice and keep on doing wrong. I am going to end it."

Samuel was afraid to speak the next day and tell Eli the warning. But Eli who knew and loved the Lord said, "What is the thing that the Lord has said to you? Don't hide it from me. If

you hide it from me, let God do everything he warned to you instead of to me."

Samuel told him the truth. Eli was not angry with the boy. Eli knew he had not done right as a prophet of God. He said, "It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth good." And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him. Within a few years, his message from God came true and the Philistine army attacked Israel. Both of Eli's evil sons were killed, and Eli himself died as God had warned him.

This spring, my sister, Sister Sue Patton, listened to a quiet message from God and saved her life. She is a Social Worker in Louisiana who finds help to care for some of the poorest people in America. Many of them have been hurt by the hurricane called Katrina. She has to pray often for ways to find money or people to help them. Since she lives almost an hour from work and she has a lot to do, Sister Sue leaves her house early in the morning around 6:45. On this morning, she had already finished breakfast, her briefcase was by the door, and she was getting ready to leave when a quiet thought came to her. "Sit down and have another cup of coffee." That was not her regular routine at all, and she was not tired, but she listened to the thought and sat down for a few peaceful moments with her thoughts and a cup of coffee. After she had finished, nearly fifteen minutes had passed and she got into her car to begin her drive. Only a few miles along, she heard ambulance sirens and saw police cars whizzing by. As she drove along, she saw a terrible accident on the road with dead and injured people lying there. If she had kept

with her regular routine, if she had not listened to the quiet thought to sit back down, she would have been there at the time of the wreck! God had saved her from a terrible wreck. He spoke, she listened, and all was well.

Over thirty years ago, another sister, Sister Betty D'Orazio, listened to the warning voice of God and was saved from a terrible accident. She was a young mother saying good-bye to friends at the front door. As she stood there, she heard a firm voice saying, "Pick up the baby and move away from the door." Surprised, she hesitated and looked around in puzzlement. The voice came again, a little louder, "Pick up the baby and move away from the door now!" She swooped up her little one and moved down the hallway just as she heard a great crash as the heavy light fixture in the ceiling by the front door crashed to the floor! Because she listened to the

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

GOD	IN
GIVES	MANY
US	WAYS
GUIDANCE	QUIET
SEE	VOICE
HE	WARNS
SPEAKS	PROTECTS
TO	US
US	ALL

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



## Branch and Mission News

### Ordination in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania

By Sister Denise Fleming

We all gathered at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on April 30, 2006 for the ordination of Brother Pete Darr as a teacher. We had visitors from Florida, New Jersey, Virginia plus Imperial and McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. The opening hymn was, *In the Army of the True and Living God*. Brother James Link opened with the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of John. We are told that we have the key for everything right in our hands. To understand the scriptures we have to know that Christ is the Son of a True and Living God. Having Jesus Christ in our heart and life everyday is the key. The door is there, just knock and it shall be opened. The Lord will solve all of our problems if we turn everything over to Him. Brother Tony Ricci continued by saying that for HIM to increase, we must decrease. He said for Brother Pete to relate to the people of the branch, he must break his heart for the people of God. God calls each of us to do a mighty work. God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the calling. Brother Pete must be empowered by what God has given him. The key is "for Him to increase, we must decrease." Brothers Robert Nicklow, Sr., Milford Eutsey, Sr., and Richard Lowther also addressed the congregation.

Sister Mechelle Haugh sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. Brother Thomas Stroko read the duties of a teacher. Brother Chester Nolfi stated that we have been praying for this day. The congregation sang *Ready* as the water was prepared for the washing of Brother Pete's feet. Brother Panfilo DiCenzo washed Brother Pete's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Chester Nolfi. Brother Tony Ricci spoke, "Thus sayeth the Lord; Thou

art now a teacher; thou art now a teacher; amen, amen, amen."

We then shared the Lord's Supper. It was a glorious day and the spirit of the Lord was there. We pray that Brother Pete will be blessed as he works for the Lord.

### Blessings at the Fredonia, PA Branch

The theme for the day's celebration was "*Where would you be today if the event we are celebrating would not have happened?*" A brief history of the baptisms of Brother Russell and Sister Ethel Cadman and the subsequent events that led up to the construction of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch were reviewed and set the theme for the day.

Brother Russell and Sister Ethel had no branch to attend, but went to Monongahela, Pennsylvania to be baptized on May 6, 1946. As a result, meetings were held in their home for ten years with brothers and sisters from Youngstown, Ohio and surrounding branches aiding in the establishment of the mission in Fredonia. In 1956 Brother Russell had a footer dug, cement poured and went to conference requesting block layers for the construction of a humble building. The late Brother William H. Cadman implored those who could to go and assist in the erection of the building. Brothers Dan and Tony Picciuto, Gene Kline and their families came and with God's blessings the building was constructed within a few months. Sixty years later, we see the fruits of the efforts.

Brother Art Gehly, Sr. read from Proverbs 31:10-31 and compared Sister Ethel with the words found in those scriptures. He also read the story of Ruth and Naomi and how Ruth even though not of the House of Israel found a more perfect way to serve the Lord. All of those in attendance have found a more perfect way through Brother Russell and Sister Ethel's obeying the Gospel.

Brother Timothy Gehly (Sister

Ethel's grandson) read from I Samuel, chapter 16. He exhorted us to trust in the Lord and the Lord will lead us as He led David with his five smooth stones against the giant Goliath. The four remaining stones were needed for future preservation of the righteous. The righteous slew the evil in David's day; and we have a God that will never fail us as illustrated in II Samuel as Shammah defended the lentil field and slew the Philistines and the Lord wrought a great victory. Brother Timothy said that it is our heritage to defend what we have received and the Lord will bless us.

Brother Joel Gehly (Sister Ethel's grandson) then told of childhood experiences as he was raised next door to the church building and his grandparent's home. He compared his grandmother to Martha in the Bible who was busy serving others as taken from the Gospel of John 11:5. He said that our Savior sees those who care for the saints. And as his grandfather had the footer for the building dug and the cement poured, many times we must put our feet forward and go forth in faith. Brother Joel asked, "How many lives have been touched because the footer went into the ground?"

Brothers Paul Gehly and Harold Burge offered comments. The day was joyous as we considered the question, "*Where would you be today if the event we are celebrating would not have happened?*"

### Lakeside, Arizona

On Sunday, May 7, 2006 as the sun rose to awaken the earth, our hearts filled with joy and anticipation at the events to take place that day. Two new names were to be written down in glory. The Lord provided a beautiful day. Bright blue skies and the warmth of the morning sun surrounded all of the saints of the Lakeside Arizona Branch as we gathered at the river's edge on the White Mountain Apache Reservation.

Natural sisters, Doreen (Ethelbah)

(Continued on Page 8)

## Lakeside, Arizona

Continued from Page 7

Gatewood and Shawna (Ethelbah) Hawkins, daughters of Sister Josephine Ethelbah, both committed to give their lives to Christ. Both of these sisters have been attending the Church since they were young girls. Through many changes in their lives, they both continued to attend church and seek the prayers of the saints and the blessings of the Lord. They both also bring their children faithfully each week. What a wonderful blessing to our branch when they both decided to render obedience.

We opened the day at the river shore with singing and prayer. Brother Harry 'Skip' Smith asked each of the candidates the two very important questions: Do you repent of all your sins? and, Do you promise to love and serve God to the best of your ability for the remainder of your life? He then escorted them one at a time into the water. As each candidate went into the water, the saints gathered closer so as to not miss a moment of this joyous occasion. As each emerged a new creature in Christ, it seemed as if the light of Christ shone on their faces. We continued to sing several more praises unto God before we journeyed back to the Church for the confirmations.

When we arrived at the church, we continued our singing and rejoicing in the day. The new sisters were called forward to have hands laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Harry 'Skip' Smith laid hands on Sister Shawna and offered a beautiful prayer bestowing the gift of the Holy Ghost. Brother Herbert Hemmings followed by bestowing the same beautiful gift on Sister Doreen.

Words cannot adequately describe the feeling of joy and thankfulness to the Lord that all the brothers and sisters of the branch had that day, and still have. God is so good to us. He promised us that He would never leave us and He would never forsake us. If we are diligent to follow after His commandments, all things will be added unto us. God definitely added

two beautiful gifts unto our branch! Please continue to pray for our branch as we work to bring the Gospel to Joseph's children.

## Reinstatement

On Thursday, June 29, 2006, Joe and Jean Ciarolla made a visit to Michael and Rose Randazzo. The following is an account of the circumstances that occurred during that visit as recalled by Sister Jean Ciarolla:

Upon our arrival we greeted Sister Rose, Terry and Tim. They took us to the room where Michael was; he was very happy to see us. He greeted us very warmly and we told him that we have kept him in our thoughts and prayers.

With a whisper of a voice, Michael began to express himself indicating his love for God, the Church and the brothers and sisters. He stated that he believes that God is a loving and forgiving God.

After a short visit and general talk, Brother Joe asked if it would be alright to anoint Michael. Brother Joe asked if he could place oil on his head and Sister Rose answered, "Yes." After the prayer we said we were going to leave. We exchanged our goodbyes; Michael asked if we would return and Brother Joe said that we would come back next week.

Sister Rose walked us out and as we were about to leave, Terry came out of the room and stated that his dad was crying harder than he had ever seen. Brother Joe asked Sister Rose if she thought that he wanted to make himself right, Rose indicated that she was not sure. We went back into the room and Michael was lying on his side sobbing. Brother Joe knelt next to him and asked if he wished to make himself right with the Lord; Michael said "Yes."

Brother Joe laid hands on him again and offered a prayer for his reinstatement. Everyone was crying, the boys were amazed at the way this all took place. Then Sister Rose went to Brother Michael and put her arms around him as he cried and she sang

him a verse of *He Touched Me*. The Spirit of God filled the room.

We once again said our goodbyes and Sister Rose stated that this was a day that she'll never forget.

## A Miracle

I live with my son Domenick, his wife Keena, 2 grandsons and my mother, Sister Pearl Zinzi. On March 15, 2006 I was awakened at 4:00 a.m. with a 103 degree fever and very ill. When Keena awoke (she is a doctor doing her residency in neurology), I told her what was happening and she gave me medical assistance. She told my son to stay home from work that day to take care of the children. An hour or so later my legs began to hurt so badly that I could not stop screaming from the pain. I became delirious, so dehydrated that my lips curled back, and all I could say was "please help me." My son called his wife and she told him to get me to the hospital immediately. She told him that I had bacterial meningitis. My son carried me to the car and drove me to the hospital. From that point on I only remember the doctors trying to talk to me but I could not respond. They confirmed my daughter-in-law's diagnosis with a spinal tap. I found out later that they also did a brain scan which I have no memory of. Meanwhile, my daughter-in-law called the elders of the Church to come and anoint me and start a phone fan out for prayer. She also called my other son Daniel in Florida for everyone there to start praying. In no time at all my family and friends from all types of religions were praying for me. That evening Brother Larry Henderson came to the ICU and anointed me.

The next day one of the doctors that saw me in the ER came to my room. He could not believe how well I was responding to the antibiotics. In less than 24 hours they moved me from ICU to a regular room. When I called my son to tell him he was shocked. From then on I continued to improve and every doctor that came to see me told me I was the miracle

patient. I did not realize how sick I was until my son told me that I was knocking on heaven's door. The ER doctor had told him that I had a 50% chance of dying. He also wanted to put me on a respirator because my breathing was so shallow. Now, the very next day they took me off the oxygen mask! I went home with IV antibiotics three days later. Everyone agreed it was a miracle.

When I went for my follow-up appointment with the neurologist, he informed me that many of his patients have not survived this disease. Some who have survived live with serious health consequences. He said that he wasn't concerned that I was suffering from headaches, loss of hearing in my left ear and shingles; I was lucky to be alive!!! Miraculously my shingles never hurt and I have since regained all of my hearing. I still get headaches but they only serve to remind me how good God has been to me.

I want to share my story with everyone because everyone needs to know how the Lord spared my life. My prayer is that He will reveal His purpose to me. Every day I praise His high and holy name. I believe in miracles, and after reading this, I hope you do too.

I want to thank my son and daughter-in-law for taking such good care of me. My son missed work for two weeks so that he could attend to the children and me. I also want to thank my brothers and sisters in the Church, my family and friends for their visits, phone calls, flowers and cards. They have proven to me how much they love me and I want you to know how much I love you.

Sister Gelsa Zinzi

## Experiences

### LOVEST THOU ME

I was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on January 28, 1968. Not long after my baptism I was concerned about whether the Lord really loved me or not. One night I had a dream

that I was fishing in this small hole of water with rocks all around it and suddenly I found myself in this water. I became very frightened because I can't swim (I'm in a wheelchair) and in this condition I was unable to help myself in any way. I said "Oh Lord if you love me don't let anything happen to me." The next thing I knew, I was out of the water. Along side of me in the sand to my right, I saw being written, "I Love You." I didn't see anyone or anything around, just the words being written letter by letter as if they were being burned in the sand. After they were written I picked them up and put them on like a garment. I found myself then, in a house with a couple of sisters and one of them told me how beautiful my dress was, and I remember looking in a mirror to see how beautiful it was. Afterwards I told my sisters how beautiful their dresses were also. That's all I remember of this dream and I pray to God that I will always remember that He loves me and be worthy of His calling by keeping my promise to Him.

Sister Betty M. Crudup  
Freehold, New Jersey

### THE TRAIN

I had the following dream sometime during 1970; I don't remember exactly what month.

I dreamed Sister Sallie Baldwin and myself were running to make a train. The train had already pulled into the station and was waiting. We had to run down the railroad tracks to get to the train. Sister Sallie was used to running on the tracks and I wasn't but somehow I managed to keep up with her. As we were running I heard the conductor say in a loud voice, "I want everyone's ticket in their hand. I don't want anyone looking for their tickets; I want their ticket in their hand"

I said to Sister Sallie, Did you hear what he said? She said yes. I then felt in my pocket for my ticket. I was praying in my heart that I would have the right ticket. I saw people approaching the steps of the train and the conductor said to them, "No you

don't have the right ticket," and they would step aside. I saw Sister Sallie step up to the train and go inside. Then it was my turn. I held up my ticket and he said, "Your ticket is OK come in." At this time, I was so happy I began to praise God and say out loud, "Lord I thank you for letting me have the right ticket." I was still praising God when I awoke.

The late Sister Margaret Baldwin  
Quincy, Florida

## Dedication

Do you know the meaning of being dedicated? It is to set oneself apart for a deity, meaning God and Jesus Christ or for a religious purpose. It also subscribes to the definition of committing oneself to a particular course of thought or action. Does this describe you in your service to the Lord?

Are you dedicated to the Lord? Are you dedicated to His cause and The Church of Jesus Christ? Only you can answer these questions.

It is necessary that we are completely and totally dedicated to the Lord. Why? Without salvation, there is nothing else really worth pursuing in this life. We pursue excellence on our jobs. We pursue excellence in the homes we build or buy, the cars we purchase or lease and other material possessions. In the end, they are all left behind. In the end, it is simply you and the Lord, one on one in His Kingdom and His bar of justice. As it was so eloquently and powerfully articulated in a recent dream experienced by Apostle Dominic Thomas, *nothing else counts!*

We have no other prerogative but to be dedicated in our service to Jesus Christ and His Father. Yes, we are free to choose. But what choice have you made? Have you made a commitment to Him and if so, are you dedicated to that commitment?

Alma the Younger asked a

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## Dedication

Continued from Page 9

number of very powerful questions in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Alma. Most if not all of the questions dealt with the dedication of the people to the Lord. The questions were directed to members of The Church of Jesus Christ and to those who had not made the decision to serve the Lord. Alma asked his questions in church! They were part of a powerful sermon given to stir up the people. The questions commenced in the 6<sup>th</sup> verse and really do not conclude until the 59<sup>th</sup> verse. Consider some of these questions for your soul's well being.

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*"We cannot give our life to anyone but the Lord. There is no one else who can offer us eternal salvation in the Kingdom of God."*

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Have you been spiritually born of God? Have you received His image in your countenances? Have you experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of Him who created you? Can you imagine hearing the voice of the Lord saying to you at your last day, Come unto me ye blessed, for your works have been works of righteousness? Or do you think you can talk your way into heaven when your works have not been works of righteousness? Do you think you can tell the Lord an untruth about your behavior and get away with it and He will save you? Alma continues by asking, can you look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? Some key questions were, if you have experienced a change of heart, and if you have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, can you feel so now? Have you walked blameless before God? If you were to pass away today, can you say you have been sufficiently humble? Can you say your garments have been cleansed and made white

through the blood of Christ? Are you stripped of pride? If you are not stripped of pride, you are not prepared to meet God! If you are not the sheep of the Good Shepherd, of what fold are you?

Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord. It was the place to meet and to worship God Almighty, no other. The Apostle Paul instructs us that we are the temple of God. We are also in a sense, dedicated to the Lord.

The Apostle Paul informs us in his Epistle to the Romans, that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. He goes on to state that we must not conform to the world but we must be transformed, changed, by the renewing of our mind that we may prove what is good, acceptable and the perfect will of God. We are to think soberly towards the things of God. We must be dedicated to God.

We cannot give our life to anyone but the Lord. There is no one else who can offer us eternal salvation in the Kingdom of God. Only the Lord has the power to deliver us and save us from unrighteousness and eternal damnation. He does this through our dedication and commitment to serve Him in spirit and in truth!

There are many wonderful examples in scripture of those who

dedicated their lives to God. There was Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Paul, Peter, Nephi, Alma, Moroni, Phebe, Lydia, Job and many others.

A college professor once referred to the Book of Job in a literature class as a fairy tale that the Jewish writers and scholars had to make have a happy ending. This statement is really utter nonsense. The Apostle James referred to the patience of Job and acknowledged his endurance and dedication that delivered him from the enemy of his soul.

It is important to remember that He gave His life for you, for all. Since He gave His life for you, what have you given Him? Have you given your life to Him? Are you dedicated to Him?

## New Songs of Zion

### #136 When Zion's Children Come

*(Jeremiah 31:21 "...Set thee up waymarks...Set thine heart to the highway...")*

God's word is sure and long proclaimed  
A gath'ring time for some;  
With welcome signs along the road,  
When Zion's children come.  
There are handkerchiefs on every tree,  
And cloths on every vine;  
And flags on every mountain top,  
For it's homecoming time.  
For it's homecoming time.

There are ribbons on the flow'ring shrubs,  
And stepping stones to guide;  
That none may lose their way back home,  
Till all are safe inside.  
There are waymarks on the pathway home,  
And benchmarks on the wall,  
And signs on every highways stretch,  
When Zion sends her call.  
When Zion sends her call.

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Arlene Lea Buffington

## Note

The Asia Sector is happy to announce that we are presently staffing a missionary team for Malaysia and shortly will be staffing another team for China. Anyone interested in volunteering for these teams, please contact Brother John Genaro.

Also, anyone who has traveled to China and has many contacts who may be interested in the Church, please forward their name, phone number, address or e-mail address to John Genaro at [genaro111@earthlink.net](mailto:genaro111@earthlink.net).



## #137 Carry Me Back To the Land of My Fathers

(Jeremiah 30:3 "...I will cause them to return to the land that I gave their fathers...")

Carry me back to the land of my fathers  
Leave me not here where my mind cannot rest;  
When you are leaving, friend, carry me with you,  
Back to my home and the land I love best.

Tell me again, friend, and sing it once over,  
Say how my country is searching for me;  
Send out the word now and say we are coming,  
There my true brother, we both will be free.

Carry me back to the land of our fathers,  
Let me not die in this troublesome place;  
Nearing my country, my strength is returning,  
Reaching my homeland but only by grace.

Friend, my true brother, I'm running beside you,  
Heirs to the land that our fathers portrayed;  
Pain like a dream that's a long time forgotten,  
There stands our mountain in glory arrayed.

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## May 2006 GMBA

Continued from Page 4

living actively to serve him. The Saturday evening meeting concluded with the singing of *Standing on the Promises*.

Sunday morning's worship service began with an encore of

several songs from the previous evening's program. Following these songs, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri opened the speaking portion of the service. Brother Paul shared that the Lord inspired him to speak on repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He related this message to the concept of safety in the Lord, which was introduced in Sister Rosanne's song during the Saturday evening meeting. Citing the fourth chapter in Mark, in which Jesus' fearful disciples wake him and warn him of imminent danger from a storm raging outside their ship, Brother Paul described how Christ serves as our "safety net" once we accept Him and are baptized in His name. Just like He did for Nephi and the believers in Christ who were about to be put to death if the sign of the Messiah's birth did not come, the Lord often protects us from that which harms the physical body. As another example of this safety, Brother Paul shared the experience of a sister of the Church dwelling in a dangerous area in Guatemala to whom the Lord revealed in a dream that an angel stood at the door of her home to protect her. Even more important than this safety, though, is the safety that Christ offers to the soul through His grace that erases our sin and secures us a place in God's kingdom. Brother Paul concluded by encouraging us to have the attitude of the sons of Mosiah, to be consumed with the Lord's work that a single soul would not be lost.

Brother Bob Batson reinforced the message of safety in Jesus Christ, and he referred to the tenth chapter of Matthew in which Jesus instructed His disciples to fear not that which destroys the body but that which destroys both the body and the soul in hell. If we are concerned with preventing the spiritual death for our fellow humans, we will be diligent in fasting and prayer and in spreading the message of Christ like the sons of Mosiah (Alma 17), even in the face of perceived danger. Brother Bob reminded us that no other source provides stability like Christ does for His people. Brother Bob also touched on the story of Abinadi, who submitted his life and service to a Lamanite king

and eventually converted the king's entire house, and the nation followed suit.

Brother John Griffith introduced the communion service, and the congregation sang *Just As I Am* while the ministry passed the bread and wine. Following communion, Brother Paul Palmieri offered some final comments to the brothers and sisters, encouraging them to embrace the Lord's messages of the weekend. Brother David Catalano briefly shared a powerful testimony of the safety the Lord provides, saying that he was in the World Trade Center on September 10, 2001, and was scheduled to be there on September 11 before a last-minute change of plans. The Lord made a way for Brother David and spared his life. The congregation sang *My Country Calls* to conclude the service before a closing prayer offered by Brother Tony Calabrese.

The GMBA May Conference was a blessing from beginning to end. From the messages delivered by the ministry concerning preparation and safety in Jesus Christ to the beautiful program presented by the Great Lakes Region Choir, the Lord provided a wonderful and spirit-filled weekend for the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, and hopefully its effect will not be temporary but rather enduring as we take to heart the inspired message of God.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Lord, neither she or her baby was injured.

God is merciful to the children of men, especially when we take time to pray to Him, give Him credit for all His blessings, and thank Him. God loves you. Jesus came to earth to know what it is like to be human and He is always there for us. Pray and tell Him your fears and heartaches. Ask Him for advice then listen for the message He will send you.

With love,  
Sister Jan

**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Michelle Relac and Brother Michael Brubaker were united in holy matrimony in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on June 10, 2006.

**Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Brother Justin Cason of the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch was baptized on May 14, 2006. He was baptized by Brother David Checchi, and confirmed by Brother John D'Orazio.

Sister Sarah Lee Baldwin of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch was baptized on April 2, 2006. She was baptized and confirmed by Evangelist Gene Perri.

Sister Doreen Gatewood of the Lakeside, Arizona Branch was baptized on May 7, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Harry 'Skip' Smith and confirmed by Brother Herbert Hemmings.

Sister Shawna Hawkins of the Lakeside, Arizona Branch was baptized on May 7, 2006. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Harry 'Skip' Smith.

**Children Blessed**

Lilah Rain Jones, daughter of Jason E. and Dia Danyel Jones, was blessed on April 9, 2006 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch.

Shane Leonard Murray, son of Jason E. and Dia Danyel Jones, was blessed on April 9, 2006 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch.

Sean Keith Murray, son of Jason E. and Dia Danyel Jones, was blessed on April 9, 2006 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch.

Seth Marcellus Murray, son of Jason E. and Dia Danyel Jones, was blessed on April 9, 2006 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch.

Nathaniel Kevin Jasmin, son of Brother Kevin and Sister Angela Jasmin was blessed on April 2, 2006 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Michael Tyler Widman, son of Michael and Susan (Speck) Widman was blessed on May 28, 2006 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch.

Bryce Dylan Widman, son of Michael and Susan (Speck) Widman was blessed on May 28, 2006 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch.

**Ordinations**

Brother Ryan Huttenberger was ordained a Deacon in the Anaheim, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Sgro and he was ordained by Brother Jim Huttenberger

**Spiritual Anniversaries**

Sister Sara Vancik of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated her 72<sup>nd</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

**OBITUARIES**

TONY SALERNO

Brother Tony Salerno of the Liberty, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on June 17, 2006. He is survived by his four children; Sister Toni (Brother Richard) Bologna, Sister Mary Alice (Ralph) DeSimone, Thomas Salerno and Jack Salerno; six grandchildren and one great-grandson and Sister Jacki Tolen.

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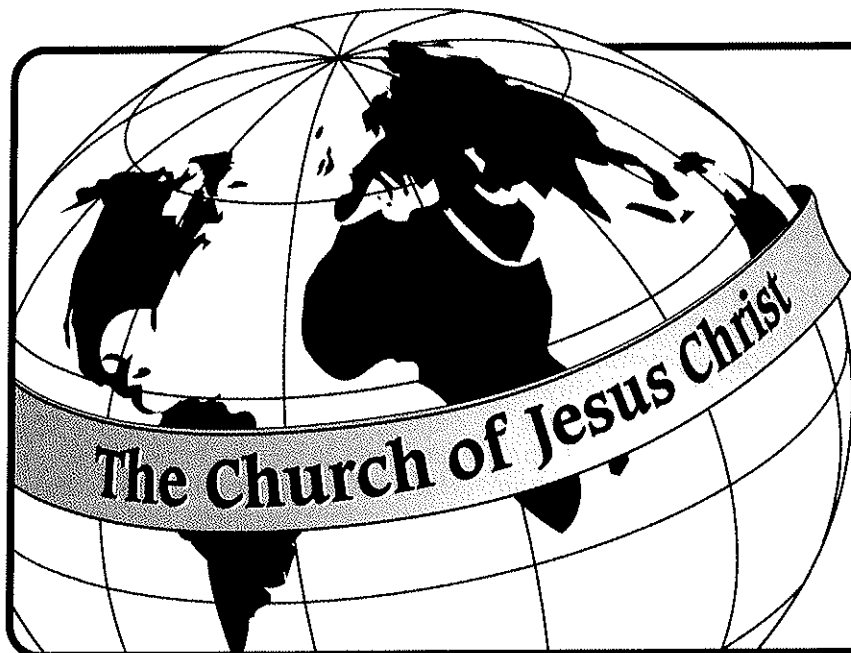
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

September, 2006

Volume 62, No. 9

## It's Beginning to Rain

### Forward

For years, Christians have argued as to whether the gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit are for us today. Some say that such things stopped with the Apostles and are no longer necessary today, while we, along with others believe that they are still needed and are in fact, quite alive.

This paper will explore the prophetic latter day outpouring of God's Spirit; the Prophet Joel declared the "Word of the Lord" concerning it and the Apostle Peter discerned its fulfillment.

### What is the former and latter rain?

"For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it (Canaan), *is not* as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and **wateredst it with thy foot**, as a garden of herbs: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, *is* a land of hills and valleys, and **drinketh water of the rain of heaven**" (Deuteronomy 11:10-11).

Egypt was a land that had to be watered by carrying it from the river to the fields. If water was not carried to the fields, the crops would

die. The Lord told the people of Israel, that the promised land of Canaan would be watered by rain that fell from the sky.

"And it shall come to pass, **if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments** which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and **to serve him with all your heart** and with all your soul, **That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain**, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. **Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived**, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And *then* the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he **shut up the heaven, that there be no rain**, and that the land yield not her fruit; and *lest* ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you" (Deuteronomy 11:13-17).

God's blessing of natural rain was conditional upon their obedience. Disobedience would "shut up" the heaven and stop the rain.

"Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss

themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, **Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season**: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these *things*, and your sins have withholden good *things* from you" (Jeremiah 5:22-25).

Again the Lord warns the people that if they continue in their iniquities, He will withhold good things from them, such as the former and latter rain.

One may be asking, "What is this former and latter rain?" In the land of Canaan or Israel, the normal natural rain fell twice a year. In the month of Tishri/Ethanim or October, at the time of planting, a good amount of rain fell. This rain provided the necessary water to allow the seedlings to take root and grow strong. This was called the "former" or "early" rain. After this early rain, it remained dry until the time just before the harvest. At that time, a much heavier rain fell to ripen the crop and maximize its growth for the harvest. This rain fell in the month of Nisan/Abib or April. The interest-

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## It's Beginning to Rain

Continued from Page 1

ing thing to note is that during the period between the rains there was no rain or a drought.

### Is this rain more than just natural rain?

Oft times in scripture, we see how in the giving of the Lord's word, that there are types or shadows contained in them. A type is the use of one thing to represent another spiritual truth.

One example is the story of Jonah. In Matthew 12:39, Jesus was speaking to some Scribes and Pharisees and said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign: and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the Prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart [center] of the earth."

Jesus took occasion to use a natural historical Biblical event to represent the coming event of His death and resurrection. This type or representation is quite far reaching, but for now let us understand that the event of Jonah's body remaining within the great fish, pointed prophetically to Christ's body remaining in the tomb for the same period. After three days and three nights, as Jonah emerged from within the great fish, so Christ emerged from within the tomb. The "former and latter rain" is also such a type or representation.

On the day of Pentecost, as the one hundred and twenty souls were gathered in the upper room and "were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4), the Apostle Peter was given to say, "**This is that** which was spoken by the Prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your sons shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and handmaidens I will pour out in

those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:16-18).

The Apostle Peter said that this event was the fulfillment of the Prophet Joel, 2:28-29. He was correct in this revelation; however the interesting part of the prophecy is that it says, "I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all flesh**." The question that needs to be answered is, was the Spirit of God poured upon **all flesh** in the days of Peter? The answer of course is we know that the Spirit of God was **not** poured upon all flesh on the Day of Pentecost or in the early church, however, the day will come, particularly in God's kingdom called Zion that all flesh will have the Spirit of God poured out upon them. Was the Apostle Peter wrong about what he said? We believe not, but perhaps our understanding of the prophecy needs further revelation.

The Prophet Joel spoke of the former and latter rain: "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for **he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month**" (Joel 2:23).

### Restoration of Things

"And I will **restore** to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And **ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God**, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed" (Joel 2:25-27).

Joel not only spoke of the natural rain that was given to Israel, but he prophesied that God would "restore" that which they lost naturally. In order for something to be restored, it must first be taken away. Israel lost the blessings of God for their disobedience, including the early and latter

natural rain that fell from the sky. God's promise of restoration is beginning to be fulfilled now and will be completely fulfilled as Israel returns to Christ and is gathered by Him.

This restoration of natural things to Israel, if they repent, is confirmed again; "When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; *yet* if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance" (2 Chronicles 6:26-27).

Is this former and latter natural rain being used prophetically by the Prophet Joel as a type of God's plan for the outpouring of spiritual rain, which is the Holy Spirit?

### The Holy Spirit – The Prophetical Rain

After speaking of the natural former and latter rain and the restoration to Israel those things lost for disobedience, he continues by saying, "And it shall come to pass **afterward**, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh..." (Joel 2:28). It is important to understand the word "afterward" in this sentence. He is saying that after the giving of the former and latter natural rains to Israel and after the restoration of things to them, God will pour His Spirit upon all flesh.

Therefore, as the natural rains in Israel are divided between the former (early) and the latter (last) rains, so is the Prophecy of Joel concerning the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the earth.

The first spiritual outpouring began with the day of Pentecost, but ended within a few hundred years as a result of disobedience. When the Restoration took place, the beginning of the latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit started and will become greater than the first outpouring, until the

Kingdom of God or Zion is fully established, when the Holy Spirit will be poured upon **all flesh**.

Some of you may be seeing a parallel between the former and latter rains and the Establishment, Apostasy and Restoration of the Church. The former and latter rains not only follow the Apostasy and Restoration of the Church, but during the time between the outpourings, there was no natural rain and spiritually there was no rain (Holy Spirit). The Prophet Amos writes, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

This latter day outpouring of the spirit began with Joseph Smith and has continued till now; however, the heaviest outpouring of the Holy Spirit is coming soon upon the Church and the world. This outpouring will parallel Jesus words which say, "And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Are there other scripture that support the idea that the Former and Latter Rain represent the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, **until he receive the early and latter rain**" (James 5:7).

The Apostle James tells the brethren of the Church to have patience until the Lord's coming and says that the husbandman waits for the "fruit of the earth" until "he" the husbandman "receives the early and latter rain." Who is the husbandman? What is the fruit of the earth and how will he receive the early and latter rain?

Jesus said, "I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman" (John 15:1). The fruit of the earth are

the souls that will be saved and the Father has "long patience for it." The receiving of the "fruit" of the former and latter rain are the souls gained from the two outpourings.

One other scripture can be applied to this subject:

**"ASK ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: Therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd. Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle. Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together. And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded. And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them. And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased. And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again. I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be**

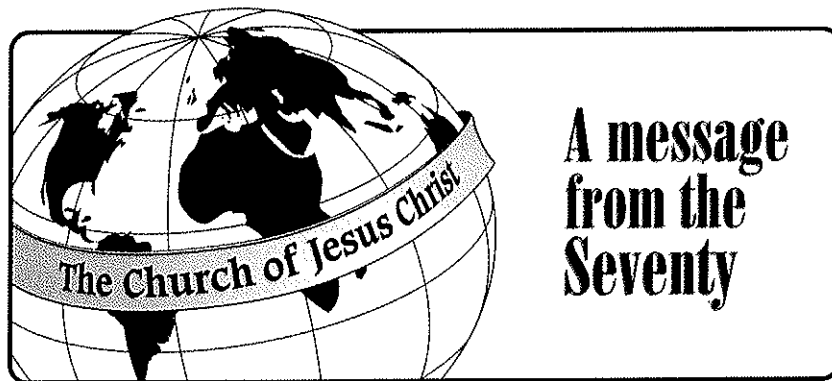
**found for them. And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up; and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away. And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD"** (Zechariah 10:1-12).

The beginning of this passage says to "ask" the Lord for rain "in the time of the latter rain." At first glance, it appears that this prophecy is speaking of natural rain, but as you read further, we see the deliverance and restoration of Israel, particularly Judah and Joseph, which we know to be latter day events. Since this restoration and deliverance is spiritual, it stands to reason that the prophecy to request rain is not the request for natural rain, but the Holy Spirit. The Lord is prophetically speaking to us and Israel to make a request for the latter day outpouring of the Holy Spirit when we know it is the time for the latter day outpouring.

## Conclusion

Those of us that know the Restoration are the only ones able to see such revelation in God's Word. We glorify Him through Jesus Christ for that which He has given to The Church of Jesus Christ. We know that we are in the latter days and we know the plan of God to restore Israel to Christ and bring the Gospel to all the world. So it is the duty of those that understand the latter day work, to begin to ask the Lord for the "latter time" outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we can accomplish the work in power.

While others cast aside the Restoration and the Book of Mormon as a thing of naught, we have embraced it as a thing of truth.



## God's Miraculous Power Manifested! The Church of Jesus Christ, Democratic Republic of the Congo

*By Evangelist Joseph Perri, Africa Sector Chairman*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa is one fourth the size of the United States and has a population of nearly 63 million people. Since 1998 because of the war, disease, and malnutrition nearly four million people have lost their lives.

The Church of Jesus Christ was invited by Brother Kapend A. Cipeng to bring the Restored Gospel message to his country. In January 2005 during our first missionary visit the faith of our Church and the message of the Restoration were preached and, as a result of God's Holy Spirit touching the hearts of those who were seeking the truth, a number of them were baptized into the Church and She was established in this nation. The Church continues to grow and the power of God's healing is being manifested. The following experience is one I would like to share with all of our *Gospel News* readers. In an e-mail message on June 30 from Brother Cipeng, our Church Director in the Congo, he describes a miracle that took place in the Branch of Rwashi, DR Congo:

A woman was very seriously ill with a lot of agonizing pain throughout her body. She could not move, stand, nor walk, but just laid in bed with her eyes closed speaking to no one. Brother Cipeng said her husband, family members, even the nurse who

was attending to her were in despair. Our Church membership helped with the mounting medical bills but it was insufficient to pay the hospital bills and the medication. Her husband was unemployed but went out into the bush in another village to work so he could raise some money to financially assist the family and pay for the care of his wife in the hospital. He and his family were very discouraged.

A group of our Church members went to the hospital to pray for this woman. After prayer was offered, as Brother Cipeng describes, the woman woke up and requested something to eat. She was able to stand and walk outside of the hospital room under her own strength. Her husband, in the meantime while this was happening, was out in the bush working. On the day prayer was offered by the members who visited this woman in the hospital, he had a dream during the night in which he saw our Church members along with the attending nurse dressed in white surrounding her bed. When he saw that, he thought it meant one thing: death, and his wife had died.

Brother Cipeng said this woman's husband stopped doing his work in the bush and rushed to the hospital, thinking he would find his wife dead. When he reached the hospital, he went to the room where he remembered his

wife was lying in bed and, to his amazement, he found her on her feet chatting with her family members. This man is waiting for his baptism now because, having seen this miracle with his wife, he has become a believer.

Brother Cipeng wrote this miracle was proof God is working with the Church in the DR Congo and He is the **SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER**. This marvelous experience of God's healing power was revealed not only to our brothers and sisters, but also to those people who have been invited to attend our Church Worship Services. **GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!**

This is to inform you about the woman for whom the Church prayed for. She was discharged from the hospital two days later. She has traveled a short distance from her home town of Lubumbashi to another village to find work; however her husband continues to meet with the Church membership.

I would like to share another testimony of God's healing power sent to me yesterday afternoon by Brother Cipeng:

Brother Cipeng informed me his little grandson, Joel who is one year old, was hospitalized with pneumonia. He wrote in French the events that happened as they occurred and his correspondence was translated as follows. "It was Wednesday June 28, 2006 at 11:00 PM. His mother took him to the hospital in a critical state and in despair. The nurse who received Joel required 500 Congo Francs (USD \$1.20) before intervening. My daughter had spent all the money she had on transporting the child to the hospital. Transportation in the DR Congo is always very expensive at night. Since Joel was desperately breathing very heavily, a lady who also had a child had pity on my daughter and gave the money which the nurse required while saying: 'Here! Do you want this child to die over 500 Congo Francs?' After payment of the money required, Joel received his first injection, but that had not changed his

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The root of every action is a thought. Our thinking determines what we do or what we avoid. In fact, the mind is a powerful tool that drives what we become in life. What we think shapes what others will think of us. A lot of time is spent on watching our actions, but our actions are unavoidable unless we first control our thinking.

*"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7).*

If you were to be asked to describe yourself, chances are you would describe someone that you really are not. Most would describe a more ideal person, and not reveal some of the hidden thoughts which might be offensive to others. The problem is that by not coming to terms with our thoughts, no matter how hard we try, our actions will never match that "ideal" person we think we are. If we truly are going to change our behavior to reach a higher spiritual mind, then we have to begin by changing our thinking. In fact, the truth is, faith begins in our mind. Faith is a thought which produces an action, and pleases God, and causes Him to move on our behalf.

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).*

If we make a conscious effort to fix our thinking on these virtues, not only will our actions be affected, but we will actually "feel better!" Stress and depression are a result of our thoughts. Negative, angry, confrontational thinking leads to a reputation of always being in a bad mood. People like this never seem to do anything noble, honorable or wonderful in life. They are usually the complainers, who complain about everything but never participate or contribute to anything. Do you know anyone like this?

If we look at this verse in Philippians carefully, it describes specifically how we need to program our mind every day. It is more specific than just "thinking good thoughts." We should think how blessed we are to have the "truth" of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ! Think how special we are to know the "truth" of the future events; the Peaceful Reign, Paradise, Heaven with Jesus forever and ever. We should think about the virtue of "honesty." When we can be "honest" with ourselves, we will never find ourselves having to lie, or cover something up. We can feel such freedom when we can think upon things that are "honest." We should think about things that are "just." Isn't it wonderful to know that the evil actions of some will never win-out in the end? Justice will always be served for things that are right. We should think about things that are "pure." Go back to the day of your baptism (if you are baptized), and think about the "purity" you saw in all the brothers and sisters and everyone around you. Remind yourself everyday of the "purity" that does exist in all your brothers and sisters, and focus on that, and not what you perceive to be their "faults." We should think of things that have a "good report." Often times as I travel to work on the bus every morning, I think about the testimonies of the brothers and sisters, and how God has worked miracles in their lives. I think about my own life and the incredible blessings God has given me and my family. This is what is meant by a "good report." We should think about things that are "virtuous" and things "praiseworthy." Do you know that if we REALLY try to program our minds this way, every day, all day, we will find ourselves escalating to a higher spiritual plane? We will find ourselves being happier. The devil creates a battlefield in our mind, but if we force our thinking in this way (I know it's hard, but we can do it), we can win the battle. Think about how God can use a person like this! Think about how the blessings and miracles can flow to a person who has reprogrammed his or her thinking in this way! Remember brothers and sisters and friends, you are NOT what you eat, but you ARE what you think!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## "Things" Do Not Have Lasting Power

Dear Girls and Boys,

Can you think about a toy or thing that you one time really, really wanted and now do not find interesting to play with? Did you think that you needed a new back-pack or school supplies to start school even though the ones you were using last May are still good, just dusty, or not new?

What about the people at your school who do not have new things and are not as rich as you? Do other kids make fun of them or treat them like they are not as good as the kids with more money? Have you thought that all of these things that often make you feel better than someone else can be taken from you, or lost? One storm could make you lose everything. What would you be like then? Would you be worth as much in your own mind?

Do you realize that people are more important than things? What if you did loose everything? What if you had to live or work where people did not believe in and serve God? What if you were by yourself?

Are you strong inside? You do know what is right from wrong. If something happened that separated you from your family, you are able to remember what is the right way to act. You can always pray to God to follow His laws and give you courage.

In the book of Daniel, the army of powerful King Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city of Jerusalem. Many people died. Soldiers took the sons and daughters from their parents and

marched them far off to the great city of Babylon to be slaves.

Babylon was the "wonder city" of the ancient world. The walls that surrounded it were 60 miles around, 300 feet high, 80 feet thick and buried in the ground 35 feet below so that enemies could not tunnel under it and attack. A beautiful river separated in two parts ran through the city with bridges and high gates. Giant arches were built on top of the walls holding plants that hung down in great beauty. Rich people lived underneath the arches in fabulous apartments. No one could break into this city with the weapons of that day. The ruins are still there of that once great city.

You know the story of Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were living with all the captive boys in a strange, magnificent city far away from their home and church.

Can you imagine how lonely it felt to come to that place where they all spoke a different language and all had more power and money than you'd ever seen and you were only a slave now, without any power or things that once made your life easy? Yet, even looking at this richness, Daniel and his friends never forgot how to be obedient to God.

They kept God's laws. They refused to eat foods offered to idols or drink wine which was not good for them. They refused to bow down and worship a huge golden statue of the King. When they were told to worship it or be burned in a big fire, they still refused. When they were thrown into the fire, God sent an angel and showed His power. They were not hurt and the King was astonished and realized

God had the power to preserve lives (Daniel Chapter 3).

Later, as a man, Daniel was thrown into a lions' den when he refused to stop praying to the one God that we also serve. God kept the lions from attacking Daniel. Afterwards, the enemies of Daniel were thrown into the lions' den and they were destroyed. The new king also saw the power of the one, true, living God.

Daniel never turned his back on serving God. Angels were sent to talk to him several times and called him "beloved man of God." Can you imagine how great his reward was for serving God?

This is our job to do too. If we constantly do right by people, if we are kind and follow God's laws, then we are standing up for God. We are

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### WORD SEARCH

WILL	KIND
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## Branch and Mission News

### Four Blessings and a Baptism at Treasure Coast, Florida Branch

By Sister Ann Ciccati

On Sunday, April 9, our brothers in the ministry were inspired by the spirit of God to **encourage** us to not let our hearts be troubled. In our Father's house are many mansions and Jesus has prepared a place for us there. Since Jesus has prepared a place for us, He will come again and will receive us to Him so that where He is, there we may be also. **Asking** us if we have considered where we're going. The world causes us to have high expectations as to plan where we should be in our lives now and in our future. The world also gives "realistic" explanations as to how Jesus could have performed the miracles that we read about in scripture. **Cautioning** so that we do not allow worldly concepts such as these or read books like *The DaVinci Code* that could sway us away from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The way that we are taught in the scriptures is the only way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." **Advising** us to remember the covenant we made at the water's edge. God's word will never pass away and we should hold fast to His word.

**Offering** another insight to human nature, we can also allow ourselves to be troubled or weighed down. When Jesus visited Martha and Mary, Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet to hear His word but Martha was cumbered about much serving. Martha asked Jesus if He did not care that her sister, Mary, had left her to serve alone. Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things. But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken

away from her." **Warning** us to not let this world be cumbersome to us, meaning that we should not let ourselves get distracted with cares or to be dragged down by things of the world, and that people of the world can dilute the truth. They use only bits and pieces of the Scriptures and this can get confusing. **Reminding** us that Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." **Exhorting** that we heed the complete counsel of God, The Book of Mormon and the Bible, and read the Scriptures and pray for understanding.

Also, on this day, we witnessed the blessings of four children: a baby girl, Lilah Rain Jones; and three boys, Shane Leonard Murray, Sean Keith Murray, and Seth Marcellus Murray. These children are Brother George Saunders great-grandchildren and they were visiting with their parents, Jason E. Jones and Dia Danyel Jones, from Glen Burnie, Maryland. In his testimony, Brother George's son Jason praised God for being raised by Godly parents and also thanked God that he is able to pass this legacy on to his children. It was obvious by the demeanor and countenance of these children that they are being taught about Jesus and the scriptures.

On Sunday, May 14, we experienced another blessing as we witnessed the baptism of Brother Justin Cason. This was a glorious day. Many of our members watched Justin through the years as he grew from a toddler into a young man. His parents, Brother Clint and Sister Mary Cason, were elated and truly their cups were overflowing. What a wonderful Mother's Day gift for our Sister Mary! Brother Justin's calling seemed inevitable in that he had three personal experiences concerning his calling.

In 2004, while attending a conference in Quincy, FL, Brother Justin saw a bright light appear before him and an angel stood at his feet. The angel said, "Come home, my brother." He was so overwhelmed by the spirit that he wept throughout the rest of the meeting. The warm and loving feeling he experienced during the meeting was

strong. This feeling stayed with him as he traveled back home to share this experience with his parents.

In April, 2005, while visiting a brother and sister's home in Imperial, PA, Brother Justin enjoyed an evening of singing and testimony with several members of the Church. As he knelt in prayer that night, he asked for guidance and for God to show him what he should do about his spiritual life. As he slept that night, he had a dream. He was standing on a sandy shore and, as he looked around, he saw brothers and sisters from many branches and even some who have passed on to their reward. He then saw Brother David Checchi dressed in white and Justin asked, "Who is getting baptized?" Brother David told him to look in the mirror. When he looked in the mirror, he saw that he was dressed in white. As he walked out of the water, he saw Jesus Christ among the brothers and sisters. He could also see the nail prints in Jesus' hands, then Jesus said, "Come, I have a great work for thee. Follow in my footsteps, in the path I have made." He awoke praising God for answering his prayer by giving him this dream.

On the day of his baptism, as Brother Justin walked out of the water, he had a vision. He saw a multitude of angels surrounding him. As he looked to the shore, he saw it was filled with angels standing 12-15 feet in the air and they said to him, "Welcome home, my brother."

The messages that were brought forth that morning were exhilarating. Our brothers expressed joy in the saving of a soul. In quoting from Luke 24, repentance and remission of sins should be preached in Jesus' name among all nations, beginning with Jerusalem. The power of the Holy Ghost moved men from the day of Pentecost then as it does so now in the latter days. We have that same authority today and we are joyful that we bring forth fruit from the harvest.

Even as we experienced joy in witnessing a baptism so do the angels in heaven rejoice with joy in the presence of God. We can accomplish

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## Treasure Coast, FL Mission

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a lot in our lifetime but the greatest of all is remission of sin. Age does not matter. Remember the parable of the workers who were paid equally? The length of time worked did not have an effect on the pay; the agreement was a penny whether they worked all day or just for one hour. It's the same for us today. Whether we serve the Lord for a lifetime or just a couple of months, when our time here on earth is finished, the reward is the same.

During testimony, a sister shared a couple of experiences she had that morning. As Brother Justin and Brother David Checchi started to walk into the water, she saw angels everywhere. They stood above the water and on the shore with all the brothers and sisters. One could feel God's love surrounding all of us! Then, as the ministry gathered around Brother Justin, and Brother John D'Orazio prayed for the reception of the Holy Ghost, she saw angels surrounding them and Jesus Christ standing in the middle of the circle.

What a beautiful day of peace and love we all experienced. "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works" (Psalms 9:1).

## To the Work

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

Three young brothers were called **to the work** as members of the priesthood at Detroit Branch #2— Brother Mike Pandone, Brother Jim Lambert, and Brother David Lovalvo. The church was filled to capacity on June 25th as family, friends and brothers and sisters from the Region and beyond came to witness the ordinations.

Apostle Phil Jackson opened our meeting. He started by asking the three who were to be ordained to come to the front pew so that he could

talk directly to them. He said that we were invited to hear as well but that he would be directing his message to the three.

He read from John 2:7 regarding filling the water pots. "Think about the water pots that Christ had filled to the brim. What is contained unto those pots is what you are going to give to the brothers and sisters. You have a great responsibility. God created you from the dust of the earth. Experiences that you have gone through have created the pot that you are today. Trials and obstacles have formed you."

Brother Phil asked Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino to come forward and sing #73 in the *Songs of Zion, Vessels of Gold*.

Brother Phil continued, "Before you can be filled you have to be empty. You have to empty yourself of everything else. The pot has to be clean. Allow yourself to be washed. Allow yourself to be cleansed and allow yourself to be ready to be filled with the gifts God wants to give you."

Brother Phil told them to fill their pots with love and compassion, to be peacemakers, to pray for the gift of healing, to pray for the ability to preach, and to pray for the power to cast out devils.

Apostle Paul Palmeri continued our service by speaking to the wives of the brothers who were to be ordained. "You are expected to be a part in this whole process. The Church looks to you to help make the adjustment in our brothers' lives."

"Their greatest responsibility is that they will be a servant to the people of the Church and everywhere and serve mankind." Brother Paul spoke from Isaiah 61:1, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord had anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

Brother Paul spoke about setting people free from the power of sin through the power of His priesthood to bring liberty for His people. "That is the reason that our brothers will be ordained, to change the world, to make

a difference in people's lives. To give them joy. To give them hope."

Brother Tony Ricci continued our meeting. He shared an experience about his calling into the ministry. He had a desire to be used of God, to be a minister in the Church. As he sat complaining to the Lord one day, impatient for the calling into the priesthood, the Lord spoke to him and clearly said, "When you have love and compassion for my people, then I will use you."

"I learned to love the people of God," Brother Tony said. He encouraged the new elders to also love the people of God.

"I believe that you have an individual work to do in The Church of Jesus Christ that nobody else can do. That is why you are being called today to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Brother Tony concluded by sharing his excitement to work together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Brother Frank Natoli opened our afternoon meeting speaking on the profits Elijah and Elisha. He spoke about when Elisha received the mantle of Elijah as he was being taken up, and how he did not put it on and test it out or hope to grow into it in 3-5 years, he picked it up, smote the waters and parted them with faith believing that he had the power to do so. Brother Frank encouraged the soon to be ordained elders to take up the mantle and prove it right away, to know that they have the gift and the power immediately. The three were asked to come forward to be ordained. Brother Tony Ricci washed brother Jim Lambert's feet, Brother Jerry Benyola washed Brother David Lovalvo's feet, and Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo washed Brother Mike Pandone's feet.

Apostle Peter Scolaro spoke to the priesthood to look for God's direction in choosing among them to perform the ordination. The brothers knelt in prayer and Brother John Straccia prayed to God for His Spirit to guide them.

Brother Phil Jackson came forward to ordain Brother Mike Pandone, Brother Alex Gentile ordained Brother Jim Lambert and Brother Peter Scolaro ordained

Brother David Lovalvo.

During the ordinations, Brother John Straccia had an experience. "As we began to ordain the three brethren, I heard these words: 'Rejoice and be glad, Oh my people, for I am preparing those that will be prepared and will call those whom I have chosen...For many must soon go out to bring my salvation to all the world.' "

Sister Jean Zaranko also had an experience when Brother Mike Pandone was being ordained. She was in the back room with her husband who was ill, and when the elder began to offer prayer on Brother Mike, it was the voice of Brother Joe Milantoni, who had passed away many years ago, that she clearly heard offering the ordination prayer.

As the meeting was closing, the three new elders were asked to express themselves. Each shared their personal experience and asked the brothers and sisters to pray for them as they go *To the Work*.

## A Mini Conference in Spanish – Lindsay, CA

July 1-2, 2006

For several weeks, the Latino brothers from Sacramento and Modesto had wanted to come to the Lindsay Branch to have a mini conference in Spanish. The first weekend that had been chosen suddenly was not appropriate because Brother Jesse Guerrero was required to be out of town on MMOC business. The next one was not appropriate either – Brother Jesse was ill. Finally, the weekend of July 1-2, 2006 was available.

Setting the date had been a slight obstacle to overcome. What was the theme to be? A call to Brother Bill Guerrero solved it easily, for he suggested that the only one possible should be "En la Viña del Señor" ("In the Vineyard of the Lord").

This suggestion led to another call for help from Brother Joe Ciarolla. The idea was such a good one that he

immediately volunteered to present a seminar on "Why the Book of Mormon." Now, part of the program was set, so an additional call was made to learn how many people would be coming to Lindsay.

Plans were initially made for approximately 15 visitors. However, Brother Humberto Bojórquez, from the Modesto Branch, called our brothers and sisters in Southern California. Thus, a week and a half before the conference was to take place, the number had grown to 30-45.

Saturday began earlier than had been planned, for the brothers and sisters from the Modesto Branch had arrived at 7:30 a.m. Brother Jesse had arrived at 7:45 a.m. to unlock the doors and get the air conditioning going. Upon parking, the brothers and sisters prepared for a day of singing praises to the Lord. With the theme we had, the first hymn sung was *En la Viña del Señor*.

Shortly thereafter, the contingent primarily from the Bell Branch arrived. They were apprised of the plans for the weekend. The session was opened in prayer by Brother David Arreola, from the Bell Branch. More hymns were sung, waiting for some others to arrive.

A seminar on "La Viña del Señor" was begun, with Brother Jesse asking all present to define the word "vineyard." Suddenly, the Spirit of the Lord entered the room. Everyone felt His presence, with everyone trying to answer the questions, prodded by quotations from the Bible, Old and New Testaments.

When the break was announced, Sister Teófila Martínez, who normally attends the Bell Branch, said she would rather sing, echoed by everyone in attendance – instead of taking a break. This gave those who had never heard anyone sing in the Mixteco dialect the opportunity to listen to praises sung in that language. Almost immediately, the hymn *En la Viña del Señor* was sung again, this time in both Spanish and Mixteco.

After the break, Brother Joe Ciarolla began his lesson on "Why the Book of Mormon." The reception to this lesson was tremendous, demon-

strating very clearly and strongly the camaraderie and love that Brother Joe has for the Seed of Joseph and the return of same by the people. "We have never been taught this way! The lesson is more meaningful. Now we can see and understand why the Book of Mormon is so important," could be heard over and over again. No one wanted this lesson to stop.

As the evening session began, Brother Jesse opened the door at the front end of the building so that anyone passing by would hear the blended voices. Little did he know that the neighbors had invited some of their friends to enjoy the music and the Spirit that was also penetrating that home.

Sunday morning began just as early, with the Spirit of the Lord still evident. Brother Humberto presented a Sunday School lesson, given in Spanish and interpreted by Brother David. The response was tremendous, for it continued the theme of the day before. It was very obvious that all present were feeling the Spirit "En la Viña del Señor."

Brother David Arreola, interpreted by Brother Jesse, gave an animated sermon, reminding all present that "We are the extension of the vine which went over the wall." He went on to exhort all that we should make every effort possible to make sure that our vines produced good fruit. Brother David declared that this was a fitting remark in view of the tremendous amount of crops that are grown in this area.

After some more hymns in Spanish, Brother Joe Ciarolla arose to speak, following and placing a considerable emphasis on what Brother David had said. At this time, Brother David was serving as interpreter for Brother Joe, who thanked the Lord for having permitted him to work for so many years among the Seed of Joseph.

A flood of testimonies began after Brother Greg Baer, the Presiding Elder at the Lindsay Branch, stated that it was time to thank the Lord! Sister Teófila Martínez testified that she had seen a vision; however, she

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## Mini Conference in Spanish

Continued from Page 9

had been given to understand that the message was for someone in the congregation, so that she did not share the experience.

Most of those in attendance had gotten up, in turn, to praise God for having permitted everyone to come together for praising Him in song and in lessons. A visitor, who had brought her entire family and sister, then got up and asked for prayer for her and her family, saying that she had been moved very much by the palpable Spirit of God. She wanted God to steer her in how she and her family should worship, utilizing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After lunch, our visitors asked for more hymns, particularly *En la Viña del Señor*. They also asked Sister Teófila to sing in Mixteco, not just *En la Viña del Señor*, but also any other hymn that she might know in her native language. When our sister had finished *Más Allá del Sol (Beyond the Sunset)*, more tears of joy were shed, as they had been throughout most of the services this Sunday.

Finally, Brother Jesse declared a stop to the singing, reminding our visitors that our guests from Sacramento, Modesto, Bell and Santa Ana had a long drive. Prayers were offered that God would accompany them on their trip home.

## Vacation Bible School at Six Nations

By Brother Richard Lobzun

Vacation Bible School was held at Six Nations Mission in Canada on August 3-6, 2006. With 10 teachers, cooks, drivers, and helpers, and 21 to 23 children each day over the four-day period, results were very successful.

The theme of the Bible School was "Joseph of Old and Joseph the Choice Seer." The children were separated into two age groups. 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 learned about the promises awaiting their people and Joseph the Choice Seer.

A picnic was held at the Mohawk Park on Saturday, August 6, with approximately 70 children and adults in attendance.

The program on Sunday included an oration connecting the two Josephs together. The younger children walked into the auditorium carrying flags denoting the names of each of the other eleven tribes of Israel. All the children then sang *I Am Your Brother*.

We would like to thank all who assisted with this special event. Looking forward to working with you next year.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

Continued from Page 4

condition, because Joel's breathing was already very critical. Artificial respiration was necessary. Again, the nurse required 5000 Congo Francs (USD \$12), which my daughter did not have. She immediately called me and when I arrived, I offered a prayer. Joel, who was in a coma, opened his eyes and when he saw his grandmother, smiled at her, looking toward her trying to cry out as if to say, 'But you were hiding, I found you!'

"I gave the sum of money required and Joel was placed under artificial respiration. After our departure, the situation became critical again. According to the testimony of his mother, Joel was dying, he was in a coma.

"Thursday and Friday morning, his health had not changed, only when we prayed for him. The morning prayer that was offered revived him. I took Joel from the hospital to his house. When Joel was in the house, we all prayed together and all of a sudden, he started to play, he ate and had fun as if nothing had happened to him a few minutes before. The Lord Jesus Christ had healed Joel. I praise and glorify Him for His grace which He does not cease to give us. Joel's dad gave his testimony on July 3rd in our congregation.

"The healing power of God when exercised with faith is greater than words can describe."

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

showing others the power of God. That is our job. We are not important if we have a lot of things. Things just get old, rust, fall apart or can be stolen. The love of God never can be lost. We are loved by God, and if we love others and serve Him, they will see His power too.

With love,  
Sister Jan



The children performing at the Six Nations Vacation Bible School.



## New Songs of Zion

### #138 If Ye Be Willing

*(Isaiah 1:19 "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.")*

How great was the love of the Father,  
That He pitied the fall of the man  
of the man,  
And He sent His own son that men  
could be saved  
By obeying the salvation plan.

How kind and how gracious our Father,  
That He looked far ahead to our day  
to our day,  
And the plans that He laid for the  
kingdom to come  
Are the plans we rely on today.

#### CHORUS

And if ye be willing yes if any be willing,  
Ye may eat of the best and the fat  
of the land,  
There has never been many but if  
there be any,  
It's time for the willing to stand.

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Arlene Lea Buffington

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## \* WEDDINGS \*

Elmer Maynard Devore and  
Frances Eloise Seifert were united in  
holy matrimony in the Roscoe, Penn-  
sylvania Branch on May 10, 2006.

Brother Edward Nester and Sister  
Diane Boggs were united in holy  
matrimony in the Roscoe, Pennsylvan-  
ia Branch on July 1, 2006.

## Children Blessed

Zahira Delgado, daughter of  
Sister Kyriss Aybar, was blessed on  
May 14, 2006 at the Edison, New  
Jersey Branch.

Andrew Luis Tenorio, son of  
Brother Luis and Sister Lydia Tenorio,  
was blessed on September 18, 2005 in  
the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Carter James Giannetti, son of  
Brother Jordan and Sister Heidi  
Giannetti, was blessed on July 23,  
2006 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

Jared Lee Giovannone, son of  
Brother Ron and Sister Cindy  
Giovannone was blessed on December  
5, 2005 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

Zacary Angelo Cavill, son of  
Brother Thomas and Sister Alaina  
(D'Orazio) Cavill, was blessed on  
June 18, 2006 in the Treasure Coast,  
Florida Branch.

Alexa Mae Bowens, daughter of  
Sister Michelle and Brother Dan  
Bowens, was blessed on June 18, 2006  
in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Ava Grace Harvey, daughter of  
Buck W. Harvey and Bianca Arocho,  
was blessed on June 11, 2006 in the  
Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Anthony Querino Gentile, son of  
Brother Anthony and Sister Celeste  
Gentile, was blessed on June 18, 2006  
in Detroit, Michigan, Branch #2.

Claire Eleanor Heathman,  
daughter of Zachary and Sister Col-  
leen Heathman, was blessed on May  
28, 2006 in the Plumbrook, Michigan  
Branch.

Angelika Leia Katsaras, daughter  
of Brother Nick and Natalie Katsaras,  
was blessed on June 18, 2006 in the  
Miami-Dade, Florida Branch.

Nathaniel Kevin Jasmin, son of  
Brother Kevin and Sister Angela  
Jasmin was blessed on April 2, 2006  
in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Kyriss Aybar of the  
Edison, New Jersey Branch was  
baptized on May 14, 2006. She was  
baptized by Brother Jonathan Olexa  
and confirmed by Brother Bob Pizzaia.

Sister Gloria Keely of the Lib-  
erty, Ohio Branch was reinstated on  
July 23, 2006.

## Ordinations

Brother Robbie Bradwell was ordained a Deacon in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on July 23, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Bobby Bradwell and he was ordained by Brother Dick Lawson.

Sister Sherri Wasik was ordained a Deaconess in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch on July 23, 2006. Her feet were washed by Sister Susan Ciotti and she was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr.

Brother Thomas Cavill was ordained a Deacon in the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch on January 22, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Griffin and he was ordained by Brother David Checchi.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Stella Benyola of the Leesburg, Florida Branch celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on June 24, 2006.

Brother Don Collison of the Windsor, Ontario Branch celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Martha Zaccagnini of the Windsor, Ontario Branch celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## OBITUARIES

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

### DOMINICK ROSE

Brother Dominick Rose of the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas Branch (formerly of Brooklyn, New York) passed on to his reward on March 20, 2006. He was an ordained Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Belle. He is survived by his brother, James Rose; two daughters, Sister Virginia and Sister Lorraine; as well as 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

### MATTHEW LAKTASH

Brother Matthew Laktash of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed onto his reward on May 18, 2006. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Virginia (Martin) Laktash; daughter, Sister Beverly Rao and husband, Brother Jerry Rao; a son, Wayne Martin and wife, Diane; three grandchildren, Jeffrey Rao, Jody Rao and wife, Mindy, and Sister Rachel Rao; and one sister, Catherine Melenich.

### GLADYS STANDISH

Sister Gladys Standish of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on June 14, 2006. She is survived by one daughter, Sister Betty Abbott and her husband, Brother James Abbott; one grandson, Bill McDuffie; one great-grandson, Joshua McDuffie; and one sister, Sister Juanita Stanko.

### VICTORIA CALABRESE

Sister Victoria Calabrese of the Mesa, Arizona Branch (formerly of Lorain, Ohio) passed on to her reward on June 22, 2006. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and

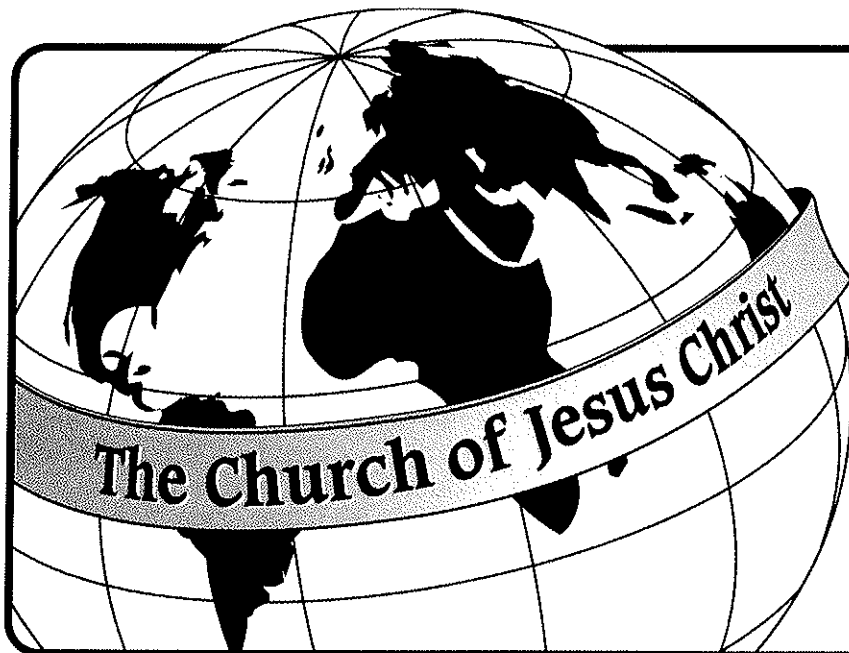
Julia Thomas; her son, Kenneth; sister, Christina Taormina; and brother, Apostle Dominic Thomas. She is survived by her husband, Apostle Joe Calabrese; daughters, Sister Bonnie Smith, Sister Cheryl Smith, Candace Genaro; sons, Brother Dennis and Brother Joel Calabrese; sister, Sister Anne Lovalvo; nephew, Phillip Aquilla; 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

### DELMA GALING

Sister Delma Galing of the Tagum City Branch, Philippines, passed on to her reward on July 3, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Elder Malaqui Galing; two sons and two daughters.

### ROSE PITTMAN

Sister Rose Pittman of the Edison, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on December 12, 2005. She is survived by her husband, Vernon; three daughters, Sister Linda Pizzaia and her husband Brother Robert, Sister Rosemary McLaughlin and her husband Brother Michael, and Lisa Pittman; one son, Mr. Ed Pittman and his wife Kim; two granddaughters, five grandsons, and four great-grandchildren.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

October, 2006

Volume 62, No. 10

## The Quorum of Seventy Is a Unique Tool in God's Ministry

*By Evangelist Eugene Perri*

The Quorum of Seventy is a unique tool in God's ministry plan for the world. This Quorum of men works to encourage, assist and participate in building His Church at home and abroad. Along with the Quorum many elders and members assist the Quorum of Seventy in promoting the Gospel in many different ways, and many times at their own expense and wherever possible. May God continue to pour out His blessings upon each one who supports the work of spreading the Restored Gospel as the effects of their efforts are seen in the results that are produced. Their service takes on many forms: from spiritual education, to personal counseling, working with youth through seminars and youth camps, responding to those who need temporal care and relief from suffering, etc. The last several years have been exciting and revolutionary for the Ministry. During these years greater emphasis has been placed on missionary work in Latin America, as well as Africa, the Far East, Europe, and here in North America among the Native Americans on their reservations. All

missionaries help to promote the Restored Gospel.

Below are some brief reports, as of September 2006, of work being done in the various mission fields:

### **Mexico**

Brother Tom Liberto reports that the YIA trip to Mexico was a huge success. In Brother Tom's own words "GOD IS GOOD." On Sunday they went to the waters to witness five baptisms. While there the Lord doubled their blessing with the calling of five more. But there was more to come. Upon returning to the Church for a service, five more requested baptism for a total of 15! Watch for articles about this exciting week. Turn a group of our spirit-filled young people loose and wonderful things happen.

### **Dominica**

The team traveling to Dominica from August 4-14 was Brother Jerry Valenti, Brother Rob and Sister Suzanne Beeman, Sister Cindy Bright and Sister Stefanie Suska. Our

primary objective was the annual Vacation Bible School which was very successful once again, and we were also privileged to witness one baptism on our final Sunday there. The members and visitors were uplifted by the visit and they continue to be excited about what the Lord is doing for them and what they hope to see come about in the future.

### *Meetings Held*

*Sunday, 8/6* – Sunday Worship Service, about 25 in attendance. This meeting was held Sunday evening (see discussion later as to why this was so). Brother Jerry read from Mosiah 18 and exhorted those who have been attending regularly to consider going through the waters of baptism as Alma did with the people at the Waters of Mormon. All of the members in attendance testified. A special moment occurred when we prayed for Sister Suzanne for spiritual strength to perform the work ahead of her during the week. Brother Mathius had words come to him indicating that the Lord would be with Sister Suzanne. He told me later that he felt to say "Thus saith the Lord," followed by the words but he didn't know if we did it that way in the Church. I told him he can feel free to do that in the future when

(Continued on Page 2)

## The Quorum of Seventy

Continued from Page 1

such an occasion comes about. It is a blessing to see the gifts of the spirit beginning to appear among our members in Dominica.

*Thursday, 8/10* – Meeting at the home of Brother Felix, about 10 in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to uplift Brother Felix as he had been not feeling well for a few days. However, the discussion came around to Paul Valmond as Brother Mathius questioned him regarding his intention for baptism in the Church. By the end of the evening, Paul had asked for his baptism.

*Friday, 8/11* – Teaching session, about 15 in attendance. Brother Jerry went through each of the articles of the *Faith & Doctrine* and explained the Church's belief regarding each. Most were fairly straightforward but some (such as feet washing, restoration beliefs and the Book of Mormon) generated some discussion.

*Sunday, 8/13* – Sunday Worship Service, about 35 in attendance. We began the day with the baptism of Brother Paul Valmond. Brother Mathius performed the baptism and Brother Raphael went into the water to assist since Brother Paul cannot walk without his walking stick. Back at the meeting place, Brother Paul was confirmed by Brother Jerry. Immediately afterward, Brother Paul testified of how happy he is to be a member of the Church. Brother Jerry delivered the message for the day, speaking on the importance of our personal testimony, using the story of the blind man in John chapter 9 as his text. Many positive testimonies were offered this day.

## Nigeria

The unrest and violence reported in our last summary of Africa has not abated but has increased. The report just received from Brother George Arthur, our Church Director informed me just today, July 17, 2006, that in and around the villages close to our Church Headquarters, many people

have lost their lives, homes burned and police barracks destroyed. He said it is only by the grace of God our Church brothers and sisters have been spared. Even though this violence continues, the young people of the MBA are evangelizing the Gospel, introducing the Book of Mormon and teaching its contents not only to our people but to whomever they meet and speak to. Prayers are desperately needed for God's protection and safety.

## Ghana

Has experienced some growth with twelve (12) baptisms. Many of the Elders have had to travel a distance from where they live to find employment. This has hindered to some degree the growth of the Church. Brother Ford Boadu, the Ghana Church President, has recovered from his heart attack. The Book of Mormon is being translated into the Ashanti language by several Elders. A missionary visit was made by four (4) brothers in the month of May. Two (2) ordained Teachers have been assigned to each branch as Gospel Workers.

## Kenya

Kenya was the third country in Africa to receive the Restored Gospel message. A recent visit made by several of our brothers from the U.S. reported there is a strong effort made by the part of the Priesthood to be united. They are anxious to learn more of the Restoration and to see the Church membership become more strengthened. Although they have not reported any baptisms during the last six months, some baptisms have taken place since the June report and a number of experiences have been received from non-members in the way of healing. Crusades are being held, rotating throughout the different villages. The Book of Mormon translated into Swahili is in the process of being printed. For the first time, a gathering of about 80 to 100 young people was held at the HQ Building.

## Malawi

This mission field by far is the fastest growing in number. They report 182 baptized with only nine Elders. Our Sector has asked that no more branches be opened because of the lack of Priesthood members to service the 27 branches now opened. There is a need for Elders with a few brothers being considered for ordination in the future. They have started a Maize Project to prepare themselves for the time when there is a lack of rain and no crops are growing. Several buildings are in the process of being constructed. There is a plan for a missionary trip to be made some time in October.

## The Democratic Republic of the Congo

This mission field has had five baptisms. A brother has been approved for ordination as an Elder and will be ordained during our next visit. The country is experiencing unrest because of ethnic fighting and the presidential election on July 30, 2006. Malnutrition and disease has also taken many lives. Several healings have occurred in the Church recently that will appear in future *Gospel News* publications. Brother Cipeng, our Church Director, has written his testimony entitled "Lead by the Spirit." This was sent to the MFC newsletter committee for printing – a very interesting article. The Book of Mormon is being translated in French by a member of our Church here in the United States. This individual has majored in French and has a B.A. Degree. I was informed he wondered why he had majored in this language and what use could this language be in the Church. When I approached him and asked for assistance in translating e-mail messages and the Book of Mormon, it was revealed this was the reason for his majoring in the French language.

## Rwanda

This is the newest mission field in our Sector and has three branches

with a membership of 58 with 37 baptisms this past six months. God is working in a wonderful way in bringing new converts to the Church. As in all new mission fields, Rwanda is experiencing some growing pains that are being worked out for the good of our membership in this country. Several wonderful experiences have been related of God's healing power. These will also appear in a future *Gospel News*.

### **Zambia**

This will be our newest mission field within the next few months. A man by the name of Albert Kawama has been corresponding with me for some time. There are two congregations in two different cities just across the border of the DR Congo who have been meeting using the name of The Church of Jesus Christ. There is the possibility of a third city, Lusaka, doing the same although there is no confirmation at this time. Brother Cipeng has made three visits to this country, preaching the Restoration message. Albert Kawama and Brother Cipeng have mentioned there are close to eighty people who have requested baptism. A trip is planned within the next few months to coincide with a visit to the DR Congo.

### **Mozambique (Possible New Mission Field)**

We have approximately 57 or so members baptized in Malawi living in this country. The Chairman of the Malawi Mission Field is gathering information for the possibility of an exploratory trip some time in the future.

### **Malasia**

The first half of 2006 has been an exciting time for the Asia Sector. A wonderful exploratory trip to the country of Malaysia was made in early 2006, and an even more successful 2<sup>nd</sup> trip was recently made by Brothers John Genaro, Nephi DeMercurio and Apostle Tom Liberto, Sr. During this trip, the

Church was established as eleven souls rendered obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, the Lord has called Brother Manikkan Kandasmy into the Priesthood in Kuala Lumpur, and his wife, Esther, has expressed her desire to one day soon join her husband as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. A trip in March to Kathmandu, Nepal by Brothers George Kovacic, Ron Giovannone, Jerry Morle and Ken Staley focused on strengthening the Elders and membership there, all who have recently endured many trials which have tested their faith. The ministry in the Philippines continued to minister to the flock there, with recent renewals, baptisms and a church building dedication on the island of Bohol. Unfortunately, our Brother Malachi Galing, who is First Counselor in the Philippine Region of the Church and was the first one to contact the Church in America, lost his beloved wife, Sister Delma Galing, to colon cancer. In India, positive results continue to be reported in the Mentoring Program and, at present, another fifty people are awaiting baptism in the Erode area.

### **Nepal**

Today was a special day. We traveled to the river to baptize three people. The sun came out just long enough in an answer to our prayers and we were able to navigate the traffic and flooded streets to get to the baptismal site. I was proud of our brothers as they used discernment and decided not to baptize a woman who was obviously not ready. They are maturing and gaining discernment.

Pure mountain water and the spirit of the living God greeted us as we took the three candidates into the waters. The rains held off until we returned to the church.

The service consisted of the three confirmations, two ordinations and sacrament service. We also had preaching and anointed several sick. Our day was very blessed. Our brothers and sisters told us of experiences that they were enjoying. Our new Deacon, Brother Bikash, told

how after his baptism in 2004 he got discouraged by the problems with another group and did not attend regularly. One evening while walking on a very narrow pathway, he ran into a woman holding a baby who had fallen from a second story window. The baby's head was cut, bleeding, and he was screaming, then became unconscious. He saw the woman needed help so he got a cab to take them to the hospital. In the car the mother fainted because of the trauma. Brother Bekash did not feel that he could pray because he had not been faithful in his attendance to the Church. Things took a turn for the worse and the baby stopped crying and moving. He was holding the baby and decided that he should pray. After he did the baby came back to life and started talking and calling his mother, but in a much calmer manner. Brother Bekash knew that God had heard his prayers and he subsequently returned to church attending faithfully. After his ordination as a Deacon, he shared this testimony for the first time with us. God has more for this wonderful young man. Each of the others gave their testimony as well. God is good – all the time.

Other experiences were told and we again sat amazed as all the blind young people came to spend time with us. The spirit of calling was there and after the service I talked to several people who are contemplating their baptism.

We continued to work with the brothers on deportment and protocol and made good progress today. They just needed some reinforcement. We also planned tomorrow's activities which consist of a conference tomorrow evening at the hotel.

This evening we had dinner at Brother Isaac and Sister Deepa's home. The love of God is great among the saints of God and we were treated like special guests. As we ate, Brother Tom and I shared experiences of the Church and everyone sat silently in awe of God's grace.

Our bodies are tired but our

(Continued on Page 11)



## Who R U?

*By Sister Cheryl Cervone*

Mistaken identities, stolen identities, identity crises – the issue of identity has taken on great significance in today's society. Juggling many different hats and excelling at multi-tasking is the norm for most of the sisters who attended the Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend from April 7-9, 2006 in Laguna Woods, CA. However, developing and keeping a *spiritual* identity, both as individuals and as a group in the Church, is our ultimate challenge. And – how do we reconcile the spiritual and natural facets of our identity? Under the enthused/uplifting direction of seminar leaders Sister Carolyn Light and Sister Christina Paxson (leader of ages 15 and under), this inspired theme of **"Who R U? Women Have Outstanding Reasons to be Uplifted – Developing and Retaining Our Identity"** – was explored in thought-provoking depth.

After a Friday evening of fun and games, fellowship, food and joyous reunions, the Saturday session began with opening remarks and a warm welcome from Pacific Region Ladies' Uplift Circle President Sister Debbie Kyriakakos. In introducing the seminar topic of identity, Sister Carolyn shared how this idea had first come to her two years prior when she was graduating from college with a Ph.D. and had difficulty transitioning through her changes in identity. While she was comfortable being Sister Carolyn, Erin's mom and Brother Stacey's wife, becoming a doctor was a new uncomfortable part of her identity. She pondered how to relate this on a spiritual level.

When Sister Diane McDonnell asked her to consider a topic for the fellowship weekend, Sister Carolyn could not find her notes on another

topic requested and went to sleep disturbed and somewhat frustrated. When she awoke, she prayed and was directed to a black notebook containing an experience from Sister Becky Tarbuk, the gist of which was that one may lose his/her identity as a member of the Church when feeding on other doctrines. Romans 12:2 reinforced this: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Another confirmation of the topic of identity came when Sister Carolyn found herself humming a song while preparing the seminar which eventually took on the form of the new *Song of Zion, To Keep the Gospel Pure*; the words of which relate to this very subject.

At the same time, the Lord was working with Sister Christina Paxson, who expressed to Sister Diane that she wanted to address the young girls about their identity and the importance of having a strong foundation in the Lord. Her heart ached for the young people who make a wrong turn and somehow seem to get lost without a solid identity in Christ. Sister Diane shared that both she and Sister Carolyn were on a similar wavelength with regard to the identity theme. God unfolded and revealed His plan and purpose for our fellowship weekend in His time!

### Why study identity?

Sister Carolyn stressed the importance of developing our spiritual identity to equip us to fend off the endless negative identity messages with which we are bombarded by the media, most often relating to beauty, sex, looks, etc. "Identity" can be defined as a set of traits – behavioral or personal characteristics – by which we are known or recognizable. In contrast to popular opinion, we need to look and *be* different. What is different about you?

### What is our purpose?

feel adrift in our purpose, but the scriptures are very clear and reassuring regarding our purpose and why we were created. Above all, we were created to worship, praise and glorify God, but have you considered your purpose in the context of joy, help, a calling or being one in Christ? According to II Nephi 2:25: "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." Galatians 3:27-28 assures us that "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

In bringing these concepts to life, several sisters came forward one at a time to portray women of purpose from the scriptures. It seemed we were instantly transported back to ancient times as Sister Martha, Sister Rebecca, Queen Esther, Sister Debra, Sister Naomi and Eve shared their identities, stories and advice with us. These vignettes revealed ordinary women who were used for God's extraordinary purposes and plan. Like us, they were far from perfect, sometimes alone and were dealing with many of the same fears and worries.

In discussing the evolution of purpose, Sister Carolyn contrasted the American Superwoman with the Ancient Superwoman, based on Proverbs 31:10-31 about a "virtuous woman." In modern terms, the virtuous woman can be described as someone who is valuable, has a good marriage, good intentions, is a worker, caretaker, entrepreneur, has strong character, knows what's good for her, is self-aware, self-driven, diligent, charitable, a nurturer, prepared, courageous, beautiful, stylish, a businesswoman, has hope, fears the Lord and is worthy to be praised for fearing the Lord. This led to a discussion of sisters – past and present – who have been influential in the work of the modern church. A defining characteristic of these women is that they all had a sense of their purpose and *knew* their identity. Christ set the ultimate example and always knew His identity



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The first five years of the reign of Judges over the people of Nephi, with Alma as the chief judge, is a very interesting time period to compare to our day and time. First, a man named Nehor, who was strong and large in stature, began to preach that the priests (or ministers) should become popular and should not labor with their hands, but be supported by the people. He also testified that people should not fear, because their salvation is sealed ("once saved, always saved"), (Alma 1:3-4). This concept has been a popular one from the beginning even until our day and time, and has led many away from The Church of Jesus Christ. Who wouldn't want to believe that salvation is a guarantee, no matter what? Who wouldn't want to be a popular minister, and have the people support you and your family financially? Today, there are ministers we see on television, or hear about, who have beautiful homes, cars, private jets, take exotic vacations, all with the money that the membership gives to him or her. We can hear their preaching that is so deceitful, because although you hear of Jesus Christ, there is never any mention of repentance or accountability, only the accountability to pay your dues. Now an old man by the name of Gideon stood up to Nehor who was leading many away from The Church of Jesus Christ. But Nehor being a mighty man killed Gideon. In this day (before Christ had actually come), it was okay to take a life of someone who committed murder, and so the law said that Nehor was to be killed, and he was. Before he died, he retracted his false teachings that he had told the people. But it was too late. The people loved this idea, and priestcrafts continued.

*"Nevertheless, they durst not lie, if it were known, for fear of the law, for liars were punished; therefore they pretended to preach according to their own belief; and now the law could have no power on any man for his belief" (Alma 1:17).*

The dangerous thing about preaching this false doctrine is that according to the law, as long as you said this was your "opinion" or your "belief," then you were allowed to say whatever you wanted, as long as you did not present it as Church doctrine. Today, there are many false doctrines being discussed and even preached by men and women who protect themselves by saying, "this is just my opinion." Most listeners don't hear that part; they only hear what the opinion is. So many are led away carefully to hell by false teachings. *"The Gospel has a sound we know, no other sounds the same. The Church of Jesus Christ will stand, it's built upon His name. There are many sounds on earth today, there are many spirits too, but nothing sounds so clearly sweet, and nothing rings so true"* (The Songs of Zion #133). The beautiful thing about this time is that the ministers and the people of the Church actually left their labors to preach the word of God, and set things back in order (Alma 1:26). Things turned around.

*"And now, because of the steadiness of the church they began to be exceeding rich, having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need – and abundance of flocks and herds, and fatlings of every kind, and also abundance of grain, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things, and abundance of silk and fine-twined linen, and all manner of good homely cloth. And thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did NOT send away any who were naked, or that were hungry, or that were athirst, or that were sick, or that had not been nourished; and they did NOT set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male or female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need. And thus they did prosper and become far more wealthy than those who did not belong to the church" (Alma 1:29-31).*

It goes on to say that during this time the people become "more still" being careful not to commit any wickedness. Oh brothers and sisters, let's strive to make the Church this way in our day and time. God has prospered us indeed, but let us now take the example of the Church in this day and time, and be the people God wants us to be!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Why We Do Not Worship Statues

(Exodus Chapters 7-10)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever brought a new friend to visit church and had them ask you why we have such simple, plain rooms? A visitor asked me why there weren't any statues. I told her that we believe in following all of God's commandments that He gave to Moses almost four thousand years ago. In the Bible, in Exodus 20:3-6, God commanded us not to carve statues and bow down and worship them. He said "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourselves any graven [carved] image or any likeness [copy] of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down yourself to them, or serve them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...I will punish the wicked people that hate me... and I will show mercy to those that love me and keep my commandments."

Only God has the power to hear your prayers and deliver you from evil. There is no such thing as a statue answering prayers, or something bringing us "good luck." That power belongs to God and God only. Do you really think that a stick or a stone can hear you? What if you carved it into the shape of some animal, could it hear you then? Of course not! The scriptures teach us that "God is the same



yesterday, today and forever," so we know He has not changed His mind and we must never worship or pray to statues.

Do you remember the story of Moses leading the Hebrew people out of Egypt where they had been enslaved for years? The people of Egypt worshipped many false gods represented by animal statues. They had fancy temples where they would offer gifts and pray to those animal statues. Moses told the Hebrew people not to worship those statues but worship the one true God who loved them and was going to make them a great nation in a new country. God told Moses, "Tell Pharaoh to let my Hebrew people go!"

The Egyptians did not want their Hebrew slaves to leave. They had become a rich country from the work of these slaves. When Moses told the Pharaoh (ruler) of Egypt to let God's people go, he became angry and forced the slaves to work harder. God told Moses to warn the Pharaoh that He would send trouble to the Egyptians unless they agreed to let God's people go. Pharaoh refused to listen.

God sent ten terrible plagues on them. The types of plagues mocked the false Egyptian statue gods. The people worshipped the Nile River which watered their crops: God turned all the water into blood so no one could use it. They worshipped the crocodile which lived in the river and died when the good water disappeared. They saw those gods had no power. The people worshipped a statue of a frog for the goddess Heka. God filled the whole country with a plague of frogs that jumped into the houses, the bedrooms, and covered the earth everywhere but where the Hebrews

lived in Goshen. Praying to these statues did not help the Egyptians; only the Hebrews were spared.

The magicians that worked for the Pharaoh were able to copy the first plagues that were sent but they could not copy Moses when he turned the dust into a plague of lice that bit every human and animal in the land of the Egyptians. They told Pharaoh, "This truly does come from God who is powerful! Ask Moses to have him take away the lice, and then we'll let the Hebrews go!" As soon as the lice were gone, they changed their minds. Moses came again to Pharaoh and said, "God says, let the Hebrews go, or there will be more plagues!"

So next God sent swarms of biting flies that filled the houses of the Egyptians but not the Hebrews' homes. Pharaoh's people saw that God was more powerful than their

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism at Detroit, Michigan Branch 2

*By Sister Gelsa Zinzi*

After spending a spirit-filled week at GMBA Campout, the brothers and sisters from Branch #2 had the privilege of seeing one of their own surrender his soul to Jesus. (Juan) Sebastian Torres asked for his baptism at camp but decided to wait till he came home and share this blessed event with his natural family. On Sunday, July 16, 2006, our newly-ordained elder, Brother Jim Lambert, Jr. took Sebastian into the waters of regeneration.

Upon returning to the branch, Brother Sebastian had hands laid upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost by another one of our newly-ordained elders, Brother Mike Pandone. Brother Sebastian then shared his testimony with us, thanking God and his family. He relayed that the night before he asked for his baptism, his mother who was in Columbia visiting her family and the Church there, had a dream that he was dying and when she heard that he asked for his baptism she knew what the dream meant – he was to be reborn.

Brother John Genaro opened the service telling us how God is always right beside us. He relayed several experiences including one about a brother from India whose father was a Hindu priest. The elders went to preach to him and tell him about Jesus Christ. He said that he wanted to see this Jesus Christ. That night he had a dream where he saw a doorway that led to hell and a doorway to heaven and Jesus standing there. He called out to his god three times and nobody came. Then Jesus told him that unless you change you are going there and He pointed to hell. This man then preached Jesus Christ to everyone he knew. When he was dying he told his

children to bury him in a Hindu cemetery and to write on his tombstone, "Here lays a Hindu who was converted to Jesus Christ."

Brother Daniel Moro continued with a beautiful analogy between the recent documentary about the penguins and how they all huddle in a circle protecting the eggs (babies) from the severe cold and winds. He relayed that when the penguins on the outside of the circle get weak they move into the middle to become rejuvenated and warmed by the other penguins. So it should be with us, we should encircle our new brother who is in the middle now and protect him from the severe weather and winds. And when we are weak, we should run into the middle and not be ashamed or afraid to ask our brothers and sisters for their warmth and strength.

After a wonderful communion service, many were anointed for illnesses and spiritual strength. Upon the closing of our meeting, we had lunch and shared a delicious cake in honor of Brother Sebastian. Truly we were filled this day both naturally and spiritually. May God bless our new brother with all that he desires.

### Lake Worth, Florida Hosts General Church Financial Committee

*By Sister Josie Jasmin*

The brothers and sisters of the Lake Worth Branch enjoyed a wonderful weekend of fellowship with the brothers and sisters of the Financial Committee.

It did our hearts good to be able to host this event and make sure that the brothers and sisters who came were treated with love and respect. This all began on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> through Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 as they held their meetings in our building and with pleasure we provided their meals and accommodations.

The brothers and sisters that attended were Brothers Randy Cicatti, Joseph Benyola, Paul Whitton, Art

Gehly, Jim Suska, Larry Perkins, Bob McDonald and Sisters Kathie Perkins and Diane McDonald.

For our service on Sunday morning we were blessed to have with us in our midst Brothers Randy Cicatti, Paul Whitton and Joseph Benyola along with Brother Bob and Sister Diane McDonald.

The Lord surely met with us on His day, a beautiful sunshine-filled day, and a day like many others with the sunshine to warm us and to hear the beautiful words of life.

Brother Randy Cicatti opened the service with inspiration and read from the scriptures found in John 10.

We were reminded to listen to that small still voice, the voice that reminds daily to lead a fruitful and faith-filled life. If we are His sheep we will for certain hear His voice. We are never left alone with nowhere to go, because He has promised never to leave us alone. If we keep our ears opened He will speak to us and tell us what we should and need to do. We were converted by God and not by men; we have become His children and we must obey His will. We were asked what made a difference in our lives. Why of course it was the witness of the spirit that touched our hearts and souls.

Brother Bob McDonald continued and exhorted us to always listen to the voice and to pay heed to the instructions. Listen and do His will not ours. We were reminded of the Apostle Paul and of how he constantly reminded the people to serve God in truth and righteousness. We are here for a purpose and that purpose is to do the will of our heavenly Father.

Brother Paul Whitton followed and expressed himself about his recent missionary trip to Mexico and how the youth of the Church is being given the inheritance of this wonderful Restored Gospel and is being taught to bring the Gospel to all mankind. We were also reminded that when we lose one of the fold, we should go after them and bring them back into the fold. It is our duty to care for one another, so continue to listen to that small still voice.

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**Lake Worth, Florida**

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Brother Joe Benyola continued and encouraged us to do all that we can for those that are around us. "Christ said to give to the poor, help them and feed them. We will truly be blessed when we do this. Reach out to your community and invite them to come and hear the wonderful words of the Gospel."

Our presiding elder, Brother Gene Perri, closed with highlighting the words of our elder brethren and admonished us to hear the voice and listen carefully and continue to follow God's will always.

A beautiful spirit was felt as we continued in testimony and the serving of the Holy Communion.

Once again we were so happy to have our brothers and sisters in our midst for surely our spirits were uplifted to a higher plane.

We wish to invite all of you dear brothers and sister to come on down to south Florida and get some sand in your shoes. We send love and regards in the Lord Jesus Christ to each of you who will read this article.

**Inner City Visits Imperial***By Sister Jacqui King*

On Saturday, July 1st, we celebrated Independence Day by hosting a picnic at our branch pavilion. Personalized invitations were sent to family members, friends of the saints, and members of the Inner City Branch inviting them to join us for a day of food and fellowship. As our picnic started, 22 members of the Inner City Branch pulled into the driveway, followed by three visitors who received our invitations.

After reading from the Scriptures, music filled the air as no less than 15 musicians gathered together to sing *The Songs of Zion*. We were so blessed with the singing, that before we realized it, darkness had fallen.

When we entered the church

building on Sunday morning, we witnessed the beautiful sight of 19 musicians lined up across the front of the building, playing their music and singing God's praises. The presence of the Lord was felt as the singing continued through Sunday School.

Brother Jim Moore opened our morning service in prayer. Brother Gary Champine was inspired to speak to us about the coming of Zion and how we must be prepared for that day. He indicated that a celebration declared by God is at hand, because Israel is coming home.

Brother Claude Champine related that the secret of Zion is righteousness. "It is like faith, you must exercise it."

Sister Christie Stephen made it known that she felt the desire to once again, join the flock. Brother Gary offered a beautiful prayer in which she was reinstated into the Gospel. Following this prayer, Brother Owen Wilcoxson spoke in tongues with the interpretation given, "Redeemed and forgiven saith the Lord. Redeemed and forgiven." Brother Dan Buffington then related a vision he had earlier that morning. He said that the front wall of the building opened up and he saw a beautiful waterfall. The water ran over and covered the rostrum. He felt that the Lord was working with someone, but did not realize it was his own daughter.

As Brother Dean Coppa was about to close in prayer, Sister Christie announced that she had a strong desire that her husband, who is not a member and has been sick for some time, be anointed. He agreed and the brothers offered prayer on his behalf.

Following a lunch provided by the Imperial Branch, the musicians gathered together once again and music filled the branch all afternoon. As our evening meeting started, two more musicians visiting from the Kinsman Branch entered and the blessings continued to flow.

We thank God for the wonderful spirit that was felt. God's spirit still filled the branch as the last people left the building at midnight. The joy that we experienced because of our visitors still carries over today.

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**The Children's Corner**

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statues and false gods. They said to Moses, "Ask God to take away the horrible flies and we will let you go." Again, when the flies were gone, they said, "No. You must stay!"

The bull was the chief god that the Egyptians worshipped. When God sent a disease called murrain that

wiped out all the Egyptian cattle, and left the Hebrew's cattle untouched, can you imagine how they could see the powerlessness of their statue worship? Next, God told Moses to sprinkle ashes in the air and horrible boils (painful sores on the skin filled with infection) covered all the people and the animals in Egypt. People's bodies were so sore, they couldn't even stand up. But still, the Pharaoh would not free the Hebrews.

Moses gave a warning to all. "Gather your animals in from the fields. God is going to send a terrible storm and hail will destroy anyone out in the open." No Hebrew was hurt, but the unbelievers who would not listen to God's warnings lost all their animals and even were hurt themselves. By then, many of the Egyptian people could see the power and protection offered by the one, true God. They told Pharaoh to listen to Moses and let the Hebrew nation go. But Pharaoh refused.

A plague of millions of huge locusts flew across the land eating up every green plant they could find. Can you imagine the crunching, crawling, flying bugs coming into every door and window destroying every growing thing? Pharaoh's officers begged him again to let the Hebrews free. He agreed and God sent a strong west wind that blew them all out of the country. But then, Pharaoh said, "They cannot go!"

The stubborn Egyptians kept worshipping their false Gods. Ra, the sun god, was shown to be powerless when God sent three days of darkness across the whole country except where the Hebrews lived. One by one, God had shown He was more powerful than the false, statue gods worshipped by the Egyptians. But the Pharaoh still refused to let their slaves, the Hebrews, go. By now, God had quit offering the Pharaoh more chances and had hardened his heart. Pharaoh was determined not to give in, no matter what happened.

Moses came and warned him and his people that if he did not let the Hebrews go, the entire first born of humans and animals would die that night. Pharaoh did not believe him.

Moses warned the people that the angel of death was coming that night and they must mark their doorways with the blood of a lamb, and stay inside when the angel of death would pass by. Pharaoh, the believer in statues, did not mark his door with the blood of a lamb. That night, his oldest son died along with a country full of other first born animals and people. It was not until after this tenth and final plague that Pharaoh said, "Go!" His gods were not as powerful as the one true and living God!

Praying to statues had not saved the Pharaoh or people of Egypt. Do you think that a piece of wood can hear you? Can a rock hear you? If you carve it to look like something, can it hear you now? You know the right answer. The answer that is in your heart. The one, true and living God can and does hear you. He loves you. He can protect you and comfort you and give you a wonderful life. Do not do as the Egyptians did and worship false gods that cannot help you. Pray in your heart to God in the name of His son, Jesus, and all will be well.

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## Who R U?

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and purpose was to be about His father's business.

## Identify who you are.

In the spirit of keeping things lively and interactive, Sister Carolyn gave an assignment, "Imagine you're at a gathering and the hostess gives you a minute to tell who you are." As the sisters shared, many descriptions ensued that encompassed what we do, family and other relationships, gifts and talents, roles in church and the home, spiritual desires and our relationship with the Lord. Some of these descriptions evolved into beautiful and spirit-filled testimonies. Sister Karen Tucker, who has been severely afflicted, powerfully expressed how the Lord changed her life. In another riveting testimony, Sister Patty Giannetti

shared how she had come from a broken family and was raised in a Catholic orphanage. It was in the Church that she found the love she never had and her identity was forever changed.

## Identify your possibilities – gifts and talents.

Sister Carolyn then asked everyone to think about the most cherished, tangible gift they had ever received and to take that passion and channel it into God's purpose for our lives. Our gifts and talents are a unique part of our identity and have purpose; the scriptures tell us that we all have talents and need to use them for good. What emerged clearly from this discussion is that it is often easier to see the gifts, traits and talents in others than in ourselves. Nevertheless, we are all necessary and one in the body of Christ, as discussed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-27 concerning spiritual gifts. We must also think of ourselves as able with the help of God. As Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Sister Carolyn challenged us to identify our own talents and to also identify the gifts and talents of two selected sisters, then later share the findings with them. Feeling untalented or bereft of gifts? We were reminded that Moses stuttered, Naomi was a widow, David committed adultery and murder, Peter denied Christ, Martha worried too much, the Samaritan was divorced several times and Lazarus was dead! Despite these difficulties or shortcomings, God used these ordinary men and women for extraordinary purposes and to fulfill His plan. By developing and retaining our identity in Christ, we know we were created for a purpose, we know who we are and we all have a job to do – may we always use our gifts and talents to the honor and glory of God!

## Bridging life's stages.

Sister Carolyn commenced the afternoon seminar session by relaying

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## Who R U?

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an experience she had when Erin was 18 months old and didn't particularly like sitting quietly in church. Like many new moms in similar circumstances, Sister Carolyn felt frustrated, but was greatly helped by the wise words of a sister who came to her and said, "This is your ministry right now – this is what you're here to do *now*." Bridging life's different stages means supporting each other through trials, growth and life's changes. It also means learning to be content at whatever stage you find yourself, as apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11-12.

During the morning seminar session, Sister Christina Paxson led the teen/pre-teen group and rejoined Sister Carolyn's group in the afternoon, bridging generations and life stages of experience. Sister Christina had given identity clues to the girls with the objective being to figure out who the clues described. In thinking further about their identity, the girls were asked to consider how their parents would describe them as well as others. Finally, they were asked to supply reasons as to why "Women Have Outstanding Reasons to be Uplifted." Sister Christina summarized by stressing that we all need each other, prayers and mentoring to bridge between generations and life stages as young women face so much in today's society.

After identifying group stages of life, we roughly divided into those groups (e.g., pre-teens, teens, young adults, adults, parents, pre-seniors, seniors) and were asked, "What do you offer the body of the Church?" With responses too numerous to count, recurring themes included mentoring, being a good example, helping and encouraging each other, fellowshiping, testifying, being quick to pray and being supportive. As Sister Pearl Nester aptly expressed with regard to bridging life's stages, "Where you are, I once was. Where I am, you will be."

As our wonderful seminar concluded, Sister Carolyn thanked everyone for their participation,

expressed hope that "the Lord's message has come through today" and reminded all the sisters that "you were created with a special identity and purpose – you have gifts and talents that God has given you." WHO R U? Why? – "Women Who Have Outstanding Reason to be Uplifted," of course!

With no shortage of talents and gifts, the Saturday night Singspiration/Talent Show inspired laughter, awe and admiration from an appreciative audience! Saturday evening drew to a close with Sister Diane Surdock commenting that we are servants in the service of the Lord and the more we open up our talent for Him, the more He'll bless us. Our memorable, blessed and jam-packed day came to an end with Sister Jacqui King closing in prayer.

### Sunday blessings.

Still savoring the events of the previous day, the sisters reconvened on a bright and glorious Sunday morning, anticipating a double portion of God's blessings. The Sunday service commenced with Sister Jody Greger, Vice President of the Pacific Region Ladies' Uplift Circle, opening in prayer, followed by Sister Erin Light singing *To Keep the Gospel Pure*. Sister Jody shared a touching experience in which the theme of the fellowship weekend was once again confirmed. When she initially learned of the theme and abbreviation of "Who R U?", Sister Jody had no idea what these letters represented, but she began writing down words that began with "R" and "U". Before she knew it, she had an entire page and the very last phrase she had written was, "As a woman of Christ, I now definitely have outstanding reasons to be uplifted." God always has a way of putting it all together!

Sister Debbie Kyriakakos introduced guest speaker Brother Jim Cotellesse. In pondering the theme of "Who R U", Brother Jim conveyed that it evoked a sad feeling of "being a stranger in a foreign land," not unlike how we feel when we go out into the world as believers. One might feel fear in a foreign land, but not when we

are gathered together with like-minded saints as we are today and as it will be in the Peaceful Reign. In II Timothy 1:7, we are reminded: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and a sound mind." Brother Jim encouraged us to come from a position of strength in our identity, not fear.

Brother Jim continued, "In both Romans and Galatians, it states that we are the children of God because of our faith in Jesus Christ. Knowing our identity is a great possession we hold in our heart – this is who we are. We need to hold fast to the scriptures that state, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord' because we know who we are and who we have believed and we are persuaded. Praise God because we are the children of God! We develop our identity when we talk about Zion, the our Church and our Church's mission to win over the world for Christ. Just by saying 'The name of my church is The Church of Jesus Christ,' we are strengthened in our identity."

Brother Jim passed sacrament, followed by the anointing of Sister Karen Tucker and Sister Harriet Meo. Sister Karen relayed her powerful testimony and the meeting was opened for testimony shortly thereafter. Sister Diane McDonnell began by thanking God for giving her the ability to put the Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend together and to do so without fear or anxiety. Many sisters expressed heartfelt gratitude for the hard work and dedication of all the sisters involved in making this fellowship weekend a reality.

Reluctantly, the time drew near to bring our fellowship weekend to a close and bid our precious sisters farewell until the next spiritual reunion! The closing hymn was *Blessed Assurance* and Sister Elizabeth Simpson offered the closing prayer as we joined hands in a circle of love. Sister Elizabeth petitioned the Lord that each sister would take home at least one special insight or memory that would sustain her in the months to come. But how could it be limited to one when **Women Have (so many) Outstanding Reasons to be Uplifted?**



## The Quorum of Seventy

Continued from Page 3

spirits are excited. We look forward to every moment that we can spend with the brothers and sisters to fortify their spirits.

### Italy

Brother Alex and Sister Cathy Gentile, Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Micale, Brother Jim and Sister Lynnette Huttenberger, Brother Panfilo and Sister Christina DiCenzo, Brother Paul Pezzenti, and Sister Deanna Nuzzi have all arrived safely. Our meetings have been filled with the spirit of God and all is well. Today we reviewed the draft three-year plan with the membership and I will incorporate their suggestions. All are onboard with it and we are very thankful for the work of the saints.

At the evening meeting we continued in the love of our Lord and Brother Panfilo DiCenzo taught the lesson on First Love. It was well-received and we felt the blessing of God in the comments and testimony of the saints. Tomorrow we will have Feet Washing and socialize with the saints in preparation for Sunday.

Feet washing today was on another level. The Lord was in our midst with all participating and feeling the blessing of our Saviour. We followed the meeting this evening with a testimony meeting. Many want to give long testimonies of their entire calling and love for our Lord. What love for the saints. We are planning on taking Sister Immaculata for a walk along the coastline this evening after dinner. She is doing much better after her stroke last year and walks with very little assistance. We are looking forward to Sunday.

Good news from Italy today. Sister Carmella Oliva asked for her baptism in San Demitro. She was baptized by Brother Gianni Marino and Brother Pasquale Rose and confirmed at the water's edge. She is the daughter of deceased Brother Salvatore Oliva and the Italy team members remember she lived across the street from him in San Demitro.

Our Sunday here in Cala Gonone was spirit-filled, with all receiving the blessing of God. Brother Panfilo sang many songs and his voice filled the building. It was fantastic.

We are going to spend the day socializing with the members here before winding down our trip. Give our love to the saints in the USA. The Italian saints tell us they are praying for them and looking forward to our next visits and hope that we can send missionaries to stay for months at a time soon. This is our plan, beginning next year.

## Publication Notice

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## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Nathan Buffington and Sister Tami Karsin were united in holy matrimony in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on May 27, 2006.

Brother Jeffrey Buffington and Carey Stenger were united in holy matrimony in the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch on July 28, 2006.

## Children Blessed

Carly Lynn Rogalla, daughter of Brother Jon and Amy Rogalla, was blessed on February 5, 2006 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Zacary Scott Griffith, son of Brother Scott and Sister Mandy Griffith, was blessed on March 12, 2006 in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch.

Meadow Elizabeth Grace Laur, daughter of Brother Nick and Sister Ashley Laur, was blessed on August 27, 2006 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Genevieve Ausilio, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Almerinda Kaczmarek, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Josephine Messina, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Dorothy Pastorelli, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Angeline Trovarelli, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Arline Whitton, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Rosalie Salerno, of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

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

### DONALD PANDONE

Brother Donald Pandone of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward on May 17, 2006. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is preceded in death by his father, Brother Louis Pandone. He is survived by his wife, Sister Teresa (Manes) Pandone; children, Sister Karen Lee and husband Dave Haley, Brother Michael and wife Karen Jo Pandone and Brother David Pandone; grandchildren, Benjamin and Canon Ciccatti; mother, Sister Libby Pandone; and brother, Brother Richard and wife Wanda Pandone.

### GENEVIEVE VALVONA AUSILIO

Sister Genevieve Valvona Ausilio of the Plumbrook Michigan Branch, passed on to her reward on June 5, 2006. She was preceded in death by her father, Benedato Valvona; mother, Sister Carmella Valvona; and brothers Armando, Guido and Raymond Valvona. Left to mourn her passing are her husband, John Ausilio; daughters Marie Meyer and Sherry Ausilio; sons John and Ronald Ausilio; sisters, Sister Yolanda Spada and Sister Eleanor Pilato; six grandchildren; one great grandchild; many nieces and nephews.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordinations

Brother Brad Kurowsky was ordained a Teacher in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on May 14, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Jim Draskovich and he was ordained by Brother Jim Speck, Sr.

Brother James Johns was ordained a Deacon in the Mid-Georgia Mission on June 4, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Ken Hatch and he was ordained by Brother Tom Jones.

Brother Luis Carillo was ordained a Deacon in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on September 10, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Kenneth Yanes and he was ordained by Brother Mario Morales.

Sister Thelma Carillo was ordained a Deaconess in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch on September 10, 2006. Her feet were washed by Sister Olga Morales and she was ordained by Brother Jim Calabro.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Corey Rodney Brooks of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch was baptized on August 6, 2006. He was baptized by Evangelist Jim Sgro and confirmed by Brother Rick Calabro.

Brother Silvio Lopez of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch was baptized on August 27, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Mario Morales

Sister Clara Lopez of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch was baptized on August 27, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Mario Morales and confirmed by Brother Jim Crudup.

Sister Olga Gomez Lopez of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch was baptized on September 10, 2006. She

was baptized by Brother Mario Morales, and confirmed by Brother Bob Pizzaia.

Brother Stephen (Sy) Yaniv of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch was baptized on June 4, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Michael Italiano and confirmed by Brother Ronald Genaro.

Brother Mario Gonzalez of the Miami, Florida Mission was baptized on August 20, 2006 (at Lake Worth, Florida). He was baptized by Brother Justin Severson and confirmed by Brother Miguel Bicelis.

Brother Jacob Gonzalez of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch was baptized on August 20, 2006 (at Lake Worth, Florida). He was baptized by Brother Justin Severson and confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola.

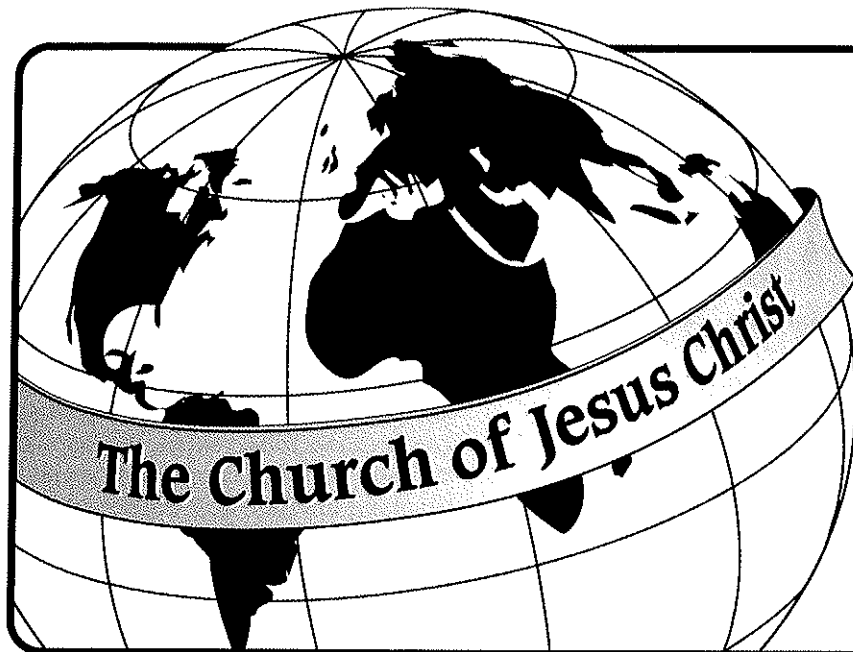
Sister Angela Brisko of the Mid-Georgia Mission was baptized and confirmed on May 28, 2006 by Brother Art Campbell.

Brother Jason Nowels of the Mid-Georgia Mission was baptized on August 27, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Art Campbell and confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxton.

\*\*\*\*\* 5-DIGIT 15601  
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

November, 2006

Volume 62, No. 11

## From the Clouds to the Valleys— There Is Power in the Blood

*By Evangelist Anthony Ricci*

Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 through September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006—Evangelists Leonard A. Lovalvo and Anthony Ricci started their journey into the lands of West Bengal and Sikkim. Both places are states in the country of India and are an extension of the Nepal work. After a three-day journey to Bagdogra in West Bengal, our brothers from Nepal, Madan and Tarak, met us and began our five-hour trek up the mountain into Sikkim to our “Mission in the Clouds” in the village of Limchong. What a wonderful sight to see the snow covered tips of the Himalayan Mountains and to actually be in the clouds every morning; however, the sight paled in comparison to the beauty of our brothers and sisters who greeted us.

As we pulled up to the home of the saints we were welcomed by 70 people lined up to meet us. The night was spent in fellowship and praying for the sick. We prayed for about 40 people and one man in particular said he could not hold anything because of lack of strength in his hands. Our hearts ached for the many needs and afflictions of our people in this area.

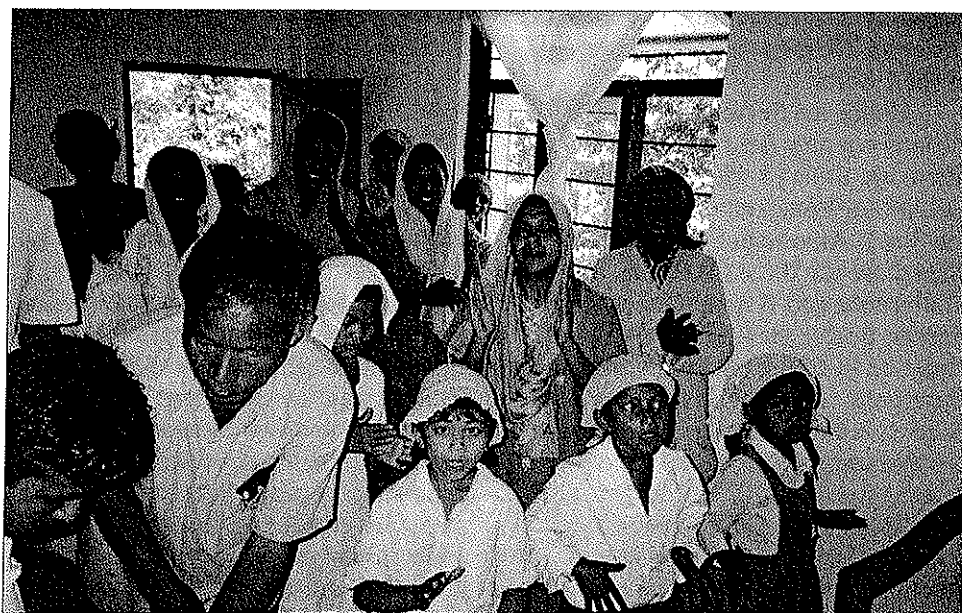
We said our goodbyes and looked forward to what the Sunday Service would have in store for us.

On Sunday we made our way to the building, a 40-minute walk directly up a mountain path. In a small room at the top of the mountain, Evangelist Leonard A. Lovalvo opened the service on the Restored Gospel.

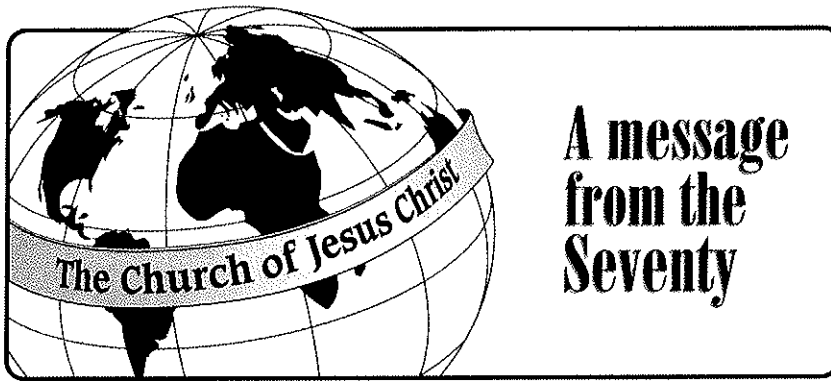
Evangelist Anthony Ricci followed by having Brother Tarak stand outside on the top of the mountain and proclaim to all that, if anybody wanted to hear about Jesus then come to The Church of Jesus Christ! What a wonderful Spirit was felt in that room.

After passing sacrament, many testimonies of how they were healed from the prayers that were offered the night before were expressed. Especially powerful was the man who had no strength in his hands to hold

(Continued on Page 3)



Saints in Limchong at Sunday Service



## The International Operating Committee

*By Evangelist John DiBattista*

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of The Church of Jesus Christ,

The IMOC, a committee of the Quorum of Seventy, has been operating under its current structure for two (2) years. An ad hoc committee composed of members from the Quorum of Twelve and Quorum of Seventy worked two (2) years drawing on a lot of experience and knowledge and developed a structure for the foreign works that we are using today. It consists of five sectors; South America, Central America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Each of the Sectors is headed up by two (2) Evangelists, a Chairman and Vice Chairman and consists of many members to include Elders, Teachers, Deacons, Deaconesses and members of the Church.

Under the Sectors are the various country field committees. There are three (3) field committees; Colombia, Venezuela and Peru under the South American Sector and under Asia there are three (3), India, the Philippines and Nepal. Under the Europe Sector there is Italy, Central America has Mexico, Guatemala and Dominica, and in Africa we have Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In total the IMOC is managing established works in fifteen (15) countries with more than 8000 members and we are currently involved in introducing the Gospel to four (4) new countries that include

Malaysia, Ecuador, Rwanda, and Zambia. Each of these new works is overseen by the New Works Committee which is composed of four (4) Apostle Liaisons, the Quorum of Seventy President and Vice President and the IMOC Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Managing these works is a great

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“There are currently more than 250 brothers and sisters actively involved in this great work...I would like to thank you...for supporting them and their families in prayer while they are in the field...for giving generously to your branches and missions...and finally for your love.”

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challenge for our brothers who are in charge. They operate and communicate with people of diverse cultures and languages, often these people are in poverty stricken countries, and have great personal needs. These countries are many hundreds of miles away, several are in turmoil and under collapsing governments, some facing raging inflation and a couple are at war. Often communications with the in-country leaders is difficult

because of language barriers and the lack of basic communications systems. Travel to the remote places like Nepal can take as long as (36) hours using multiple flights and spending overnights in route before getting to the final destination. In-country conditions vary greatly depending on the governments. While in country, our brothers must remain inconspicuous and yet often cover many miles, teaching the Restored Gospel and preaching repentance at every stop. The food more often than not is inconsistent with the American diet and in many of these places the climate is inhospitable. Along with these conditions, they encounter insects, various rodents and even snakes that try to make their way into their sleeping quarters. And if that is not enough, they could be as many as (12) hours off of their normal time zone causing extreme fatigue. But given all this the work is growing at unprecedented rates.

There are currently more than 250 brothers and sisters actively involved in this great work. Many routinely give of their vacation time and personal resources to make a contribution to build the Kingdom of God on earth. They leave their families, because like you, they want to see the Church established and the Gospel preached to every nation, kindred and tongue.

I would like to thank you on their behalf. First, for supporting them and their families in prayer while they are in the field, second for giving generously to your branches and missions so that more can be done, and finally for your love. That great love that we see in your faces when we are in your branches and missions, we read it in your cards and notes and feel it in your hearts when we greet you.

Brothers and sisters, *it's our time* and the Gospel is going out to the four (4) corners of the world. If you would like to know how you can become involved call, email or write Brother Joel Gehly or myself, Brother John DiBattista and we will get back to you quickly.

May God continually bless you is our prayer.

## A Glimpse into Missionary Life at San Carlos, AZ

*By Brother Lawrence and Sister Sylvia King*

Our missionary endeavor did not begin with a dream or a revelation from God. We have always strived to do God's work wherever there is a need.

In January of 2006, we learned there was a need for help on the San Carlos Apache Native American Reservation in Arizona. We began praying for direction from God. As stated before, there was no dream or revelation but a desire to do a work for God. We had no previous experience in "extended stay" missionary work. We found out that God offers "on the job training."

We came to San Carlos in February, 2006 for a visit of 10 days. The warmth of the Apache brothers and sisters toward us was as though we had known them for years. We returned to Pennsylvania to put things in order and returned to San Carlos on April 1st, 2006.

During the past six months a lot has happened, spiritually and temporally for us and the Mission. To give you a "little peek" into life at San Carlos:

The Mission house is a beautiful modular, furnished with everything needed to make living conditions comfortable. On one end is a master bedroom with a very large separate bathroom including two walk-in closets. The living room, dining room and kitchen are located in the center. On the other end are 3 bedrooms and a full bathroom. The kitchen is equipped with all necessary items so that anyone can walk in and begin cooking. A second unit is available for housing also. It is a nice mobile home, also equipped in a manner that only personal things (clothing, etc.) are needed. Dishes, linens and some staples are in each unit. The mission house and the church building are equipped with an alarm system that is monitored 24-7 by a Security Company and the local Police Department.

The "Compound" as it is called is surrounded by a link fence which is

gated. The area of the compound is approximately 2+ acres. There is a nice area of grass in the front and back of the Mission house. It is so pleasant to sit on the glider in the early morning or evening to enjoy the peacefulness of God's beauty. Brother Virgil Link, a Native American Elder, lives in a trailer that also is in the Compound.

We have grown to know and love our "family" here. Some of the saints are seasoned pillars of the Church. Some are second and third generation servants. Some are newcomers to the Gospel and realize this is the truth. There are many young people needing teachers and mentors. We have been blessed to see growth in our brothers and sisters during our stay. The Mission has had two baptisms, two reinstatements and a spirit of fellowship during our tour here. Potluck is held twice a month, giving everyone an opportunity to share good food and God's love. In addition to the Sunday service, the sisters meet every Monday evening for scripture study. A great desire is present to learn the teachings of both the Bible, the Book of Mormon and of the Gospel Restored message for the House of Israel. We meet on Wednesday evening for teaching, testimony and singing.

Our heart is here, but we must return to Pennsylvania shortly to take care of family and a house that is empty. Will someone step up to fill the ranks until God allows us to return some day?

Arizona itself is beautiful, with the rock and cactus but cannot compare with the saints among the Native American here in San Carlos. There is a flock of God's sheep here pleading for a shepherd during the weekdays, since the Mission is well supported on Sundays from the Mission Ministry and the Southwest Region Ministry and membership.

**God can do all things,** even raise up rocks to praise Him, if

necessary. We know some of you are seeking to serve just as we were and will answer the call. The Lord will not need to turn to the rocks, but has willing servants ready to answer the call of "The Army of the Lord."

Please know that a tour of a week or two is just as important and valuable as longer tours. Please look at your calendars to see if you could spend a week or two at the San Carlos Mission.

Call us for more information. God bless you is our fervent prayer.

## From the Clouds to the Valleys

Continued from Page 1

anything. He came up front holding the Bible for all to see and proclaimed God had healed him.

The next day was dedicated to instruction on the Restoration and for the ordinations of two Deacons and two Deaconesses. Brothers Gideon and Manesey were ordained into the office of Deacon, and Sisters Esther and Mary were ordained into the office of Deaconess. The power of God was felt by all during the feet washing and it was very evident all were touched by the very first ordinations in the land of Sikkim!

Each child was then blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. As prayer was being offered for one of the children, a great commotion was heard and we were told that a child had fallen outside and badly cut his head on a rock. When we went outside to see the child, they already had one basin full of his blood and his head had a six-inch gash that was just gushing. We anointed him, and as I offered prayer, I saw with my own eyes the cut just begin to dry up. He was sent to the local hospital; but before he left his mother ran in to tell us that when the brothers offered prayer the bleeding stopped!! God truly answers prayers!! We continued with the blessings—a total of 17 children were blessed.

(Continued on Page 4)



## From the Clouds to the Valleys

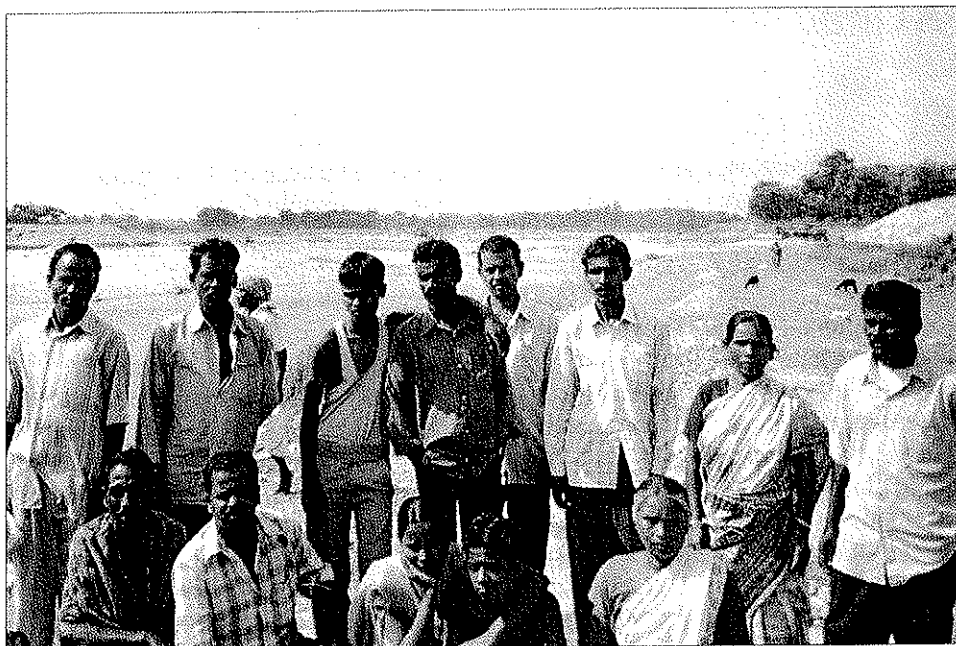
Continued from Page 3

During the blessings, the electricity went out, so the rest of the service was continued by candle light. I want to say that since my involvement in missionary work I have seen many wonderful sights, but I have not seen anything more beautiful than the young children in the darkness of that room, silhouetted by the flickering light from the candle, singing praises to God. The evening was concluded with Brother Leonard teaching and leading our group in a chorus of *God Is So Good*. I wish I possessed the vocabulary to express to you the sound that came from that remote mountain that night. I am positive Heaven rejoiced to the sound!

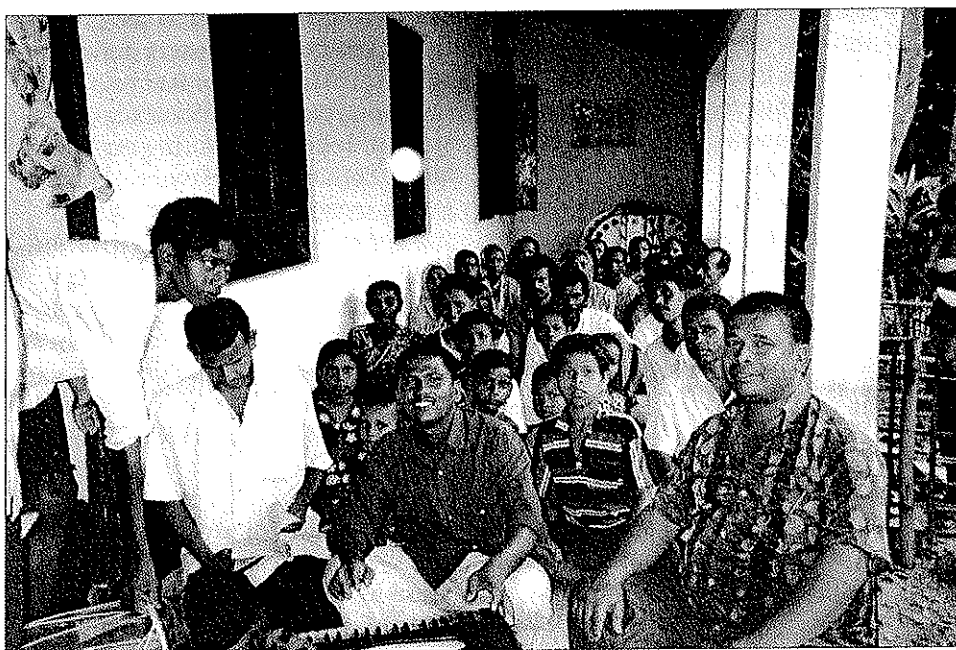
The next morning the five-hour trip back down the mountain into West Bengal to meet with a group in the village of Khoribari that were interested to hear about the Restored Gospel was begun. Brother Madan is working the "warm list" to perfection. He is presenting the Gospel to everybody he has known or associated with in the past and this group was anxious to hear about the Gospel.

While going through the small village, we took a right turn off the main road and went into a jungle of bamboo trees; about 20 minutes off the main road and pulled into a little hut village carved out of the bamboo jungle. There, a people reside who are deprived of the basic comforts we have grown so accustomed to. In this surrounding, we presented the Restored Gospel to Hindus and Christians alike, anointed 40 people, and held a questions and answers segment. Many points of doctrine were explained and pointed out scripturally, but the main point we stressed was, "If you feel the Love of God when we speak and you see the Power of God in the prayers, that people are healed, then what we say is true—if not, then what we say is not true." Thirteen people asked for their baptisms. I praise God for the Witness that HE GIVES!!

The next day we went to the Changga River where the first 13



First Converts in Khoribari, West Bengal India



First Meeting in Khoribari

members of The Church of Jesus Christ were baptized in West Bengal! What a tremendous blessing it was for us, Brothers Anthony, Leonard and Madan to raise our right hand and exclaim, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ..." and baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

While performing the baptisms, the congregation began singing. At first it was hard to understand what

they were singing because it was in the Bengalese language; but there was no mistaking the tune—*There is Power in the Blood!* How true it is, that the Power of the Blood of Christ reaches all the way to these small remote villages on the other side of the world. How Great is our Lord and Savior! We continued the day with the confirming of the Holy Spirit and

(Continued on Page 12)





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

On a recent trip to Guatemala, I heard of a beautiful dream had by a 19-year-old sister. In this dream, the young people were trying to sing a song, but were having difficulty. They checked the piano, and different ones tried to play and sing it, but it just wasn't right. Then they heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of the church building the most beautiful singing and music. One of the young brothers went up to see who was up there, and when he returned downstairs, his countenance had changed. A woman was singing the song perfectly and the instruments were like nothing they had ever heard. He said he couldn't explain how marvelous the things he had seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor were. The sister woke up from the dream, then fell back to sleep. Then in a second dream, she was discussing the first dream with the brothers and sisters, and a brother spoke to her and said, "Don't think that this is just a dream, this is real and it's from God." The week after relating these two dreams, the Elder in charge in Guatemala began to play a tape in his car, and the song that came on first was *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, and in particular the words, "...Climb Higher." The spirit of God fell upon him and he immediately understood that God wanted the young people to "climb higher" (to the third level), in order to do the work of God more perfectly and powerfully.

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me" (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2:9).*

At our October Conference, the Apostles pleaded with us to "do more" for the Lord. There is an urgency to bring the Gospel to the seed of Joseph. There is an urgency to bring the Gospel to the many countries in which people are seeking the truth. In a recent presentation our Church made to the many other Restoration groups, there seemed to be an urgency now to tell the world who we are. It is time to do more than has ever been done before.

The dream of our sister showed how the time has come to "climb higher" and do those greater things then even Jesus had done (as He prophesied). Elisha not only wanted to do the things Elijah did (and we know Elijah did mighty miracles, even raising the dead), but Elisha wanted to do TWICE as much! Are we so bold today as to go before our God and ask that He bestow on us TWICE as much of His power? Is now really the time for The Church of Jesus Christ to be lifted up as an ensign to the world? Is now really the time when God will make bare His arm in the eyes of the nations? That seems to be the message He is giving us. At the same time, He revealed to us in a previous dream given to the Church that Satan was no longer attacking us from the sides, but was attacking us head on.

Brothers and sisters, we are living in perilous but remarkable times. Perilous because of Satan's desperation due to his short time left, and remarkable in that we will see things we have never seen before. Never before have our young people in the Church been so attacked by the world at such a young age, but at the same time they have never seen such an explosion of power in The Church of Jesus Christ as they do today. The time is now. The day we have dreamed of is here. One only has to watch the news and see what is happening in the world around us. Truly, we are the chosen generation spoken about who will establish the house of the Lord on the mountain tops. Let's prepare ourselves like never before and immerse ourselves in the great work of the Lord. We are the ones chosen to do it. Let us be the Elisha generation who will turn the world upside down. The time is now.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Why We Wash Feet

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever witnessed (seen) feet washing in Church? Have you ever wondered why we do this? Does it seem strange to you that grown people would kneel down before one another and cry while they pray and wash each others' feet? Have you seen how loving each person acts towards the others?

Right before Jesus allowed Himself to be killed on the cross, He gathered His twelve apostles together for a last supper. He knew hard times were ahead for His little band of followers. He was teaching them about His love and how to show love to each other.

After supper, Jesus arose, and took a towel and tied it around Himself. He then poured water into a basin (bowl), and began to wash the disciple's feet.

Now it was a custom in those far away days that when someone came to your house you would greet them with a kiss and call a servant to bring a basin of water for the visitor to wash off his feet. This was done when people first arrived, because they wore sandals and had very dusty feet. This was not what Jesus was doing. He and His followers had already arrived; they had eaten and talked together. Now He was trying to talk to them and teach them how to show love to one another when He was back in heaven.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter to wash his feet, Peter said, "Lord, do you wash MY feet?"

Jesus told Peter, "What I do now, you do not understand but you will



understand later."

Peter said to Jesus, "You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered him, "If I don't wash your feet, you can have no part with me [you cannot be my follower]."

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus explained to him, "He that has his feet washed...is clean every whit [in his heart and his whole body]. Truly, I say unto you, the servant [Jesus] is not greater than God. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them."

And we are happy when we are baptized and get to be a part of the washing of feet. This is a perfect time to show the Lord that we are willing and loving towards one another.

When we kneel down before a sister or a brother to pray for them, we show great love and also humbleness. We are not greater than they are. We are not too important, or too smart, or too rich. We are all equal in God's eyes.

Jesus told us He was not greater than God, and we are not greater than

Jesus, the son of God. It is a lot easier for God to work with each of us when we are thankful and prayerful. And as Jesus said, "If you know these things, [feet washing] happy are you if you do them."

With love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

JOHN	THE
THIRTEEN	BROTHERS
JESUS	AND
SAID	SISTERS
IF	YOU
YOU	WILL
DO	BE
WASH	CLEAN
THE	LOVE
FEET	EACH
OF	OTHER

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

## New Publication

Now available is a pocket size Book of Mormon which is an exact duplicate of the New Version English Book of Mormon, with bonded leather, complete index, and the words of Christ in red.

The cost is \$18.50 each plus shipping and handling. Order from the Print House:

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## Midwest Fall Fest

*By Sister Deanna Nuzzi*

The sun shone bright and high in a perfectly blue sky, while the crisp autumn breeze rustled the leaves. Imagine for a moment being there. Well, I was and so were about 100 other people!!!

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> the Midwest Area MBA gathered for the annual Fall Fest. The day begins early for some of us, as we gather to set up at Brother Mike and Sister Linda Italiano's home in Salem, Ohio. Young people, brothers, sisters and friends from all over the area begin the yearly trek to the Fall Fest for one Saturday full of fun...fun...fun!!! If that sounds redundant, it should because that is exactly how much fun we have at the Fall Fest.

It usually starts at 12:00 noon, and everyone brings a covered dish and a dessert. The area supplies hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. If you could only imagine the amount of food we

usually have...I'm sure you know exactly how much food we have... TOO MUCH!! We start our day off eating and fellowshiping in a large tent that is set up in the Italiano's backyard. After we eat, the hayrides start and they don't stop until the day is done. Brother Mike fires up the tractor and off he goes tugging his many passengers along, through the Salem countryside and into the beautiful Fall woods. Throughout the day there are various activities held for everyone. This year the children decorated pumpkins and made snowman smores ornaments, while the ladies made cookie jars. Just to make sure that you are getting the scene in your head...there is a craft tent set up also, right alongside the large tent we use for eating. There is also a scavenger hunt for the children. The day is full of activities. Sister Carol Kirkpatrick from Erie had a face painting table set up for anyone brave enough. It ended up that the young boys all had mustaches and goatees, while all the young girls were decorated as kittens. We have a great time as the kids all run around and we sit around and talk and laugh and go on hayrides. We really can't ask for anything more, well yes we can and this year...

For the first time, we tapped into

our Midwestern football roots and held a Flag Football Tournament. There were five teams, with branch teams representing Kinsman, Liberty and Youngstown along with two other mixed-branch teams. The first game featured the Kinsman Krushers and the Midwest Maulers. The Maulers, with Deanna Nuzzi at quarterback and Nicholas Genaro, Andrew McNamara, Fred Mott and Timothy Mott as offensive weapons, fell to the Crushers led by Brandon Miller. Mike Nuzzi as coach and Barbara Nuzzi as team cheerleader just couldn't help the Maulers reach the next level. Also in first round action, multi-branch Hodgepodge quickly ended the Liberty Stripling Soldiers title hopes. Next, the Youngstown Marauders, led by rotating ministry power Ron Genaro, Mike Italiano and Ken Murray, took on Kinsman. Although Ken Murray's speed and Gina Rine's prowess were a great challenge, the Krushers pulled out another victory. In the championship game, Sergio Metzler and Justin Pennell's fatigue started to set in as Hodgepodge fell to the Krushers.

There is also the annual caramel apple making station. You go and pick your apple and then you proceed to the caramel dunk and then down the line of nuts, sprinkles and chocolate chips. There could not be a better way to end the day...sure there could. A camp fire with marshmallows, hot dogs, guitars and a lot of fun !!!

The moon is full, the stars are out and the crowd is thinning. We are exhausted and quickly anticipating next years Fall Fest.



Fun at the Midwest Fall Fest

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
to all our readers.



## Branch and Mission News

### Will a Mission Be Born in a Day?

Since the beginning of summer, God has been moving in the region of Middle Tennessee, paving the way for the formation of a new outpost of The Church of Jesus Christ. In August of 2004, Brother Ken, Sister Sharon, and Brother Jameson Staley relocated to metropolitan Nashville, Tennessee, and for nearly two years they were the only three members of The Church of Jesus Christ residing in the state. During this time the Staley family worshipped with the saints in Oldham County, Kentucky and would periodically hold services in Tennessee.

In late 2005, an experience was given to the members in Tennessee during a Sunday home meeting while they were worshipping with some visiting saints. The experience indicated that God had plans to one day begin a mission of the Church in Tennessee. In the following months, the members of Middle Tennessee were prayerful about the possibility of a growing congregation in their area.

In June of 2006, three saints of the Church relocated from the New Orleans area to Middle Tennessee, including Brother George and Sister Marlea Frentzos and Sister Hilary Gipson, along with her husband Michael. Almost overnight, the congregation in Tennessee doubled. The saints in this area had also recently become aware of the proximity of two members of the Church, Osvaldo and Guadalupe Gonzalez residing in Russellville, Alabama with their three children, to the congregation in Tennessee. After receiving approval from the Midwest Region's conference in July, the congregation moved forward with planning the official organization of a mission in Middle Tennessee with great anticipation.

On Saturday, August 26, 2006,

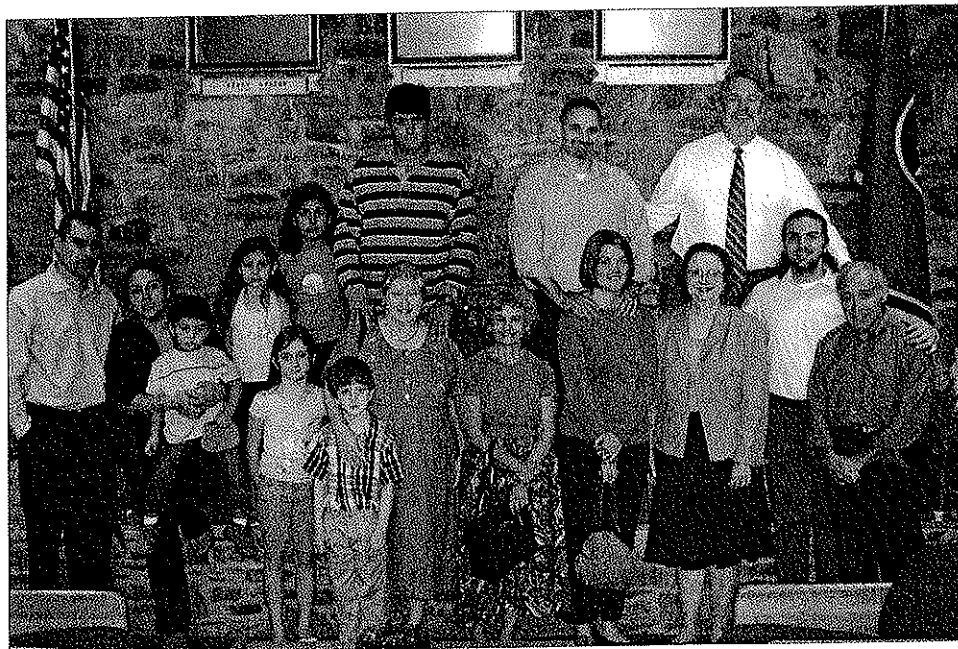
the saints of the soon-to-be new mission were joined by many visiting brothers and sisters to celebrate the organization of a new establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ. The visiting saints extended their support from a number of branches and missions of the Church in various regions, including Cape Coral, FL; Lagrange, KY; Detroit, MI, Branch 2; Gastonia, NC; Cincinnati-Morrow, OH; Kinsman, OH; Liberty, OH; and Lorain, OH. Among these brothers and sisters were Midwest Region Apostle, Brother Phil Jackson, Region President, Brother Tony Calabrese, Region Quorum of Seventy Chairman, Brother Russ Martorana, and Region RMOC Chairman, Brother John Genaro. By this weekend, two new additions had also come to the congregation in Middle Tennessee from the Houston, Texas area: Chris Frentzos (son of Brother George and Sister Marlea) and his wife, Jan.

The congregation gathered that evening at a local hotel banquet room in Franklin, TN. After some opening remarks by visiting ministers from the Midwest Region and an opening prayer, Brother Russ Martorana briefly addressed the congregation, and more specifically, the members of the new mission, enumerating the reasons for the need of organization within a

family of brothers and sisters in Christ and the benefits of meeting together often. Brother Russ emphasized the importance of our Church members gathering frequently to uplift one another through giving testimonies. In addition, meeting together helps to always remind us about our accountability to God and our responsibility to one another as brothers and sisters.

After Brother Ken Staley introduced each of the members and attendees of the mission to the congregation, the members conducted their first matter of business: selecting a name for their new mission. A motion was made and passed to call the new work the Middle Tennessee Mission after the local name for the region in which most of the members live. Then the members of the mission participated in the election of officers, which offered the opportunity for some members of the mission to take on responsibilities in an establishment of the Church for the first time. After this brief business portion of the service, the members passed a motion to officially establish the Middle Tennessee Mission. The rest of the evening was spent in singing and fellowship.

The following morning, Sunday, August 27, the members of the newly established Middle Tennessee Mission



Brothers, Sisters, Friends and Children of the Middle Tennessee Mission

assembled for a worship service with all of the brothers and sisters who had come to show their support for the group. As Brother John Genaro made opening announcements, he announced that during the previous evening while the saints were gathered together the Spirit of God spoke to two different brothers concerning the calling of two deacons in the new mission, Brother George Frentzos and Brother Jameson Staley, and that the ordinations would take place in that same Sunday meeting.

After having the communion table set by two visiting deaconesses, Sister Lena Martorana and Sister Florence LaRosa, opening prayer was offered by Brother George Kovacic. Brother Tony Calabrese began the preaching portion of the service with *1 Nephi 13:37* as his focus. Brother Tony identified the members of the new mission with "they" in the phrase, "...blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion," reminding them of the blessings that are promised in the latter part of the verse to those who fulfill this obligation. He also emphasized the uniqueness of the message of the restoration and exhorted the members of the Middle Tennessee Mission to embrace their responsibility of sharing it with those in their community.

Brother Chuck Maddox expanded upon Brother Tony's message and encouraged the members of the congregation to realize the potential that each of us has to do great things with the gifts and tools God has given us. He referred to Exodus 4:2, in which God inquires of Moses what He holds in his hand. When Moses responds that it is a rod, God demonstrates His power by turning it into a serpent and then back into a rod. Brother Chuck made the connection between Moses and the saints of the Church, saying that whatever talents, abilities, situations, and material things we possess in this life can be used for God's glory, regardless of how simple their nature may be. Brother Russ Martorana then shared an experience he had had earlier in the week while meditating upon the upcoming weekend. In this experience, Jesus Christ

Himself gave Brother Russ a message to share with the new mission explaining the need for dedication, strength, and willingness to labor for the Lord with His love.

Lastly, Brother Alvin Swanson spoke and briefly discussed the importance of baptism, pointing to perhaps the strongest argument for the necessity of this symbolic action in our spiritual lives: the example the sinless Messiah set by being baptized. Brother Alvin's words would later prove to have been inspired and appropriate for certain listening ears in the congregation.

As the preaching concluded, Brother Ken Staley introduced the ordinations of the two new deacons by reading from the sixth chapter of Acts concerning the calling of deacons. Just before the washing of the brothers' feet and the ordinations into the office of a deacon, Brother Phil Jackson personally addressed Brother George and Brother Jameson, reciting to them the words of the hymn, *Give of Your Best to the Master*, and encouraging them to exemplify the type of desire reflected in the song. Brother George Kovacic, the nephew of Brother George Frentzos, washed his uncle's feet, and Brother Peter Benyola washed Brother Jameson Staley's feet. Following a prayer offered by the ministry, Brother Phil Jackson ordained Brother George, and Brother Chuck Maddox ordained Brother Jameson.

Following the ordinance of communion, the Sunday worship service drew to a close, as did an exciting and spirit-filled weekend. The brothers and sisters enjoyed lunch together before saying goodbye as those who were visiting began their journey home.

The excitement of the weekend was not short-lived, however. Just a couple of weeks after the organization of the mission, at the beginning of a Wednesday night meeting, Jan Frentzos shared with the congregation a beautiful dream she had been given two nights prior, in which she met Jesus Christ face to face and felt the weight of the calling to serve God. Jan requested to be baptized that evening,

and she was baptized on Sunday, September 24, by Brother Ken Staley and received the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands by Brother George Kovacic. For this momentous occasion, many of the same brothers and sisters who had come to support the mission organization returned to show their love and support for Sister Jan and the mission.

This special weekend also included the first Sunday service to be held in the new weekly meeting place of the Middle Tennessee Mission, a facility owned by a state park which also includes a convenient baptismal site that the membership hopes to visit many times in the future.

The entire Middle Tennessee Mission wishes to thank all the brothers and sisters of the Church for their support shown not only by visiting the new mission but also by praying for our young establishment. We know that the seemingly sudden rate of growth and change in this congregation affirms that it is only by God's grace and involvement that such things are accomplished. What was once a small outpost, home to three members of the Church, is now an established mission with a membership of three times that number. Even as the Lord establishes in Isaiah 66 that He has the power and authority to form a nation in what seems to be but one day, He likewise presently works in the branches, missions, and foreign mission fields of The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Blessings Abound in the Omaha-Bedford Mission

*By Sister Dorothy Miller*

We greet the *Gospel News* readers in the name of the Father and we praise Him for His great keeping power. He continues to groom us in His word and we are grateful that He has kept us faithful even though our numbers are few.

Since we as a Church believe

(Continued on Page 10)



## Omaha-Bedford Mission

Continued from Page 9

that God intended for every nation, kindred tongue and people to have an opportunity to hear the true Gospel preached and to know that an angel has flown in the midst of heaven bringing back the everlasting Gospel to the earth, then it is the responsibility of every member of the Church to do their part in spreading this message. Over the past few years the Church has made great progress in the spread of the Restored Gospel to many foreign lands through the dedication of many faithful saints who have generously given their time and/or financial support simply because God has revealed this to be His plan and we believe just as Jesus believed that our work is to do the will of the Father. The Book of Mormon teaches that this land of America is a choice land above all other lands. The Gospel was restored on this land and God has preserved His Church here. Today we reap the blessings of harvest from seeds planted by the labors of those before us; therefore we are obligated to plant seeds of harvest for those coming after us. We look forward to The Church of Jesus Christ being established and flourishing in the States of Nebraska and Iowa.

Our Mission has been called to labor in the Omaha-Bedford area. We feel a great responsibility to the many honest of heart people living in this area who have never heard the true and full Gospel preached. They don't know that the Angel has flown. They know nothing of the Restored Gospel. They are not familiar with the Book of Mormon; therefore they know nothing of God's true promises to the whole House of Israel. For thirty-five years our Mission has been laboring to get this message out and establish The Church of Jesus Christ in the Omaha-Bedford area. While we have made some progress, there is still much work to be done. As in all the vineyards of the Lord, the harvest is great, but the laborers are few.

The few in our Mission believe that God can work miracles if we prove faithful to the word He has

taught us. In the past year or so we have dedicated ourselves to studying God's word as written in both the Bible and Book of Mormon. Our Presiding Elder, Brother Clifton Wells, has lead us in this effort and God has blessed him in knowledge and wisdom to teach the Word. He has taught us to accept God's word as it is written and not as we might think it to be. He has used the method of short skits or vignettes where we act out the events of past, present and future prophecies as recorded in the scriptures. This has been the theme of our last two or three mini-conferences.

On October 22, 2005 we bade farewell to one of our faithful members, Sister Dorothy (Seighman) Matthews. She and her family transferred to our Mission in 1980 from the Monongahela Branch in Pennsylvania. They lived in Bedford, Iowa and traveled back and forth 90 miles to be part of the Mission. Her testimony formed a foundation for the Church in the Bedford area. Her family and the Church were the center of her life. The most amazing thing about her was her positive outlook on life; she often made jokes about her poor health just to make those around her feel comfortable; never failing to put the needs of others ahead of her own. Many of the Bedford residents remembered her testimony and the many times that we held meetings in the Bedford Library. She sowed seeds of love to all that she came in contact with and always offered a helping hand to anyone who was in need. Sister Dorothy passed on to her reward after a long illness in which the Lord used her to show many miracles and healings. She was a faithful soldier for the Lord, and we truly miss her, but we are comforted by knowing she is at peace with the Lord. Brother Clifton preached her funeral using the topic, "She hath done what she could" (Mark 14:8). She was an elect lady and a virtuous woman and her good works will always be spoken of as a memorial to her. He spoke of the many times Sister Dorothy had been an inspiration to him, even as her health weakened he could see her faith growing stronger. Sister Dorothy spoke and looked

forward to the growth of the Church in our area. So when many of the Bedford residents contributed to a Memorial in her name, Brother Calvin Matthews, her husband, decided to use these funds to set up an Omaha-Bedford Building Fund Memorial in Sister Dorothy's name. These funds will be earmarked to finance our new building.

In November we were blessed with a visit from two young Elders, Brother Timothy Mott and Brother Brandon Miller from the Midwest Region. We enjoyed the topics from which they spoke concerning the latter day work of the Church. Brother Brandon spoke of the prophecies to be fulfilled in our day looking forward to the gathering of the House of Israel. Brother Timothy followed explaining the "Life Application" of the Scriptures proclaiming Israel's gathering, noting that we must use our testimonies and the knowledge that God has blessed us with to spread this important part of the latter day Gospel. We also enjoyed Brother Brandon playing many of the *Songs of Zion* on his guitar. In fact on an earlier visit these brothers made we had a songfest featuring the *Songs of Zion* at the home of one of our sisters.

We believe that any one who comes to our Mission is God sent, so we were very pleased to receive Brother Boatin Reid from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch when he transferred to our Mission. We have no doubt that he is an answer to our prayers for help. During the Sunday service on November 27, 2005 Brother Boatin was ordained into the office of Deacon. Brother Clifton spoke on the spiritual side of the calling being a spiritual awakening. In our hearts we are awakened to the call and we answer from the heart saying God send me. There is a natural and spiritual side to the office of Deacon and we see with our eyes the natural needs to be performed; but the spiritual side is the most important because God leads and gives direction to what He would have done.

Brother Boatin said he had many experiences where God made it clear He had a special work for him to do.



He was set aside for the office when Brother Clifton washed his feet and also ordained him. Remember Brother Boatin in your prayers. He has made a leap of faith moving to the Omaha area, leaving the familiar surroundings of the Church in the New Jersey area. We are blessed to have him as a member of our Mission.

We invite other saints to explore the Omaha area. There are many opportunities for the growth of the Church here. Early in the 1970's God declared by the gift of tongues through Apostle Rocco Biscotti that this is "The Land of Love," and revealed to us that "there would always be a remnant of His work in this part of His vineyard." After some 30 years we are seeing the signs of this promise come to fruition. So we hold fast to the faith that God has laid the foundation of the Gospel here and we feel blessed that He continues to use us (few though we be) to complete the work. So when the Lord lays it on your heart, "Come over to Macedonia, and help us."

## San Carlos Arizona Mission

*By Sister Brenda Capone*

The San Carlos Mission was blessed to have Brother Nephi DeMercurio visit us for almost three weeks. His spirit was contagious and we will miss his presence. On his last Sunday with us, Brother Nephi spoke to us about the Prodigal Son. In our midst was an Apache gentleman who was baptized in the Church in 1966. He had left God's fold soon after that, but came to church this day to be reinstated.

Our Brother Harold Victor listened as Brother Nephi helped us to understand that some of us wander away from God and take a path that also leads us away from the Church. Some of us might be here and yet we wander from God and His ways. But, oh, how wonderful it is that God in His great love and mercy forgives us and

cares about us enough to welcome us back into the fold. Brother Nephi continued by telling us, "The prodigal son took all that he felt was rightfully his and squandered it." He then chose to continue on. Many of us get into situations and then we have to decide, "Do I go on? Do I go back?" The prodigal son went on and took a job feeding the swine and sharing their food. He messed his life up so bad. Some might say, "He brought it on himself!" When the prodigal son "came to himself" he began to realize the awfulness of his life. He allowed God to let him see the bad decisions he made. "I left the house of my father, making sure he knew I didn't need him and that I could make it on my own." Now he saw that he would surely perish. "Yet when he was a great way off..." Just like his father waited for his return, so has God been waiting for Brother Harold's return.

Brother Virgil Link followed and spoke from his heart, pleading with the Apache brothers and sisters, telling the congregation that he sees the Seed of Joseph as the "Prodigal People." Many have listened to the sound of the Gospel and have fallen away because of weaknesses. It is time now for them to come home again and for many more to come! Brother Virgil said, "The Gentiles have the same message for us. Will we listen?" Both brothers spoke well and we enjoyed being in the House of God. Remember us here at San Carlos and also the many other missions throughout the world. There is still much work to be done.

## SonHarvest County Fair Day and VBS at Mesa, AZ

*By Sister Wendy Giannetti*

On Saturday, June 2, 2006, as a kickoff to our Vacation Bible School, the Mesa, Arizona Branch had a County Fair in the church parking lot. The community and our Church families were invited to attend. VBS registration was set up, as well as

many game booths, a photo booth and a petting zoo. Hot dogs, lemonade and snow cones were also being served!

Homemade pies were auctioned off as a fundraiser. All the helpers dressed as farm hands, trying to stay cool in the June, Arizona sun. The children as well as the helpers had an awesome time!

Now the anticipation for VBS was growing! Our Vacation Bible School began the evening of June 12 with almost 40 children in attendance. The Mesa Branch picked the Son-Harvest County Fair as this year's VBS theme. The children were broken into groups and began their journey from room to room.

As the children experienced life on a farm, they learned about the Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Kindness. In the Snack Center, they ate healthy, fruity snacks every evening and would then play games to learn the memory verses. They learned the Bible lesson for the day in Story Time. Farm crafts were made and games were played outside to help emphasize the theme of the day. One of their favorite rooms was the Farmland Fun Exhibit where they made bread, butter, and jam and learned how to milk a cow and plant seeds. They also learned songs about growing the Fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

On Friday, the last day of VBS, all those involved witnessed the Fruits of the Spirit in the children. They showed *love* to one another, they were very *joyful*, they had *peace* in their hearts, they demonstrated *patience* while waiting their turns, and they showed *kindness* to their new friends.

The helpers had as much fun as the children. We praise God for His blessings and we will all strive to show the Fruits of the Spirit every day. I encourage all of the branches and missions to have Vacation Bible School for their children, even if there are only a few. Our attendance has doubled since we started having them in Mesa three years ago. Having a Vacation Bible School in your branch takes a lot of commitment but the

(Continued on Page 12)

## County Fair Day and VBS

Continued from Page 11

blessings and the rewards are great! Most importantly, the children will never forget the lessons, the love shown to them and the friendships that they make.

I praise God for all those in Mesa who put forth much of their time and effort to make this year's VBS a great success!

## From the Clouds to the Valleys

Continued from Page 4

the passing of sacrament. All for the very first time in the land of West Bengal.

At the end of the visit, we gathered the youth of the village, close to 60 young children, and Brother Leonard offered a prayer for this group. What tremendous potential and future there is for this village of Khoribari. Please remember our brothers and sisters in prayer.

Our last day was spent in a little bamboo hut in the middle of a rice field in Naxalbari. In a room holding about 40 people, the Gospel was presented. All were anointed and the children were blessed. We also anointed a handkerchief for a woman to bring back to her husband who was paralyzed. We are looking for a positive report from this woman. The seed has been planted in this little place and we look to see how God will give the increase.

I want to say again, what a

privilege and honor to work for the Church in this capacity. I stand amazed that I, a simple man, have the opportunity to go across the world and preach the Gospel. What a blessing it was to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Brother Leonard and our two brothers from Nepal, Brothers Madan and Tarak. I ask as Enos of old—"How is it done Lord?" Quite simply—by the wonderful and magnificent Redeeming Blood of Jesus Christ!

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Randazzo, Rose  
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Gold River, CA 95670  
916-858-8556

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Jonathan Scolaro, of the Mesa, Arizona branch was baptized on Sunday, August 27, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Tim Scolaro, and he was confirmed by Apostle Dick Christman.

Brother Tim Naro of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was reinstated on September 17, 2006.

Sister Melissa Nardoizzi of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was baptized on August 13, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Len Nardoizzi and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

## Children Blessed

Logan Jesse Brown, son of Brother Steve and Sister Michelle Brown, was blessed on April 2, 2006 in the Mesa, Arizona Branch.

## Correction

Jared Lee Giovannone, son of Brother Ron and Sister Cindy Giovannone, was blessed on February 5, 2006 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

## OBITUARIES

### EUGENE PRESUTTO

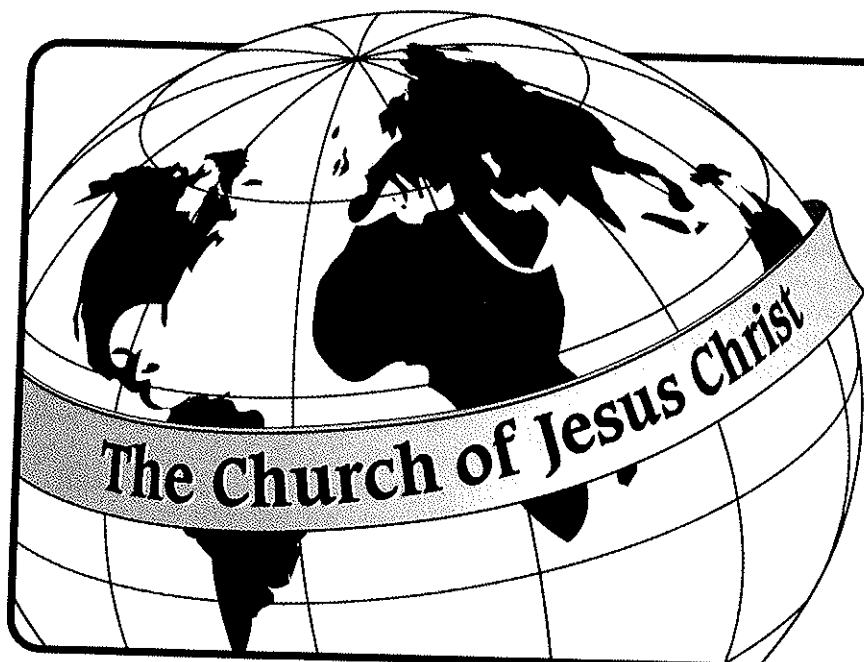
Brother Eugene Presutto of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward on September 23, 2006. He is preceded in death by his wife, Sister Helen Presutto. He is survived by his three sons, Sam, David and Phillip; one daughter, Sue Coates; a sister, Minnie D'Andrea; a brother, John; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

December, 2006

Volume 62, No. 12

## How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

*By Sister Elizabeth Kall*

When the Youth In Action crosses international boundaries, the blessings of God are abundant! In August 2006, a group of eager young people set off with passports in hand to experience the love of the saints in Pedernales, Mexico; a quaint town located high in the Southern Sierra Madre mountain range. Looking back, it's difficult to determine which group was more excited for the trip to begin, the YIA participants or the saints in Pedernales! Regardless of the answer, when our two worlds came together under the banner of Jesus Christ, a week of wonderful blessings began to unfold!

The spirit of God was immediately felt at the orientation meeting our first Saturday at the branch. Brother Luis Alberto, the resident minister in Pedernales, allowed each one time to introduce himself. He explained that we would have two baptisms and one ordination the following Sunday and that we should be prayerful that more souls would learn of Christ. He continued by stating that over the course of the week we would work hand-in-hand with each other to spread the Gospel throughout Pedernales. If introductions hadn't done the trick, we

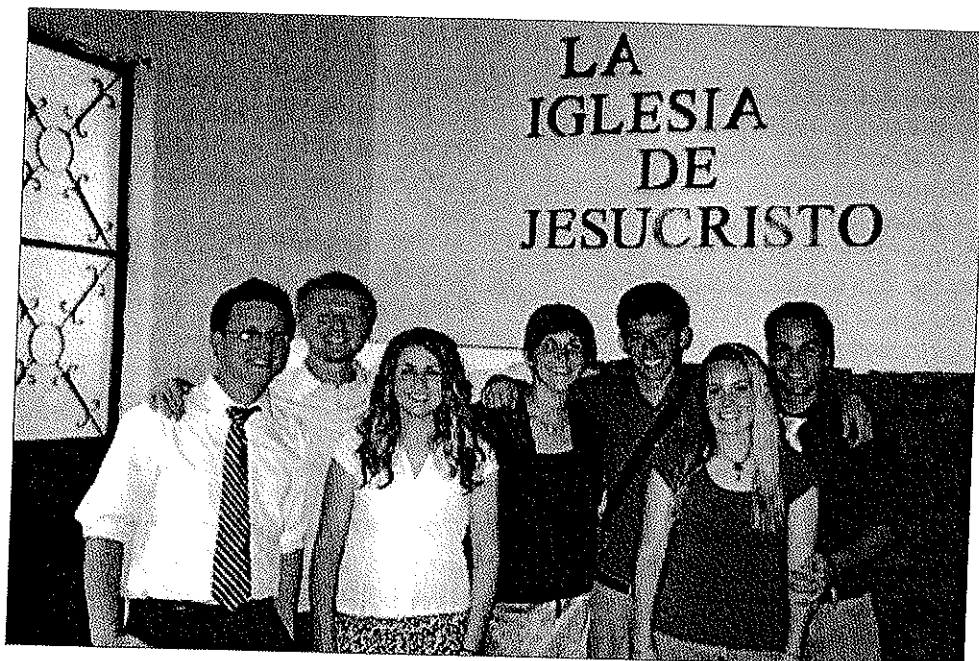
quickly became a close-knit group as we braved the twists, turns and topes (speed bumps) of the Mexican landscape on our first trip into the town of Tacámbaro!

Our first Sunday began with the blessing of Efrain Moroni Ortíz, the son of a young woman who frequently attends church in Pedernales. We then moved into a feet-washing

service which continued to bind us in love for one another. After the meeting, we remained at the church for mole and arroz (a popular Mexican dish) and reconvened inside for singing. By the time we were ready to begin the evening meeting, three more souls had come to Christ!

Monday began the first of three fast and prayer services. We then piled into the SUV's and hit the dirt roads of Pedernales to tell people

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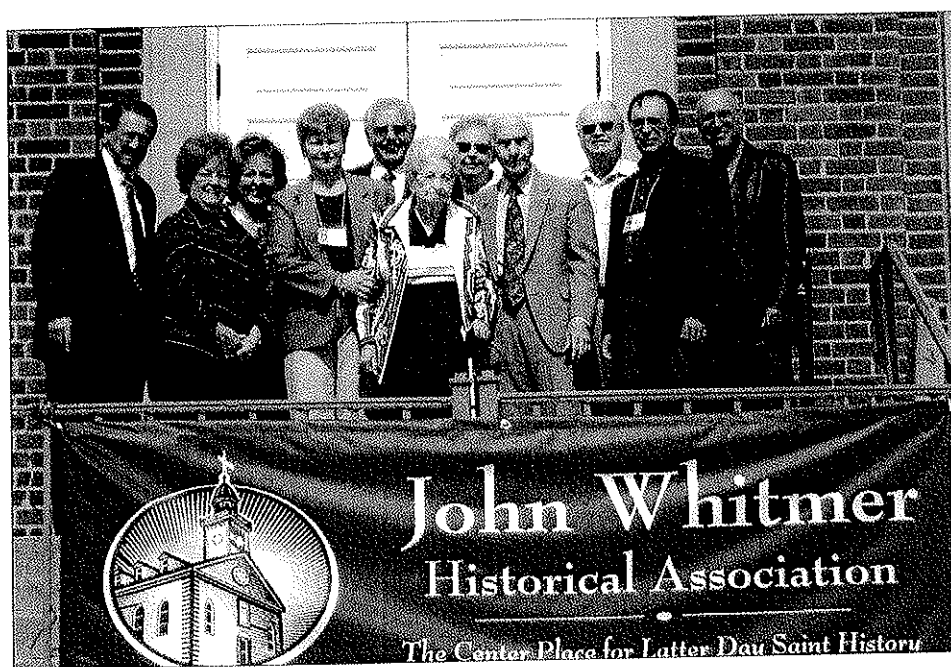


YIA group in Pedernales.

## Independence, Missouri, 2006

Independence, Missouri, noted home of our nation's 33rd president, Harry S. Truman, typifies well the American heartland having an inordinate number of churches of varying denominations clustering its downtown center. But unlike most cities of its kind, Independence holds to a unique Mormon past making for a

democratic setting. This year's theme "Scattering of the Saints: The Diverse Expressions of the Restoration" was a focus on the lesser known churches of the Restoration movement. Presentations included the religious followings of Alpheus Cutler, R. C. Evans, Dan and Duane Gayman, William Godbe, Granville Hedrick,



Group of Brothers and Sisters at the John Whitmer Historical Association Annual Conference.

dozen separate factions of the Restoration currently residing there.

It was there, where the John Whitmer Historical Association held its 2006 annual conference on September 28 through October 1st and where The Church of Jesus Christ was asked to present our Faith and Doctrine, history, future expectations, and related experiences before a plenary session. Consisting of historians, scholars, authors, and church leaders from across the Restoration, the John Whitmer Historical Association, named for the first historian of the Mormon church, has existed for a number of years providing a forum in which individual histories and issues of both the past and current times are researched and shared in an aca-

Fred Larsen, Joseph Morris, James Strang, David Whitmer, Lyman Wight, and of course William Bickerton, our Church's first president.

Meeting up in Independence from the Church were Apostle Paul Benyola, his wife Sister Dottie, Apostle Paul Liberto, his wife Sister Orletta, Brother Tom and Sister Tava Jones, General Church Historian, Brother Larry Watson, and Great Lakes Region Historian, Brother Kerry Carlini. Meeting us were Brother Chuck and Sister Ilene Smith, our aged members who had long ago relocated to Independence for the Church's missionary efforts, and Sister Carrie Jankowski who was in town visiting her daughter. The

Saturday 75 minute presentation by our Church was led by Brother Paul Benyola, which included a brief introduction to the *Songs of Zion* by Brother Larry Watson. For the last 15 minutes Brothers Benyola, Liberto, and Watson directed questions from the audience.

On the following morning an interfaith devotional centered on the theme of "Zion." Along with other restoration leaders, Brother Paul Benyola was asked to share his viewpoint of Zion, and along with the other songs that were sung during the service that speak of Zion, the congregation heard two of the *Songs of Zion*, *Sing Me the Songs of Zion*, *Saints and Zion's City*.

In a note to the Apostles, Brother Benyola would later write:

*The presentation made to the John Whitmer Historical Society with our group attending...went very well. Thank God, they said they felt the Spirit of God in our presentation. We stated our beliefs and challenges showing how we differ from the other Restoration churches.*

*We felt the prayers of the saints. Please thank them. This was the first time that our church was presented to a forum that all restoration churches were in attendance. We were the only church to have a plenary forum. (The organizers had named the main auditorium of where our presentation was given — the "William Bickerton" room.)*

Merry  
Christmas  
to all our readers.

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We would like to extend a sincere thanks to all those who assisted with the recent World Conference Center Improvement Project. To the many who volunteered days of hard work, to those who supported it financially and to those who offered prayers on our behalf, we thank you. Without the diligence of all, this project would have been far more costly and taken a lot more time. With everyone's help we have been able to nearly complete the project in less than a year. We received more donations than has ever before been achieved for any project. Through the combined efforts of all, we have received just over \$350,000. May God bless you for your efforts on behalf of the Church.

Brother Paul Palmieri and  
The World Conference Center Building Committee



## Branch and Mission News

### The Same Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Fifty years is a marvelous milestone and the perfect opportunity to reflect. In the Aliquippa Branch on the weekend of September 30<sup>th</sup>, we had the blessing of celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Baptismal Anniversary of many of our members.

I think it interesting to realize that in the mid 50s, there was a revival going on in The Church of Jesus Christ. After many years of little growth in the Church, young people began to ask for their baptisms in large numbers. A good deal of credit could go to our older brothers, who I might mention at that time were young, newly-ordained elders, involved in the GMBA. Just as today, these brothers had a great desire to see the young people embrace the Gospel. The 1956 May GMBA Conference was held in Aliquippa and many requested baptism, while others began to think about their commitment.

In the mid 50s, numerous visiting elders spoke to our congregations, and many, many young people asked for

their baptisms. Their message was the same as we hear today and the power of God was felt in the exact same manner we experience it today. Those baptized testify to this power and the influence of those messages.

Aliquippa's membership increased by 15 in 1956, nine of whom were honored at this weekend celebration. We enjoy worshipping with Brother Anthony D'Antonio, Sister Betty Eiler, Brother Jim Gibson, Brother Tony Mavrich, Sister Eleanor Palmieri, Brother Paul Palmieri, Brother Sela Palmieri, Brother Joe Ross and Sister Dora Rossi. Those who have since gone on to their reward are: Brother Fred and Sister Josephine D'Antonio, Sister Joan Gibson, Brother Chuck and Sister Ruth Jumper and Sister Sarah Palmieri.

Numerous visitors came to enjoy the remembrances of that time and to congratulate the honorees. Our weekend began with a Saturday evening dinner at a local hotel. The committee shared a presentation on the honorees, as well as those who have gone on to their reward and everyone enjoyed a marvelous evening of fellowship with friends and family.

Apostle Paul Palmieri opened the Sunday meeting expressing himself regarding the necessity to redeem the time. Once he was baptized, he began to think about how what he was learning in his natural education could be used to assist the

Church. Approaching life in this manner allowed him to find satisfaction for his soul.

He shared with the congregation, the scripture in Mark 10 regarding the rich young ruler and how difficult it is to enter into the Kingdom of God if we don't really know where our treasure lies. He also encouraged us to remember that no matter what we give, we receive 100 fold. Jesus died for the family of God and has given us eternal life with Him.

Following, Brother Joe Ross, reminded us that the Lord gave up everything to save our lives. He spoke of how important it is to do that which we are asked to do.

Brother Tony Ross spoke of how the Lord provided workers to build the very building in which we were meeting. Before 1956, there were only a few older brothers in the Branch, but with the influx of young men, the building was constructed in short order. The new brothers worked every day at the building after or before doing their natural jobs, while the young sisters made and delivered food to the workers.

After communion, the honorees were afforded the opportunity to bear testimony. In addition, Sister Rose Milantoni bore testimony regarding her life in the Church and a special poem written about the influence of one of the honorees was shared with us.

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## The Same Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Continued from Page 3

Brother Tony Ricci, Second Counselor for the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region, told us the importance of a Jubilee in Biblical times and the importance of this celebration today. He also stated that it was a privilege to work with these brothers and learn from them.

Enjoying a luncheon together concluded our weekend. While this was a wonderful celebration for those who were baptized 50 years ago, it gave each of us the opportunity to consider our service to God and renew our commitment to service. Since we know that God is the same Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, it is our prayer that something said during this weekend of celebration will fall on the heart of someone currently considering his walk with the Lord.

## Baptisms in Modesto, California

Several calls had taken place between the time our new Sister, Josephine Ann Swicegood, had asked for her baptism on Sunday, August 6, and the date that had been chosen, August 20, 2006. She had asked that a two-week delay be made so that the Spanish-speaking brethren from the Bell Branch could go to Modesto, for they were very busy hosting the Youth in Action activities in that community.

Saturday, August 19, 2006, arrived, and so did Sister Mary Ann and Brother Jesse Guerrero. The fact that Sister Mary Ann was able to accompany our brother was simply a miracle, for she had spent almost two weeks in the hospital where she was being treated for pneumonia and another subsequent affliction caused by her coughing.

After arranging for housing, Brother Jesse went to the Modesto Branch, where our brothers and sisters were to meet in the afternoon. After singing several hymns, he was asked

to take over the meeting, so that the meeting would have a theme. Thus, a discussion was directed concerning baptism.

The fact that the Israelites already had the custom of being baptized every first day of their new year was brought up. This led to the difference between that type of baptism and John the Baptist's call that one should be baptized for remission of sin. Almost immediately, one of the members reminded all present that another difference would be observed on the morrow, for hands would be laid on the newly baptized for the reception of the gift of the Holy Ghost. The hymns that were now sung had the theme of baptism, including many that Brother Jesse had never heard before.

On Sunday morning, August 20, the members gathered at the shore of the Tuolumne River, located at the southern entrance to the city of Modesto. It was a beautiful, clear, cool morning, with just a soft breeze that seemed to become stronger as the time for the baptism neared. Yet, as we gathered at the river, the breeze became very soft, almost completely dissipating, leaving the sky a clear blue.

Brother David Picciuto offered a prayer, asking that our Lord's power would be made manifest in the event that was to take place. Brother Leonard Lovalvo led the candidate, Josephine Swicegood, to the edge of the river, where two hymns were sung in Spanish. Brother Jesse asked his sister if she repented of her sins: "Yes, I do!" He also asked if she promised to serve God to the best of her ability for the rest of her life: "YES!" Brother Bill Guerrero, a deacon in the Church of Jesus Christ, located an appropriate spot in the river for the baptisms. Brother Jesse Guerrero then led his sister into the water, raised his right hand and proclaimed, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen." He then baptized her, making her his new sister in Christ.

Some more hymns were sung, including *I Surrender All* in Spanish. Brother Leonard, having been given discernment that someone else wanted

to be baptized, asked, "Is there anyone else wanting to be baptized? I am willing to go into the water just as I am dressed, in my dress clothes." At the invitation, John Swicegood jumped and stood next to Brother Leonard. He took off his shoes and said that his brother-in-law (Brother Jesse) could baptize him also.

The breeze again subsided. Brother Jesse baptized his brother-in-law, our new brother in Christ, and led him to the shore. There Brother John thanked God on his knees for granting him the privilege of being baptized into the The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Richard Deulus offered a prayer. Everyone congratulated our new brother and sister, and departed for the Modesto Branch.

At the Modesto Branch, everyone gathered for the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Leonard Lovalvo confirmed Sister Jo, while Brother David Picciuto confirmed Brother John. Both asked our Lord that He would guide them so that they would serve Him with the talents which they would soon experience.

Brother Leonard declared that, because the Lord's Spirit was so strong, no preaching would take place. He said that a period of testimony would follow, after which Sacrament would be passed out to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Jesse was asked to express his feelings briefly in both Spanish and English.

Many stood up to give their testimony, as did several who came forward that they would be anointed for physical health or have prayers said so that they would receive an extra measure of spiritual strength. This was followed by a solo by Brother Carlos Martínez and a presentation by a group consisting of members from several branches.

Even after the visitors and members of the Modesto Branch had eaten lunch no one wanted to leave, in spite of facing a six to eight hour trip home. Our Lord's Spirit certainly was felt by all.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

I love Christmas. Not because of the presents I receive but for the question I am able to ask from the pulpit in my branch of Freehold, New Jersey. My question every year is, "When was Jesus born?" Without hesitation, the members begin to spout off dates, all different. They know what I am talking about. The date they mention is the date of their baptism. Jesus wasn't born December 25<sup>th</sup>. He wasn't born in the spring. He was born in you and me the day we accepted Him as our Savior. His birth really means nothing to a person who hasn't given their life to Him by being baptized and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is why we see so many in the world in such a state of panic and stress to buy the right gifts for everyone they know. Malls and stores are overflowing with impatient panicked shoppers trying to get the perfect gift for someone. They really don't care about doing something nice for someone; they are more concerned about what the other person will think if they give a gift that is not impressive, or not give a gift at all. The spirit of giving and love goes out the window when shoppers become impatient and nasty in this frenetic state.

Christmas for me is January 25, 1985. I still remember the day at the Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach, California, where at 18 years old, I stood at the shore, and when asked if I would serve God all the days of my life, I looked into the sun and with everything that was in me I said, "Yes....I'll serve Him until the end." Tears ran down my face, and I felt the most intense feelings of commitment I have ever felt in my life. I really meant with all my heart that no matter what, I would never turn my back on Him. I felt so unworthy. I felt so insignificant because of my frailty and weaknesses, and just felt Him pick me up and place me into His mighty hand. Later, when the gift of the Holy Ghost was being bestowed upon me, I had an experience. I felt the top of my head open and felt something like a warm, thick liquid being poured into me. I felt it drain down to my feet then fill me up to the top of my head. As soon as it reached the top of my head the prayer ended. I realized that the gift of the Holy Ghost is real, and it fills us completely.

Two years earlier, at the age of 16 I felt God was calling me. But a friend who I invited to Church that meeting told me I was just being emotional. I held off. God made me wait two more years. Maybe I wouldn't have another chance at all, but thank God He gave me another chance in two years.

Oh, young people, if I could speak to each one of you, I would say, don't procrastinate the day of your calling. If you feel Him drawing you, then it is your time. Don't wait. The devil will tell you that you are not ready, or it's just your "emotions." I know of many young people who were baptized at an early age and today testify that they by-passed many sorrows by doing so. Joseph Smith was used at age 15 to restore the true Church to the earth again. Give of the best of your youth when you have the time and energy to work for the Lord throughout the world. The time is truly now.

As you give gifts this Christmas to your family, friends and children, remember that this is just a holiday established by the world. It is nice that people remember the Lord during this time, and try to do good for others. But don't be deceived. A majority are not interested in doing good for others; they don't want to be "outdone" when gift-giving comes around. Let's you and I rise above this. Let's realize the real Christmas in our lives—when Jesus was born in our heart. Let's focus on His love and His compassion. Let's teach our children that Jesus brings us the best gift of all, and that is eternal salvation. And if you are thinking about making that commitment to Him, today is the day of your salvation. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Just do it. Merry Christmas.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## What is your Nineveh?

Dear Friends,

Have you ever felt great anger against someone that lived in your neighborhood, or went to church with you, or sat beside you in class? Have you ever felt so mad and frustrated that you wish they were far away or that God would punish or hurt them? When you felt this angry with them, did you ever notice that they might not even realize you hated them? Did you think that maybe they don't even know that what they did really upset you? Did you know that God loves them too?

The Bible has a great story about a preacher named Jonah who felt the same way we sometimes do. The story tells us how God worked patiently with Jonah to help him change his heart, just as God can work with us too.

In this story, God spoke to his follower, the preacher, Jonah. God told Jonah, "Arise, [get up]. Go to the great city named Nineveh and preach loudly and tell them that their wickedness has come up before me!"

Now, Nineveh was an ancient city built after the Tower of Babel days. It was the capitol of the fierce Assyrian nations. It was a city full of soldiers and power. In the Bible days, soldiers from that city attacked and often ruled over God's people.

Nineveh and the villages around it were about thirty miles long and ten miles wide. Five huge walls protected it. It took a man three days to walk through it. The inner part of the city



was protected by massive walls that were 100 feet tall, eight miles in length and wide enough for four chariots to ride on top of. The city was built where two mighty rivers came together.

Now we do not know exactly why Jonah hated the people in the city of Nineveh, but he did. He wanted God to destroy them. He did not want to preach to the people and tell them they were wrong. What if they became sorry and asked God to forgive them? What if God did? Jonah made up his mind to go get on a ship going in the opposite direction of that city and go far, far away. Jonah did not want the job of going to Nineveh. Do you think God could see where Jonah was hiding and what he was doing? Oh, Yes! God sent a huge storm while Jonah was in the ship. Everyone there was throwing their heavy things over the rail to lighten the load, but Jonah was sleeping peacefully. The other travelers could see something was different with this man. They woke him up and told him to pray and ask HIS God to save the ship. Jonah told them he was trying to run away from the job God was giving him to do. Jonah told them, "Throw me overboard into the sea because I know I am the reason this is happening to you." The sailors tried to keep rowing, but nothing worked. They picked up Jonah and threw him into the waves while praying that God would not be mad at them or make them die. Immediately, the storm stopped. But where was Jonah?

God knew what was in Jonah's heart, and God was ready for him. He had prepared a huge fish with a throat large enough to swallow a man. This

fish swooped in and gulped down Jonah! Can you imagine Jonah's terror? In Jonah, Chapter 2, the Bible tells us Jonah said, "I cried to the Lord...I was in the belly of hell, I was in the dark. My soul fainted in me and the weeds were wrapped around my head, and I remembered the Lord and my prayer came into him [God]." For three horrible days and nights Jonah's fish swam miles through the wild depths of the sea. Jonah had no food, fresh water, bathroom, or good air. He was a living man close to death, who kept praying to God and

(Continued on Page 10)

### WORD SEARCH

MANY	PROBLEMS
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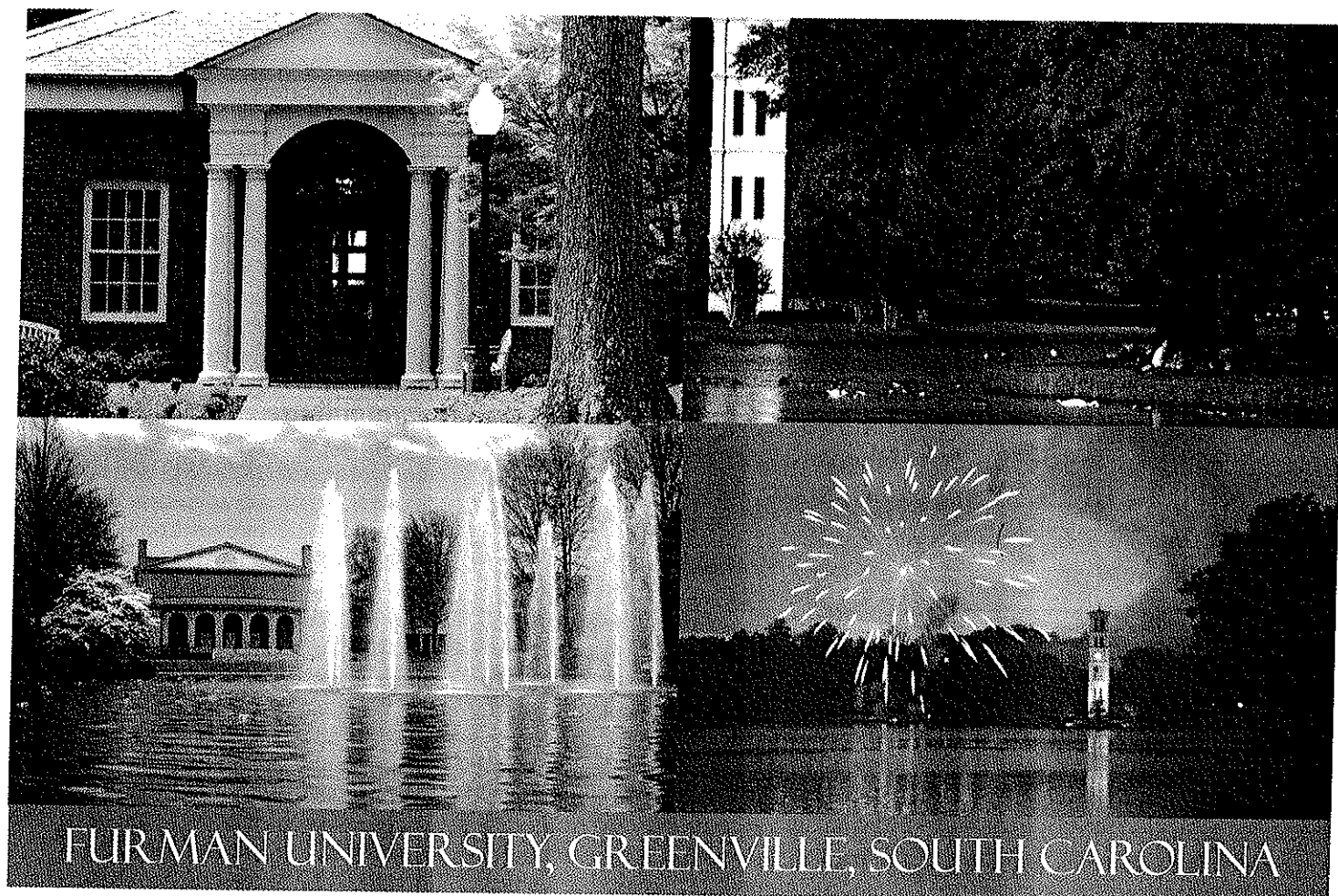
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we're looking forward to the blessings at

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# 2007

June 30 - July 6



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Start making preparations now!

Reach Brother Patrick Giannetti, Camp Director, at [pgiannetti45@yahoo.com](mailto:pgiannetti45@yahoo.com)

## Branch and Mission News

Continued from Page 4

**Blessings, Baptisms, and More!***By Brother Mark Rabe*

The shoreline of the Colorado Lagoon was filled with the saints as they gathered for a spectacular day of blessings and baptisms. There were saints and visitors from all parts of the Pacific Region as well as from our mission in Tijuana, Mexico.

The previous weekend was the Pacific Region Area Campout. During the Saturday night service just before they closed in prayer, Brother Flip Palacios had the high school group come up and sing a song and testify. Just before they sat down his daughter, Vanessa Palacios, asked for her baptism. The Spirit of God was in their midst, and many began to cry with tears of joy.

Shortly after this, the service had ended, but there was much excitement,

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“One by one the Lord  
began to knock on the hearts  
of the children of men, and  
one by one they asked for  
their baptism.”

---

and other young people began asking the ministry for prayer. The ministry offered to stay after the service, and surprisingly most everyone else stayed and witnessed the prayer service.

One by one the Lord began to knock on the hearts of the children of men, and one by one they asked for their baptism. Jared Picciuto, Nefi Betancourt, Monica Zamora, Chris Laramore, Melissa Gonzales, and two other young people from San Diego, Sabrina, and Levi, asked for their baptism.

Back to the baptisms, on September 24, 2006, there was a beautiful spirit there. Six of the eight candidates were baptized in that lagoon in Long Beach, California. There were two

marvelous experiences confirming God's presence at the shore. One sister saw the Throne of God with light beams coming down, and angels descending. She also saw swords with light ascending back up to the Throne of God. Another sister saw light on the water at the lagoon. What a marvelous experience and confirmation of the Lord.

There were over 200 in attendance that Sunday in the Anaheim Branch. The Yucaipa and Bell, California Branches closed down and joined with Anaheim. There were many great blessings the entire day. We also had representation from Tijuana, Mexico; Modesto, Lindsay, and San Diego, California Branches; as well as the Mesa and San Carlos, Arizona Branches.

The Lord was there and His blessings were tremendous. We hope and pray the Lord continues to move His hand upon the children of men and call souls to Christ. We look forward to the day of His return, while in the meantime we will continue to do His work and labor in His vineyard to seek to bring forth Zion.

**Are Ye Willing to Trust in the Lord?**

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

This message was brought forth this beautiful Sunday in August. Our Presiding Elder, Brother John Collison, began our meeting by welcoming our three visiting Evangelists: Brothers Tony Picciuto, Leonard Loyalvo, and Lou Vitto, and their wives, Sisters Lydia, Grace, and Shirley. Brother Don Collison opened in prayer and petitioned the Lord's Spirit to enter in and direct our service. Brother John then felt directed to turn the meeting over to Brother Frank Vitto, who back in 1962 was directed to take charge of the Windsor Mission and its six members. At that time, an experience was had that “when we increase in our love for one another God will increase our numbers.” Their membership increased, and the Windsor Mission

became the Windsor Branch. This is a message we could all hold dear in this day of so many distractions, to love one another with eyes that only see the good in one another.

Brother Leonard followed and asked us, “Are we willing to put our trust in God?” He opened in Romans 8:31, “*If God be for us, who can be against us.*” He told us of a very sick woman brought to the Modesto Branch one Sunday morning wrapped in a blanket, too sick to sit up. He felt there was something familiar about her and realized it was Sister Karen Tucker. Sister Grace also noticed her and began praying. She wanted the ministry to lay hands upon her and anoint her with the blessed oil. Brother Leonard also had the same feeling. Almost at once the brother who was preaching felt to end his message. Sister Karen was brought before the Elders for anointing. Almost six months after Brother Leonard had anointed Sister Karen, he and Sister Grace met her at a wedding looking radiantly well. Praise God!

Brother Tony followed and relayed an experience where his sister asked him to help her son. He had to put great faith in the Lord trusting that HE would go with him to a very dangerous part of the city and take his nephew out of a drug house. Brother Tony asked his nephew to put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as he anointed him, with believing that Jesus would help him through his struggles. Brother Tony's nephew is now an Elder in our Church.

The son of Brother Fred and Sister Maureen Cuerrier expressed his struggles in life and was seeking help in rehab as he has an addiction to drugs and requested to be anointed. He came forth and was seated. The Priesthood gathered around him. Brother Lou then relayed a call he received one day to anoint a young man in the hospital. He rushed to his bedside, but before Brother Lou could anoint him, the young man passed away. The story broke our hearts as we all knelt in prayer for Reeve. Please keep this young man in your prayers, for we know all things are possible through Jesus Christ.



## Spiritual Meeting Held by Great Lakes Area Ladies' Circle

*By Sister Pierina DiFalco*

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the sisters of the Great Lakes Area met at the Sterling Heights Branch for their annual spiritual meeting. Our President, Sister Marge D'Amico, invited Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino to teach us the new *Songs of Zion*, and what a glorious time we had. The Spirit of God was felt as soon as we sang the first song. Sister Donna also related the many experiences had by Sister Arlene Buffington and many brothers and sisters. These experiences confirm that the songs are a gift from God and belong only to The Church of Jesus Christ. We loved the new songs, the words, and the music played by Brother Eugene.

Before Sister Marge could close the meeting, a few sisters asked for prayers for their afflicted friends and

family members. We gathered in a circle and Sister Rose Milantoni closed in prayer.

## Great Lakes Area Ladies' Circle Holds Fellowship Weekend

*By Sister Pierina DiFalco*

On March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the Great Lakes Area held a fellowship weekend at the Holiday Inn in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Our theme was "God is good all the time."

We began by having each sister rise and state her name and how long she has been baptized. Some sisters were given parts to read of scriptures and miraculous experiences from the newest Church History Book. Sister Marge D'Amico, Area Ladies' Circle President, opened a season of testimony. She encouraged us to tell of a personal experience and choose a corresponding scripture. There was no hesitation as the sisters testified to the goodness of God in answering their prayer needs.

Living in the Great Lakes Area we experience many bad snowstorms. The sisters testified of flat tires on the

expressway, spinouts on icy roads, skidding into snow banks, and driving in snow-blinding conditions. **THE LORD DELIVERED THEM ALL!** They all got home safe and sound. Sister Marge asked, "Have miracles ceased?" She was answered by a resounding, "NO."

Sister Marge was inspired to ask Sister Donna Amormino to be our after-dinner guest speaker. Sister Donna spoke of her early days in the Church. Her mother was baptized and was very ill. Her father was against the Church but the Lord always provided a means for Sister Donna to attend services. She praised God for their love and support. We thoroughly enjoyed her telling us of her travels, marriage and how the Lord brought her to where she is today.

Sunday morning, our guest speakers were Brothers Peter Scolaro and Duane Lovalvo. Brother Duane spoke on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Brother Peter spoke on faith and the parable of the mustard seed. Their words encouraged and uplifted us. We glorified God in song and in testimony, and two sisters were anointed for needs. We were all grateful for our weekend of glorifying God and sharing our testimonies. He is to be praised at all times and in all places because God is good all the time.

## How Beautiful Apon the Mountains

*Continued from Page 1*

about the Gospel. What a blessing it was to hear the young children's voices singing songs of praise to God as we drove! Walking from home to home the Lord enabled the hearts of those we would encounter to be receptive to our invitation to visit the church. He further blessed our efforts by using the brothers in the ministry to offer prayers for individuals and households that were in need. We ended the day with a meeting led by brothers Josh Gehly and Dan McNamara as they spoke on the

changes that are made within us when we give our lives over to Christ.

Tuesday was full of new sights, sounds and smells as the group spent the day meandering through the streets of Paracho to experience the culture of Mexico. After a day of fun, we were ready to tackle Wednesday with enthusiasm evangelizing in the outskirts of Pedernales in a town called Chupio. The overwhelming majority of residents in this area are devout Catholics, but we thank God again that He allowed us to meet some who were eager to learn more of the Church and invite us to talk. Having finished a game of soccer with the local children, we headed back to the church to prepare for the evening meeting.

Brother Chuck Maddox Jr. described how our spiritual lives can be compared to the topes we so often drive over. It's all in how you choose to cross—you can go with or without Christ.

With our spirits soaring high, the brothers and sisters met together Thursday on a mission to revitalize the inside of the church building. The building looked spectacular with its new cream-colored paint and a new sign adorning the front of the sanctuary. At the end of the day, paint was everywhere and we were happier saints for it! That night the membership of Pedernales was in for a treat

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## How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

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as the YIA team members brought goodies from home to prepare a meal of macaroni and cheese, sauteed vegetables and brownies to show their appreciation to the brothers and sisters. It was a hit with young and old alike!

As our week was coming to a close we were eager to canvass one

answer to each of our prayers since orientation! After the five had been baptized the brothers made the call for others to come to the waters to be baptized. As Brother Isidro Gonzalez spoke with power under the direction of the spirit, his son, Moroni (a tour participant) stepped forward to be baptized! Four more would follow Moroni as the Lord continued to call souls at the water's edge.

Once back at the church we witnessed beautiful preaching from the



**New converts in Pedernales.**

last time. Now joined by some of the saints from the Mexico City Mission, we were ready to get started. We enjoyed a wonderful day of spreading the Gospel and in the evening were led in an interactive seminar by our young brother teachers on the importance of unity. Saturday, dressed in matching t-shirts brought from Mexico City, which spoke of unity (Psalm 133:1), we made our way to a picnic area on the outskirts of Tacámbaro. It was a day of relaxation and fun for all ages as we fellowshiped together.

We met at the church building early on our last Sunday of the trip to prepare for the baptisms. As we piled into the cars and wound our way to the baptism site, we were overjoyed that five souls had come to Christ—an

ministry, the confirmation of our new brothers and sisters, and the ordination of Brother Ruggert Orozco Torres as a teacher. The meeting was then opened for testimony and five more souls would stand and make it known that they too desired to be baptized. In just one week, the Lord allowed His hand to move that the mission in Pedernales would double in size and become stronger than ever before!

It was not easy for any of us to say goodbye and return home after all we had witnessed together. Ask any one of the participants and we'll tell you the same: The most beautiful blessings await those willing to do the great work of the Lord and bring *good tidings of good* to those who have yet to hear.

## The Children's Corner

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begging for mercy and forgiveness.

And God heard him. God spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land. Can you imagine his smell? Do you think Jonah was ready to do what God wanted now?

God spoke to Jonah a second time and told him, "Go to that great city Nineveh and preach what I tell you!" So Jonah obeyed.

The city was so large it took a man three days to walk through it. Jonah walked one day into the city and preached, "In forty days, God will destroy this great city!" The king heard about Jonah's warning and the doom coming. He believed Jonah's words, and made a law. "Let us fast and pray to God. Let no person, and no animal eat or drink for three days while we beg God to forgive us." The entire city prayed telling God they were sorry. God was pleased and changed His mind about destroying them.

But Jonah saw everything and he was extremely angry. He prayed unto the Lord and said, "This is why I did not want to come here. I knew that you are a kind God, and forgiving, and slow to anger, and willing not to harm people if they repent. I am so angry that you have forgiven Nineveh. I wish I was dead rather than alive!"

So Jonah went out of the city and sat out there to see what would happen. While he waited, the Lord prepared a beautiful gourd vine to quickly grow and give Jonah shade. Jonah was very happy with the vine. But God prepared a worm, and when the next day came, the worm chewed the vine and it died and Jonah lost his shade. Then God sent a hot wind and the sun bore down upon Jonah's head. Jonah was so angry and miserable he said again, "It is better for me to die than live."

And God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be so angry over losing the vine that you didn't even plant or take care of, a plant that came up one day and died the next?"

"Why wouldn't I then want a great city full of people and animals to



live when they did not even know the difference between right and wrong that they were doing?"

So we see that God is a forgiving and kind God. He gave a man a big job to do, and gave him the ability to do it. When Jonah ran away, God was firm and brought Jonah back to do the job. When Jonah was still mad in his heart about the way the people were sorry for their evil, God patiently helped him understand the people and living creatures are important to God too.

The interesting thing is that each of us will be given hard jobs to do throughout our lives also. Maybe it will be about some mean person that God will want you to be kind to. Maybe it will be your job to tell someone about something they are doing that God does not believe is right. Maybe you must be patient with someone who is bossy or mean. If so, you can be quiet and prayerful around someone who thinks they are more important than you. Every time God wants us to do something so hard, He will make a way. Pray to be willing to do His will and He will show you what to do. Don't wait until God has to stop you like He did Jonah. Be willing to go to your own Nineveh. There is a special purpose for your life. But we must each change to be a better, humble and more loving person.

With love,  
Your friend,  
Sister Jan

## Note of Thanks

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for all the prayers that were said in behalf of my husband, "Brother Michael." I am so proud to say that.

The cards were comforting, the flowers were beautiful. Thank God for such a wonderful family in Jesus Christ.

Love,  
Sister Rose Randazzo

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## \* WEDDINGS \*

Jaime Revait and Cara Peltier were united in holy matrimony in the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Branch on July 22, 2006.

Brother Marc Zaino and Melissa Iovino (Edison, New Jersey Branch) were united in holy matrimony in Media, Pennsylvania on September 30, 2006.

## Children Blessed

Alexander Enrique Gonzales, son of Norberto Gonzales and Miriam Nunez, was blessed on September 10, 2006 in the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Ella Joanne Way, daughter of Michael and Kathleen Way, was blessed on July 22, 2006.

Gabe Justin Moore, son of Jake and Sister Colleen (Capone) Moore, was blessed on April 16, 2006 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Bella Jean Gehly, daughter of Brother Matthew and Sister Tabitha Gehly, was blessed on October 22, 2006 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Frances Palposi, of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, celebrated her 70th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 15, 2006.

Sister Mary Vitto, of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, celebrated her 70th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on June 21, 2006.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Laurie Allison of Simi Valley, California Branch was baptized on October 1, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Sal Azzinaro and confirmed by Brother Ed Buccellato.

Brother Onexcis Ortega of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch was baptized on October 22, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Kevin Jasmin and confirmed by Evangelist Gene Perri.

Sister Vanessa Palacios from the Anaheim, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Flip Palacios and confirmed by Brother Stacey Light.

Brother Jared Picciuto from the Anaheim, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Dan Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Justin Paxton.

Brother Nefi Betancourt from the Anaheim, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Flip Palacios and confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

Sister Monica Zamora from the Yucaipa, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Santos Zamora and confirmed by Brother Santos Zamora.

Brother Chris Laramore from the Yucaipa, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. He was baptized by Brother Santos Zamora and confirmed by Brother Ken Jones.

Sister Melissa Gonzales from the Yucaipa, California branch was baptized on September 24, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Rudy Carrillo and confirmed by Brother Flip Palacios.

Sister Lela Luse from the Kinsman, Ohio Branch was baptized on October 1, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Frank Giovannone and confirmed by Brother Brandon Miller.

## Ordinations

Brother Joshua Morris was ordained a Deacon in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch on May 7, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Chris Gehly and he was ordained by Brother Brandon Miller.

Walsh; six grandchildren, Adam, Angie, Lucas, Guy, Carmine and Anthony.

### DOROTHY CURRY

Sister Dorothy Curry of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on May 19, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband James Curry; two brothers, Howard and Arnold Akerman; and one sister, Ruth Akerman. She is survived by three sons, James, Richard and Timothy Curry; two sisters, Helen and Grace Smith; one brother, Isaac Smith; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### MICHAEL RANDAZZO

Brother Michael Randazzo of the Modesto, California Branch passed on to his reward on July 7, 2006. He was preceded in death by his son Dennis, his sisters, Sister Virginia Lovalvo and Sister Mary Lovalvo and his brother, Brother Mark Randy. He is survived by his wife, Sister Rose Randazzo, son Terry and wife Carla, sons Randy and Tim; and four grandchildren, Kelsey, Whitney, Chris and Sierra; and by his sister, Sister Sarah Watson, and many nieces and nephews.

## OBITUARIES

### PAUL ANTHONY BENYOLA

Brother Paul Anthony Benyola of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on August 12, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Sister Pat, seven children, numerous grandchildren, three brothers, two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

### HELEN VAGI

Sister Helen Vagi of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on September 27, 2006. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary and John Helbo, and a daughter, Marlene Vagi. She is survived by her sons, Michael, Howard, John and his wife April; her daughters, Debbie and Sister Victoria

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_